



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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FIRST SESSION

1965-66

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9TH JANUARY, 1965)

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Alhaji Musa Yusufu, Magajin Garin Lafia	Lafia West

Z

M. Muhammadu Zaiyana	Gwabada South
Alhaji Saidu Zango, Iyar Zazzau	Zaria Central
M. Gani Zubairu, Liman Katagum	Bauchi Central

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Dr K. Ezera	Bende East

F

Chief N. A. Frank-Opigo	Brass South
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Rev. J. B. N. Johnson	Eket North West

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A. U. A. D. Mbah, Esq.	Owerri North
T. A. Mbegbu, Esq.	Owerri North East
M. T. Mbu, Esq.	Ogoja
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P. Nnaemeka-Agu, Esq.	Enugu Urban
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Onyiba Aja Nwachuku	Afikpo North
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Prince D. J. Umondak	Uyo South West.
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Y							
S. A. Yerokun, Esq.	Oyo Central

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N. A. Ezenbodor, Esq.	Western Ijaw

				K			
J. Kagho-Omomadia, Esq.	Isoko

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A. Oshodi, Esq.	Lagos South

				S			
S. A. Shitta-Bey, Esq.	Lagos North Central

IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND
PARLIAMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA
WHICH OPENED TWENTY-FOURTH MARCH, 1965

PARLIAMENT OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 24th March, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the Official Gazette of the 22nd March, 1965, as followeth :—

A PROCLAMATION

(Under the Constitution of the Federation)



By His Excellency Doctor
NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Presi-
dent and Commander-in-
Chief of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria.

NNAMDI AZIKIWE
President

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NNAMDI AZIKIWE, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers in that behalf vested in me HEREBY PROCLAIM that Parliament shall be convened in Lagos : AND I do appoint the National Hall as the place of assembly for the purposes only of the State Opening of Parliament which shall thereafter meet as in accordance with established usage : AND I do further appoint the time for assembly as the 24th day of March, 1965, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon :

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

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at State House, Lagos, this seventeenth day of March, 1965.

PRAYERS

(*The President of the Senate in the Chair.*)

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

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

His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows :—

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

My Government will continue to pursue our policy of non-alignment in the field of foreign relations. Nigeria will continue to work for understanding and friendship among all nations without regard to colour, race or religion. It is the firm resolve of my government to continue to fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world.

Our policy in Africa will be to maintain friendly relations with other African states. Nigeria will co-operate fully with all the member states of the Organisation of African Unity for the growth of trade and industry in Africa and for the general development and progress of the continent.

Despite recent events connected with the Democratic Republic of the Congo involving a growing incidence of unilateral renunciation of the principles, obligations and responsibilities which member Governments solemnly acceded to in Addis Ababa in May 1963, my Government will continue to co-operate with other member states in ensuring that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity form the basis of our inter-African relations and that the Organisation evolves in an orderly and constitutional manner.

My Government has noted with satisfaction the recent decision of the O.A.U. to site the Scientific Technical and Research Commission of the Organisation of African Unity in Nigeria,

[THE PRESIDENT]

since the resources of the Committee for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara already based here in Lagos will be available to this Commission in Nigeria. My Government will continue to advocate the principle of equitable geographical distribution of all the Commissions of the Organisation of African Unity, as is the case with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations Organisation.

My Government will continue to contribute all it can to strengthen the Commonwealth. Arrangements are in hand for Nigeria's participation at the next Commonwealth Prime Minister's conference to be held later this year including the proposed establishment in London of a Commonwealth Secretariat. My Government will ensure that no effort is spared to preserve the existing basis of our community of views.

My Government will continue to work relentlessly towards the solution of the existing crucial problems facing the United Nations Organisation in the belief that, in spite of its imperfections, it is the best hope for promoting international peace and security.

My Government will co-operate with and assist every effort by the non-committed nations in lessening world tension.

In the course of the year, the Nigerian Air Force will be formally brought into operation. The building of the Flying School at Oshogbo will also commence this year. Our first Naval Frigate "N.N.S. Nigeria" will be commissioned; local production of arms of ammunition will commence; and more modern and better training facilities will be made available to our Armed Forces to ensure that they keep pace with modern developments in order to be better able to discharge their responsibilities to Nigeria.

Lagos and Kano international airports will be further developed and equipped to enable them accommodate modern-type jet aircrafts. The Nigeria Airways will continue to accelerate the development of its domestic as well as its international services.

Plans are in hand for the expansion of the services of the Inland Waterways Warri dockyard where it is hoped to start, in the course of the coming year, a training school for Seamen Marine Engineering Assistants and other middle-grade technical personnel.

Up-to-date Merchant Shipping Regulations will be placed before you to meet international standards.

Legislation will be introduced to convert the Posts and Telegraphs into a quasi-commercial organisation.

In order further to promote our industrial and commercial activities, my Government will introduce a country-wide telex service throughout Nigeria during the year.

Every effort will be made to encourage the more vigorous exploitation of our mineral resources. To this end, geological surveys will be intensified to ascertain the unknown mineral resources of the country. Measures will be taken to ensure the least disruption of the cultural and social life of people living in the mining areas. Social services will be provided for mine workers to enable them enjoy a living wage and decent working conditions.

My Government will encourage a greater amount of overseas investment in the tin-mining industry, and will give support to the negotiation of a new International Tin Agreement.

Consultants are at present evaluating additional proposals for the establishment of an Iron and Steel Industry.

The construction of the Nigerian Petroleum Refinery near Port Harcourt is almost completed and the refinery will be commissioned in the course of the year.

In order to raise not only the general standard, of education but also its relevance to the economic cultural and social requirements of our country, my Government will undertake a thorough revision of the content of education in our schools at all levels. For this purpose, external assistance will be sought to promote this programme of curriculum development.

Television broadcasts to schools on such subjects as Science, French, Mathematics and Music will be introduced.

A National Educational Resource Centre will be run on behalf of all Ministries of Education in the Republic who have all consented to it.

Voluntary Agencies will be allowed to run adult education classes for young men and women in employment who want to improve themselves or remedy deficiencies in their formal education.

My Government will pursue, with increased vigour, its determination to provide, in the Federal Territory of Lagos, a comprehensive and integrated community health care on a basis of total coverage.

Work on the first phase of the Lagos Medical School block will commence during the year and both the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the University College Hospital, Ibadan, will expand their facilities to cope with our country's increasing demand for medical education. The special recruitment campaign for prospective candidates in secondary schools for the medical profession will be undertaken throughout the Federation.

Special programmes for the eradication or control of diseases such as small-pox, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, cerebro-spinal meningitis, sleeping sickness, yaws and river blindness, will be undertaken. My Government will explore the possibility of practical co-operation between the Federal and the Regional governments in this connection.

A determined effort will be made in the field of preventive medicine. This will include modern drainage schemes for the big towns and rural health schemes in co-operation with Regional Governments.

It is the aim of my Government to maintain adequate health standards of food and drugs manufactured in or imported into the country. To this end, a Food and Drugs Bill will be laid before you for consideration during this Session. The Drug Manufacturing Laboratory at Yaba will be expanded to produce essential drugs to be provided at reasonable cost to patients.

Legislation will be introduced to consolidate the Nurses and Midwives Acts and to modernize the Nursing and Mid-wifery professions.

The Nigerian Law School will be found a permanent home on Victoria Island so that it may continue to play its vital role of giving specialized training in Nigerian Law and Procedure to newly qualified lawyers.

A Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill be presented to you to confer jurisdiction on Magistrate's Courts to enable them deal more expeditiously with offences involving dangerous drugs.

It is also proposed to introduce a High Court (Amendment) Bill which will enable the High Court of Lagos to apply in Admiralty matters the law and procedure being applied at present in Probate, Divorce and Matrimonial cases.

My Government will follow up the implementation of the agreement reached on the recommendations of the Morgan Commission aimed at strengthening employer-labour relations and ensuring industrial peace and harmony essential to the orderly development of our national economy. To this end, a Bill will be brought before you to amend the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Act.

Proposals will be presented to you for amending the Trade Union Act to regulate the registration and administration of trade unions and their federations.

My Government will also undertake a review of the Labour Code to ensure a general improvement in the conditions of employment of workers.

In pursuance of my Government's policy of associating all sections of the community with its activities, a National Labour Advisory Council and a National Wages Advisory Council will be established with a view to making them effective instruments in the determination of labour and wage policies.

My Government will continue to promote the activities of co-operative societies which, it believes, are the best means by which people in the low-income group can both improve their status and contribute to the nation's economic development.

Special attention will be given to the problems of adoption of children and of juvenile delinquency and beggary in our community. The Children and Young Persons Act will be amended to remove some of the difficulties that have arisen in its operation.

A Bill will be presented to you to amend certain sections of the Constitution of the Federation for the purpose of defining more clearly the conditions for granting Nigerian citizenship.

My Government will develop, through the Lagos Executive Development Board, a new Industrial Estate at Iganmu for the establishment of light and medium-scale industries.

Low-cost housing units will be constructed in Surulere to provide accommodation for about 10,000 people. Additional money will be made available, to people in the middle income groups through the Nigerian Building Society and the Housing Board, in the form of loans for buying

[THE PRESIDENT]

their own houses. More land will be made available for the Housing Programme.

My Government will take positive steps towards setting up a Nigerian National News Agency to provide a Nigerian News Service on a world-wide basis.

My Government will insist on greater participation by Nigerians in commerce and industry. It will expand training programmes in order to improve skills at all levels and to speed up Nigerianisation in commerce and industry. My Government considers it important that Nigerians should participate in industry not merely as workers, but also as investors. To this end, a vigorous campaign will be mounted to educate all Nigerians on the need to have a share in the industries growing up all around them.

It is the cardinal aim of my Government to encourage free trade throughout the world. Trade agreements will be negotiated with any country which desires to trade with us. In pursuance of the aim to industrialize the country in the shortest possible time, our liberal industrial policy will be pursued to encourage foreign investors and to mobilize local capital.

An Investment Centre will be established to assemble information on specific projects and advise potential investors at home and abroad on our industrial development programmes.

In furtherance of its world-wide trade policy my Government will establish new trade offices in both Western and Eastern Europe. New markets will be the Far East.

My Government will participate in the 1965-66 International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in Europe and North America. In all these places, my Government will further encourage the growing interest in our handicrafts and the products of our cottage industries.

The Six-Year Development Plan will continue to be the foundation of my Government's effort in developing our national economy. The resources required for completing the projects in hand as well as for starting new ones will be sought with greater vigour. Particular attention will be paid to those sectors of the economy which not only generate growth directly, but also provide increased employment opportunities for our people. The National Economic Council and the national planning machinery, including the Federal Office of Statistics, will be further strengthened.

My Government will modernize and improve agriculture which is the most important economic pursuit in Nigeria. More agricultural industries, such as the Bacita Sugar Industry, will be established. Such industries will be integrated with the lives of the local communities. My Government will encourage schemes, such as farm settlements and farm institutes, which are aimed at settling men and women on the land. Amenities such as water and electricity will be brought to the countryside. Fishing industries will be established in suitable areas, and fishermen will be assisted in every way possible.

My Government will encourage the development of water resources so as to provide urban and rural water supplies especially in the drier parts of the Federation. It will accordingly assist Regional Governments in ensuring that water is supplied to urban as well as rural areas.

Agriculture will receive greater attention than in the past. The Report on Agricultural Development in Nigeria, which the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has prepared, is being carefully studied by my Government in consultation with the other Government in the Federation. It is hoped that, before long, concrete projects which can be implemented as part of the Six-Year Development Plan will emerge from these studies. One such project will be the establishment of a National Agricultural Credit Bank for which three million pounds has been earmarked in the current Six-Year Development Plan.

My Government will continue to play a vigorous part in the field of inter-African economic co-operation. It intends to continue to give full support to the Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U., Economic Commission for Africa, the Chad Basin Commission, the River Niger Commission and other similar bodies established for the promotion of African economic co-operation.

My Government fully appreciates the importance of the application of science and technology to the development of our economy, and will accordingly provide money for the promotion of applied research in the fields of agriculture and industry. It is its belief that the time is now opportune for the various research activities to be co-ordinated and rationalized. Already consultation with leading scientists in Nigerian Universities has resulted in proposals for the establish-

ment of a National Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which will primarily advise on research policy and activities. Appropriate legislation will therefore be brought before you in due course.

My Government will make every effort to meet increasing demands by people for electricity supply and to liberalize the present policy of the Electricity Corporation regarding the establishment of power-houses in all the rural areas and large centres of population throughout the country. The Niger Dam Project, when completed, will give sufficient power for both domestic and industrial requirements of the West, the East and the Mid-West as well as of parts of the Northern Region. Further schemes will be worked out to give complete power coverage to the whole country. Other dams will be built in suitable places as time goes on, and other means of providing cheap power will be studied.

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, your main business at this meeting will be to consider the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill together with the supporting Estimates of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure.

My Government will present to you a Bill to repeal and replace the Income Tax (Rents) Act, 1963.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the imposition of a special tax on casinos will be presented to you during this session.

Following the successful introduction of the new form of Customs Tariff classified in accordance with the Brussels Nomenclature, legislation will be introduced to replace the present Customs Tariff Act by a new Act giving legal effect to the new Tariff Classification.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, I pray that Almighty God may grant you wisdom in all your deliberations.

HIS EXCELLENCY RETIRED FROM THE CHAMBER.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Health and Information (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move, That Parliament do now adjourn.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Parliament do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes past ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 25th March, 1965
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : I have received the following letter from the Acting Chief Justice of Northern Nigeria.

*"The Honourable,
The Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Lagos.*

Oath of Allegiance

I certify that the following Member of the House of Representatives took the oath of allegiance before me on the date shown after his name :—

*Alhaji Saidu Daura—20th February, 1965.
Member for Daura East Constituency.*

*(Sgd) N. V. Reed,
Acting Chief Justice"*

OATHS

The following new Members took and subscribed the oath or made and subscribed the affirmation required by law :—

- Mr D. D. U. Okay—Port Harcourt (No. 231)
- Mr B. N. Ukegbu—Owerri South East (No. 229)
- Mr V. A. Nwalieji—Nsukka West (No. 207)
- Mr J. A. Akor—Ahoada North-East (No. 180)
- Chief A. Frank-Opigo—Brass South (No. 191)
- Mr J. A. Wachukwu—Aba North (No. 169)
- Mr B. L. N. Mabington—Brass North (No. 190)
- Mr S. M. Ojukwu—Bende Central (No. 187)
- Mr V. A. Emenogha—Onitsha North (No. 217)
- Mr F. I. Okoronkwo—Aba Central (No. 168)
- Mr R. A. Njoku—Owerri Central (No. 226)
- Mr S. F. Nwika—Ogoni (No. 211)
- Mr A. T. Mbegbu—Owerri North-East (No. 228)
- Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa—Awka North-West (No. 185)
- Mr M. U. Ekpo—Abak North-West (No. 171)
- P. Nnaemeka-Agu—Enugu (No. 232)

- Mr J. Nwankwu—Onitsha Urban (No. 219)
- Mr M. A. Bashua—Lagos South-Central (No. 312)
- Mr D. C. Ugwu—Nsukka North (No. 206)
- Mr E. E. Inyang—Uyo South-East (No. 236)
- Prince D. J. Umondak—Uyo South-West (No. 237)
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- Mr M. S. C. Abani—Afikpo South (No. 178)
- Chief D. O. Enang—Obubra (No. 208)
- Mr B. Okon—Calabar (No. 192)
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- Mr D. N. Chukwu—Awgu (No. 182)
- Mr S. U. Bassey—Eket South-West (No. 198)
- Mr O. O. Nweke—Izzi-Ikwo (No. 175)
- Mr P. Ejukwa—Ikom (No. 201)
- Mr A. E. Udo—Enyong East (No. 199)
- Mr E. N. Inyang—Eket North-East (No. 195)
- Mr N. Nwanodi—Ahoada Central (No. 179)
- Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey—Lagos North-Central (No. 310)
- M. Ladan Isa—Isa-Gandi (No. 141)
- Mr J. B. N. Johnson—Eket North-West (No. 196)
- Alhaji Muhammadu Zaiyana—Gwadabawa South—(No. 140)
- Mr J. U. Affiah—Uyo North (No. 235)
- Mr J. Jamabo—Degema East (No. 193)
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- Mr D. U. Orok—Ikot Ekpene South (No. 203)
- Mr E. I. Nkere-Uwem—Eket South-East (No. 197)
- Mr A. A. Oshodi—Lagos South (No. 311)
- Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye—Bende West (No. 189)
- M. Ulenda Uba—Adamawa North-West (No. 4)
- Mr C. D. Orike—Ahoada West (No. 181)
- Mr P. O. Eleke—Okigwi South East (No. 214)
- Alhaji Muhammadu Bello M/Asara—Gwadabawa North (No. 139)
- Mr I. Chikelu—Udi Central (No. 233)
- Mr S. Nnaji—Udi East (No. 234)
- Mr W. O. Briggs—Degema West (No. 194)
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- Alhaji Ali Nakura—Kaura Namoda (No. 142)
- Mr M. T. Mbu—Ogoja (No. 210)
- Mr B. O. Ikeh—Izzi-North (No. 176)
- Mr A. U. D. Mba—Owerri North (No. 227)
- Mr R. B. K. Okafor—Owerri West (No. 230)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to make the customary Business Statement for the week, and also to inform the House of the Government's intentions with regard to the present meeting of Parliament.

This morning, two Bills will be presented, the Appropriation Bill for 1965-66, and the Second Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 1964-65. The Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be moved and seconded, then the debate will be adjourned until tomorrow in accordance with Standing Orders. The Address of Thanks for the President's Speech will be moved and debated.

Tomorrow, the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriations Bill will take place, and I hope that it will be possible to complete business on the Bill. If time remains, the debate on the Address will be continued.

On Saturday, a number of Bills will be presented, and the Debate on the Address will be continued.

The present meeting, will inevitably be interrupted by the Id el Kabir celebration, on 12th and 13th April, closely followed by the Easter holidays on 16th and 19th April. The Government therefore proposes that at the adjournment on Saturday, 10th April, the House should go into recess until Wednesday, 21st April. It is expected that the present meeting will end in the first week of May.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
CABINET OFFICE****Review of the Constitution**

01. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister, how soon will the Nigerian Constitution undergo a review.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Sani Gezawa): Sir, arrangements will be made for the review of the Nigerian Constitution as soon as the necessary processes have been completed.

Nominations for Elections

02. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the advisability of allowing all candidates for future Federal

Elections to file their nomination papers in Lagos in order to stop the suppression of nomination papers.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The Honourable Member's proposal will be considered along with others in due course.

Thuggery and Hooliganism

03. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has to stop thuggery and hooliganism at present practised during parliamentary elections.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The Police will continue in their efforts to stamp out thuggery and hooliganism not only during parliamentary elections but at all times. I must, however, appeal to politicians to co-operate with the Police by discouraging their supporters from engaging in such acts.

Badagry Criminal Cases

04. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, why the Police at Badagry West take serious criminal cases before the Grade "B" Customary Court presided over by a Judge who is not a Lawyer; and if he will cause all such cases to be brought before the Magistrate Court where accused persons could have legal representation.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The Police do not take serious criminal cases to such a court. Since however there is no permanent Magistrate Court at Badagry which is visited by a Magistrate once a quarter minor cases of theft and assault are taken to the Grade 'B' Customary Court for speedy adjudication.

Electoral Commission Cars

05. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, if he has provided a suitable storage for 40 cars belonging to the Federal Electoral Commission which were parked in the open in the Northern Nigeria Ministry of Works Woodworking Yard, Kaduna; and how much it cost to provide such storage.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The necessary information has been sought and will be published in the Hansard when available.

Sale of Independence Cars

06. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, how much was realised from the disposal of Independence Cars; and if the proceeds of

the sale of Cars registered numbers IND. 63, IND. 74, IND. 131 and a fourth one which is involved in a case which the police is now investigating have been recovered in full.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa : The amount realised from the sale of Independence cars was £188,565. Investigations connected with the Cars IND. 63, IND. 74 and IND. 131 are still in progress. It is now known that payment for the fourth car was made in full.

Proposed Prime Minister's Tour of Africa

O.7. M. Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Prime Minister, whether he will now fulfil the promise he made in 1962 by arranging to tour some African countries this year.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa : I hope to undertake a tour of some African countries if I am invited and my other duties permit me.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Graduates of Nigerian Universities

O.9. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Education, how many students are expected to graduate from the five universities in Nigeria at the end of the 1965-66 academic year.

The Minister of Education (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): As university sessions usually open in September, it is impossible, at present, to forecast the number of graduates due from our universities next year. However, 1,227 students are expected to graduate about June, 1965, in accordance with the following breakdown :—

Lagos University	46
University of Ife	131
Ahmadu Bello University	146
University of Ibadan	405
University of Nigeria, Nsukka	499
TOTAL	1,227

Inter-Regional Technical Schools

O.10. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Education, how many Inter-Regional Schools he intends to establish in the Federation during the current financial year; and where they will be located.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : The Government has no plans to establish Inter-Regional Technical Schools any where in the Federation. However, the Inter-Regional Technical Schools planned for Afikpo, Warri and Sokoto would provide suitable facilities for science subjects and workshop training.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): I wish to know from the Minister of Education, where the Inter-Regional Technical School for Eastern Nigeria will be sited ?

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I have said that it will be sited at Afikpo and I hope, Afikpo is in the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker : It is now 10.30 and under Standing Orders, no further Questions can be entertained.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Seventy-eight million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand, five hundred and ten pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 31st March.*

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1964-65) BILL

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1964-65) (No. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move that a Bill entitled—

A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Nine Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in that Act, be read a Second time.

Although it was not my intention to request Parliament to approve additional provision this year, the additional burden placed on Ministries and Departments by increased costs, the recent salaries and wages revision, and expansion of services and improvements to our defence and security has necessitated this and the previous Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I will briefly explain to hon. Members the major items included in the present Bill of which the supporting Second Supplementary Estimates are now before the House.

I would like to apologise to the House that it is unfortunate that the Printers have not been able to complete the printing of this particular Bill and I crave the indulgence of the House to bear with me until twelve noon, when they will be ready. This will enable hon. Members to study them overnight.

Under Head 21, the House is being requested to authorise an additional £8,650 for the State House to meet the increased cost of tours undertaken by the President and his staff. Parliament is also asked to appropriate a sum of £300,000 under Head 22—Cabinet Office—as a grant for the current year to the Northern Region Government to assist in improving the running of the Native Administration Police wing of the Northern Police College. The Police Council, of which all the Regional Premiers are members, had recommended an annual grant of this amount for a period of five years. An additional £491,000 is required under Head 23—Police—to cover the Police salaries revision which resulted in a relatively greater increase than that granted to civil servants previously on similar rates of pay.

The average increase granted to Inspectors and below previously earning less than £600, was approximately 20%. Parliament is also being requested to approve an additional sum of £101,170 under Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriation of Revenue—to enable the Federal Government to pay over to the Northern and Eastern Regions their due share of revenue from the Pool Betting Tax for part of 1963-64 and for 1964-65. As the details and magnitude of collections of revenue under the Pool Betting Act were not determined when the Draft Estimates, 1964-65 were prepared this time last year, only a token provision was made. It is necessary, now that the details are known, to pay to the Regions their due shares.

So far, I have tried to explain the items under the Recurrent Heads for which the House is required to appropriate £942,570 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. There are, however, items of Capital Expenditure included in the Supplementary Estimates now before the House. These are not subject to appropriation but the House is required to approve them by Resolutions which I shall present later.

All the items of Capital Expenditure included in the Supplementary Estimates have arisen as a result of the release from the capital fund this year to meet commitments already entered into before the beginning of the financial year. These amounts were released by Development Fund Special Warrant and Rule 8 of the Second Schedule of the Finance (Control and Management) Act requires me to report any Warrants so issued to Parliament for approval.

Honourable Members are requested to approve £110,000 under Head 622 to pay an additional call on the Federal Government's shares in the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company. The additional provision required under Head 623 represents a loan to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria under the United Kingdom Credit Agreement, 1963, for which corresponding revenue has already been reflected under Development Fund receipts. For the purpose of accounting convenience, Parliament is also required to appropriate £5.1 million for the same purpose under Head 624—Land Transport System—representing a loan to the Nigerian Railway Corporation under the same United Kingdom Credit Agreement. Members will note that

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

under Head 637, I am reporting a release of £1 million for the Electoral Commission. This brings the total provision so far authorised for the last Federal Elections to £3.2 million. I am also requesting an additional provision of £4,000 to the appropriation already made under Head 639 to meet Nigeria's subscription to the capital of the African Development Bank. The total additional provision of £1.3 million under Head 640—Loans-on-lent and External Grants to Regions—is covered by corresponding revenue under Head 614.

This is a non-controversial Bill and I recommend it to hon. Members for approval.

I beg to move.

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

Mr Speaker : The debate on the Bill stands adjourned until the next sitting day.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH—MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as follows :—

Your Excellency,

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

I deem it a great privilege to move this Motion at this very momentous occasion. This occasion is a momentous one for two reasons. Firstly, this is the first Budget Meeting after the Federal Elections. Secondly, the occasion is momentous because it is now that we have our very first big test as to whether we are able to solve our own problems.

His Excellency's speech is remarkable for its brilliance and comprehensiveness. Surely, it is a comprehensive survey of the problems and needs of this great nation. This laudable programme is non-controversial in itself, but real understanding among the leaders of this

country is needed for any programme such as this to succeed.

I must pay a very high and glowing tribute to His Excellency the President, the Rt. hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for what I might describe as his avowed policy to preserve the unity of Nigeria. The unity of this country is uppermost in the mind of everyone of us, and I am confident that the President will continue to bring together all the leaders of this country for the peace, unity, happiness and progress of Nigeria.

The President's speech deals with the Government's policy for the coming financial year, 1965-66. I am quite sure that hon. Members will agree with me that the policy contains such extremely comprehensive and dynamic plans that there is hardly any room for criticism. We welcome these proposals and wish the Federal Government every success in carrying them out.

The Federal Government should be praised for its determination to pursue our policy of non-alignment in foreign affairs, because this will enable us to renew and extend our friendship with other countries both in Africa and in other parts of the world. This is a sign of maturity on the part of the Federal Government.

Nigeria, being one of the biggest countries in the continent of Africa, should lead other African countries not only in extending friendships but also in fostering good relationship among all the nations of the world. By doing this, we shall be upholding practically the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In his speech from the Throne, His Excellency said, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote :—

Lagos and Kano international airports will be further developed and equipped to enable them accommodate modern type jet aircraft. The Nigerian Airways will continue to accelerate the development of its domestic as well as its international services.

Here, Port Harcourt Airport is completely left out. I must say, with respect, that I am terribly disappointed over the attitude of the Federal Government towards the airport at Port Harcourt. Port Harcourt is an industrial city. It has the second largest port in the Federation. Its airport must be developed to accommodate bigger aircraft.

It is a wise decision to promote our industrial and commercial activities by introducing country-wide teléx services throughout Nigeria, particularly at Port Harcourt where commercial and mercantile houses have been suffering for the past years due to inadequate and unsatisfactory postal and telecommunication service.

I am happy to note that the Federal Government will now introduce legislation to consolidate the Nurses and Midwives Acts and to modernise the nursing and midwifery profession.

There is an urgent need for the implementation of the agreement reached on the recommendations of the Morgan Commission of Inquiry, aimed at strengthening employer and labour relations, and ensuring industrial peace and harmony which are essential for the orderly development of our national economy. I have in mind the constant labour problems in Port Harcourt and other parts of the country. If a Bill is introduced, both the employer and labour will know their limitations.

It is my humble submission that, although this Government should modernise and improve agriculture which is the most important economic pursuit in Nigeria, this should be done through the Regional Governments. It is very necessary to encourage those of our country people who are dealing with farm settlements and farm institutes; but this encouragement should be given to them through the Regional Governments.

It is gratifying to note that the Government is seriously thinking of how to encourage the development of water resources so as to provide urban and rural communities, especially the drier part of the Federation, with water supplies. I might perhaps suggest that adequate grants should be made available to the Regional Governments to enable them to carry out this important scheme successfully.

There is one other point which is agitating my mind, and I am sure the minds of the entire people of this country. History has placed on our shoulders the responsibility of maintaining the unity of this great Republic. It is to the credit of the Federal Government that this unity has been maintained and that Nigeria has become a sane, progressive and really understanding country in the eyes of the whole world. It will be unfortunate if after

all these very genuine expectations we succumb to an unexpected disunity or to some of the things that tend to bring about disintegration.

The unity of this country rests, not only on the shoulders of the responsible citizens of this Republic, but also on the shoulders of the Prime Minister. History will judge him on his performances and the extent to which he has endeavoured, to uphold the unity of this country, in spite of provocations and many other difficulties.

I trust that the Prime Minister, who is a man of ability and a man who can see beyond his nose, will on no occasion succumb to pressure of any kind that will threaten the solidarity of this nation.

Sir, I beg to move.

M. Muhammadu Mustafa Umar (Katagun South): I rise to second this Motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend, the Member for Port Harcourt (**Mr Okay**).

It gives me not only a pleasure but an honour also to second an important Motion of this nature which calls for an humble Address to be presented to His Excellency the President.

I have no hesitation, nor have I any reservation in pointing out that the entire Government policy outlined in this Speech from the Throne is not only comprehensive and straightforward but is indeed a true picture of Government's programme. You will agree with me Sir, that the Speech deserves our acclamation and I ask Members to join me in congratulating the Government on the remarkable achievements which were made in the past year.

I am extremely glad that the Speech is not silent on the question of our policy of non-alignment in the field of foreign relations, and the condemnation of racial discrimination. The Speech also reaffirmed the Government's confidence in the Organisation of African Unity. There is clear evidence of this in the Government's attitude of non-interference in the internal affairs of the other independent states; of respecting the sovereignty of these states and of abiding by the provisions of the O.A.U. Charter.

Members will also agree with me that the siting in Nigeria of the Scientific, Technical

[M. MUHAMMADU MUSTAFA UMAR]

and Research Commission of the O.A.U. is a living example of the trust and confidence of the member-states of that Organisation in our beloved country.

In the field of commerce and industry, I am particularly happy to note that the Government considers it important for Nigeria to take part in our industry not only as workers but also as investors. We all know that the success of the economic growth of our country depends largely on its commerce and industry. I have no doubt that the present Government approach will increase the Nigerian economy.

The President's Speech also refers to the setting up of a Nigerian News Agency which will provide a Nigerian news service on a world wide basis. I congratulate the Government for this proposal because when this Agency is set up it will serve two purposes. In the first place, it will project the Nigerian image and activities abroad, and in the second, it will be a source of getting correct news for Nigerians who live abroad. Usually, our people have to rely on foreign papers which sometimes misrepresent the facts.

Mention was also made of converting the Posts and Telegraphs into a commercial organisation. This measure was mentioned in the President's Speech of last year. I only hope that their service will be improved before they are converted into that organisation.

Finally, I am taking this opportunity to congratulate our leaders who have demonstrated once more their maturity in solving difficult problems facing the nation. Months ago, the unity of this country was at stake, but with the spirit of good will and of the desire to preserve the unity of Nigeria, all the various problems have been solved. With this spirit, our leaders have demonstrated their faith in our country more than ever before. They have shown to the world at large that the unity of this country is more precious than anything they possess and that they are prepared to do everything within their power to preserve it. I only hope and pray that from now on Nigerian unity will grow from strength to strength.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : The Speech from the Throne of this year is a land mark in the history of this country. It is a land mark in that it has not emphasised our differences,

rather, it has diverted our attention to the unity of the country.

Those of us who have studied and witnessed what transpired in this country within the past few months will definitely note that democracy in this country has been built. It is no use concealing our faults, and it is no use trying to run away from our obligations and responsibilities. We have made a Constitution in this country and the whole country expect us to abide by this Constitution. But certain political parties in this country should be crucified in the public square for working completely against—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should know that the only public square in the world is the Red Square in Moscow. There is no public square in Lagos.

Mr Ememe : I said certain political parties should be crucified in the public square for working against the objective of this country—that is the objective of achieving real democracy in this country.

I can only state what I have seen and other Members can state what they have seen in their own part of the country. My experiences in the Eastern Region show that that great party which has been respected for years for pursuing a democratic principle has lost its hold. Even those of us who are supposed to be within the fold have been made public ridicules. We have been castigated just because we demand our rights. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is misleading the House in giving the impression that there is no democracy in Eastern Region. If there is no democracy in Eastern Region the hon. Member would not have won an election as an independent candidate in that Region.

Speaker : Order ! Surely we should not allow these interruptions at least at this stage.

Mr. Ememe : I have no intention to injure anybody's feelings. I am only trying to state what I have seen. I say, Sir, that in my own part of this Federation, democracy is no more the order of the day. I wish to substantiate this statement by saying that many people who dare observe the constitution of the country—many people who have a right to contest election

under their own platform as provided by the constitution, all of them were mowed down by the machinery of the Government.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, democracy is a state of one's mind.

Mr Speaker : Order. If the hon. Member raising the point of order is not wearing a traditional hat, it will be more courteous for him to take it off.

Dr Nzeribe : I am referring to the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) on a point of order. Democracy is a condition of the mind and if after five years of representation of his people in Parliament here his people are still barbarous and mow down candidates, then he is to blame. He is giving a false image of Eastern Nigeria on the Floor of this Parliament. This hon. Member is telling a lie about Eastern Nigeria and creating a false image of the Region.

Mr Ememe : I cannot be distracted by unnecessary comments. It is the future of this country that really is more important than anything else.

I would very much like, and everyone of us here would very much like to see that there is real freedom in the country. But, Sir, in the Eastern Region where I come from, freedom is no more in practice.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I think the speech of the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is quite irrelevant. In the Presidential Address, no reference was made to failure of democracy in any of the regions; but the Member who has been practising a dictatorship of his Soviet type is now complaining that as an Ndoki man he is destroying democracy and at the same time blaming the Eastern Government. I think he should stop mentioning the Eastern Government otherwise he will be inviting trouble for himself.

Mr Speaker : Members who are making their speeches or raising their points of order or making statements should please stop making references to foreign countries' activities particularly if the statements are not verified to be true. In this respect, I would like to guide the hon. Member raising his point of order by stating that the Speech from the Throne

covers a very wide field which includes problems of the financial and economic stability of the country.

Mr Ememe : One of the greatest protections the people of this country have is derived through the Law Courts, but in Eastern Nigeria the Law Courts have been turned into appendages of a political party.

Mr Amechi : I think it is bad faith for the courts of this country to be brought to Parliament for discussion except if there is a substantive Motion.

Mr Speaker : Order. Parliament can discuss every arm of Government activity.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi : On a point of order, with very great respect I would like to be guided as to whether the Judiciary could be described as an arm of any government in Nigeria under the Constitution?

Mr Speaker : While I appreciate the anxieties of some hon. Members from the East over statements being made by the Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*), it is only proper for me to ask the hon. Member—though he may be relevant—to make milder comments on the activities of the Eastern Nigeria Government.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, I am asking for guidance from the Chair, because this is the beginning of the Second Parliament. A number of us may not like what the Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*) may be saying, but I would wish to be guided as to whether any Member is entitled to speak out his convictions no matter whose ox is gored—whether it is the Eastern Nigeria Government that is being attacked or any other government. I would like it to be ruled that every hon. Member is quite entitled to speak out his mind.

Mr Speaker : I must say that this is the best place where an hon. Member can speak out his mind. There is no doubt about it, and if a Member cannot speak out his mind in Parliament well, that is the end of it. But I do hope that the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr B. N. Ukaegbu*) will allow me to give him sufficient protection from those who might try to stop him speaking out his mind.

Mr Ememe : There is concrete evidence that a Judge of the High Court of Eastern Nigeria had to rule against Customary Court Judges who tried to violate the Constitution of this country. There is a Judge in the East protecting the Constitution—

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : I want to point out to this House that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has proved, by his utterances, to be a treacherous man. He is saying all this because he lost election nomination under the platform of the N.C.N.C.—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, Order, Order ! Will the Member for Aba South please continue his speech.

Mr Ememe : What I was trying to point out is that most of the Customary Courts in Eastern Nigeria are no longer what they are intended to be at all—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Order ! It is not proper to try to stop an hon. Member from speaking by unnecessarily raising points of order.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : My point of order is that the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor has spoken for more than forty-five minutes !

Mr Speaker : I think the Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr D. O. Ahamefula's*) wrist-watch is wrong.

Mr Ememe : I congratulate the High Court Judge who showed, at least in the Eastern Region, that he is one that could not be pressured by political parties. He tried by his own effort to protect the Nigerian Constitution by rebuking the Customary Court Judges who were mis-directing the Constitution. How can a person expect a court to try a case and refuse bail to those convicted ?

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of order, I am ashamed of the Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*). He is misleading this House—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Ememe : I do not see why certain people from Eastern Nigeria cannot face facts, even when they are bitter. What we are

trying to do here is to correct ourselves. If a political party in Eastern Nigeria, fails to use its power to negate any infraction of our Constitution, it is our right in this House to say so. I do not fear anybody !

There is one other point I have to make. I wish to stress this fact—and I am not going to belabour it any way—that a certain political party in Eastern Nigeria is not observing the Constitution which took us years to work out. The party I have in mind is the N.C.N.C.

Apart from the Judiciary, I have read through the memoranda of the different political parties during the elections and I have noticed that through some political parties claim to be progressive—

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : There is a stranger in this House in the person of the Member for Lagos North (*Mr Benson*). He is not an elected member of this House.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Lagos North (*Mr Benson*) is on top.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : May I call the attention of the House to Standing Order 29 (1) which states :

Debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment, except in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House.

I maintain that the latitude allowed the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) to attack the N.C.N.C., the Eastern Nigeria Government and the Judiciary may not help the course of unity which we are all so much after. Although some Members are rejoicing and shouting at these criticisms, I am of the opinion that we should stick to the appeal made to us by the President of the Republic of Nigeria.

Judging even from the statements of the Mover and the Seconder I feel that we should all dedicate ourselves to the cause of unity. This sort of latitude is bound to involve retaliation and it will be unpleasant if some of us should begin to review incidents of the last general elections both in the North, West and in the whole country. It would be a question of trying to rake up trouble or nursing old wounds.

I therefore appeal to the Speaker to prevent us from going back to this unpleasant exercise.

Mr Speaker : I cannot see how the idea of an individual can cause any trouble in this House, particularly as that individual is only making comments on some political activities in an area of the Eastern Region. I do not think the mind of the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) should work that way.

I think it is only proper that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) be allowed to express his mind as when this is done an end would be brought to his precipitation, and it is my intention to allow the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) to speak up his mind too.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban): The point of Order I wish to make is on limitation of time. The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) started to speak at ten minutes to eleven o'clock; it is now twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock. He has thus spoken for more than thirty minutes and this is contrary to the provisions of Standing Order 32 (1) which says:

Subject to paragraph (2) of this order and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 63 (Appropriation Bill), no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject.

Mr Speaker : It is true that the hon. Member is allowed thirty minutes to speak, but there have been so much deliberate interruptions that he has not actually spoken for that time and it is my intention, with the leave of the House, to give him some more time to speak.

Mr Ememe : What some hon. Members do not like to hear is just what I am going to say. Some people label themselves progressives, but they turn round to be the worst retrogressives in this country. I can never compromise with anybody who parades himself as the most progressive element in this country and yet turns round to commit the worst crimes that one would never expect from the reactionaries in this country. That type of hypocrisy should be wiped away from our political scene.

I have noticed that the Federal Government has a Six-Year Development Plan which has as its objective the economic improvement of this country. But I wish to say that because

of certain reactionary elements in the Eastern Region my constituency has been completely left out in this Six-Year Development Plan. I wish to say that 60 per cent of the petroleum that is produced in this country comes from my own constituency. I wish to state also that about 100 per cent of the gas produced in this country comes from my constituency too, and yet no amenities are provided for the people of my constituency by the government that should provide them with these amenities, and that is the Government of Eastern Nigeria.

Mr D. C. Ugwu (Nsukka North): The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is discussing the functions of the Eastern Government. We are discussing the functions of the Federal Government here.

Mr Speaker : I do hope that hon. Members will listen more carefully. The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is discussing amenities. He has not yet specified which of the amenities he is referring to. If he specifies these amenities and they are those to be provided by the Federal Government then he will be correct.

Mr Ememe : Certain people do not even know how this Six-Year Development Programme is going on. If an industry is to be established under this scheme, it is passed over to the Regional Government concerned to locate it where it should be. If an amenity is to be given through this Six-Year Development Programme to any area, it is not given directly by the Federal Government, but through the Regional Government, as an agent of the Federal Government. I am saying here that my constituency has suffered immensely as a result of the repressive measures taken by the agents of the Federal Government in the Eastern Region—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I am afraid the hon. Member will have to wind up.

Mr Ememe : In conclusion, I wish to point out that this Speech from the Throne has almost completely left out the minority question. This is a very vital issue in the minds of my people. I wish to bring this point to the House that the revision of the Constitution is a very great necessity now so that the Niger Delta Development Board may have a wider area of operation so as to include those minority areas that are suffering in the Eastern Region.

[MR EMEME]

Here I mean Asa and Ndoki people. We have all the resources and we have no amenity. I wish to say that blessed are those political parties who protect the rights of the minorities.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central) : In supporting this Motion, I should like to restrain myself and make mention of two very important issues confronting this country. These issues concern the unity and solidarity of Nigeria. I do not want to mention anybody, I do not want to mention any party whatsoever, and I do not want to put any blame on anybody. But the question still remains centred around what has happened in the past. And I would like to put these two questions in regard to the unity of this country.

What sort of unity are we envisaging in Nigeria? And what brand of democracy are we having in Nigeria? These are the two questions which are very very vital to everybody in Nigeria.

Unity as has been advocated by the leaders and the countrymen alike and the democracy which we all preach, has still remained undefined. What sort of democracy is it we want when the majority does not rule and the minority wants to rule? What sort of democracy is it, I ask? And what sort of unity is it? I would like to make it clear that those who think that they can only achieve unity at the expense of the North, are only living in a fool's paradise.

We must face facts. If we really mean to maintain the stability and unity of this country as we would want it to be, it should be placed on record that the cultural heritage which we have in Nigeria should be upheld by our leaders so as to ensure that the basic democratic principles known the world over will also exist in Nigeria.

If there must be unity then we must follow the basic principles of democracy which is majority rule. Let us have opposition. These are questions of paramount importance to the ordinary man in the street.

If anybody thinks that because of a mere accident he is in a position to impose things on the nation, he is making a great mistake.

Turning to our foreign policy—

Mr D. C. Ugwu (Nsukka North) : On a point of order, the point raised by the Member for Sokoto Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is a very important one and being one of the most respected Members of this House, I would like him to explain one point. Is the hon. Member talking of the rule of the people by a majority region or by the majority party?

M. Ibrahim Gusau : I now turn to foreign affairs which has been the most eminent portion of the speech delivered by His Excellency. I know quite well that the Government is highly concerned about happenings in Africa especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, particularly, what Ghana did to Nigeria very recently. We are highly concerned about what is happening in Ghana but I think there is ample opportunity during the debate on the Appropriation Bill to debate it in full if time permits.

But, there is one important thing which should be considered now. I read in the newspapers that the United Labour Congress of Nigeria is going to be prosecuted for what they did to the Ghana High Commission here in Nigeria. I think it is disgraceful and demoralising to the people of Nigeria because, the United Labour Congress demonstrated on behalf of the whole of Nigeria. They retaliated what was done to the Nigeria High Commission in Ghana and if they are now going to be prosecuted it is a great disgrace to everybody in Nigeria. They did not demonstrate for themselves, they demonstrated for everybody here in Nigeria, and they did it for the dignity of the nation.

I feel that this matter should be brought before the Government. We want our judiciary to be independent and the police to do their duties. But, I would say the demonstration of the members of the United Labour Congress at the Ghana High Commission is for the dignity of our policemen, for the dignity of our judiciary, for the dignity of the President and the Prime Minister and for the dignity of the whole of Nigeria. Whether they are found guilty or not, I think it is disgraceful to take them to court in this particular case and I hope that the Government will see to it that the charge which is preferred against them does not come before any court.

There is another important point which I would like to mention and that is with regard to railway services in the Northern Region. As I said earlier, I do not want to mention names or accuse any political party, but I would like the present Minister of Transport to tell this honourable House the number of wagons which were railed to Kano during the last three months compared with the number of wagons railed to Kano during this time last year and the year before. The Minister will find that the economy of the North is being ruined indirectly from certain quarters in the Railway Corporation. I do not want to accuse anybody but for the sake of argument I would like, Members of this House to have these figures and hon. Members will agree with me that there is something wrong in the Railway Corporation, or else there is something responsible for the loss of revenue now going on in the Railway Corporation.

May I congratulate the Minister of Aviation for the reduction of fares he proposes for the air services in Northern Nigeria. We have brought to the Floor of this House many times complaints about the air services in Northern Nigeria, especially the fares from one town to another. The Minister has started in the right direction, but I would like to emphasise that it is time we had modern aircraft in the Northern Region. The aircraft operating now in the Northern Region are not used anywhere in the modern world. I would like the Minister to see to it that modern aircraft are stationed and put into service in Northern Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Hadejia North): I wish to associate myself with the views of the hon. Members who have spoken on the Motion for an Address to the President for his Speech.

This is the second Presidential Address delivered to this new Parliament and we are all happy that our new Parliament is functioning well after the last Federal Elections. It gives the Members of this honourable House great pleasure to see that we have embarked on our parliamentary duties with vigour and with determination to work for the best interests of our country.

The President's Speech has outlined all that the Government intends to do during the coming financial year and I think it is comprehensive enough and there is little to criticise in the Speech.

In the interest of progress and unity of this country, I urge the Government to implement without delay the contents of the President's Speech.

I am happy to know that the Presidential Address started from the beginning to outline our Government's stand on external and domestic affairs. Our Government has determined to pursue the policy of non-alignment in foreign relations. It has decided to pursue a policy of friendly relations with African Countries and will fully support the O.A.U. It is also our Government's policy to strengthen the Commonwealth and finally, it is our Government's policy to help solve the United Nations Organisation's problems and to help the Non-Committed Nations respectively.

I have also to congratulate our Government on helping to site the Headquarters of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the O.A.U. here in Nigeria. I am happy to learn that the Government intends to build a Flying School at Oshogbo. I would urge the Government to see that the students at this School are well trained. They should not be neglected and should not be allowed to idle about as it is the case with the Ikeja Training Ground.

The Government's idea to introduce a country-wide Telex-Service in Nigeria this year is welcome indeed.

In the field of Health, I would like to place on record the valuable services rendered by Dr Chapliski and his staff at Hadejia and also Dr Predeickson of the U.S.A.I.D. with S.S. Teams. They are doing their best to eradicate and control diseases in Hadejia emirate.

It is delightful to know that the Nigerian Law School will be sited at Victoria Island. This School will train good lawyers who would work for the betterment of our country and not the UPGA type of lawyers.

With regard to agriculture, I appreciate the Government's intention to modernize and improve it by introducing modern schemes. I am happy also that agriculture will receive greater attention now than in the past. I welcome

[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU GAUYAMA]

the efforts being made by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in research work now under consideration. I would also like to say that the irrigation schemes at Hadejia are making commendable progress in the production of wheat along the Hadejia River banks.

I would like to point out that water is very essential to life and as such I would ask the Federal Government to develop our water resources and to provide urban and rural water supplies especially in drier parts of Hadejia emirate. We need water, Mr Speaker.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the new Federal Government luck, long life and a good tenure of office. I beg to support.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): I rise to join hon. Members in supporting the Motion of thanks to His Excellency, the President, for his Address from the Throne.

This is the beginning of a new Parliament and I wish to take this early opportunity to express some views on what I consider to be undamental factors which can ensure the development of true democracy in Nigeria.

Many people inside and outside of this honourable House have commented on what should be the future of political and constitutional development in Nigeria up to a point where rancour has been injected. I think that as we are going on an adventure of nation building, it is essential that right from the beginning, we should map out our direction and not grope along till perhaps, as nearly happened in the latter part of last year, we nearly found ourselves in the ditch. I think it is because we have refused to face up to ourselves, that we have refused to see ourselves as we actually are. Until we are able to see ourselves as we actually are, we will not be able to re-direct our national life to the goal which everyone of us desires.

I have in mind the fact that we are now a republican political entity, but as I have often said in the past, we have not actually achieved real republicanism and this is being reflected in the structure and practice of our very Parliament. Someone had earlier said that what we have is not a Republic, but actually a Monarchy in Republican Clothing. If I were to expatiate on that, I would say that we have for example the forms of a Parliament, but the substance is not here. We have, or we are

supposed to have a Republican Parliament, but our Rules of Procedure and Standing Orders and our very practice here connote only a Monarchical type of Parliament. It was not our fault from the beginning because what we have now is what we inherited from Britain—to be more exact a Colonial Parliament.

In 1963, we changed over to a Republic, but we did not change the substance. We only changed the clothing. We changed the Queen with a nominated President. Our Parliament remained a Colonial Parliament.

I am sure that Members know that this Parliament, in Law and in accordance with the Constitution has got a lot of powers whereas, in actual practice, the Standing Orders which have been little changed from what they were in 1948 and the way the Government makes use of Parliament, actually negative all the powers the Constitution has endowed Parliament with. I have in mind that hon. Members who were here in the last Parliament would remember how we were shocked with public opinion and how actually a number of us were frustrated because of the way Bills were rushed through and the Committee Stage where hon. Members were to criticise, amend and call upon the Government to change certain things, was no longer a Committee Stage.

With due respect to you, Mr Speaker, you did try as much as you could to build up a real Parliament, but the Government piled up pressure on you. It is true that the Speaker at times resisted these pressures, but there was no co-operation from the Government in such a way that the Speaker was forced on some occasions to read twenty clauses at a time. This practice makes it almost impossible for Members to make real contributions to debates, and I am taking an early opportunity to remind the Speaker of this unfortunate practice, because some of us who are students of history and who have followed Parliamentary development from the early stages in Britain, America and so on, are alarmed that it appears we are going to the direction where, as I said last time, our Parliament may be reduced to an ineffective rubber stamp.

I am not ashamed to say that, because we have been elected from our various constituencies in the North, the East, the West and the Mid-West to come here and represent our people. It has just been said this morning that it has cost the Federal Government as

much as over three million pounds to conduct the last Federal Election, and many hon. Members have spent thousands of pounds to win their seats. Also, each time we come for the meeting of this Parliament we are paid mileage allowances. Some people are going to be paid one thousand pounds and over in form of allowance and we are all going to be paid our salaries. I am sure that the five years that this Parliament will last will cost the taxpayers of this country millions and millions of pounds.

Any businessman will sit back and ask the question: 'What am I going to gain for the millions of pounds that I am spending on this business?' I think we could also ask on behalf of the taxpayers of Nigeria what the Federal Government intends to gain from the so many million pounds it is going to spend on this present Parliament.

I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, have a very significant role to play in this Parliament. I am sure also that you will allow me to say that we had no opportunity to congratulate you on your achievement when the last Parliament was being dissolved. It is not out of place on record here that your handling of the last Parliament did credit not only to yourself but to the whole nation and your countrymen.

Members who have long been in Parliament know that I am not used to showering praises on people, but we accepted the change over from Sir Frederick Metcalfe to our own present Speaker with some sort of scepticism. Both Sir Frederick's performance and yours, Mr Speaker, are very excellent. The way you have tried to hold the delicate balance between the Government and the Opposition and between the views of Private Members and those of the Ministers has been creditable. I am very proud of you, and I am sure that if you continue in the way you have been doing your work in the past we shall be able, in the five years ahead, to create a Parliament which will really play the part the constitution has meant it to play.

As I was saying earlier in the morning, with your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I want to pin-point a fact. You will be assisting us, and the history of the nation will record it if you use your powers to discipline us, Members of this Parliament, a bit. An hon. Member who has an unpopular view or a view which is repulsive to other Members' views, but who is

convinced that his view is right, should have the right of expressing his views and should be protected. Someone once said: "I may not agree with what you want to say, but I will spend my life to ensure that you have the opportunity of saying it". This is what Parliament is supposed to be.

If I cannot come here and attack the Prime Minister and the Government of the day with freedom and with the indulgence of other Members of Parliament, I do not know where else I could do so.

If I have not spent all my time on that, I would like to say that at an early stage of the Parliament, we shall be expected to join in the Conference of the promised constitutional review. I am sure, Mr Speaker, that with your knowledge of Rules of Procedure in other Parliaments of the civilised world, you will ensure or assist us to ensure that our Standing Orders are liberalised to such an extent that Members of Parliament can make two contributions on a subject; otherwise we shall not be playing any significant role in the Government of the day. You should assist us to ensure that Parliament does not abdicate its power and responsibility to legislate. I hope also that you will help us to ensure that what the Council of Ministers can do is to make legislative proposals to us and allow us to debate for as long as we wish before a Bill is passed.

Another point is that Private Members' business should be given more time to enable hon. Members from various parts of the country to reflect the views of the millions of people they represent in this Parliament.

Now, one other thing I want to talk about is the unity of this country. Several Members who have spoken before me have said quite a lot about the unity and solidarity of this country. I do not think that this point can be over-emphasized because we are just at the beginning of nation building. We have only had a few years to try to do what other countries like Britain and America took centuries to do.

I would like to appeal to all sides of the House, all shades of political opinion and all the tribes in Nigeria that we should give ourselves more time. We should not take such steps as would blight the future and therefore remove the healing hand of time.

[MR UKEGBU]

During the last constitutional crisis, without going into the merits and demerits of the case of the various political parties and alliances, may I say that real Nigerian patriots knelt down and prayed that Providence should give the Federation of Nigeria more time. We prayed that more time should be given to us when the country was on the brink of civil war and collapse. We in this Parliament can do a lot to ensure the unity of the country by the way we express our views here. When expressing our views we should be able to appreciate and respect the point of view of others.

I think it will be impossible to say that any one region is always right or any one region is always wrong. It will be wrong too to say that any one party or alliance is right or wrong. In the context of human life this is impossible. No particular thing has been absolutely right or absolutely wrong. Therefore, I consider it an incumbent duty on us, Members of Parliament, on whom history has placed, during this era, the responsibility of building a nation of which we and our children coming behind us can justifiably be proud, to ensure that we discharge it with maturity.

I say it now, and I hope we will be able to say it afterwards, that the main trouble in Nigeria or the main obstacle in the way of our political and national unity lies in the lack of inter-tribal contact at the proper level, and this fact must be faced. If we keep ourselves in water-tight compartments and we are only looking at the images of the other regions and political parties, and we never really try together to understand the good that is in our fellow Nigerians, we shall not be doing the country any good. Certainly, there is good in the North, there is good in the East, there is good in the West and there is good in the Mid-West. Also there is evil all round. Therefore, a sweeping condemnation of one region and sweeping praise of another will not help us. It will only do damage to our own national life and, therefore, it is on this point only that I am going to condemn any Regional Government or political party which wants to say that this man comes from the East, that from the West and the other is from the North. We are all Nigerians.

We can only say that if we are determined that there should be no Federation of Nigeria.

If there is not going to be a Federation of Nigeria, then we can say that the North is for the northerners and the South for the southerners. But if we have in our minds that there is a future where we should not in Nigeria remain like oil and water together but never mix, if we do not want that in the future, we must encourage inter-tribal contact and we must also encourage inter-Regional contact. We must also encourage inter-party contact. Then we should be able to see that the Sardauna of Sokoto, for example, can go to the East and campaign as well as other leaders can go to the North to campaign.

I myself had lived in the North for a number of years and I know the respect the people of Kano, for example, give to their Emir. You will be struck when you are in the Kano Railway Station to see them praise their Emir. This has come out of the minds of these people and it must be accepted that there are a number of Nigerians who are moved to acts of loyalty to their leaders and so on. We must accept that. But that should not blind us not to guard against condoning what I consider evil practices in the North. I will condemn these practices with the understanding that they are no good, and in this wise prosterity will condemn us politicians because there is no patriotism in our hearts. We are tribalistic when it serves our personal interests to be tribalistic and we must be honest enough to face it. It is a line of least resistance. The line of least resistance is to appeal to those tribal sentiments. Let us face facts. It is all over Nigeria.

If I cannot convince a Kano electorate to vote for me because I am going to ameliorate his life, then I am going to tell him not to cast his vote for Aminu Kano, that he is presumptive of the Southern politicians who are going to take his land and drive him away to the desert and so on. That is the easiest way to talk to the electorate in Kano, Calabar and so on, and ask them to vote for you. At the same time, I must say this practice is all over the place in the East, West and in the Mid-West. I think truth must be told. It is the politicians that divide Nigeria because they want to rule.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On a point of order. While we are giving much attention to the hon. Member speaking, we must tell him in plain language before he

continues that the North will not bring trouble to the West nor will the West bring trouble to the North; but it is the East that brings trouble to all the other Regions.

Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shakey Shakey !

Mr Ukegbu : While I will not allow myself to be distracted, I would like to thank the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) for spot-lighting this point because that actually is the danger to Nigerian unity. Our Constitution is one thing and our hearts quite another.

We have a Federal Republic of Nigeria made up of various territories. We are all one and somebody spoke earlier on here about the need for a majority rule which is very, very vital and good. If there is to be a rule of one political party which wins a majority, then there must be a fundamental fact that all political parties should be entitled to move into the various Regions of the country to campaign and win elections. Therefore, the point that the people of Nigeria must face is this. Are we going to say, like one political leader—a respected political leader for that matter—has said that here are people who will not wait but they go and cause trouble in other people's Region? Let us mark that and let the people of Nigeria mark it because that is the root of our evils and it is the danger to our unity.

Now, I would say that in the United States of America there are fifty States. There are two political parties—the Democrats and the Republicans. No one party says this is my Region or that is my Region. Therefore, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has touched on the point which our leaders must be prepared to face squarely.

I have an opinion and I have held this opinion for quite a long time. This is not an insult because I do not believe in insulting our leaders, but it is a real fact. How do we know that there are progressives or conservatives? No one should be ashamed of being called a conservative. How are we sure that there are no conservatives in the South who would welcome the honest organisation of a conservative party like the N.P.C. in the East and, therefore, embrace it openly and be contended to join it? Who can say that there are no progressives in the North or in the West or in the East?

Political parties must be allowed to criss-cross the country and seek political support from the people.

If the Prime Minister had come to Owerri to campaign, he might even have won no seats but the fact would have remained that he had campaigned in the East and he had recognised the fact that when he became the Prime Minister, he was not going to be the Prime Minister of one Region or one political party but the Prime Minister of the whole nation. Therefore, by the Prime Minister coming to campaign in the East, by that act alone, he would have accepted the constitutional right of the other parties to go and campaign in the North.

The Minister of Economic Development and Education (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : Mr Speaker, surely, with the type of thuggery which the N.C.N.C. organised, it would not have been safe for the Prime Minister to go to the Eastern Region. We all know the leader of the N.C.N.C. went to the Northern Region and he toured and lectured in all parts of the North. Nothing happened.

We all know that a number of people have lost their lives in the East and our own supporters were not safe to campaign. So what the hon. Member is saying is like admitting the fact that it was not safe for anybody to campaign in the Eastern Region.

Mr Ukegbu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I can say in the case of all the other Regions that this fact reinforces my stand that if the Prime Minister is the deputy leader of a political party and if that party won, he would be the Prime Minister of the Federation. Then, it was incumbent on him to campaign in that very place where there is danger and then he would realize at first hand that there was danger to his own party supporters. As the Prime Minister, if he campaigns there and realizes there is danger, then he will have to take appropriate steps to ensure security in the Region. Why should he stay away? Hearsay is no evidence. I need not repeat that because the House will understand that at the very beginning of Parliament we want to ensure that there is a certain standard of seriousness in debate even though there may be some levity and raucousness for some time. I expect that all hon. Members should be serious.

Let me state categorically, and I am speaking from first hand evidence, I do not want undue

[MR UKEGBU]

praises on the Floor of this House. The whole country ought to know that I should be pardoned this because of what the hon. Member said and because of what the Minister of Economic Development has just said. The country should urge that the Members of Parliament and the people outside of this House should kneel down and pray to God and Allah that the other Regions of Nigeria should practise as much democracy as Eastern Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not want to be harassed here at all but I am really speaking the truth. Mr Speaker, self praise in Parliament should not be indulged in by the politicians.

Let us face some historical accuracy. I, myself, have lived in the West. I have lived in the North and I have lived in the East.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : The hon. Member speaking now on the Floor of this Parliament is misdirecting this House. Everybody knows that the N.P.C. sent a team to Eastern Nigeria and most of these people were killed

Mr Speaker : Order. Surely this is not a point of order. If the hon. Member wants to make his own points he is entitled to do so at the appropriate time.

Mr Ukegbu : I do not want to be distracted from my point. It is incumbent on me to state that throughout the electioneering campaigns in Eastern Nigeria people were free to move as they liked, and so, Sir, nobody was killed.

Shettima Alli Monguno (Kanumbu-Ngan-zai) : The hon. Member speaking started what I, in my opinion, thought to be an excellent speech ; but it is just unfortunate that at a certain stage he went into the relations between an Emir and his subjects and went even to the extent of mentioning names—unfortunately names of a person like Aminu Kano. If only he had mentioned or cited similar examples in other regions of the Federation his speech would have been balanced.

Mr Speaker : Unbalanced speeches are not out of order. At least the hon. Member has exhausted his time.

Alhaji Yinusa Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : I rise to support the Motion of thanks on His Excellency's Speech from the Throne and, in doing so, I should like to associate myself with the Members who spoke before me in supporting this Motion. The most important thing devolving on us now being Legislators in this republican country is to promote unity in this country. In doing that we should all show a good example to people supporting us in this country.

We are not only expected to come here this year and then no more. After us, our sons and grand children will be expected to come to this Parliament and organise things. I remember that the leaders of this country who are now leading us were only trying to bring us out from colonialism, and now we are free and we are supposed to look after ourselves and carry on with our duties of putting everything in order in such a way that it will match this country and promote our unity and our economic standards.

Another point is that it is true that some of the notorious politicians used to cause confusion in this country but if we want to avoid this it is only fair to follow one way or another ; our leaders should prove that they are wise and their supporters will follow suit. We do not want quarelling and fighting to start from this Parliament. We do not want that, and we do not hope that will happen.

His Excellency the Governor of Eastern Nigeria should visit His Excellency the Governor of Northern Nigeria and also the Governor of Western Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria. The Prime Minister should also visit every part of the country the same as the President. I see no reason why people of this country should not think that they are one.

It has become inevitable that Nigeria has to be ruled in a federated system ; that is why it is called the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We should forget the regional set up whenever we are speaking on the Floor of this House because it does not matter whether it is the Iboman or the Hausaman or the Yorubaman who leads this country.

In his Speech, the President stated—with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—that,

In the course of the year, the Nigerian Air Force will be formally brought into operation.

The building of the Flying School at Oshogbo will also commence this year. Our first Naval Frigate "N.N.S. Nigeria" will be commissioned local production of arms and ammunition will commence; and more modern and better training facilities will be made available to our Armed Forces to ensure that they keep pace with modern developments in order to be better able to discharge their responsibilities to Nigeria.

He also went on to say that—

Lagos and Kano international airports will be further developed and equipped to enable them accommodate modern-type jet aircrafts. The Nigeria Airways will continue to accelerate the development of its domestic as well as its international services.

From the foregoing extracts, it will be seen that Oshogbo, Lagos and Kano will benefit from the Federal Government's amenities. So those of us from Kano will be watching with interest how Kano, in particular, is treated.

I say this because not long ago some of the good things that Kano airport had in the past have been transferred to Lagos airport. We have been observing the goings-on between Kano and Lagos and if there is any further repetition, we shall take a serious view about it.

One hon. Member has just said something about the Nigerian Railway Corporation. I have to add that a lot has been done in that organisation to undermine Northern Nigeria. We do not want to say much because we do not want to mention the name of anybody who is not here to answer to any charges made against him. We are merely appealing to the responsible Minister to take a serious look into the affairs of the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Whether the government should appoint a commission of inquiry or not does not concern me; I am concerned with the discrimination being carried on in the Corporation, and to point out that we are keeping our eyes wide open to see what happens in that organisation between now and the ensuing months.

Nigerianisation is now almost an accomplished fact, but there are still some Nigerians holding very important positions whose attitude to work is much worse than that of the former British masters. Since we

have been assured that steps are being taken to improve the state of affairs by stressing the need for unity in this country, we shall be watching what happens from now onwards. Unity cannot be achieved overnight, so we are not going to preach anything that could hamper the steps being taken to achieve unity in this country.

It should be borne in mind by every hon. Member that the success or failure of Nigeria depends to a great extent on the hon. Members themselves. Our leaders are playing their own part and it is for us, too, to do likewise.

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife South): In supporting the Motion before us, I have some observations to make.

Firstly, I refer to that portion of the President's Speech which says—

Nigeria will continue to work for understanding and friendship among all nations without regard to colour, race or religion. It is the firm resolve of my government to continue to fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world.

May I say that we have had enough bluff from Ghana. A short while ago an hon. Member spoke about cases in Court against some trade unionists who demonstrated outside the Ghana Embassy in retaliation for what that country did to our own Chancery in Accra. I do not intend to talk on this, but to stress that Nigeria has had enough bluff from Ghana.

We have heard that Ghana is a fertile ground for carrying on subversive activities against this country. The treasonable felony trials come readily to mind. Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs explained publicly what the relationship between Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is; yet in spite of this statement there was an attack on our Embassy in Ghana.

There has been a lot of meddling in the internal affairs of some African States by Ghana, notable among them is Togo. On account of all this, I suggest that we should set the Ghana Embassy packing straightaway; we should maintain a non-fraternization attitude towards that country in protest; and we should review our diplomatic relation with

[MR T. O. OLOYEDE]

Ghana. I suggest all this because it is just disturbing that a neighbouring country to Nigeria should be carrying out subversion against us.

From the principles always enunciated by our Prime Minister that Nigeria is not prepared to boss other countries, we are happy to note that this country is keeping up its cordial relation with other African countries by participating fully in the Organisation of African Unity. We have given every encouragement to the O.A.U., and we have learned lately that one of its specialized agencies is to be sited in Lagos.

On the question of this country's participation at the next Commonwealth Prime Minister's conference, we have to urge the Prime Minister to remember that Nigeria is still not fully developed in education. He should ask for more assistance in the sphere of education.

What comes to my mind now is the question of the Immigration Bill which is constantly coming before the House of Commons to restrict the influx of immigrants from Commonwealth countries. The Prime Minister should take a stand and find a solution whereby students wanting to go overseas for studies may not unnecessarily be stopped. I observe that perhaps our former colonial masters are now getting wise and may be regretting what help they have given to Commonwealth citizens who, after being educated overseas, go back to their countries and become masters leading their peoples to shake off the shackles of colonialism. The British Government might be regretting all that had been done for Commonwealth countries and perhaps this Immigration Bill is a step whereby they are seeking to put a gag on all Commonwealth students who might likely become the leaders of their nations some day.

We therefore urge the Prime Minister that at the coming Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference he should do something to see that students who are genuinely interested in going overseas for studies are not refused entry into Britain.

From the President's Speech we note that there is going to be local production of arms and ammunition in this country. I should want the Police to be more vigilant in this regard. Personal experience shows that during

the last Federal Elections shotguns were used by hooligans and thugs and on investigation we were made to understand that these shotguns were being manufactured in the Eastern Region. I must stress here that we do not want another Congo in Nigeria and we must do everything to stop the manufacture of arms and ammunition in the Eastern Region.

Mr E. N. Inyang (Enyong West): The Member for Ife South (*Mr Oloyede*) is reading his speech, though he is not even reading it well and this is contrary to the provisions of Standing Order 26 (1).

Mr Speaker: I think the Member for Ife South (*Mr Oloyede*) is only intelligently making references to his notes and not reading his speech as such.

Mr Oloyede: As I was saying, we do not want another Congo in Nigeria. We would want—

Mr N. Asanbe (Owo Central): I would like the Member for Ife South (*Mr Oloyede*) to tell the Members of this House where he has left his wig. He has probably lost it somewhere and now comes here to act like a lawyer.

Mr Oloyede: The height which thuggery and hooliganism have reached in this country to-day shows that a solution must be found immediately to these evils. We must be sure that the production of arms and ammunition is well protected and that the local production of these things is not made a licence for every local blacksmith to manufacture arms and ammunition.

I should stress that in a rich country like Eastern Nigeria these things can be made of gold. Our Police Force must be on the alert. It comes to my mind that shortly before the Federal Elections and after the Federal Elections even till the present, we see police posts at the entrance of cities in Western Nigeria. It is observed that these police officers do not specifically carry out their job. What prevents a man in a big limousine with arms in his car from being checked and thoroughly searched? But what these police officers do is that when they see a limousine pass by they just wave their hands. It is only when there is a lorry packed with passengers that they stop such lorry and try to search for arms and ammunition. I am not attacking the Police, but I am saying that they should be more vigilant with their work.

It is gratifying to note from the President's Speech that the Federal Government will now take a bold step in the exploitation of our natural mineral resources. Encouragement should be given to the Ministry of Mines and Power to spread its activities throughout the Federation.

Recently we heard that oil had been discovered in the Mid-West and that the refining of this oil would be done in Port Harcourt. We also heard that oil was discovered in some parts of the Eastern Region. During the siting of the Iron and Steel Industry we heard that iron ore was discovered in large quantities in certain parts of the Northern and Eastern Regions. We would like the Minister of Mines and Power to spread his activities to the Western Region too. We also have large quantities of mineral resources. We have iron ore. In the siting of iron and steel industries, therefore, the Western Region should not be left out.

Let me now go to my last though not the least point, Mr Speaker. A brief mention has been made of this point by the President and I quote :

In order to raise not only the general standard of education but also its relevance to the economic cultural and social requirements of our country, my Government will undertake a thorough revision of the content of education in our schools at all levels. For this purpose external assistance will be sought to promote this programme of curriculum development.

It is my suggestion that there should be a committee for education programmes in this Federal Republic. This committee should comprise the Federal Minister of Education and all regional Ministers of Education with all educationists from all the regions and Lagos, mostly principals of schools whose advice will prove invaluable to that committee when set up.

I suggest that the first function of this committee should be to set a uniform syllabus for all schools throughout the Federal Republic.

At present we see a keen competition in our educational set up throughout the Federation. This is good in a way, but primary education which is the foundation of all educational experience in life should have uniform syllabus so that the syllabus which applies in Lagos will apply throughout the Federation, so that there should not be a

student in the Eastern Region for instance, coming to take entrance examination to say King's College Lagos and being found wanting.

The first duty of this Committee is to set up a uniform syllabus to be agreed to by all the regions, so that the educationists who are to serve on an advisory capacity on the Committee will not have too difficult a task.

I support the Motion.

Mr N. O. Aro (Ilorin South) : In supporting this Motion, I would like to make some observations for the consideration of this Government. In doing so, it is not my intention to hurt anybody's feelings. Nevertheless, I think I shall be failing in my duty and also be a slave to my conscience if I should fail to point out the devilish method employed by some crooked importers in some parts of this country which has been causing great loss annually to the revenue of this country. False declarations of goods are more than rampant in some parts of this country, and this makes it difficult if not impossible for some other genuine importers to sell their imported goods with these dishonest importers and enemies of Nigerian revenue around.

For instance woollen cloth is being imported into the country as second-hand clothing. Cosmetics which carry a duty of about one hundred per cent are also coming in as items under 33½ per cent duty. In view of this revelation, I should like to call on the hon. Minister of Finance to kindly look into this worm eating into Nigerian revenue and also to save the genuine importers from this alarming liquidation.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Minister of Works for the construction of bridges and widening of the Ajase-Omuaran road in my constituency. Although this work is somewhat belated, it is better late than never. It is the hope of the people of my constituency that the tarring of the road should be done simultaneously. But another rumour is gaining ground that only half a mile to the bridge is to be tarred.

The failure of the last Government to tar that road has contributed to the political down fall of one of the Federal Ministers in that constituency. I would like to call on the Minister of Works to kindly rescind this

[MR N. O. ARO]

decision if ever it was taken because it will create a bad precedent in the history of road tarring in this country.

I would like to thank the Minister of Mines and Power and all the energetic workers in the Ministry for the supply of electricity to Offa last year. I should ask the Minister not to rest on his oars until all the towns and villages in this constituency have been supplied with electricity.

A word or two about the Ministry of Communications. This ministry has been notorious for non fulfilment of promises to my constituency. Now that another young and dynamic person is to take over the Ministry, I am more than convinced that the old promises will now become a reality, and that the Otun Oro Postal Agency in my constituency shall be converted into a full fledged Post Office.

Finally, I am appealing to this honourable House to see to it that amenities are not concentrated in towns and cities alone. They should see to it that they are both evenly and broadly distributed. When this is done, then the broadly based Government of our respected Prime Minister will be praised and blessed not only by this generation, but also by generations yet unborn.

I beg to support.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): I rise to speak on the Motion on the Floor of the House. First of all I should like to thank the Federal Government for all the achievements it made during the past five years, and more especially the indefatigable Minister of Defence for the able way in which the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police handled the Tiv riot.

In the course of the Presidential Address, there was mention of the foreign policy that our Federal Government will pursue, particularly the point that there will be good and friendly relation with our neighbours and the world at large. This is good and it is welcome. But I would like to stress that there are other countries, some of them very near us, with whom we have always tried to be friendly but who try to treat us only as undesirable persons.

I hear several hon. Members asking me to mention them. If they want an example, I have to quote what has just happened recently to our High Commission in Ghana, and say that it is most undesirable, most insulting and most

provocative and should never be tolerated again. If that country will continue to treat us in this way we must think about it. I am not preaching retaliation, but we must do something about it otherwise that country will bring us to ruin.

The President also said that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is going to become a quasi-commercial establishment. This suggestion is welcome, but there is an important point I would like to stress before this House. Some years past, the Nigerian Railway Department was a Government Department, but after sometime it became a Corporation and ever since then, if it has been in any way useful, it has been on a very minor scale. Many people instead of travelling by rail prefer doing so by road because the travel conditions are very, very poor and bad. The journey is always slow and there is much discrimination especially against the people from the North. They are treated and regarded as next to beasts—

Mr Speaker: Order, order! It is now one o'clock and under the Standing Orders sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

M. Alliu Umaru: Before sitting was suspended, I was speaking on the proposal to turn the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications into a commercial organisation. I said that when the Posts and Telegraphs Department turns commercial it should not copy what is going on now in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. When the Nigerian Railway was a Department of the Nigerian Government it gave the public excellent service but now that it is a Corporation the people in charge are too money minded and the Corporation is now less useful to the people of this country.

So far, the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been giving good service, and we hope that when it becomes a commercial organisation the public will derive more benefit from the organisation. I hope that when the Posts and Telegraphs Department becomes a commercial organisation efficiency will not deteriorate and there will be nothing like tribalism or selfishness in our post offices and telecommunication services. At the moment, there is some

complaint about the Department and I hope that when the Department becomes a commercial organisation the civil servants working in the Department will be encouraged so that they can put in their best.

Mention was made in the President's Speech about the establishment of a Nigerian News Agency. This is also a very good proposal. The News Agency when established will be the live-wire of the country, it will project Nigeria in its true colour to the outside world. The News Agency should not tell the outside world that this part of the country is backward or this section is selfish or tribalistic. The News Agency should disseminate information impartially and should work in the best interests of Nigeria.

The President's Speech appears to be silent on the question of internal unity and security. I feel we should attach more importance to the unity and security of Nigeria. We have all seen from experience that what has happened in this country in the last few years have led people to ask where we are heading for. This disunity is engineered particularly from a Region within the country. Before 1962, we had many political parties in the country but there was nothing like thuggery, political murder or murder of political opponents. All these have been introduced in my own constituency and to the surprise of everybody, the people carrying out these activities are not from that constituency, they are not even from that province. They are from outside the province and the people engineering them had the guts to establish a newspaper for that party. That party is no longer a political party, it is just a terrorising group suppressing people. They went to the extent of murdering and ill-treating people who do not belong to their political party in broad daylight.

We have all heard about the riots in Tiv Division. There have been riots in Benue Province in the past but there was no murder. People began to murder themselves when this political party allied itself with a certain party which gave them money, vehicles, matchets and guns to go and assassinate their political opponents. It is my belief that all these things do not make for the unity of this country I think there should be in the President's Speech what should be done to encourage Nigerian unity.

Last year, three inter-regional secondary schools were opened in the country. I think that more inter-regional secondary schools should be opened, say, about twenty-seven or thirty. This would bridge the gap of disunity that is existing in the country. Nigerians should also learn that it is not only what originates from their own tribe or region that is good. If a Member comes from Bornu or Lagos or Ikot Ekpene and happens to be good, he should be told that he is good. Nigerians should be discouraged from believing that anything that does not come from their own Region or tribe is not good. Our political leaders should always try to encourage their supporters to be friendly and law abiding.

What happened in the front of Parliament Buildings yesterday was very disgraceful. We have 312 Members assembled in this honourable House and we all claim to be Members of the Nigerian Parliament. Once we are in Parliament, I think we should be one. When an U.P.G.A. Member of Parliament passes the crowd will shout U.P.G.A., but when members of my own party the N.P.C. pass, the crowd will shout *ole* or *barawo*. I feel all these things should stop, and I am very hopeful that they will all stop. If the points I have enumerated can be looked into and if we respect our leaders, I am sure that Nigerian unity will be achieved.

May I say something about the Members of Parliament who belong to the N.P.C. If we Members of Parliament from the N.P.C. are to act according to the wishes of our supporters at home and not to abide by the wishes of our leaders in the House of Representatives and the N.P.C. national executive committee, this Government would not have been formed to-day. It is the wish of our people that the N.N.A. should form the Federal Government alone. This country owes its gratitude to the Prime Minister and the National President of the N.N.A., Sir Ahmadu Bello, and a host of other Northern Nigerian leaders. They felt that to go it alone would be selfishness and that is why we have some U.P.G.A. Members of Parliament in the Cabinet.

In conclusion, I would like to say that when the Government embarks on developing our Commerce and Industry, they should remember the small retail traders. The small retail traders should be encouraged.

I beg to support.

Chief A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South): In supporting the Speech from the Throne, I would like to make a few observations. It is regrettable that our foreign policy has not been very satisfactorily pursued in the past. We hope that the new Government will formulate a new policy and give proper directions to whoever will be the Foreign Minister to pursue a policy that is in keeping with our feelings.

I am sure, that there is something wrong with the U.N.O. There are certain mistakes or imperfections which are making the U.N.O. difficult to operate. These mistakes should be pointed out so that this world body may prove useful in binding the world together in peace and not in pieces.

For example, many of the nations who are members of the U.N.O. have failed to point out why this very important body should be sited in one of the great powers. Why is it that an Englishman or an American cannot be a Secretary-General? There are many weaknesses in the U.N.O. All these weaknesses make it possible for the U.N.O. to be removed from where it is now to some of the small countries of the world.

We should also point out to them that it is not morally justified to keep out a country whose population is over 650,000,000 from the United Nations. Keeping them out does not make for progress. We have not been able to say that and it is high time we said so clearly.

With regard to domestic affairs, the Speech, I note has been silent over the progress being made by the Niger Bridge constructing firm. Since the President was able to mention to us that the Oil Refinery at Port Harcourt will soon be ready, we should have liked to know at the same time something about the Niger Bridge because that bridge is very very vital to the economic progress of this country as a whole. If this bridge is completed, hon. Members will be saved the trouble of crossing by the Ferry. The Federal Government should begin to think seriously about the possibility of connecting a railway line from Lagos to Port Harcourt on the completion of the bridge. This Railway line will also link the Western Region and will go a long way to promote the unity of this country.

Now, I would like to say something about the Niger Delta Area known as a Special Area.

A body called the Niger Delta Board was formed to advise the Federal Government on how to develop this area. I hope that when the plans are submitted to the Federal Government, it will do all it can to implement all the recommendations therein. I am saying this, because I notice that the Niger Delta Area has been forgotten in the Six-Year Development Plan, simply because a Board had been created to advise the Federal Government only. That is to say that there is no plans made for the Niger Delta area other than the creation of that advisory Board. The Federal Government should know that the Board does not execute plans. It will be a bad thing if after advising the Federal Government to embark on certain plans, the Federal Government refuses to execute those plans.

The most difficult thing facing this Special area now is adequate means of communication. It is difficult to move from one part to the other. There are no post offices. One cannot send any telegram and one cannot telephone. Because there are no good means of communication, my election result was the last to be announced. The boxes could not be removed easily to the places of counting. The Provincial Secretary at Yenagoa has no telephone with which to report the result of my election. The boxes had to be carried on bicycle.

I hope that the Federal Government will not forget that it has created what is called the "Niger Delta Development Board" whose function is to make recommendations. I pray that when these recommendations are submitted, the Federal Government will execute these plans with some amount of urgency, so that the people of this area will not be cut off from the rest of Nigeria.

Mr J. A. Awoyinka (Ottun-Ekiti North): In supporting the Motion on the Floor of the House, I would like to make a few observations.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is due to become a commercial venture. There is nobody here who would say that this department when turned into a Corporation, would not make a profit. A corporation should be formed to take over the services of this department.

Apart from this, the service is very poor and complaints always keep coming in. Unfortunately, the Ministry has been so unkind to Ekiti Division that up till now one cannot send a telegram to Ekiti and hope to get a reply within a week or earlier.

Also, there are no telephone services in Ekiti Division and this is one of the largest divisions in Western Nigeria. I am therefore humbly appealing to the Minister in charge to give this matter a serious thought. There have been quite a number of postal agencies which have applied for approval and which have not heard anything from the Ministry. We do not know why the Ministry should be so silent over such an important matter and we hope that the Minister will look into it. I have in mind, in particular, the Otun postal agency which is now due for upgrading to a sub-post office.

Turning to the part of the President's Speech which deals with the Electricity Corporation, it is equally unfortunate that there is not a single town in Ekiti Division which is now enjoying electrical facilities. The Government should do something about this and, perhaps, send in some experts to have a look round Ikere and Ado-Ekiti. Some preliminary work has been done in this area but nothing further has been heard.

It is also noted that the Federal Government will come to the aid of the Regional Governments in the supply of good water for the rural areas. I hope that Otun, in Ekiti division will be considered along with the other rural areas when the time comes to supply good water.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Western Nigeria's economy, and it is gratifying to note that the Government is proposing to create a Ministry of Agriculture, according to the President's Speech. We do hope that the people of Western Nigeria will be given the opportunity to provide the Government with vast acres of land for experiment and that better opportunity will be given to the sons and daughters of the Region because that Region has gone far ahead of other regions in the field of agriculture.

Siting of industries has become more or less political. I am sure that if siting of industries is not done on political considerations, Western Nigeria would not have been neglected for the past five to eight years. We hope that the

Federal Government will view this with all seriousness and site some industries in the Western Region so that our sons and daughters may have the opportunity of enjoying the good services of the Federal Government as others from the other regions of the Federation are enjoying now.

We have witnessed many industries spring up in the East and in the North, but none has been sited in the West.

The Railway Corporation has been in the news for some time now. I humbly appeal to the Federal Government to set up an inquiry into the affairs of that Corporation. I also want to request the Government to see that the railway line is extended from Offa in the Northern Region to pass through Oro to Otun in Ekiti Division, then to Ado-Ekiti in the Western Region and then to Benin in the Mid-West. We shall all be very happy if this is done. I am sure that this will be more economical and will serve a more useful purpose than at present.

The recent British Immigration Act has hit our students in Britain very badly. Even though quite a number of them are financially equipped, there are a few of them who are affected by this Act. Since the British Government itself indicated that Nigerians in Britain are students, unlike the Pakistanis, the Indians and other people who go to Britain to seek employment, I think concessions should be given to Nigerian students in Britain, particularly where their course is not a full-time course.

It is not easy for some courses to be full-time. For instance, if one is an insurance or banking student, one does not need to go into one of the universities as a full-time student. One only needs to go for lectures every evening or at times twice or thrice weekly. The students in this category are finding it difficult to satisfy the conditions laid down by the Immigration Authorities. The Government should therefore look into this and see that something is done by the immigration Authorities in the interest of Nigerian students in Britain.

For some time past, the Minister of Education has been silent over the award of scholarships for insurance students. I do not know what the Minister has in mind, but insurance is such an important part of our economy that

[MR AWOYINKA]

if overseas investors are asked to come to Nigeria they would like to have some sort of security by way of insurance. I would therefore appeal to the Ministry to review its policy on insurance because insurance is not included in the list of courses for which scholarships are to be awarded this year.

It is being rumoured that insurance will be nationalised very soon. If this is done it may cripple our economy somehow, and I hope that this House will see to it that insurance is not nationalised. We may think that motor insurance is paying, but there may be some other aspects of insurance which do not.

We have heard that in the Nigerian Army, promotion was offered to somebody who is less qualified than others. This is not very good. If somebody with six years experience in accountancy could be superseded by another officer with only three months co-operative course, and we come here to preach the unity and solidarity of Nigeria, I do not think this will be carrying us anywhere. I have in mind the post of the Chief Paymaster and I hope that the Minister of Defence will look into this and rectify the situation.

The Oil refinery has always been in the news in Eastern Nigeria. There is no doubt that if a thorough search is made in Western Nigeria there will be an equal opportunity and I do hope that the Ministry concerned will kindly send experts to Western Nigeria. They are welcome. The people are eager to see them.

Mr Speaker, with these few observations, I pray that you will kindly look into these points. I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): I do not hesitate to associate myself with the mover of this Motion, that an humble Address be presented to the President. While doing so I have to point out that it seems to me that the Government is overlooking the present situation where highway robbers, thugs and burglars are converting the country into an unhealthy living place. I am sure all hon. Members in this House will agree with me that travelling on our roads to-day has become dangerous. It is a high time that the Government should intervene to return the freedom of the country to normal.

I have to call on the Government to see that customs duties on vehicles and some goods

which are not yet manufactured in Nigeria are immediately reduced and the present high prices of vehicles also reduced. Insurance should be controlled by the Government.

I also call on all political leaders to copy the leader of the N.P.C. and its allies in order to maintain peace and tranquillity in the country. We are preaching one Nigeria. How can Nigeria be one while some political parties are busy training thugs, armed highway robbers and sending them to neighbouring Regions? How can we be one while a man cannot travel from Benin to Onitsha freely?

I shall be very grateful if Government take immediate steps to eradicate all these things which make our present day Nigeria an unhealthy living place.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East): In supporting the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne, I beg to make the following few observations. The President spoke of the policy of this Government, the policy of non-alignment in the field of foreign relations but of full co-operation and friendship amongst all other nations of the world.

The abrogation of the Anglo-Nigeria Defence Pact some years ago is definitely a pointer to the stand being taken by this Federal Government. The abrogation was considered necessary even before this country achieved Republican status. As a free nation it is a very wise policy not to get ourselves tied to the apron strings of other nations and it is a wise policy too not to get ourselves into any sort of unpleasant relationship with one nation against the other.

Our stand is clear. It is very clear not only to other members of the Organisation of African Unity, it is a stand of untainted friendship and a stand of full co-operation. It is a good stand that will definitely be highly respected by the whole world. We do hope that our hand of fellowship and our hand of friendliness stretched out to Ghana shall not be taken as weakness on our part. The recent incident is indeed a slap on the face of Nigeria, the incident of molesting our Embassy in Ghana.

The Nigerian Government, we observed, took a good stand. When they watched and observed that no step was taken, no apology

was made, nothing was done to show the world that what was done by those groups of students was unsupported by the Ghana Government, our Government still took the pain to get in touch with them by letter. One letter had to be written after another. Still, up to the moment we have not heard of any concrete move made by the Ghana Government by way of an apology or by way of contact with this Federal Government. During the sitting of this House, it will be very highly appreciated if we can be informed of any further development that has taken place in connection with this provocative incident.

Speaking on the building of the Flying School at Oshogbo, that the building shall start this year is very welcome news. In the plan I think that adequate room ought to be made for the acquisition of sufficient amount of land or at least, to earmark an appreciable stretch of land because of future development and expansion. It is an expansion not only of this growing nation; such an expansion might necessitate the accommodation of other nations of Africa to take that as a basis of their training ground.

The part that this country is playing in the whole of Africa is indeed very great and I am sure that Africa which was once a sleeping giant is now awake, awake to take full responsibility among the other continents of the world.

There is nothing that would help a nation better amongst other things like agriculture than industry. Industry and Commerce are to be given a predominant attention and a sizeable portion of our revenue.

I desire to say that siting of factories under the auspices of the Federal Government need to be given more careful attention and should be equally distributed throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria. Industrial projects have been set up in places like Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna and Kano and other places. Abeokuta Province has been neglected. We are appealing to the Federal Government that Abeokuta be considered in the Six-Year Development Programme. I feel that I should bring this to the knowledge of this House. Apart from industry other things should bring people together and help to increase the population.

The Second Battalion which was almost one thousand strong that was set up at Abeokuta have been removed almost altogether to the

Ikeja Army Barracks. This removal has hit Abeokuta economically. The landlords too suffer and market women and the artisans as well as everybody in the town suffer. Therefore, if during this Six-Year Development Programme consideration is given to setting up some industries in Abeokuta, it will certainly help to enhance the prosperity of that little bit of the Federation.

Speaking on agriculture, there is no doubt that Nigeria is a predominantly agricultural country. It is on agriculture that lies the economic stability and economic progress of this young nation. To hear during the Speech from the Throne that a sizeable amount of three million pounds have been earmarked for the development of agriculture in the Federation of Nigeria through the Regional Government I believe, Sir, makes everybody exceedingly delighted and exceedingly happy. As I said, three million pounds is not a small amount and I will have certain suggestions to make which if carefully studied and implemented might be an asset to the cause of this country.

There are 312 constituencies that make up the Federation of Nigeria. Now, one very good bulldozer costs approximately four thousand pounds. I am suggesting therefore that the Federal Government make a plan to put one bulldozer into every constituency and that will cost barely £1.4 million out of the £3 million to buy 312 bulldozers, one for every constituency. These bulldozers should be shared in rotation through the organisation of different local councils. This one bulldozer put to every constituency should eventually be increased. The number of mechanical appliances would be increased through the help of local councils and through the help of certain organisations and through the help of certain individuals.

It is time that we did away with this old idea of farming. There was a time when in this country we usually shouted a certain slogan. We shouted and got eradicated almost throughout this country that "hat in hand uncle Tom". I think it is now true that we should shout a different slogan, shout it out and have it eradicated that is to say the "hoe in hand uncle primitive." It is not a good idea.—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): I think the hon. Member speaking is misleading this House by asking for bulldozers. He should

[MR ODULANA]

ask for dynamite to crush the stones of Abeokuta rather than to ask for bulldozers. I do not see what bulldozers can do there rather than dynamite.

Chief Odebunmi : I thank my Friend, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*). It will not be too much if we have that sort of mechanical appliance to break stones at Abeokuta in addition to the bulldozer.

Now, there are a lot of people attached to this old form of farming. It makes people old too soon. It causes them back ache and production is almost negligible and more than that, it makes people, these young growing fellows, to run away from the farm. What production could one achieve with the hoe in hand the cutlass in hand.

I think it is high time that we encouraged the mechanised farming system in Nigeria.

Speaking very briefly on the Nigerianisation of Insurance Companies in Nigeria I quite agree that this should be done. We have been crying for years, for at least a few years, that insurance companies should be nationalised. One can imagine what tremendous amount of money is taken out of this country every year by the insurance companies. The Minister of Finance may be able to tell us how much is taken out of this country by the insurance companies. It is very easy for them to take your money but very difficult to get some money from them when there is an accident. So, if insurance companies are nationalised, I am sure it will help to increase the revenue of the Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Mr M. Unurhoro (Urhobo West) : In rising to contribute to this debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his speech which he delivered yesterday, I have the following observations to make. First of all, I would have to say that it is most regrettable indeed that the Speech was silent on one basic issue, that is a possible date for the review of the Constitution. It is not necessary to say that the review of the Constitution will come as soon as all necessary arrangements are made having regard to the crisis in December. It was due to the maturity of our leaders that they were able to avert what would have been a catastrophe.

I feel that the Government should have it in view and give a possible date for the review of our present Constitution. This I think must also be done in connection with the Electoral Laws.

It will be seen from the President's Speech that much attention is given to our relation with the other countries of the world; and nothing is said at all of the efforts being made to uphold the stability and unity of this country.

Mention is made about the conversion of the Posts and Telegraphs into a quasi-government commercial organisation. This may have been brought about perhaps by the government's desire to relieve itself of certain grants which it usually gives to this arm of its services, but we have to be guided by past experiences. It is true that to-day the telephone and postal services are very badly provided and I only have to refer to a notice pasted in my room at LegCo flats to support my argument. The notice has to do with the frightening charges which actually make it impossible for the common man to avail himself of these services. It is ten shillings for a distance of 320 miles from Lagos.

I am saying with respect that if it is true that the new change-over would actually enhance the services provided with regard to speedy delivery of letters and telegrams, and also reduce the charges, then we will be in agreement with the scheme. But if it is a question of our being called upon tomorrow to pay only extra charges for these services, I think it is not worth the salt. What the government could do would be to re-organise the Posts and Telegraphs rather than convert it into a quasi-government concern.

I have to mention that my constituency—Urhobo West—has not been fairly treated. We have a very important port, which is the Sapele Port, with a historical background. Being one of the earliest ports in that area, it is inconceivable that in the government's plan intended to boost that aspect of Nigeria's life, Sapele Port has not been given some amount of priority. Sapele Port should not be forgotten at all; it has a very full, deep and suitable port for marine business.

With regard to the construction of Nigerian Petroleum Refinery near Port Harcourt, I would express my happiness that petroleum

refining will soon take place in Nigeria. Since oil has been found in Delta Province and in Urhobo Division, it would have been thought advisable that the Minister in charge ought to have persuaded the operating companies, at least, to open a sub-refining depot in the Mid-West.

On education, I want to take the House to that portion of the Speech dealing with the setting up of a National Educational Resource Centre. Hon. Members will agree that the present educational system of this country is a colonial relic handed over to us. Without some sort of uniformity in our education, school leavers, particularly those from the primary level, are open to discrimination from one region to the other. We know that the regions have power to pursue whatever line they wish in their educational systems; but it would seem that if there is no uniform standard in our educational system school leavers from the various institutions of this country will not have the same merits. Therefore, as it is now the declared intention of governments of the Federation to set up a National Educational Resource Centre, the time is now opportune to take up this matter seriously.

However, there is a clause in this particular aspect of the Speech which I think is not very good, and I suggest it should be erased from our minds. At page 3 of the printed Speech you will find where it is stated that—

A National Educational Resource Centre will be run on behalf of all the Ministries of Education in the Republic who have all consented to it.

This "who have all consented to it" is a clause which is always found in international agreements; it is non-committal. If we want uniformity in our educational system, I suggest that that clause should not be there.

I now come to the question of Nigeria's trading with the outside world. This matter has been fully discussed in the newspapers, and during previous meetings of this House it had been raised as well. All I want to say now is that there should be a change of hearty on the part of the government because we cannot deny the fact that in most of our dealings with some parts of the world we often embark on some sort of discrimination on the question of tariff restrictions. There should be no further discrimination or restriction and our

gates should be open to all countries of the world and all merchants irrespective of whether they are from the West or East.

I have to speak on this question of our strained relation with Ghana because I notice that no mention of it is made in the Presidents Speech. Whilst it is well-known that the government's declared policy is to be friendly with all peace-loving countries of the world I would say that this country ought not to seek the friendship of other nations at all costs.

Against the background of what happened at our Embassy in Accra recently, I think it is time for this country to tell the Ghanaians that we cannot only bark but we can also bite. And I must say that if matters are not actually eased within a short time this country should not hesitate to break diplomatic relations with Ghana.

There seems to be no mention of sports in the Speech. The performance of our athletes in the last Olympic games actually should have given this government some food for thought. Unfortunately, nothing at all is mentioned about it in the Speech. I hope the Ministry responsible will look into the matter.

In the matter of our Six-Year Development Plan, although it may not be conceivable at this moment it would have been a pride to us in the Mid-West if the government had, at least, planned to construct a railway line to link Oshogbo and the Mid-West as a standby for possible industrial projects in the foreseeable future.

Still on the Mid-West, I want to point out that the Speech is also silent on the question of ferry services from the opposite bank of Sapele to Benin. This is very important because after seven o'clock in the evening of each day that part of the town is cut off from the rest of the country. I think the Ministry of Transport should do something about this by trying to introduce the double-stream ferry service which could go on a twenty-four-hour operation. Surely lorry owners who pass through that route do not drive along without a penny on them. The ferry service is a paying arm of government operations, and I see no reason why at certain periods of the day the Sapele ferry service should be closed to traffic.

I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Speech of the President which was ably and eloquently moved by my hon. Friend, the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*). One does not have to be a trained economist to see that a great future awaits this nation if the great ideas of the Federal Government become a reality.

Much has been said by His Excellency about the unity of this country. Not only has His Excellency spoken about the unity of Nigeria but also of the whole of Africa. If we are really for the unity of this country, however, we must follow our Constitution. We have a written Constitution and we must go by this Constitution. I say this because of the happenings during the last Federal Elections in this country. Members will agree with me that what happened during the last Federal Elections was a shameful thing to all Nigerians not only here in Nigeria but also throughout the world.

It was an unfortunate period when a certain political party made the Head of State to be in a complete confusion which could bring serious blood-shed to this country. It is also unfortunate that the Head of State has got some people who always give him wrong advice or, if I may say this, who always interpret the Constitution of the country upside down to him.

The Head of State of this country must wash his hands completely from politics and leave it to politicians; but if the Head of State finds it difficult to do this and prefers to be a politician then the best alternative for him is to resign.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I do not know when it has become the practice of this House to attack the Head of State in the House. Hon. Members were debating and the hon. Gentleman who has just taken his seat said that if the President wants to become a politician he should resign. I do not know whether this is allowed.

Mr Speaker: This is surely not allowed at all, and I think that the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) should leave the President of the State alone.

Mr Damla: Thank you for your ruling, Mr Speaker. I only wanted to make it clear that though we talk of unity we cannot have this unity if this sort of thing continues to happen.

However, I shall not go further on this point after you have given your kindly ruling.

May I give some warning to the so-called U.P.G.A. of this country. The so-called U.P.G.A. is only a group of people who cannot sit down and make constructive plans but only to plan for rioting and also to plan for inciting people and we must warn these people to be in their right senses.

I also appeal through this House that the Federal Government must see to it that something is done for my constituency. Since the establishment of the Parliament of this great country nothing has been done to improve my constituency which is Pankshin West.

I also appeal to the Minister of Communications that the ban which, about two months ago, was placed on the opening of postal agencies should be lifted so as to allow rural areas to open postal agencies. Most hon. Members will agree with me that hon. Members find it difficult to send or receive telegrams or even to receive official papers summoning Members to any meeting of the House.

I now want to say something about our trade unionists, particularly the J.A.C. It is nonsense that these trade unionists should make themselves tools of some disgruntled politicians. The J.A.C. is a wide organisation for workers of this country. Why then should they sit down in Southern Nigeria to create trouble for the workers of this country? The Federal Elections in this country should be an issue for the politicians. Workers should therefore not take sides or launch attacks against individuals or parties in the name of the central labour organisation.

The action of the J.A.C. during the last Federal Elections really confirmed that the Southern-based trade union leaders are the agents of the U.P.G.A. and that the leaders of the J.A.C. were only using the name of the organisation to achieve their aims and ambition. More than five of the leaders of the J.A.C. from the South contested the last election in the names of different alliances of the U.P.G.A. I call on the leaders of the J.A.C. from the South to quote any place in the world where trade unions exist and such trade unions mix themselves up with a local political party of such a place.

The J.A.C. called on the workers of this country to go on strike because their masters, the U.P.G.A., were defeated. I therefore call on all workers of the North—

The U.P.G.A. has scored a great loss. This party made the release of Chief Awolowo an election issue. It said that if it won the Federal Elections it would release Chief Awolowo from jail within 24 hours. This party did not win the elections and therefore the man's release is out of the question.

Mr S. F. Nwika (Ogoni) : May I invite the attention of the House to the provisions of Standing Order 26 (1) and say that the Member for Pankshin West (*Mr Damla*) is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please make as less references to his notes as he can.

Mr Damla : Mr Speaker, I am only making references to my notes and not reading my speech.

I was saying that the U.P.G.A. made the release of Chief Awolowo an election issue and the party did not win the elections and therefore the release of the man is out of the question. Members will note that even the U.P.G.A. candidate Chief Mrs Awolowo who contested the elections where Chief Awolowo was born was herself defeated.

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I am surprised that Prince Adedoyin is taking pleasure in contesting elections with a woman.

Mr Speaker : When you claim that women are to participate in voting and contesting elections, I think you recognise them as equals.

Mr Damla : This party has made the Federal Government spend almost one million pounds organising the Federal elections, and then spend another six hundred thousand pounds for the reorganisation because of their boycott of the elections. I say that a lot of money was also spent in rebuilding all the polling booths that were destroyed by the U.P.G.A.

Before I take my seat, I call on the Minister of Transport and Commerce and Industry to set up a high powered commission of inquiry to look into the affairs of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. This demand has been made

from all corners of this country even by some trade union leaders too. Also in this House, we should ask the Government to allow this inquiry to go on. I also remember that a demand was made for the removal of the Chairman of the Corporation, Dr Ikejiani, but since then the Government has not made any statement about that demand of the people.

Mr V. A. Nwaleji (Nsukka West) : On a point of order, I do not think it proper for a Member to mention on the Floor of this House, the names of persons who are not here to defend themselves.

Mr Damla : I know the hon. Gentleman is very tribalistic.

Finally, I call on the Minister of Aviation to see to it that something is done for Plateau Province because the Federal Government has been getting a lot of money from the mining that is going on in the Plateau Province, without giving these people anything in return.

I appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to prepare for us a list of the industries being established in this country so that we know where to advise all the people who are unemployed to go and seek jobs, instead of roaming about the streets and causing trouble everywhere. If the Government can create industries for these people, I think they will be able to get themselves usefully employed.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East) : On a point of order, the hon. Member has spoken for more than thirty minutes and has therefore exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker : I think your time piece is wrong.

Mr Damla : Finally, I want to appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power that there is some type of discrimination between the rates of land compensation paid to miners in the Plateau Province by the Government. In my division, an acre is worth only about fifteen pounds. I hope the Minister will do something for the people of this constituency.

I beg to support the Motion.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to our respected President for the speech from the Throne so ably delivered by him.

[MR FASANMI]

Our President is a man of world renown, a scholar, a man who on any given occasion will make a speech that could be accorded a place of honour in the world of literature. Reading a speech from the Cabinet Office is one of the inevitable ceremonial functions of a head of state who has not got executive powers. It is therefore, to be hoped that before long our respected President will be conferred with the necessary powers that will hold him implicitly accountable for the speech delivered to Parliament.

May I say therefore that the speech so ably delivered by the President was in this context colourless, uninspiring and in short, it lacked the essential for Nigeria's survival. First of all it has been pointed out by a section of the Press that the speech from the Throne was completely silent on the question of a general review of the constitution as well as some matters connected with the last elections.

The people of this country are very anxious that the constitution of the country be reviewed as soon as possible. I know some people are fighting shy of a review of the constitution because if any progressive review is made it will jeopardise their chances of ruling a section of the country. I am here referring to the N.N.D.P. An immediate review of our constitution is a dire necessity if we are to preserve the corporate existence and unity of Nigeria.

The conduct of the last election was a mockery of democracy, and by the entire exercise we have shown very glaringly that the ballot box was becoming discredited and as a result we have in this House members who are not true representatives of their people. The entire electoral machinery must be overhauled immediately in order to ensure free and fair elections all over the country. Towards this end, it is very necessary that the local government police and the N.A. police should be brought directly under the control of the Inspector-General of Police. At the moment, the local government police and the N.A. police have become a veritable instrument of oppression in the hands of politicians who want to remain in power at all costs and against—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kanumbunganzai): On a point of order, the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) is referring to a matter which is certainly out of the jurisdiction of

this Parliament. The activities of the Northern Nigerian Government should be left alone.

Mr Speaker: The debate on the President's Speech must cover a very wide field and unless there is a serious breach of the order pertaining to relevance, I think we had better hear the Member for Ijero.

Mr Fasanmi: I am very happy at your ruling, Mr Speaker. I hope my hon. Friend has nothing to fear about the events in the North.

As I was saying, at the moment, the local government police and the N.A. police have become instruments of oppression in the hands of politicians who want to remain in power at all costs against the popular will of the people. Also the powers of the customary courts and the Alkali courts must be limited strictly to customary matters instead of being used as a political weapon against political opponents.

The President's Speech made no mention of the canker-worm of tribalism which is destroying the fabric of our society. I must say that tribalism has become a pragmatic instrument of national destruction and disunity. Events of recent times, and they are many, too many to recount, have made it necessary for the Government to legislate on tribalism.

Therefore, I should also like to suggest that in the interest of national unity, the Northern Peoples Congress should be thinking of changing its name from a regional party to a national one. After all, the foster child of the N.P.C., the N.N.D.P., in spite of its tribalistic tendencies, has changed its name to the Nigerian National Democratic Party in spite of the fact that it is neither Nigerian, it is neither national nor is it democratic; and it is not a party. It is a club of conspirators and notorious carpet crossers.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town): On a point of order, I think it is not parliamentary for an hon. Member to rise and refer to his Colleagues as being conspirators which is a criminal offence.

Mr Speaker: I do appreciate the weight of the words in legal terms, but as a brick bat at a parliamentary Colleague, I do not think it is so heavy. It is a very light word,

Mr Fasanmi : I am very grateful for your protection, Sir. My hon. Friend, the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) is still thinking of his days in the diplomatic Service.

Another canker-worm that is destroying the image of Nigeria and consequently scaring away investors is corruption. I would like therefore, to join some of my friends to ask the Prime Minister whether it is not time to initiate a policy or a code of conduct as a guiding principle for Ministers, hon. Member politicians and top civil servants entrusted with the destiny of our nation. Politics have become a very gainful past time, and a position in the upper stratum of the civil service has become an avenue for undeserved opulence. We must redeem the good name of Nigeria and it is up to the Government to help sweep—

Chief Adebisi Jinadu (Oshun North East I) On a point of order, Standing Order 26(1). A Member should not read his speech but the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please make less references to his notes.

Mr Fasanmi : The Member for Oshun North East I (*Chief Jinadu*) up till last year December was a customary court president and he used to read his judgements ; so he will excuse me if I make copious references to my note book.

As I was saying, politics have become a very gainful past time, and position in the upper stratum of the civil service has become an avenue for undeserved privilege. I think this must stop and, I am sure, the Prime Minister will act swiftly and promptly.

Coming to the President's Speech, I would like to make few references to the points raised in the speech. In the first instance, it is very heartening to hear that Government will continue to contribute all it can to strengthen the Commonwealth. May I say in this respect, that the situation in Southern Rhodesia under Ian Smith, where a minority Government of whites are refusing Africans active participation in the administration of the Government, is a challenge to the Labour Government in Britain and I am sure that our men who will attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference will ensure that there is no longer

any domination in any part of Africa especially in Southern Rhodesia.

In the President's Speech, it is said that Government will encourage a greater amount of overseas investment in the tin mining industry. May I say that in a major industry like tin mining, the tendency should be towards public ownership or at the worse, the concentration of ownership should tilt in favour of Nigerian indigenes.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, I want to make it clear that I am withdrawing my comments on the President's Speech.

Mr Fasanmi : As I was saying, in a major industry like tin mining, the tendency should be towards public ownership instead of encouraging overseas investors to flood the market. In this respect, I would like to suggest that the miners should be given adequate protection and that the wages paid them should be enough to keep body and soul together.

On the question of the Nigerian Airways, I am very happy that the flying school is to be built in Oshogbo. I am an Oshogbo man by adoption, and I am very happy that this programme is going to be carried out. I would however like to say that the Forces that are going to be recruited in Oshogbo should reflect the character of the nation and should not be tools in the hands of ambitious politicians.

On the question of a medical programme for Lagos, I can see from the President's Speech the very laudable programme of the Minister in charge of Health. The Government will pursue with increased vigour its determination to provide, in the Federal territory of Lagos, a comprehensive community health service on a basis of total coverage. This, indeed, is very splendid, but I only hope that the Minister of Health is not trying to introduce the ill-fated Health Bill. May I say that no health project can succeed, however laudable, except the people who are to operate it are taken into consideration. It is my hope that the Minister of Health will consult the appropriate authorities before he carries out this programme.

I happen to know the Minister of Health very well. He is a very hard-working man, and there is no doubt that if he applies himself strictly to the problems of his Ministry

[MR FASANMI]

he will do very well, instead of dabbling in undue pursuits which concern politics.

On the question of an Amendment Bill for the control of dangerous drugs, may I say that as a pharmacist I would like to know the implications of this Bill. In this respect I would also like to suggest that the Minister of Health should consult the Pharmaceutical society before bringing this Bill to Parliament.

I am very happy to know that the Government has decided to follow up the implementation of the agreement reached on the recommendation of Morgan, but may I say that the agreements reached by Morgan with respect to rent, control of prices and cheap housing facilities for workers have not, up till now, been implemented.

On the question of a low income housing scheme for workers, it is a matter for regret that in a city where the population is over 670,000, only 10,000 houses are going to be built for the workers. If the Government wants to cater for the interest of the workers, then it should expand the housing facilities for low income workers.

On the question of the Six-Year Development Plan, I am wondering if this plan has not become sterile because nothing was mentioned about it in the President's Speech. If we want this programme to succeed, those of us who are out to serve the masses, those of us in Parliament must be prepared to make sacrifices. About two years ago, a speech was made on the Floor of this House to the effect that salaries were reduced. We decided that our salaries should be cut by 10 per cent, but it is a matter for regret that our salaries were indirectly increased again by 10 per cent. If we want the people outside this House to take us seriously, we should think about making voluntary sacrifices. We are all sitting in this very nice atmosphere, but how many of us can sincerely afford an atmosphere of this nature outside the Parliament? We must be prepared to make willing sacrifices as advised by the Prime Minister some two years ago.

I am very happy to learn that Government will embark on a very laudable programme with regard to the mineral resources of this country. We have some mineral resources at Ekiti. About three years ago a geological survey was carried out there but up till now I

have not been told about its findings. However, I would like to point out that in my constituency, we have a large deposit of tin, columbite and other types of mineral resources. It is my hope that when the newly suggested geological survey goes into operation, it will make an attempt to go into my constituency to exploit the mineral resources there.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): On a point of order, the Member for Ejero (*Mr Fasanmi*) told us that a geological survey was undertaken in his constituency but there was no result. I would like to point out the fact that the hon. Member is a pharmacist by profession and not a geologist and as such would not know the result.

Mr Fasanmi: I have been trying to carry out experimental work in my constituency.

I am very happy to hear from the President's Speech that efforts will be made to establish iron and steel Industries in this country. I am happy that there is a project of this nature in the North and the East, I hope that within a short space of time, the Government will consider the possibility of having the same project in the West.

In the President's Speech, it was said that the Government will pursue a policy of non-alignment. As far as the progressive elements of this country are concerned the foreign policy of the Government is only non-aligned on paper. It is not non-aligned in practice. I am saying this because people from the socialist countries are strictly restricted in coming into this country whereas people from Britain, Germany and other Western countries are given unlimited facilities of bringing in people into this country.

Attempts should be made to establish an embassy in Israel. If Israel can come here to establish an embassy, I do not see the reason why we should not establish one in Israel. The question of religion should not prevent us from establishing an embassy in Israel.

I am very happy that it has been possible for us to meet here this afternoon. Our meeting here this afternoon has been made possible because of the magnanimity of the Grand Alliance—the UPGA. If we had not appointed Senators from the Mid-West and Eastern

Regions, it would not have been possible for us to meet in this House to-day.

In conclusion, hon. Members will agree with me that Members of the Grand Alliance as opposed to their counterpart in the Nigerian National Alliance, have the welfare of this country at heart.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : I rise to support the Motion. I am the Member for Ikeja North constituency and I should be able to say quite a lot about my people. We have all read the part of the President's Speech which deals with the Airways. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to quote :

Lagos and Kano international airports will be further developed and equipped to enable them accommodate modern-type jet aircrafts. The Nigerian Airways will continue to accelerate the development of its domestic as well as its international services.

As far as the Airways is concerned, we hope that there will be no discrimination in the employment of Nigerian officers.

The other point I want to touch upon is the plan of the Federal Government to allow Voluntary Agencies to run adult education classes for young men and women of this country who want to improve themselves. Already, there is deficiency in our present system of education. I hope that the Federal Government will do something to improve our educational system.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I am sorry I came late, but I wonder if the hon. Gentleman speaking is a Member of this House.

Mr Speaker : That is a question, and this is not the Question time.

Mr Kamson : I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the part of the President's Speech dealing with the special programmes for the eradication or control of diseases such as small-pox, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, and other diseases. We hope that the Minister concerned will be so interested in the welfare of the people of this country as to see that these diseases are eradicated in good time.

I also want to say something about the High Courts of this country in relation to matrimonial cases. I hope our High Courts

will not be like those of others in some parts of the world. I was once an international man and that is why I know what is going on in other parts of the world. I hope that the usual disagreement between husbands and wives will cease in this country. As far as I know the members of the N.N.A. are not afraid of this as much as the U.P.G.A. members.

One other point I want to mention concerns the workers of this country. I am part and parcel of the Colony Province, and when we talk of the Colony Province we must not forget Lagos. I am speaking for the Colony because I am the only representative of the Colony Province here—

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : On a point of order, I think that the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) is becoming intolerable. I had thought that this is the highest Legislature of the land where a new Member speaking should be able to prepare his speech in such a way that the maiden speech will be permanent in our record. The hon. Member speaking is just making a jest of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker : Order, it would have been very nice if the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) had advised the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) before he came into the Chambers.

Mr Kamson : I now want to say something about the low-cost housing scheme for workers. We have noted from the President's Speech that accommodation will be provided for about 10,000 people. Houses for about 10,000 people will not cost us more than £10,000. I would have thought that the Government would provide about £50,000 for this project. I am saying this in the interest of the workers in the Colony Province because I am their representative here and I am more interested in their welfare than any other Member.

Mr B. Okeke (Awka North East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) knows that he should address the Speaker when speaking, even though he is a new Member.

Mr Kamson : I now come to the interest being charged by the Nigerian Building Society. The interest at present is 8½ per cent. As one of those who are affected by this high rate of interest I want to say that the interest is too

[MR KAMSON]

high to be paid back between ten and fifteen years. By the time one finishes paying the amount, one would have paid more than double the amount loaned. I therefore want the Federal Government to look into this.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe): On a point of order, I think the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) can make his speech without having to dance from one end of the Bench to the other.

Mr Kamson: Coming now to commerce and industry in this country, I would like the Government to see that Nigerian businessmen are given the opportunity to participate in the industrial affairs of the country. I have been a businessman in this country for the past twenty-five years, and I am therefore entitled to speak for the businessmen of this country.

I also want to draw the attention of the House to the Trade Fair conducted in many parts of the world. I was one of those who attended the 1958 Trade Fair and I was then the first businessman to travel from Nigeria to the United States of America.

Alhaji Mahmud Dantata (Kano East): On a point of order, the Member for Ikeja North (*Mr Kamson*) is misinforming the House by saying that he was the first Nigerian businessman to visit the United States of America. I was there before him.

Mr Kamson: I am not going to reply to that because that was my candid opinion, and I was accorded a warm reception when I got there. I would like the Government to see if our locally manufactured goods could be exhibited at international trade fairs all over the world.

I beg to close on this note as I would not like to take much of the time of the House because I am one of the "J.J.Cs" in this House, and if at all I have made any mistakes, I believe hon. Members would bear with me.

With this business before the House which will soon commence tomorrow, I hope the Members of the House will not be keeping themselves out of the House by going to the Kingsway Stores and such other places.

I beg to support.

M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya (Igbirra North): In supporting this Motion for an Address to His Excellency the President, I like to make

some observations on the internal unity of this country. What is actually responsible is that we lack mutual confidence in ourselves. The point is that we must have reciprocal respect for ourselves and we must have respect for individual position.

In the Speech from the Throne there is not much said on this unity. I remember that one of my hon. Friends was making reference to democracy and asking what type of democracy we are heading for. Now, the point is that we have forgotten to adhere to the principle of liberal democracy. The type of democracy which some sections of the community would like to adhere to is not that which will enhance the unity of this country. That is the trouble. Some of us do not accept this.

On the question of Posts and Telegraphs becoming a quasi-government organisation, my observation on this is that the condition of the Posts and Telegraphs must be improved. It is very alarming that the system of communication in this country, especially in the part of the country I come from, is so awful that before the Posts and Telegraphs is converted into a quasi-government organisation, these conditions must be improved. The condition of our telecommunications system is so awkward that one wonders whether this conversion will enhance the economic situation of this country.

Now, there was a remark in the House about the Railway Corporation. I think there is an organised conspiracy to jeopardize the economic position of some sections of the community. With regard to the remarks made by some hon. Members, I think it is necessary that something tangible is done to improve the situation in the Railway Corporation, especially to the attitude of the Corporation towards the Northern Region. It appears to me that there is an organised conspiracy to ruin the economic situation of the Region in the Corporation.

Now, referring to the trouble which some people made mention of, my opinion about that is that some people have created a condition which engenders tribal feelings. Most of the people who now harp on the question of tribalism are the people responsible for its preaching.

Referring to industry, the Speech from the Throne has been very silent about the develop-

ment of the rural areas. It seems to me that the attention of the Government is more focused on the areas already developed, such as Lagos and some other such places. In my constituency, we have a lot of iron ore deposits. I should have thought that a lot of attention should have been devoted to the development of this area.

Turning to electricity, I think it is high time—while I am a Member of Parliament for the whole country, I am much particular about my constituency—and in fact overdue that electricity should be provided for my constituency. The point is that some areas are being developed at the expense of others. It is, therefore, my suggestion that attention should be given to these areas.

Mention was made about special areas. Of course, there are people who would like to see that certain states are created in one Region. Many people have demanded for a state in their area and yet they would not like to have it created—such as the River State. The type of unity which these people like is the unity that will satisfy their own needs.

I do not wish to speak at length on this occasion. So, with these few observations, I support the Motion.

Mr E. A. Atanda (Iwo West): I support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Speech from the Throne so ably delivered to both Houses of Parliament.

In fact, I am a new comer in this House.

I have had the chance to witness Parliament in some other places besides this Parliament but my impression, as far as this Parliament is concerned, is very high. On the other hand, I may refresh my mind that when we are given a business, we should do it in the right way and direction. This is not a place where anybody can joke anyhow. I know it is necessary we do it. I hear somebody calling me a "Jonny Just Come". I would not say that I am not a "J. J. C.", but on the other hand I must express my mind.

In the President's Speech I am able to say that it is very easy to say, "pursue a non-alignment policy with any other nation, friendship among nations, race equality and justice, friendly relations with other African

states." All these things are foreign. Now, charity begins at home. There are lots of things happening in our country to-day which we overlook. Now, we all come into this Parliament, we laugh together, we joke together, but how many of us can go to one another's constituency at home? It is a big shame for us if we cannot.

In the Western Region, in particular, which I have the experience of, victimisation, oppression and molestation are the instruments used by political parties especially by my friends from the Western Region who came through the back-door, the N.N.D.P. Imagine in a place where a man or a woman is caught and tax receipts for the past 26 years are demanded from him or her. If he is able to produce tax receipts for the past 25 years the *Akoda*, the local agent for the management committee of that council, asks for the past 26 years. If he is not able to produce the tax receipts he is whisked to the Customary Court and consequently jailed. Thousands are like that in the Western Region to-day. And besides, the Customary Court Judges—(Interruptions).

Mr E. T. Orodi (Ukum-Shitire): I suppose the hon. Member is talking on matters which are already before the High Court and I think honestly that these will be treated by the findings of the Court. There are a lot of cases on election still outstanding in the Courts.

Mr Speaker: Actually, the Member for Iwo West (*Mr Atanda*) is raising very minor details which I think wastes much of his time.

Mr Atanda: I am saying this because a lot is being said about the Eastern Region but I want to tell Mr Speaker that there are a lot of things wrong in the Western Region as well. Since morning, nobody has even made any allusion to the Western Region. All forms of trouble, victimisation, and oppression are rampant too in the Western Region.

Mr S. Lana (Ibadan West): I want this House to take note that in the Western Region democracy is supreme. Unlike Eastern Region (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr Atanda: Mr Speaker, there is no democracy in Western Region. Personally, I have an experience. The hon. Member who spoke last was able to remember the date

[MR ATANDA]

they sent some of their thugs to beat me up. I was badly and mercilessly beaten up so that it is a personal experience that I remember a certain—(Interruptions)

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, all these thugs were brought out from the Eastern Region.

Mr Atanda : I remember at Ikire, in my division, that is Oshun Division, one Salawu Adetoro was killed by the thugs of the N.N.D.P. The case is now in court. All these vices are rampant in the Western Region which automatically infringes Chapter III of our Constitution on fundamental human rights, so that the people who come from the Western Region, who may evacuate this Parliament between the next two or three months are not the right representatives of our people. If I may mention Chief Adedoyin, since somebody has mentioned him as having defeated Mrs Awolowo; if he is sure of his victory, let him go back. Let him resign from this House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! A number of hon. Members are putting too much heat into the debate. This is not a battle field.

Mr Atanda : We should not talk of the unity of Nigeria just by word of mouth or probably on paper. We should demonstrate it in the right perspective. And how are we to do this? We should review our Constitution immediately.

Furthermore, according to the Speech of the President from the Throne, there is one essential ingredient which I feel is missed, that is the unemployment problem. There are thousands and millions of our school leavers who have no job to do. What are we doing about this? In the Western Region many schools have been closed down, both primary and secondary. Many of our health centres have been closed. What are we doing about this? The investment is bad. There is no money whatsoever. Everybody is unhappy. What are we doing about this?

This House which is the highest authority in this country to-day can find a solution to all these problems if we say that the unity of the country is supreme in our minds. I am urging this honourable House to take into consideration all these points which I mentioned. Besides, I expect that in this House

there will be a time when a Bill making thug-gery and hooliganism illegal, and a Bill excluding all Obas, Chiefs, Onogies, and the like, from associating themselves with political parties will be introduced. It is when this honourable Parliament can do all these things that unity, friendship, charity will be enhanced and will reign supreme in this country.

I remember, even though I may not mention the name of anyone, so many Obas and Emirs who are guilty of this offence of meddlesomeness in politics, and unless legislation is introduced to exclude them from the political arena of this country, the unity we are all working for will not be realised. It is no use coming inside this House to say things of this kind; we must take all positive steps to ensure that we have unity.

I must say that if all my points are taken into consideration, unity, concord and the like would reign supreme in this country.

Reading through the Speech, I find that no mention is made about the establishment of industries. One would have thought that in a place like Ibadan or somewhere in Oshun division an industry ought to be sited to cater for the needs of the localities. Unfortunately, we do not think about the siting of projects, rather we only talk about our own self-aggrandizement. We ought to bear it in mind that it is only by attracting industries to this country that unemployment can be eliminated; but if we only come here to talk about ourselves this country will never progress. It is indeed my fervent prayer that this country should progress.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East) : Before contributing to the debate on the Address, I have a message from the youths of this nation to deliver through you, Mr Speaker, to the hon. Members of this House.

The message is to remind hon. Members that "Men in great places are thrice servants: servants of the State or Sovereign, servants of fame and servants of service." When I asked them what this meant, they said I should tell the Members that they should behave themselves in this House; that they should portray the image of Nigeria in all their activities; that they should speak with one voice, be they from the North, East, Mid-West West, or Lagos.

Enjoining hon. Members to be servants of the State means that they should do justice to the Oath they have taken on coming to this House—that they should be constructive in their deliberations and criticisms and their contributions to the cause of national unity in this House, since it is accepted that this is the highest Legislative House of the land.

Being servants of service means that we have to render selfless services in the interest of this country because that is what we promised the electorates.

Having delivered the message, I now turn to the President's Speech.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central): On a point of order, I want to say that we have accepted the message, but I would want him, if his message is to have any meaning at all, to resign his seat in this House and come back as an Independent Member of this Parliament. Only by so doing will his message convey some meaning to the Members of this House.

Mr Inyang: Speaking on this much-talked about national unity, I want to point out that national unity can only be achieved when we begin to think not as Ibo, Hausa, Yoruba, Efik, but as Nigerians. Until we start doing justice to the wordings of our National Anthem, all talk about national unity cannot bear any fruit. Therefore, in the interest of Nigeria, we should not think of where we come from but as Nigerians.

My next point is on our non-alignment policy. For a number of years we have been preaching this policy of non-alignment. It is my view that the time has come to define the limit of this policy. I say this because it seems we are 99.99 *per cent* pro-West in our foreign policy. For instance, it is only of late that some mention is made in the newspapers of our attempt to encourage the admission of the People's Republic of China into the world forum of the United Nations.

We have failed to strengthen our economic ties with Eastern Germany, neither have we encouraged participation in industry or trade by the Russians nor, in short, by the Eastern countries generally. All we have done is to tie our economy to the apron-strings of the West. If our policy of non-alignment is to have any meaning at all there must now be some positive re-thinking of what that policy

stands for. That is why I say that this big phrase "foreign policy of non-alignment" should be defined again so that we may know which way we are going.

I now shift to the question of our relation with other African countries. I quite agree that we should not interfere in the domestic affairs of other African states, but we must not stretch that point too far, so that it may not be said of Nigeria that we were sleeping while Rome burned. I say this because sometimes we vacillate in making public statements about our own stand on matters concerning particular states in Africa. I think to express a candid and fair view on a matter of international character is no crime whatsoever.

Then comes the question of the old Calabar Province. It is put down in the Minority Report's Commission that Calabar is a minority area, and that the Federal Government is responsible for developing the area. Unfortunately, it is a pity that all we hear being done for the area is the erection of prison houses, police stations and sub-police stations. What are we going to do with them?

There is this question of the "Okotie-Eboh Flying Boat" chasing people about around the Calabar river. When we ask why, they say they are checking smugglers. Well, if this is so, it should be remembered that when the slave trade was being stopped an alternative trade was introduced to replace it. The replacement proved then to be the only effective method of halting slave trade. So if we want to stop smuggling, then we must find a substitute activity for the people of Calabar.

This point reminds me of what my old headmaster was fond of telling us, that satan always find work for the idle hand. It then follows that if the people of Calabar cannot get any other pursuit on which to live, then they may be forced by circumstances beyond their control to engage in smuggling.

I should say that even in spite of the operations of the "Okotie-Eboh Flying Boat", yet the volume of smuggling soars. This makes me feel that the time has come to legalise the kind of trading activities going on in the coastal area of Calabar.

I should like to add just a little point about the responsibility of the Federal Government to Calabar as a minority area. The point which

[MR INYANG]

I forgot to mention earlier on is the fact that amenities earmarked for the Calabar people have never come to them. My area has been a completely neglected area. Why this is so, we cannot say. I want it to be put on record that we from the Old Calabar area have, for a long time now, been deprived of all amenities due to us.

I remember that it was promised sometime ago that the telephone service at Uyo would be extended to Uyo South East, my constituency, a distance of only ten miles. Up till this moment nothing has been done about this proposal. It was also mentioned, or at least so we read in the newspapers, that some parts of the railway line in Eastern Region would be extended from Onitsha down to Calabar. I am surprised that nothing has so far been said about this. I would like the present Parliament to take account of this. After all, the economy of the nation is dependent on the nation as a whole and not on any one particular area of the Federation.

I would now like to speak on the local production of arms and ammunition. If we say that ours is a policy of non-alignment and that we should pursue a policy of friendly relations with all the countries of the world, what is the need for the production of arms and ammunition? Why should we not use the money which would be spent on the production of these things for acquiring more amenities? Are we afraid of anything?

I can hear some Members saying that it is necessary that we should spend some money on the manufacture of arms and ammunition, but how much money should we spend on these things? I am convinced that if we pursue vigorously a policy of non-alignment and maintain friendly relations with all countries the world over, there will be no need for us to spend any money on the production of arms and ammunition.

The next point I would like to speak on is our educational policy. I would like it to be put on record that in actual fact teachers are the peace-makers, or at least they are the sowers of the seeds of peace, in any community. Someone is asking me if I am a teacher myself. Yes, I am a teacher to the core.

It was said that there was a negotiation committee going on sometime in December and that the activities of this committee were

suspended till early January this year. I was also made to understand that when the members of this committee returned in January they said that their proposals had been sent to this House. I am surprised that no mention has so far been made concerning this matter. I wonder whether before this Parliament adjourns something will be done about this.

With regard to the Morgan recommendations, I would like to remind hon. Members that whatever educational policy or scheme the Federal Government may want to pursue, unless Nigerian teachers are contented they will not be prepared to back up such a programme, at least not honestly and sincerely.

Speaking generally and frankly on the Speech, I must say it was a master-piece.

I beg to support.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East): Speaking in support of the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his Speech, I shall be making what will go down in history as my maiden speech in this high legislature. I hope, Sir, that you will grant me the usual indulgence given when a new Member is making his first speech. I hope also that hon. Members, especially those on the opposite side, will bear with me if this speech is a bit pungent or a bit unconventional. As much as possible, I shall try to be non-controversial but I shall be frank and free.

This Parliament assembled comprises a cross section of the nationalists in this country. It is gratifying to join the band of the old brigades—the freedom fighters of the early forties.

Although some of us have changed and perhaps changed again the bases on which we operated, I believe that we are all assembled here in that high spirit with which we fought imperialism and colonialism to a complete standstill. There are also some of my older colleagues who have returned to this House and one can only hope that these hon. Members will give us the benefit of their matured experience.

This Parliament is unique in the sense that it is the first Parliament after we attained republican status. It is also unique in the sense that it is the first Parliament after we had been granted independence.

Following the last constitutional crisis and the political stalemate in this country, our leaders proposed a truce, so it was said, and an armistice was signed by which a spirit of accord was injected into the troubled waters which followed the elections. Our leaders reached a compromise. We on this side of the House—

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr S. A. Lana) : As far as we know, the Member for Ekiti East (Mr Akinyede) is an independent Member of this Parliament. If he says "we of this side of the House" we want him to declare his stand.

Chief Akinyede : If the Member for Ibadan East (Mr Lana) still wants to be given that piece of information, I think he should acquire it by the observation of the way in which I have sat very comfortably in the midst of the U.P.G.A.

As I said, our leaders reached a compromise. We on this side of the House claim equal merit for the sensible resolution of our problems which we ascribe to the good native Common-sense and the spirit of give and take on all sides, by which we brought back peace and tranquillity into this land, although short-lived, in a country remarkable for its stability and sense of compromise.

In the Speech of the President no mention is made of what our Government is doing or will do to restore peace, order and good government to this Republic, especially to the Western Region. Psychological and spiritual well-being are essential to the social and economic welfare of any people. Peace and order are prerequisites of progress and advancement, for there can be no real progress or advancement unless there is peace and order.

We shall be deceiving ourselves if we say there is peace and tranquillity in the country. There is general discontent in the country; the political climate is charged with bitterness, hatred, suspicion and distrust. What is the Government going to do to restore unity, love and peaceful and orderly government to the country?

The crisis during the last elections shows that some people are not willing to go the democratic way to power. We must make a deliberate effort to heal all the wounds that have been inflicted by the unfortunate events of the past few months. One looks in vain for

a restatement of the fact that the government would continue to further the ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Speech of the President speaks of principles enshrined in the Charter of the O.A.U. There are greater and nobler principles enshrined in our own Constitution. Is the Government going to throw them to the wolves again as they have done in the past? I speak of the fundamental human rights enshrined in our Constitution.

The Speech does not contain the sum and substance of our economic policy, that is, presuming that we have one. Unfortunately the hon. Minister of Finance is not here now. One would have thought that before thinking of our role and attitude in foreign affairs we should be well off in our domestic affairs. Without a stable efficient and good government at home, without a happy willing and contented people, all our efforts in trying to perform feats in our external affairs is a mis-direction, to say the least. It is like a white sepulchre which is clean and well painted outside, but rotten, rugged and stinky inside.

I think the Government should restate its policy that it is dedicated to the establishment of Parliamentary democracy or be bold enough to tell us if they have turned their back on it. Also the Government should let us know what social and economic policy they are pursuing if they have a planned economy.

The President's speech is no doubt punctuated here and there by some items of assignments which can justifiably be described as laudable, but all of them put together are not enough to indicate that the Government has a standing economic policy.

In the past the Government had an unhealthy economic policy of arbitrary taxation. I will humbly say that it will be a wise economic policy to tax all our imported goods except necessities, and to exempt all locally manufactured goods except luxuries. But because of certain interests taxes are either lifted or imposed on commodities which are necessary like cement or lifted from shoes and imposed on cement because of vested interests.

An open door policy to all investments as is envisaged apparently in the speech is most dangerous. We must be selective and cautious in inviting foreign capital. Mining should be

[CHIEF AKINYEDE]

jealously watched and, as a matter of fact, one should ask oneself whether we have not reached the stage of examining our mining policy in this country and ask whether we cannot nationalise our mines.

Retail trade should also be taken out of the purview of capitalist companies in this country. Insurance should be nationalised.

Talking about the location of Iron Industries in the country, we are told that one is going to be in the North and another is going to be located in the East. And after that fever had descended on somebody near the Northern boundary, he made a statement that iron ore had been discovered in his own home town. There is a question standing in my name to show that iron ore has been discovered in Ikare in Ondo Province and the quantity is double that of Ogbomosho.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, I had thought I would not interrupt the hon. Member making his maiden speech, but I am afraid he is misleading the House. The quantity of iron ore found in his own constituency is so poor that it is not up to thirty *per cent*, whereas the one of Ogbomosho is sixty-four *per cent*. I will bring the details tomorrow and I hope the hon. Gentleman will bring his own too.

Chief Akinyede : I do not really think that is a point of order.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) ought to declare his interest in the iron ore industry because he is the broker of an investment company which is coming down.

Chief Akinyede : With reference to our external policy, we are used to being told that we believe in neutrality. The President in his active days used to say "be neutral in nothing". I think our policy should be positive independence in external relations. Non-alignment is quite good, but we must be positive. It is not heartening to see the performance of our External Affairs Ministers in dealing with delicate issues which involve some sister countries like Ghana and other nationalist

countries in Africa. I think we must be careful not to put ourselves in an isolated position from the nationalist countries of Africa.

Whatever policy we are pursuing we must think of the nationalist opinion of the whole of Africa. In this context I would suggest that greater collaboration should take place between Nigeria and Ghana on the one hand, and Nigeria and Kenya on the other.

It is apparent that some people are hypnotised or magnetised by the dollar or sterling economic and political policy.

Our role in the Congo must be more independent. We must not put ourselves in a suspicious position. We must be categorical about our stand on Southern Rhodesia. It appears that the Socialist Government of Great Britain is developing cold feet in Southern Rhodesia. We must join our Commonwealth brothers in pointing out to the Prime Minister of Great Britain at the next opportunity that we cannot tolerate a rule by the minority in an African country.

Outside this Parliament, I was one of the few people who had the guts to criticise the Parliamentary practice of guillotining debates and measures of this House. I also condemned the short sittings that featured in the life of the former Parliament. Fortunately, the Minister of Finance indicated this morning that this sitting will be fairly long. I suppose, perhaps, somebody has told him about the contents of my speech of this afternoon !

Having achieved independence, it seems we are still looking for a universal objective. People have spoken of nation-building. What type of nation are we building? What type of country are we building? We must not lose sight of the fact that we have done away with British imperialism because we wanted to be free. We must not impose ourselves upon the unwilling masses. Therefore, parliamentary democracy must be enthroned. In any part of the country, free and fair elections must be made a cardinal principle.

I remember candidly that in the 1959 elections, there were very few Members

returned unopposed, but during this time when so many parties were keen to contest the elections, about eighty or ninety Members were returned as unopposed.

I would like to point out that Parliamentary democracy is a very difficult machine to operate, but if operated, the result can be very, very effective. If we want peace, order and good government, we must keep to the rules of parliamentary democracy. But if we discredit the ballot box, we are inviting another "box" which, God forbid, will not be good for this country.

And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).

Debate to be resumed Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 26th March, 1965
The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64 the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

Parliamentary Secretary (Prince A. Lamuye) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64 the debate on the Second Reading of the supplementary Appropriation (1964-65) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That Alhaji Bello Dandago, Alhaji Muh-tari, Sarkin Bai, Mr A. U. D. Mbah, Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, Mr A. F. Odulana and Mr W. O. Briggs be members of the Committee of Selection.

Prince A. Lamuye : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Alhaji Bello Dandago, Alhaji Muh-tari, Sarkin Bai, Mr A. U. D. Mbah, Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, Mr A. F. Odulana and Mr W. O. Briggs be members of the Committee of Selection.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1964-65)

BILL

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(25TH MARCH)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1964-65)

BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Chairman : The Clauses to this Bill stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

HEAD 21—STATE HOUSE

£8,650 for Head 21—State House—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 22—CABINET OFFICE

£300,000 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 23—POLICE

Question proposed, That £491,000 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr Olu Ibukun (Owo North) : I rise to support the 1964-65 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but my comments will refer to Head 23, which seeks to appropriate the sum of £491,000 for the services of the Police. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that the Nigeria Police Force has been performing its duty satisfactorily. In particular, their contribution to the maintenance of law and order during the last Federal Elections is laudable and I wish to take this opportunity on the Floor of Parliament to accord them the praise which they deserve.

Without them many politicians from Western Nigeria who contested the last Federal Elections against N.N.D.P. candidates would not be alive to-day. Some of us were chased out of our homes and out of our constituencies by N.N.D.P. thugs. Others were ambushed by tough looking N.N.D.P. stalwarts imported specially from Badagry. My own private house was badly damaged by a team of hooligans led by the N.N.D.P. official candidate in that constituency. He carried two double barrelled guns himself and they were shouting my name and looking for me. Indeed but for the timely and efficient intervention of the Nigeria Police, nobody knows what the end of the story would have been.

I always pity the members of the Nigerian Police who were posted to Western Nigeria during the elections and after, because the N.N.D.P. has specialised in causing trouble all over the Region, molesting innocent citizens and creating unnecessary work for the Police.

I must congratulate the Police Council and the Prime Minister for bringing the Local Government Police under the Nigeria Police Force during the last Federal Elections. But now that the elections are over, the N.N.D.P. is still making use of the Local Government Police to make arrests on flimsy grounds in Western Nigeria. In many cases supporters of the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. were just picked up in the streets and locked up, even when they had not committed any offence.

We would like to appeal to the Police Council and the Prime Minister to bring the Local Government Police under the Nigerian Police at all times and in all parts of the Federation. In view of the fact—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, the Local Government Police have been brought under the Nigeria Police a long time ago. The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is just trying to mislead the House. He was one of the hooligans during the last election—

The Chairman : Order ! It is very unparliamentary to call a Member of this House a hooligan.

Dr Ibukun : I thank you, Mr Chairman.

In view of the use being made of the Local Government Police for victimising political opponents, and in view of the fact that the Local Government Police appear to be so easily influenced by the Local Authorities, I think it is desirable to have only one Police Force, adequately enlarged to maintain law and order throughout the length and breadth of the Federation.

Chief Adebisi Jinadu (Oshun North-East) : On a point of order, I would like to know whether the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is referring to Western Nigeria or to Enugu.

The Chairman : That is a question and not a point of order.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha North) : On a point of order, maybe the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) has forgotten that the inauguration of the Local Government Police was the doing of the Action Group members when they were in power in Western Nigeria.

Dr Ibukun : I am informed that there are still some corrupt elements in the Nigerian Police Force. I understand that in some cases fees are charged before recommendations are made for promotion, but I stand to be corrected. There is too much—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, perhaps my hon. Friend, the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is too young in this Parliament to appreciate that he does not have to impute such motives generally without specific mention of names, or without a substantive Motion, especially when Policemen cannot here defend a general remark of this nature. I would ask my hon. Friend to please desist from making such remarks on the Floor of this House.

Dr Ibukun : There appears to be too much stoppage of traffic on our roads by certain policemen, especially towards the end of the month when they are broke.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What about the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) ; is he never broke himself ?

Dr Ibukun : If I am broke, I think the Minister of Finance is there to help me.

I hope that these allegations will be thoroughly investigated. There was, sometime ago, an organisation known as the X-Squad. We only heard the results of their activities for a few months, and the organisation has since been wound up. I would like to appeal to the Minister for Police Affairs and other authorities concerned to request the re-introduction of the X-Squad system. If 'X' will not work well let us try 'Y' or 'Z'. In any case, we must continue to try to minimize corruption in our Police Force.

The Nigerian Police Force is the best in Africa and we must therefore try to remove any ugly trace of corruption within the Force, so that we can all be really proud of them.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igalá North) : I rise to support this Head of the Supplementary Estimates and in doing so I would like to say that the work of the Nigerian Police during the last Federal Election was commendable. They have done their best and they have

[Mr D. O. ENEFOLA] proved themselves worthy of their calling. Anyone who comes here to say that the Police did not do well in the last Federal Election is just trying to show that there were some political parties who gave the Police a tough time. These political parties and their supporters presented the Police with a situation which the Police could not cope with.

Some political leaders even went to the extent of making certain statements to the effect that they had not as much confidence in the Police as they had in the Nigerian Army. This is very bad, and now, some people have come to the Floor of this House to say all sorts of things against the Nigeria Police.

The Nigeria Police Force have been commended all over the world for their efficiency and ability to cope with any situation. I think it is the politicians in this country who are giving the Police a very tough time.

On the question of the Local Government Police, I think we are the people still making things difficult for them. This is an institution which has been upheld and cherished, and these Local Government Police have been helping even the Nigeria Police. The Local Government Police has been doing very well and anybody who feels that they are not doing well should ask the Local Authorities in his area to try and build an efficient Police Force. There is no need to say that they should all be under the Federal Government.

One other observation I want to make on this Head concerns promotion in the Force. I feel that an investigation should be carried out by the National Police Council or by the Minister in charge of the Police. There are people in the Force who have had rapid promotions one way or the other, whilst others who have been working harder and more efficiently have been left behind. I know some of these men who have worked for over twenty years without promotion and I know some who have worked for less than two or three years and who have been promoted. I think that something should be done to get these people promoted, and in good time too.

I know of a man who has been a sergeant for about fifteen years in spite of his efficiency.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, I think the Member for Igala North (*Mr Enefolo*) should declare his interest. If his brother has been a sergeant for fifteen years and has not

been promoted further, is this the place to canvass for promotion?

Mr Enefolo : The Policeman I am referring to is not my brother. There are many of them in this plight. I have just quoted one as an example.

I beg to support.

£491,000 for Head 23—Police—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 27—NIGERIAN ARMY

Question proposed, That £15,330 for Head 27—Nigerian Army—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : I just want to hold the Floor for a few moments to commend the Federal Government for the prompt action they took in making a Nigerian the Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Army. This is a very good step in the right direction.

I must also deplore the system whereby promotion in the Army is purely on a quota basis. I think that promotion in the Army should be purely on efficiency and nothing more. The Nigerian Army must be made to be very stable, and all efforts should be made by the Federal Government to ensure that all promotions are not based on political considerations.

Also, the idea of promoting people during or on the eve of any Federal Election, I think, is anything but good. We should try as much as possible to allow the Army to carry on their duties without hinderance and we should try not to increase the strength of our Army arbitrarily because we are building a socialist state.

The Chairman : The expenditure under this Head is confined to local transport and travelling, and medical stores; and unless you are introducing these two items, perhaps you are out of order.

Mr Okafor : Mr Chairman, with these remarks, I support the Head.

£15,330 for Head 27—Nigerian Army—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 28—NIGERIAN NAVY

£26,420 for Head 28—Nigerian Navy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 65—NON-STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS
OF REVENUE**

£101,170 for Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Clauses 1 and 2—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : I only want to touch on one or two points, and that is in respect of Section 1 subsections 22 and 23. Referring to subsection 23, the Police, we know, are working under very serious difficulties in this country if only the politicians will kindly leave the Police alone to do their work as officers responsible for the maintenance of peace in the society.

I also want to throw in a word for the Police. It is unfortunate that the Minister of State responsible for Police Affairs complained after the last election that the Nigeria Police were used by his opponents to scare away his supporters. It is only unfortunate, and I do hope that the Police will in future try and be a little kinder to their boss.

The next point I want to make is on the expenditure of £300,000 from the Cabinet Office for the maintenance of the Native Authority Police Training School in the North. No doubt if you are asked to pay the piper, somehow you must be allowed to call the tune. I do think that for this Government to spend in five years the sum of £1½ million for the maintenance of the Native Authority Police over whom they have neither control nor influence is, to say the least, very, very scandalous.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : The Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr M. Amechi*) should have spoken during the Second Reading of this Bill. Quite definitely, during the Third Reading, he should confine himself strictly to the Estimates itself but not particularly to the Police.

Mr Speaker : I quite appreciate the point made by the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*). I think it would have been appropriate though if the Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Amechi*) had spoken at the Second Reading or, if he wished a detailed examination, at the Committee stage. The Third Reading should be confined to the technicalities of the Bill and to matters that were omitted that a Member wishes to be included. But at this stage, he cannot discuss the details.

Mr Amechi : Mr Speaker, I would not go further than that except to appeal to member of the Nigeria Police to please be kind to Mr Olarewaju in future. I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not want to cross swords with my hon. Friend on this issue which he has raised. Maybe inadvertently and with only one aim, he intended to remind us that the Minister of Police Affairs was defeated perhaps by the Police with the aid of my hon. Friend (*Mr Amechi*).

The only point I wish to make is that I do not agree with my hon. Friend that grants given to any agency should be synonymous with control by the authority giving the grant, because he said that there is no point spending for the Native Authority Police because we have no control over them. This is what he said and that is what I am saying. It does not mean that whenever any Government gives grants or financial assistance to any agency or body that must be used as a weapon for—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I am completely flabbergasted to hear the hon. Minister of Finance, who has always advocated loans without strings attached, say on the Floor of this House that the Government should give out money, millions and millions of pounds, without having the authority itself to determine how the funds will be spent. This is to say the least irreconcilable.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Really, I pity the last speaker ! I cannot just understand what he was referring to. I am not talking about strings being attached. As a matter of fact, he was reinforcing my argument that we should not give grants to people with strings attached. So he was supporting me. This is the policy I am maintaining.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

Again, if he had allowed me to finish, he would have understood what I was talking about. What I am saying is that we should not give grants to voluntary agencies or any agency with strings attached to it and that we must not use grants to control the functions of the agencies. This is my point.

Coming to the point which he made last about the Police being assisted with millions and millions of pounds by the Federal Government, this is perhaps a lack of understanding of the working of the Governments of the Federation. The Governments of the Federation are complementary to themselves, and the fact that money is given by one Government to the other without the control of the giver does not mean that the agency is not performing a useful service.

It is all very well to say that grants are usually given for social services, but the Native Authority Police are also social services. The Native Authority Police in the North like any other Police anywhere in Nigeria obviously are maintaining law and order. Social services, Mr Speaker, cannot function where there is disorder and therefore by implication the work of the Native Authority Police is also social services.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): I want to speak on other subjects and not on Police. I can see that on this Supplementary Appropriation the Minister of Finance has omitted the question of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools in the West. The Inter-Regional Secondary School is going to promote unity in this country and at present we have one of these Inter-Regional Secondary Schools situated in the North, another in the East and one in the Mid-West, but there is none in the West. I thought that in preparing his Supplementary Appropriation, the Minister of Finance would put in one for the Western Region.

I think, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of Finance should consider that in promoting the unity of the country, measures should not be one sided, they should be for the whole country. So, the West should be remembered and one of these Inter-Regional Secondary Schools should be sited in the West. Further, in siting it, it should be somewhere at Owo. Owo is a meeting point for travellers from

the North and the East. Coming from the East and the Mid-West one passes through Owo and coming from the North through Lokoja, one passes through Owo. I think Owo will be a very good place for the siting of the school.

Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I am grateful to my hon. Friend, the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) for the points he made. I quite agree with him that the West should have an Inter-Regional Secondary School, but the facts perhaps are unknown to him why the one in the area was sited in Mid-West. I can hear an hon. Member calling me an arch tribalist. I am not a bigger tribalist than he, my Baptist brother. The fact is that at the time the decision was reached to allocate Inter-Regional Schools to the Regions, the Mid-West was part of the Western Region and so the one for the West was sited at Warri; and Warri is not too far from Owo.

I can assure my hon. Friend, the Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) that the Minister of Education will look into this now that the Mid-West has been created a separate Region. I want to remind my hon. Friend that the assets and liabilities of the former Western Region have yet to be divided between the Mid-West and the present Western Region.

M. Ibrahim Gusau, Sarkin Malamai (Sokoto Central): I just want to dispel a motive which the two last speakers on my right tried to impute in the course of their speeches. One is in regard to the grant given to the Local Authority Police and the other concerns the Army.

On the grant, I think it is ridiculous on the part of the hon. Members who spoke against it. This is not the first time this grant has been provided to Local Government Police and, furthermore, grants are given in one way or the other to other things such as Education, Agriculture and so on and so forth. If one looks at the Estimates, one will find that grants are given in many fields apart from Local Government Police and this is not the first time that this has been done, but to indicate that this should not be given to the Local Government Police in the two Regions—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (Mr O. C. Ememe) is carrying a dangerous weapon.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : That this grant should not be given to the Local Government Police in the North as the Member for Onitsha Central (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) has said, has some motive behind it. If the Member for Onitsha Central does not want the unity of Nigeria it is up to him—

Mr Amechi : The hon. Member is imputing an improper motive. I did not express any terms of disunity and I do not see how my criticism of a grant which is given to the Native Authority Police in the North alone, and nowhere else, should amount to disuniting Nigeria. Any fair comment anybody makes about anything affecting the North is deemed an act of disunity for the country. If we are not going to be allowed to express our views we can as well be told that.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : This grant, Mr Speaker, is in conformity with the Constitution itself.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : We do not want this House to be misled. The Constitution stipulates that in due course the Local Government Police and all Native Authority Police would be integrated into the Nigeria Police. This grant, therefore, is working against the purpose of the Constitution.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : On the whole, if there were no agreement between the Governments of the Federation this grant should not have been provided.

Turning to the Army, the Member for Owerri West (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) mentioned that promotion in the Army is on a political basis, that the quota is allocated on a political basis. This is a sign of polluting the Army and of dragging it into politics. The Army as it stands now is independent and we want its integrity to be above party politics and to remain as it has ever been in this country. But if the speech which the Member of Owerri West made was in order to drag it again into the field of politics then it is very unfortunate because we do not want anything with a political colouring to come into the Army or the Police Force.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

HEAD 621.—PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Three thousand and fifty-six pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 621—Primary Production, be approved.

The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : I observe that the whole of this money will be spent on the completion of 1955-62 Moor Plantation building programme and soil fertility unit. Often I have criticised the expenditure of this Moor Plantation with the purpose of correcting what is actually happening in the plantation. I think it is intended that the Moor Plantation should be an example to the farmers, but it does not appear that those in charge of that plantation realise the way agriculture is organised in the primary schools, secondary schools and in the training colleges. There is no effort whatever being made to show the Moor Plantation as a model farm that pays its way for the farmers to copy. This is what is lacking.

In soil fertility, there is nothing being done to improve the present shifting cultivation which faces our agricultural development. Agriculture all over the country is shifting cultivation, and if there is going to be so large a sum to be spent on soil fertility there should be a spot where the Moor Plantation could run a model farm, year in and year out, to produce exactly what the farmers in the rural areas produce—yams, maize, cassava, and other crops,—so as to show what is involved in intensive cultivation. This is another thing which has been lacking.

No doubt, some of the rural people do read our *Hansard*, and they would like to know what we feel about this matter.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I want to share the views expressed by the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, and to say that the Federal Government should now make up its

[DR B. U. NZERIBE]

mind either to undertake this responsibility which should be its responsibility, that is by giving life to agricultural research development, or else it should completely abandon this aspect of its operation. Any lackadaisical attitude to agriculture will not do us any good.

The relationship between Federal Governments and agricultural production, even in America which is one of the most industrialized countries in the world, is clearly defined. The government should take agriculture as its first priority. For a country like Nigeria where the major industry is agriculture and where the Federal Government thrives on the back of the farmers, and where above ninety *per cent* of the resources of this country still come from the rural agricultural areas, the government, instead of toying with a pittance of £5,000 for Moor Plantation, should either fold up this particular project or else put in more money and organise real scientific research in agriculture. And any information collected in this way should be disseminated to the rural farmers.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I again pity the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) who has just spoken. Here is a man who cannot forget his university days in America and thinks that the whole world must be governed like America. The constitution of this country is not the same as that of the United States of America. Agriculture is the responsibility of the regional governments and what we are doing is research. For the hon. Gentleman to say that the money being spent on research is not enough is to ask that money should be squandered, just for the purpose of squandermania.

However, let me ask the Member for Orlu West to be patient until he hears my Budget Speech ; then he will be able to assess whether we are doing the proper thing or not.

Dr Nzeribe : May I reply by saying that the constitution is made for man, and not man for the constitution.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Gentleman had better go to the pulpit to preach his sermon.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Three thousand and fifty-six pounds for the purpose set out in the

Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 621—Primary Production, be approved.

HEAD 622—TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One hundred and ten thousand pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : I beg to second.

Mr I. Chikelu (Udi Central) : I just want to congratulate the Federal Government on the erection at Victoria Island of the Nigerian Minting and Security Printing Works. When that project was being initiated we had some misgivings about it, but after our recent tour of inspection since arriving for this meeting we are satisfied with the stage already reached.

However, I want the government to make sure, with emphasis on the word "security", that only trusted personnel are chosen to work in that establishment. I say this because we are anxious to impress on the outside world that Nigeria has the men and women of high calibre who can be entrusted with such delicate responsibility. With the utmost care we will make sure that any printing or security work to be undertaken in that organisation does not come to the knowledge of unauthorised persons.

With this printing works in Nigeria a lot of money, which hitherto was spent in producing things like examination papers or even ballot papers overseas under the guise of high security measure, would be saved, since these items will now be produced out here.

We have got the men and women who are capable of handling this job and nothing should stop us from entrusting to them responsibilities of this nature.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I am so sorry that my two hon. Friends from Ijebu—the Member for Ikeja South—(*Chief A. O. Ogunsanya*) and the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr A. F. Odulana*)—are not here now ; I would have asked—

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is himself a lower range Ijebu man. He is Itsekiri.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I thank my hon. Friend from Ikeja very much. I quite agree that the Ijebus and the Itsekiris are the same, but in one particular field that I am going to mention—counterfeiting—the Ijebus excel.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One hundred and ten thousand pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

HEAD 623—ELECTRICITY

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four hundred and thirty-three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-two pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : I beg to second.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : It is really unfortunate that the Minister of Mines and Power is not here with us. It might well be that power has failed somewhere.

The point I would like to make is merely to congratulate the Chairman of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for the beautiful job he has done since his appointment. The Chairman has really shown a sense of responsibility in his assignment and since he took over the management of this corporation, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has continued to make profits. I think it is therefore fair that we should give him hearty congratulations and every encouragement from all sides of this House. (*Hear, hear*)

At times some of us feel that whenever we find anything wrong in any part of this Federal Republic, it is our duty to point such a thing out, no matter whose ox is gored. Once again, therefore, I would like to point out to the Federal Government the need for electricity supply in this country.

The present arrangement whereby the regions and the Federal Government share equal responsibility for the supply of electricity to the different parts of this Republic must, I think, be deplored. There is no doubt that the regional governments have not got sufficient funds for the supply of electricity to the rural areas, with the result that in the majority of the rural areas throughout the Federal Republic there is just no light. I would therefore like to urge the Federal Government to consider the possibility of taking up the sole responsibility for electrifying all the villages in Nigeria so that between now and 1970 there should be light everywhere in this country.

Another point I would like to make is about the staff of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. Some hon. Members are aware that in the majority of our corporations now, there is the tendency for the members of the staff to attach tribe to appointments and to everything done within the corporation. It is our duty, as leaders of this country to discourage this.

There is the tendency for any member of the staff who is not promoted to feel that he is not promoted simply because he is not Ibo, Yoruba or Hausa. There is also the tendency for these members of the staff to feel that anybody who is promoted is so promoted because he belongs to a particular tribe. It is our duty to deplore this. I think that if, right on the Floor of this House, we deplore this feeling, it will augur well for the stability of this country.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Hadejia North) : I would like to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the fact that it has already promised to put under its electricity project the supply of electricity to Hadejia North, my constituency. I now appeal to the Government to fulfil its promise.

I still remember quite well a time when the Minister of Mines and Power was approached in order to find out what time electricity would be supplied to Hadejia. The Minister gave a definite answer, that the proposal was already being given attention and that the project would soon be carried out. I therefore want it to be put on record that I appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to consider putting Hadejia on the priority list of those towns to be supplied with electricity.

[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU GAUYAMA]

Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho North): In support of the speaker before the last, the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) I feel that the stage has been reached in this country whereby our Federal Government should consider electricity as a matter of necessity and not a project set up for money making. It has always been the idea of the Federal Government to feel that the only places where electricity supply should reach are those places where it can pay its own way. I say that this should not be.

Many of the rural areas from where the resources for the economic development of this country come are being cheated in the matter of electricity supply. When we invite investors into this country and ask them to invest in our different projects or when we invite industrialists into this country and ask them to help industrialise Nigeria, these people come down, find resources for their industrial projects in the rural areas but find it difficult to establish these projects in these places because there is no supply of electricity. I therefore feel that our rural areas have been cheated enough and that our Federal Government should see to it that all these areas are electrified.

Chief J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East): Light is one of the necessities of life and that is why it was originally said "Let there be light, and there was light". Electricity supply should be regarded as a necessity and not a luxury. My hon. Friend the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) has just mentioned that we in this House should send congratulations to the Chairman of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for the profits his corporation has been making since he became the chairman. Personally, I consider these profits too fabulous. These profits are just too much. It hits back at the consumers.

The rate charged on the supply of electricity these days is too excessive. There was a time, when the supply of electricity was under the local councils, each point was costing two shillings a month. To-day, if one wants a point of light, the whole house wherein this one point is going to be put is first assessed before the rate of consumption is added. This system drives away many

prospective consumers from getting electricity installed in their different houses. I would therefore like to suggest that the rate be reduced as when this is done electricity supply may reach the village people.

In the second place, the rural areas need to be given special attention. May I say that in the whole of my constituency there is not a single point of light simply because it is in a rural area, and I am sure that most hon. Members here do not have electricity in their constituencies just because these places are in the rural areas. It is only in the urban areas—big cities and big towns—that we have opportunity of having electricity supply.

The Member for Ogbomosho North (*Mr Lajide*) has just mentioned that in order to encourage the siting of industries in our rural areas, electricity supply is essential. May I say that not only is the supply of electricity essential for the siting of industries but also that it is essential for the general use of the common men in these areas. We have expatriates coming from all countries of the world. They are rather hesitant to go to the rural areas because of lack of electricity. The earlier our Government is able to bring electricity to these rural areas, therefore, the better.

I now end my contribution to this Head.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: May I appeal to my hon. Friends who are speaking about rural areas in connection with the supply of electricity to please wait for my Budget Speech. A lot is being done perhaps unknown to them. If they would only exercise some patience and hear my Budget Speech and learn what the Government is doing, perhaps it would help them.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four hundred and thirty-three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-two pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

HEAD 624.—LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of five million, one hundred and twenty-six thousand two hundred and three pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : I beg to second.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : I see here that we are called upon to approve £7,173 for the Sokoto-Jeredi Road (Trunk Road A 15). I have had the privilege of travelling through that side at one time and I went through the bridges on this road and found them too narrow. I think the Federal Government will be doing a better job at this moment if they improve this road.

It is no use building wide roads and having very narrow bridges. It is always the tendency for road users to assume that the bridges ahead of them are as wide as the roads, and as such, it is very offensive to be travelling along a wide road only to come suddenly to see a sign saying "narrow bridge".

The Minister of Works is not here now but his Parliamentary Secretary is here and I hope he will take this message to him, that we should like to see our bridges as wide as our roads themselves.

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North) : The importance of roads and bridges to the economic development of a country cannot be over emphasized. I beg to note that here, there is put down the sum of £3,474 for surveys of additional roads, and I would like to ask the Government to take into consideration the importance of our roads, the roads that should open up a very large section of Onitsha Division, that is, beginning from the ferry in Onitsha towards the road connecting Northern Nigeria.

It will indeed shorten the road to Northern Nigeria if a road is built from the cable point in Onitsha through that area right down to Igala North. That will link us up immediately with Northern Nigeria. It will be better for the Government and will also be a boom to our trade because in that area we have not

only land for our cash crops, but also we have big animals like elephants which will make this place a good holiday resort for sports.

I am therefore asking the Government to take this into consideration and while it is making money available for survey, to remember to survey that part of the country which will link Eastern Nigeria with the North and shorten the distance.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : I have a point to make here and that is that in 1963 the Minister of Works, who unfortunately is not here now, made a promise on the Floor of this House that he would bring in a supplementary Estimate to improve the road between Shintaku and Oturkpo border. In Igala Division we have returned four Members to this House. This is a big division and it is the only part of this country that boards every region of this country. It boards the Mid-West, boards the East, the West and is in the Northern Region. But there is no mile of this road that is being looked after by the Federal Government. It is an important road for all classes of people who travel between the East and West, and it is the only road in this division between Lokoja, Shintaku and Oturkpo border.

This fact notwithstanding, we have since 1963 been talking about this road and the Minister promised he would do something about it, but up till to-day there is nothing in the subsequent Supplementary Estimates for the road. I pray that the Minister will look into this road and perhaps in the next Estimates arrange for something definite to be done in connection with this road.

We have been imploring the Federal Government to take over more roads from the Regional Governments especially the Northern Government. The Northern Region is a very vast territory and very big, and the more the Federal Government comes to the aid of the Regional Governments and builds these roads, the better it will be for our economic progress.

I beg to support.

Mr A. O. A. Duduyemi (Ife Central) : I refer to Sub-Head 1—

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I think it is high time that Members were allocated their proper seats so that it will be easier for the Speaker or Chairman to know

[MR S. D. LAR]

the Members and call them by their proper names. For the past two days we have been sitting anywhere with no seat allocation, and it has become increasingly difficult for the Speaker to know the names of especially the new Members.

The Chairman : Arrangements for seats require very careful consideration otherwise there will be a lot of confusion and Members will be complaining very much.

I am trying to get the parties to agree to a sitting arrangement, and moreover, the names of the new Members did not arrive in good time. So as soon as the parties agree on the sitting arrangements, everybody will be allocated a seat permanently.

Mr Duduyemi : I refer, as I said, to Sub-head 1, under Head 624—Land Transport System—and this is in respect of the loans towards the development programme of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. I would respectfully urge the Members of this House to think for a while and consider whether in the light of the recent happenings in the Nigerian Railway Corporation, it is necessary and expedient to pump further revenue into the Railway Corporation for further development.

From the inception of the Corporation a lot of money amounting to several million pounds has been advanced to the Nigerian Railway Corporation for its development, but what has the nation got from there? Recent reports—

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is out of order. We are discussing buildings and roads and bridges and certainly not the Nigerian Railway Corporation. There is no Bill or Motion here about the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

The Chairman : Since he is a new Member, I think he might be allowed some latitude.

Mr Duduyemi : Its annual revenue has been diverted into other schemes and a lot of money has been wasted on unnecessary contracts, with the result that this industry which is very important and vital to the economy of this country has been neglected. Many wagons have been neglected and put out of use and we do not know where we are heading for.

Hon. Members would appreciate that it takes days to travel from Lagos to Kano on Nigerian Railway Corporation trains. Why should we waste all this money on the improvement of our railways if our trains are going to be inefficient. We are now being asked to appropriate more money for further development. I want this Government to take it upon itself to institute a commission of inquiry into the affairs of the Nigerian Railway Corporation and see whether it is wise and justifiable to advance more money for its programmes. The Nigerian Railway Corporation has failed the nation.

M. Alliu Umaru (Wukari) : I rise to speak on Head 624—Land Transport System. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Works for the good work done on the Funtua-Chafe-Gusau Road. I travelled last month immediately after the sitting of the House from Zaria to Sokoto and there was no accident on the road. If any hon. Member had travelled on that road three or four years ago, he would have seen how bad the road was then. The road was dilapidated and it was not tarred. The road is now smooth and this has reduced accidents to the barest minimum.

Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Works to the condition of the Trunk 'A' road from Aliade *via* Gboko to Katsina Ala and to Yola. This road is very useful for the economic growth of this country. If a person wants to travel from Onitsha to Yola or Mubi, this is the shortest route to travel through. This road needs great improvement and I am appealing to the Minister of Works to see that something is done to this road.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Works to see that this road is tarred and River Katsina Ala bridged. The river carries a lot of traffic and if the river is bridged we in that part of the country will be very grateful.

I beg to support.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : I have to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys for constructing the new Shagamu to Benin Road.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : May I crave the indulgence of the House to appreciate that this is just one item of Supplementary Estimates.

We are having the Budget Debate when hon. Members can speak on all that they are speaking on now. Those who want to build bridges from Ogoja to Sapele should wait for the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill.

Mr Eboigbodi : More money should have been appropriated for the widening of the bridges on the Shagamu to Benin road. The road from Benin to Asaba should also be widened.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : On a point of order, it will help this honourable House if the Chairman will please rule Members who are irrelevant out of order. There are only two items on Head 624, the Sokoto-Jeredi Road and the Funtua-Chafe-Gusau road. There is no Benin to Asaba road. As the Minister of Finance rightly pointed out, if any hon. Member wants to speak on roads he should wait for the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill.

The Chairman : I think Members should confine their observations to the relevant items.

Mr Eboigbodi : All I am saying is that more money should have been provided for improving these roads instead of providing for only two items.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five million, one hundred and twenty-six thousand two hundred and three pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

HEAD 625—WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Nine hundred and forty-four pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1964-65, under Head 625—Water Transport System—approved.

HEAD 626—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten thousand and seventy-nine pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to second.

Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : If I can remember correctly, the President in his speech said that Kano and Lagos Airports will be developed in order to bring them in line with other international airports in the world. So far so good ; but I should like to place it on record that we the people of the North and the people of Kano in particular are not happy at all about the way and manner in which Kano Airport has been treated by the Federal Government of Nigeria. It is an indisputable fact, it is an incontrovertible fact that Kano Airport has been ignored. All the traffic has been diverted to Lagos except the V.C. 10 which stops in Kano perhaps once—

Mr J. A. Awoyinka (Otun Ekiti North) : On a point of order, we are asked to approve money already spent not to ask for new projects. This will be appropriate during the debate on the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill.

Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : The Member for Otun Ekiti North (*Mr Awoyinka*) is a new Member that is why—

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : On a point of order, what we are asked to approve is the Estimates for the setting up of an aeronautical transmitting Station at Kano Airport. I do not think it is proper to bring in the question of reconditioning Kano Airport.

Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : There is no need for siting an aeronautical transmitting station at Kano Air Port if there is no aeroplane field there.

As I was saying, Kano Air Port has been ignored. It is now regarded as an ordinary airfield. It has become a place for drunkards. People from *Sabon Gari* go there to drink. What, therefore, is the use of improving the Kano Air Port when it will not be open to all planes? What is the use of asking for money to improve it? We shall be pleased to have Kano Air Port improved, if only all the companies operating in Nigeria will be allowed to operate between Kano and Lagos.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Hadejia North) : With regard to the purchase of aircraft, instruments and equipment for the Federal Flying Training School and Aviation

[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU GAUYAMA]

Ground Training School, I would like the Federal Government to see that good aircraft are purchased instead of purchasing second hand ones.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Ten thousand and seventy-nine pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 626—Air Transport System—be approved.

HEAD 630—HEALTH

Four thousand six hundred and sixty-nine pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 630—Health, approved.

HEAD 633—MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirty-five thousand, one hundred and ninety-five pounds for the purpose set in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

Alhaji Tako Galadima: I beg to second.

Mr M. N. Nnorom (Okigwi North East): With regard to Sub-head 322—Remand Home and Juvenile Court, Yaba—I would like to say that it would be wise for the Federal Government to assist the Regional Governments in establishing such centres by way of grants. We have beggars and delinquent people in the Regions. It is true there are social welfare centres in the Regions, but that is not sufficient. The Regional Governments should be assisted. It should not be limited only to Lagos.

Shettima Ali Mongono (Kanumbu-Ngan-zai: On Sub-head 21—Pilgrims' Transit Camp, Maiduguri—I would like to tell the Federal Government that this large building which is just merely like a white elephant, will serve no useful purpose when completed. This building should be used for another purpose. I would ask the Federal Government to consider converting this building into a Federal institution.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirty-five thousand, one hundred and ninety-five pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supple-

mentary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

HEAD 635—JUDICIAL

Four thousand, one hundred and ten pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 635—Judicial, approved.

HEAD 636—POLICE

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Sixty thousand five hundred and eleven pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 636—Police, be approved.

Alhaji Tako Galadima: I beg to second.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): On Sub-head 107—Northern Police College—I would like to say that the sooner the Government carries out this programme the better. This is because our women police are sharing the same quarters with our men police. This is not good.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central): On a point of order, we have been talking about unity everyday, but now that the Government is making an effort to unite our women police with our men police, we seem to be against it.

Mr Lar: I agree—

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): I think that what the men can do the women can as well do. They have the same rank in the Police Force. I was in the Police Force before.

Mr Lar: I am looking at this matter from the moral point of view. It is not good for women to be put together with men. We want a high standard of morality to be set.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: Is the hon. Member, suggesting that our police women are living in the same rooms with their men counterparts? Or are they living as neighbours?

Mr Lar: They are living as neighbours.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: What is wrong with that? I am sure some hon. Members have lived in quarters where women were their neighbours.

Mr Lar: If so, why is it not the practice here in Lagos? In Lagos we have separate quarters for Policemen. There has always been trouble between the married policemen and youngmen—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, quite honestly, this is very serious and I do not think we should allow my hon. Friend, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) to continue to go into the private lives of the policemen and women. If he is interested in the Police women, let him say so.

Mr Lar : I will not say that I am interested or not interested in the Police women. The point is that we want separate quarters for the women police so that there will be less trouble in the police barracks.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, the expenditure from the Development Fund of Sixty thousand five hundred and eleven pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 636—Police, be approved.

HEAD 637—GENERAL

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move,

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million, three hundred and twenty-one thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 637—General, be approved.

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima : I beg to second.

Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : I just want to put on record my appreciation of the Government's efforts in providing for a First Offenders' Prison. In the past, people were put in the prison for the first time with habitual criminals, with the result that when they came out of prison they become hardened criminals themselves. I hope that with the establishment of this new prison yard, the Prison Authorities in Lagos will see to it that first offenders are not only sent into the yard at Apapa, but that they are given such a treatment as will reform them.

All the laws in Nigeria are aimed at reforming criminals and not merely at punishing them for statistical purposes as some people think. A person becomes a prisoner not solely because

of his own fault but chiefly because of the fault of society.

I beg to support.

Mr J. Edomwonyi (Benin West) : Under this Head, there is adequate provision made for the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries, but the hon. Members of this House are not cared for even when we come for the meetings of this House.

Anytime we arrive for the meeting of Parliament, we have to stand by the porters waiting for allocation of flats. When I come to Lagos for the February Meeting, and even when I arrived here for this Budget Meeting, I spent about three hours with the porters trying to get my name located. Some Members did not even find their names on the porters' list. The Housing Manager appears to be the most inefficient officer in this respect.

The Chairman : Order! This is very irrelevant.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am sorry if I am too hard on the Housing Manager. I have tried to bring this up because I am not the only Member of this House who has suffered this indignity.

The Chairman : Order! These are details which could be better dealt with at a later stage.

Mr Edomwonyi : In any case, much as I appreciate that adequate provision should be made for the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, there should also be adequate provision made for the hon. Members of this House.

I beg to support.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : I just want to hold the Floor for a few moments to make a very important statement, and that is to call on the Federal Government to sack the Federal Electoral Commission right away for the following reasons.

I think the disunity, instability and trouble which could have resulted into bloodshed in this country was solely caused by the Electoral Commission.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Hadejia North) : On a point of order, the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is making false statements.

Mr Okafor : I am sure that all sides of this House will agree with me that the Electoral Commission is not doing well.

I am sure that all sides of the House will agree with me that the Electoral Commission is due for a sack. Here is an Electoral Commission which promised the country that before the last General Election they would be able to take a decision and report to the country, but up till now they have not been able to report to the country as to why many people were returned unopposed.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : On a point of order, I think if there is any delay in the publication of the Electoral Commission's Report, it is due to the bad activities of the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) and people like him. For example, the election in the East could only be held two or three days ago. If the Commission's Report is delayed, I think the Member speaking and his friends are to blame.

Mr Okafor : For instance, Mr Speaker, a very good man like Chief Ayo Rosiji had to be defeated because of the inefficiency of the Electoral Commission !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I want my hon. Friend to note that the Electoral Commission did not vote at Abeokuta.

Mr Okafor : What we are advocating is for the Federal Government to have an Electoral Commission that is independent of any personality, whatever he may be in this country. The Electoral Commission must be able to take decisions independently and without any influence from any quarter. For instance, we heard of the Secretary to the Prime Minister coming to talk to the Chairman of the Electoral Commission while they were at a meeting. That is undue interference. That is what we are saying. There is evidence of this and the Secretary admitted it. We are saying that if there is going to be a real election throughout the Federation, there must be an Electoral Commission that must be able to take decisions at all times.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Hadejia North) : The last speaker is misleading the House by making false accusations against the Federal Electoral Commission.

Mr Okafor : As I said a few moments ago, the moment we in this House are allowed to say our minds, attack when it is necessary, and criticize when it is important, the better it will be for the unity of this country. Under Electricity I was able to get up here to praise the Chairman because in my considered view he did his work very well. After all, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission is an Easterner, he did not do his work very well and he must be sacked. That is what we are saying.

The Chairman : There has been applause in the Gallery and this is out of order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not propose to say that it is not right to criticize any Commission especially when the sum of £1 million is being appropriated, but all I want to suggest is that it is not right for us to put the blame wholesale on the Electoral Commission. I think we politicians too must examine ourselves and our conduct, and the difficulties we put in the way of the Electoral Commission during elections. I think it is enough for me to say this and say no more.

Mr Vincent Shisha (Iharev Masev) : I do not see any reason why my hon. Friend should criticize the Electoral Commission. Although much has been said about that by the Minister of Finance, I would like to say that the Electoral Commission is comprised of different types of people and I think it was going to perform its work very well but we the politicians did not want it and that is why some of us have come here to blame the Commission now. I feel that, because of that, certain people boycotted the elections. Now, they come to the House to blame the Electoral Commission. Why? I do not think there is any point in sacking the Electoral Commission.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : The sum of £1 million has already been spent and so we are now confirming our approval of that expenditure. What I want to say in regard to this sum of money is that it looks to me that this money has been spent due to the activities of some politicians, and I think these politicians, wreckers of polling booths, should be surcharged. Why should we come here to encourage some politicians who have committed malicious damage—

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe): On a point of order, on the question, of polling booths, Sir, so far as I am aware nobody has been put to court for wrecking any polling booth, and it is wrong and indeed improper for anyone to suggest in this House that certain politicians were behind the wrecking of polling booths.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq: As I was saying, and I hope hon. Members will bear with me this sum of £1 million which is a very large sum of money has been spent not because of the activities of the members of the Federal Electoral Commission itself, but because of the notorious activities of certain politicians in this country. If this sum of £1 million is properly analysed, you will find that a considerable portion of it has been spent in repairing the damaged polling booths, and mainly because of the boycott which has cost the Government a considerable sum of money.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West): It would appear that the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) knows so much about the spending of the money and the activities of certain politicians, but let him substantiate his argument with the necessary facts.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq: Mr Chairman, facts that are wanted are too well-known to be enumerated. You only need to travel in certain constituencies in Lagos, Eastern Nigeria and Western Nigeria where there are certain political parties organising the destruction of Government property, mainly polling booths, to see the damage, and the Government has been forced to spend more money. You will remember that no single polling booth cost less than fifty pounds and these were destroyed and the Government was put to the extra expense of rebuilding them. It is because of this that we had to spend this £1 million that could have been used in a proper manner.

I will, therefore, ask the Minister of Finance to surcharge such individuals and parties that are involved in this expenditure.

I beg to support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): This is a very serious issue and I do not like Members to play with it. It is a matter that is of much concern to all of us because this action of the Electoral Commission shook the foundation of

this nation and nearly led to disintegration and bloodshed. It is not a matter we can just put aside because of personal interest or because we are favoured.

I want to say that the Chairman of the Electoral Commission is a failure. He is a complete failure. Here is a Chairman who discovered a violation of the Constitution, irregularities and lawlessness all over the country and was going to investigate and take appropriate steps—

Chief B. O. Olusola (Ekiti South II): I do not think the hon. Gentleman is right to criticize the Chairman of the Electoral Commission. The Chairman of the Electoral Commission is old enough to teach him at school.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: Mr Chairman, I would like to appeal to hon. Members quite seriously not to single out an individual on a very serious charge of corruption. It is serious. If the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is prepared to confess before this House that he corrupted the Electoral Commission Chairman and that he is here by virtue of such corrupt practices let him say so.

The Chairman: It is actually out of order to discuss the conduct of individuals who are in statutory corporations or Government departments, but one can criticise Government policy.

Mr Mbah: In the course of my speech I never used the word "corruption". I do not know who used it. I am not the one who used it.

I want to make a specific allegation. We are informed that before the Members of the Commission ever decided either to postpone or not to postpone the election the Chairman, on the intervention of the Secretary to the Prime Minister, made a public announcement that the election was going to take place. He defied all the Members of the Commission. Why should he do such a thing? Why should we have condemned all Members when we knew very well it was the Chairman who on his own alone took the decision without consulting his colleagues?

The Chairman : Order ! But surely there are better ways of dealing with the Chairman than bringing his conduct to the Floor of this House. I think every arm of Government activity has a Minister responsible for it, and if there is anything wrong with this particular Ministry the Minister is responsible to the House and not to the individual.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am sure that without asking the Secretary to the Prime Minister about his views I think that it is untrue to say that the Electoral Commission Chairman will take dictation or instruction from the Secretary to the Prime Minister. It is untrue.

Mr Mbah : This is a serious allegation. I challenge the Minister of Finance to investigate my allegation from the Members of the Electoral Commission and report back to this House. It is a challenge I throw to him. If the Minister of Finance should accept that challenge, he should investigate from the Members of the Electoral Commission and report back to us. We shall be willing to accept the report.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : The Minister of Finance has spoken more than four times on this same item. As the Mover of the Motion, he has the right to reply at the end of every speech and not at the end of every sentence he gets up and tries to disturb Members who are speaking.

The Chairman : Order ! There is nothing against the Order in that respect.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Thank you, Mr Chairman. My hon. Friend, the Member for Onitsha Central, having considered himself the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten his Standing Orders, namely that at the Committee Stage I can speak as many times as I want. We are in the Committee Stage.

I accept the challenge of my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). Let him name me the Members of the Commission he is referring to.

Mr Mbah : The Minister of Finance knows the composition of the Commission. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order ! I think the tone of the debate is rather getting low. If Members will insist on following the Standing

Orders and desist from raising unnecessary points of order perhaps we will make better progress.

Mr Mbah : I want to say that, as a result of what happened, reports of people who prevented filing of nomination papers and all the irregularities, violation of the Constitution, lawlessness which the Police even confirmed, we cannot claim that this Parliament represents a true will of the people because many Members came here by fraud. They never contested any election.

The Chairman : Order ! I do not want to embarrass Members by calling their names. If there are interruptions, I think I will have to do so.

Mr Mbah : It is true that Members have been paying tribute to our leaders, the Prime Minister and the President for saving the situation ; but we must try to point out the danger. A feeble-minded fellow tried to ruin the whole nation in the name of the Chairman of the Electoral Commission. We cannot have it any longer. I want to appeal, that in a matter like this, we must not bother ourselves about attachment. I am saying this because I know what could have happened to this country, and it could have been brought about by the indiscretion of one man or one man trying to side-track his colleagues in an undertaking that calls for team work. This is exactly what happened and we cannot continue here to be deceiving ourselves that we have come to Parliament.

I am happy because I contested the election. I tested my popularity and the people voted for me overwhelmingly. How many hon. Members can get up and say that they tested their popularity in their area and that democracy was ever allowed to prevail ? I will say that those hon. Members who come here with five hundred votes and some without a vote should be ashamed of themselves. They represent nobody.

The Chairman : Order ! The hon. Member is wandering too far.

Mr Mbah : I want to conclude by appealing very seriously to the Prime Minister and all the leaders in the country to introduce a

better system of holding elections. Perhaps, it will be better if we try the French system—one ballot box for everybody.

M. Tanko Abubakar (Keffi) : The Member for Owerri North was trying to introduce a bad system into this country by quoting a French system which can apply only in a country where voters can read and write.

Mr Mbah : In conclusion, I want to reiterate that there is no use talking about revising the Constitution, talking about constitutional conferences when after all we are not prepared to follow the Constitution. We violate it with impunity and we just sit back with our hands on our laps and Nigeria becomes a laughing stock all over the world because of the mockery which we made of the last general election. Speaking seriously, the Prime Minister should not allow this sort of a thing to happen again in the country.

The Prime Minister : It is very unusual for the Prime Minister to join issues with hon. Members on a subject of this nature, for example, about the activities of the Electoral Commission. But I would very much like to draw the attention of the House to the importance of not dragging in the mud bodies which we have appointed, and which we have given the widest latitude and more or less made independent.

The members of the Electoral Commission are independent people; they have their functions under the law and I think it would be a rather very sad day when all such independent bodies will be debated so openly and in such a damaging manner by this honourable House. I would like to appeal, on behalf of all such independent bodies as the Electoral Commission, the Public Service Commission, *et cetera*, that when the Members of this House start discussing them, they should discuss them with some consideration.

I never thought that we would be treated again in this House to these wild allegations of rigging elections, of doing this or of doing that. There has been quite a lot of useless talk of this kind outside this House and in the newspapers, and these allegations have come from all sides and from all parts of the country.

When politicians lose elections, or when they sense that they are losing elections, they invent

all sorts of stories in order to show that they have lost for a particular reason. Often, if a politician loses an election he obviously blames his opponent for using all kinds of methods to prevent him from winning. I never expected that these allegations which are made outside would be made on the Floor of this House.

I would have thought that by now the Member for Owerri North (*Mr. A. U. D. Mbah*), after five years of apprenticeship as a parliamentarian, would be a bit more mature in knowing what are the important things to say, so that he could be a guide to the new Members of the House. But, unfortunately, if we have an old Member of the House trying to bring in those petty points in order to score some points in the press, I am afraid one would not have the impression that we are taking the work of this House rather seriously.

So many allegations have been made; some of them might be true and some, of course, cannot be true. I was told—and I got telegrams to that effect from the Eastern Region recently, and from other regions when the elections were going on all over the Federation—that people were being roasted alive. I got telegrams every day that the supporters of this or that political party were being molested; their lorries were being overturned; ballot papers stolen away; people dashing away with ballot papers into the bush. I heard a lot of stories.

It is not for me to repeat these allegations here. While I am on my feet I would like to repeat my appeal again to the House. Let us not speak damagingly of public servants whom we have appointed in this House when they are not in a position to answer back. Of course, we in the Government Bench will speak for them, but it is a bit cowardly to speak of a person who is not in a position to answer for himself; and I hope, since this is the first Budget meeting of this Parliament, that speeches will tend to be more constructive rather than abstract.

Of course, this is our House; we can say what we like; we can discuss any subject under the sun. We know this is our House; we relax and we say what we like. But the trouble is the impression that the words we utter here would make outside. It is all right here with us, this being a sort of a family

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

House for all of us. We crack jokes ; we say what we like ; we throw brickbats ; but will our supporters outside take them so ? Because sometimes if we say a thing inside here jokingly, when we go outside and see other people jumping around us we forget it was a joke we made in the House, and make it appear something else and we thereby cause some trouble.

Please, I would like to appeal to all Members. Let us be restrictive. Though what has been said is a joke, yet whenever something is intended to be a joke let us make it known that it is so. When a man is speaking with heat and excitement, on a small point you see him shivering and jumping up and down and the impression that he will create outside will not be a good one.

We all know that all of us do get excited at one time or the other and we make this type of heated speeches, but just after five minutes from now we shall be walking across the Floor of this House shaking hands and smiling. We are used to it ; it is what we are asking for ; and more or less it is the art of our profession. But what about our supporters outside ?

And so, Mr Chairman, I would still appeal to the Members of this honourable House that we exercise some restraint in criticizing those independent bodies. I do not say that they should not be criticized ; we should criticize them constructively with a view to correction, but not with a view to condemnation. (*Applause*).

Whereupon the Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million, three hundred and twenty-one thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 637—General, be approved.

HEAD 638—DEFENCE

Thirty-six thousand and ten pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplemen-

tary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 638, approved.

HEAD 639—FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Four thousand pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 639—Financial Obligations, approved.

HEAD 640—LOANS ON-LENT AND EXTERNAL GRANTS TO REGIONS

One million three hundred and thirty-nine thousand, seven hundred and twenty-pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates, 1964-65, under Head 640—Loans On-Lent and External Grants, approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : Sometime ago, I wanted to speak on some of the Heads which have just passed into their Second Reading. My very good Friend the Minister of State (*Hon. Hashim Adaji*) did his best to impede our progress.

Now, we are all back in this House and I take it that following the decisions of our leaders we are out to do our best to maintain the unity of this country. We know that there are one or two Members who are new to this House and who want it to be known that they have arrived. The first of such Members is the new boy from the Ivory Coast.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : On a point of order, the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) made reference to a boy, whereas a boy cannot be qualified to be a Member of this House nor can a citizen of the Ivory Coast be a Member of this House.

Chief Ogunsanya : The Legal position is within the definition of who is an infant or a young person. There is a tendency to feel that some Members who come from areas where there is no birth registration or there is no office of vital statistics have something wrong somewhere about their age. So, when I referred to the new boy from the Ivory Coast, I am happy that the cap fits him very well.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please remember that we are discussing financial issues.

Chief Ogunsanya : I suppose my mentioning the Ivory Coast was quite relevant because the man who came *via* the Ivory Coast did not contest any election.

Alhaji Razaq : On a point of order, an allegation is being made about my having a seat in this House. May I inform my hon. Friend the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) that I was duly elected into this House in compliance with all the regulations of the Electoral Act, 1963.

Chief Ogunsanya : A lot has already been said about the Electoral Commission. We are bound to take our queue from what our hon. Prime Minister said already. But there is one aspect of the Commission which has not been mentioned whatsoever by Members of this House.

Attention has been focussed too much on the members of the Electoral Commission itself but I wish to say that there are thousands of other simple workers who carry out the day to day running of the work of the Electoral Commission and I am sure Members of this House will agree with me that in so far as these workers are concerned—and here I am not referring to the policy-making sector of the Commission—they did their work well, whatever the circumstances, and I think from one secretary to the Commission to the other (at one time it was Wazir Abdul at another time it was Mr A. S. Oladimeji) there is no doubt that they did their work well and they merit praise from all Members of this House.

I know that there are certain problems which must arise in a young nation like ours, but I think that most of the misunderstandings which arose during the last Federal Elections can be avoided in the future by certain precautions being taken, and I know that hon. Members will agree with me that if, like the payment of election deposits into the consolidated revenue fund, it was possible for the submission of nomination papers to be made central, I think most of our troubles in the future will be removed and I can see no reason why the Electoral Commission in Lagos, may be its chairman or the secretary, cannot accept validly, nomination papers meant for any of the 312 constituencies in this Federal Republic.

This was the first time Nigerians have had complete control of the work of the Electoral

Commission. I would not subscribe to condemning the members of the Commission wholesale, but there are one or two things which, in my view, without necessarily attacking the public action of any particular individual, we may wish to pin-point.

The Electoral Commission made an announcement and I think it still has to give an answer to the nation because until this is done, some of us who may not wish to listen to a lot of rumours in this House, want to know what the real position was. I think the whole hue and cry arose out of a press release made by the Chairman himself in which he admitted that there were certain seats which were declared unopposed and which were in fact opposed. I think this nation still demands an answer to the action of the Chairman of the Commission. We shall be quite satisfied if we are told that an answer to that question has been given to the leaders of the different political parties in this country. We shall be satisfied. But to leave this vital issue unanswered—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : My hon. Friend, the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) is a very successful lawyer appearing in all the courts in this Federal Republic, and at the moment I know that he is appearing in some of the cases in court affecting the elections. But just now he was alleging that the Chairman spoke about the seats returned unopposed against some of which he knows there are election petitions filed in courts.

It would be improper for the hon. Member to come here to discuss an issue which is *sub judice*.

Chief Ogunsanya : I know the hon. Minister of Finance is an L.L.D. (Sapele), a university which does not exist. But in spite of that, if I may lecture for a second, no case which is not mentioned as being in court can have the facts in issue as being *sub judice*.

I have mentioned no case whatsoever. There has been no suggestion whatsoever that anything is being challenged. I know some of the Ministers know a great deal about the courts without being lawyers. That is precisely what we do not want. We do not want Ministers to know more about courts than those who practise in these courts.

[CHIEF OGUNSANYA]

I want to revert to what I was saying. In fact the press release of the Electoral Commission in which it was stated that certain people who were alleged to have been returned unopposed were in fact opposed, can still be found. I would like to remind the House that the Commission stated that these seats would be made known eventually. Therefore, it is very relevant because later on we have it on record that the Ife seats were announced as being unopposed. This is very very important—

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): On a point of order, much as I appreciate the points of the learned Gentleman the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*), I think this matter would have been better discussed during the Second Reading of the Bill. This is the final stage of the Bill, and I do not think it is proper to take the matter here and now.

Mr Speaker: I am inclined to give him a little bit of latitude because a Motion was made to close the Committee stage.

Chief Ogunsanya: I know the hon. Gentleman's name is nearer *liar* than *lawyer*.

Mr Lar: On a point of order, my name is Lar. I have no connection whatsoever with *lie*.

Chief Ogunsanya: Well, the hon. Gentleman has been trying to be a lawyer, but surely he has to go first to the Lagos Law School, and that, of course, after he shall have passed the G.C.E. examinations. I know there are people who are direct aiders and abettors of the anomaly.

I say again that the Ife seats were originally declared unopposed and that it was only on the eve of the election, after six o'clock in the evening, that the candidates were told that the seats were going to be contested the following morning.

In answer to my learned Friend the Member for Lagos North (*Chief T. O. S. Benson*) who asked if there is any crime in that, I would say that there is no crime in that.

There are the points I should like to make in order that we may not find ourselves in the same pitfall in future. It is our responsibility to see that this country is built, and properly built too.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igala South): I have just got a casual observation to make. These are Supplementary Estimates, and it is the second or third time that we have been called upon to endorse public money that has been spent. There is a party in this country that has seen nothing good in our national exercises since the white man left us. We have had the first census count on which about 1.25 million pounds was spent and this very party condemned it. Then we had the second one and still they were not satisfied.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is becoming irrelevant.

Mr Enefolo: This is the third exercise we are having—the elections—since the white man left us and it was sabotaged and was called a bad exercise which was to be postponed and nullified not minding the amount of money involved. And now, another one million pounds has gone down the drains again. This sum, added to the one and one quarter million pounds spent on the census, should have been enough to establish one big industry which would have given employment to nearly half a million Nigerians and thus afford them better livelihood.

I think there should be a stop to this practice. We who have come to this House do not want any other party to sabotage our efforts simply because of their political ambition and make us waste public money unnecessarily. I feel that the time has come when we should put a stop to this. Let all the parties and leaders come together, talk less, and pull their resources together and put our money into better use, and so help to improve the lot of the ordinary man.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH
(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION
(25TH MARCH)

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

"Your Excellency,

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

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede : Continuing my speech in contributing to the Motion of thanks to his Excellency the President for his Speech, I mentioned yesterday that a deposit of iron ore was discovered in Ikare in Ondo Province. This find is more than double the quality alleged to have been found in Ogbomosho.

Now, I think since the Government has decided to locate one iron and steel industry in the Northern Region and another in the Eastern Region, the most proper place in the Western Region to site such an industry, will be the place where the new find has been discovered, and that is in Ondo Province.

In his speech at the opening of the first Session of this Parliament (what we can call the "little Parliament") in February this year, the President made reference to the five-point agreement by which the constitutional and political crisis that arose during the last election was resolved. It is unfortunate that the President's Speech, alleged written in the Cabinet Office but delivered in this honourable House, does not indicate how all or any of these agreements will be translated into reality. Of particular importance is the question of amending the Constitution to relax the conditions precedent to the creation of states and the review of our Electoral Laws and Regulations. If we can find a method by which it will be impossible for any ambitious politician to prevent his opponent from filing his nomination papers, for example, if a candidate can file his nomination papers before a High Court Judge or before the Chairman or an important member of the Commission in the Regional or Federal Headquarters, then the incidence of fake "candidates returned unopposed" will be greatly reduced.

The last decade has seen installed in this bountry an ultra-wealthy upper-class each

person owning rows of palatial houses while the ordinary labourer in the street cannot earn his daily bread or find a place to lay his head. Instead of democracy we are having what I can call plutocracy—that is government by the rich.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha North) : On a point of order, Standing Order 26 (1) says that an hon. Member should not read his speech. The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) is reading his speech.

Chief Akinyede : Yesterday, I also mentioned a point that some people say we are in the process of nation-building. But I did ask—what nation are we building? The answer to that is that we are building a nation where poverty and want is prevalent in the midst of plenty; we are building a nation where lawlessness and disorder are reigning supreme when we can live in peace and harmony: patronage has taken the place of patriotism and, as I said earlier, we are having plutocracy in place of democracy; we are encouraging feudalism when the time demands an agrarian revolution.

On this last point, I think the Federal Government ought to be advised that before embarking on any bold industrial project in this country, there must be an agrarian revolution. It is no use setting up a factory to manufacture sugar at Bacita without ensuring that we have sufficient local products to send to the industry. The same goes for any other industry. I think what we have to do is to make certain that we have enough local materials to use before we embark on producing the finished materials.

I come from a place where the impact of government has not been felt by the people—that is Ekiti. After the two-day meeting of Parliament in February, my learned senior at the Bar and Member for Ekiti West (*Chief Davies*) called a press conference and he revealed that Ekiti had been neglected by the Government. He is a newly naturalised Ekiti man. I understand that he was looking for a very easy constituency and he found one in Ekiti, but for the boycott of the elections he would have lost his deposit. He did mention that during his short stay in

[CHIEF AKINYEDE]

Ekiti, he drank water from Eton—and this is one of the best supplies we have in Ekiti—and, according to him, and he got typhoid fever. That shows that he is not a native of Ekiti. That is the water we have been drinking for a long time and yet we have never got any typhoid fever.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) is mis-educating the House by calling Ekiti, *Ekitti* and he is from Ekiti.

Chief Akinyede: I understand that my hon. Friend the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) is from Fiditi in Oyo Province—

Mr C. O. Komolafe: May I remind the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) that for more than twelve years the people of Ekiti supported the Action Group and during the Action Group regime—

Chief Akinyede: As I was saying the hon. Member comes from Fiditi and I can understand his aspirations. In the middle of the last century the Oyo people came to Ekiti and they were defeated in an inter-tribal war. It is true that for the past twelve years the Ekiti people have virtually supported the Action Group, but it is also true that for the twelve years, the Federal Government had virtually neglected Ekiti. There is no single basic industry that has been sited in Ekiti.

Ekiti people are generally farmers and there is a lot of timber in Ekiti. I have here a product of our timber which can be turned to useful materials like tables, chairs, doors and furniture generally. We have sufficient timber which can be turned into paper. There is ample opportunity for establishing a good industry in Ekiti.

Ekiti people are also known for their intellectual performances. We have a very renowned school in Ekiti, Christ School, Ado Ekiti. It is the best school in the Western Region. Every year the results show that they have the best performance in the West African School Certificate examination. It will be a good thing if the hon. Minister of Education can visit this school and see whether the school can be converted into a college. The college, when established, should be affiliated to the University of Ibadan where the students can train in agriculture,

pharmacy and in education. They will be able to pursue education up to the university level.

The Federal Government should make more efforts to improve agriculture. The present effort to improve agriculture is not sufficient and as such they should not be satisfied with it. They should not only embark on educational and research programmes. They should set up demonstrative and experimental projects. The Federal Government should go to Ekiti where there is a lot of land. They can take about 1,000 acres of land for this purpose. The Government should think of setting up an agricultural project which will serve like a training ground for agriculturists from all parts of this country.

I hear an hon. Member say that Ekiti people have been supporting the Action Group, but that when we had a national government some years ago, that national government did not site a single project at Ekiti. However, fortunately or unfortunately, we have some hon. Members here who were returned unopposed from Ekiti—

Mr Bola Adedipe (Ondo North-East): On a point of order, the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) is trying to deceive this House by giving the House wrong information. There was no Member returned unopposed from Ekiti.

Chief Akinyede: What about those who entered by default as a result of the boycott?

Mr Speaker: Will some of those new hon. Members please study their Standing Orders before calling on points of order.

Chief Akinyede: The point I am trying to make is that in this Six-Year Development Programme, arrangements should be made to site some projects at Ekiti—projects like ply wood industry or a paper industry. A Textile industry should also be sited at Ekiti. Any agricultural project sited at Ekiti will be viable.

Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho North): On a point of order, the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) spoke for twenty-five minutes yesterday before the Adjournment. To-day he has spoken for twenty-five minutes again. He should not be allowed to speak for twenty-five minutes tomorrow in this matter.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) has almost exhausted his time. However, I am allowing him time to wind up.

Chief Akinyede : There is no single Trunk 'A' Road in Ekiti. I am asking the Federal Government to convert the Erimo-Auchi Road, which starts off Ilesha, into Trunk 'A' Road.

And it being 11.45 a.m. Mr Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).

Debate to be resumed, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.48 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 27th March, 1965

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

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

Onyiba Aja Nwachukwu—Afikpo North

Professor Kalu Ezera—Bende East

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to make the Business Statement for the week ending next Saturday, 3rd April.

On Monday the debate on the Address will be continued and concluded.

On Tuesday, Private Members Motions will be debated.

Wednesday, 31st March is Budget Day. After the Motion for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill has been seconded, the debate will stand adjourned in accordance with Standing Orders. The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill and the University College Hospital (Amendment) Bill will receive their Second Reading.

On Thursday, we shall take the Second Reading of the following Bills :—

Police (Northern Nigeria Application) Bill
Customs Tariff Bill
Pool Betting Tax Bill
Income Tax (Rents) Bill
High Court of Lagos (Amendment) Bill
Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill

The Committee and remaining stages of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill and the University College Hospital (Amendment) Bill will also be taken.

On Friday, the six Bills I have announced for Second Reading on Thursday will be considered in Committee, and I hope it will be possible to complete business on them.

On Saturday, when I shall make another Business Statement, the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill will open.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL, 1965

Bill to make better provision for the imposition of Customs Duties on goods imported into Nigeria or exported therefrom and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1965

Bill to confer summary jurisdiction on Magistrates in respect of dangerous drugs, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1965

Bill to alter the composition of the University College Hospital Board of Management, presented by the Minister of Health and Information; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

INCOME TAX (RENTS) BILL, 1965

Bill to make provision for the granting of relief from income tax on rents received in respect of certain dwelling houses; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1965

Bill to regulate the exercise by the High Court of Lagos of its Admiralty jurisdiction, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

POLICE (NORTHERN NIGERIA APPLICATION)
BILL, 1965

Bill to exclude the operation in Northern Nigeria of sundry references to assemblies and processions in the Police Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—Thursday, 1st April, 1965.

POOL BETTING TAX BILL, 1965

Bill to extend the Pool Betting Tax Act, 1962, to Northern and Eastern Nigeria; to provide for the cancellation of pools betting licences of persons convicted of certain offences; and to amend section 1 (2) of the said Act and section 2 (2) of the Pool Betting Act, 1963, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Thursday, 1st April, 1965.*

ARMED FORCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1965

Bill to amend certain provisions of the Nigerian Army Act, 1960, the Navy Act, 1964, and the Air Force Act, 1964, expressed in terms inappropriate to monthly rates of pay, presented by Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima); read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Thursday, 1st April, 1965.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH
(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION
(26TH MARCH)

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

“Your Excellency,

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

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): On a point of order, yesterday the Prime Minister spoke on the conduct of elections in the Federation and said that it was alleged that some people were roasted alive in some parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That might have been a message to him given by intelligence reports or otherwise, but it is a matter for great regret that throughout yesterday the N.B.C. continued to announce that the Prime Minister said that people were roasted alive in the Eastern Region.

I think that this is really a matter to which this House must take a great objection. The Prime Minister never made that statement and it must be corrected as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker: Order! I should have expected that if the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) raised a point of order, it would be on to-day's business, rather than bringing up a matter which I think does not concern to-day's business.

Mr Akubakar Isandu (Jos North): On a point of order, what the Prime Minister said was that he was informed, and most of us were also informed that in a single constituency twenty lives were lost.

Mr Speaker: Order! This is also irrelevant. I do not want any Member to introduce irrelevant matters.

The Minister of Health and Information (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I think I must explain on this occasion that what the radio station in question reported was not exactly what the Prime Minister said, if the radio actually reported that. The Prime Minister must have been misquoted if it was reported that the Prime Minister said that somebody was roasted alive in the East.

Whatever happens, however, the radio reporters certainly have their own sources of information and if the information is wrong, it is up to those who are more informed to make a correction. But, certainly if the statement was credited to the Prime Minister that would be wrong.

Mr Speaker: Order, order! If I can remember very well, I think the Prime Minister reported allegations which were made and represented to him. He did not specify the place alluded to. I think, however, that this is a matter which must be set aside for the time being.

Alhaji Salami Olukotun (Kabba): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech so excellently delivered by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This excellent speech was very fitting for this occasion when the country is undergoing its economic, political and social development.

I greatly admire the wisdom and the untiring efforts of our leaders and I must particularly thank the President and the Prime Minister

House of Representatives Debates

147

[*Debate on the Address*]

27 MARCH 1965

[*Debate on the Address*]

148

[ALHAJI OLUKOTUN]

for their wisdom and commonsense which they used in resolving the differences they had during the last Federal Elections. The Federation owes a big debt of gratitude to them. I pray to Allah daily to give our leaders guidance in all their endeavours to lead the country successfully and justly as they have been doing.

I have several times asked the Minister of Communications to extend telephone services to the following towns, namely, Isandu, Egbe, Iyara, which is the headquarters of Ijumu District, and also Aiyetoro, all in Kabba Division, but no heed has been paid. I would, therefore, like the Minister of Communications to look into this as quickly as possible.

I made the same request to the Minister of Works in this House, that the Federal roads from Ajaise-Omuaran-Isandu-Kabba should be tarred, but to my greatest surprise no attempt has been made to tar them. I should like to tell this House that these are the worst roads in the Federation. What has the Minister of Works got to say for his failure to see to the tarring of the roads by his Ministry? I request very strongly that these roads should be tarred as soon as possible during the current financial year.

Kabba, Aiyetoro, Isandu, Iyara and Egbe are the most important towns in Kabba Division and they deserve to be given electricity. I am, therefore, requesting the Minister of Mines and Power to see that the above-named towns are supplied with electricity as early as possible.

There is one thing which still bubbles in my mind, and that is the formation of the National Government for this country. I must assure this House that this cannot work successfully in a country like Nigeria. How can we be assured that this will not weaken the strength of the party that commands the majority of Members in this House? I think the only best solution to this perplexing problem is to get a clear mandate from the people as soon as possible because we do not want the U.P.G.A. to join the Federal Government.

I beg to support the Motion of Thanks for the President's Speech.

Chief J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : I rise to join the other Members who have spoken before me in paying tribute to the President of the Republic of Nigeria for his gracious speech, outlining the legislative programme for the next one year. Of particular interest to me—

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : On a point of order, the Member for Afenmai (*Mr Udochi*) was an Ambassador in Washington ; could he tell us why he was sacked ?

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is not Question time.

Chief Udochi : As I was saying, of particular interest to me is the attention focussed in the speech on the strengthening of our defence forces. Also, the news that the Nigerian Air Force will come into operation this year and that a flying school will be built at Oshogbo is very welcome. I have always held the view that no country in this space age can seriously talk of defence if she does not avail herself of the facilities provided by the air. Our youngmen in this country should learn to fly, even if it only means their doing so for the purpose of asserting their manhood.

Nobody wants war. The whole of our diplomatic efforts should be devoted to preventing war coming to Africa, but that should not be the reason why we should not be prepared. To be well prepared for all eventualities is the best way to be worth our salt. I am very happy that our Government fully realises this.

Another point that is of great interest to me is the fact that the Government is now prepared to build low-cost houses in Surulere for the people of this country. The President's Speech even said that about 10,000 people will be provided with houses. I think this is a very good provision. It is also said that money will be made available, through the Nigerian Building Society for people to build their own houses. I am sure that every Member here knows that respectability in men really begins when they own and live in their own houses, and I know that our people would like to take very good advantage of this provision to provide themselves with their own houses instead of hiring houses.

The most interesting news to me, as somebody who comes from a rural area, is the news of the Government's preparedness to encourage development of water resources in both rural

and urban areas. I am sure that many Members will be happy to hear this, as I know that a majority of them come from rural areas. Our complaints in this respect in the past has been that the Federal Government is fond of telling us that it is the responsibility of the Regional Governments to provide this amenity. It is a very good thing that the Federal Government has now agreed to share in that responsibility.

I think there should be a clearer interpretation of the Government's statement to the effect that more attention will be given to the drier parts of the Federation. I hope that the term "drier parts of the Federation" will be given sufficiently wide and generous interpretation. Water is one of the prime necessities of life and should be made available to all people, no matter what part of the Federation they come from.

Now, to come nearer home, I wish to seize this opportunity to register my thanks to the Federal Government on behalf of the newest region of this Federation. Also, on behalf of the Mid-Western Nigeria, I wish to register my thanks to all the Members of this House for the role they played to see that the new Region was created.

Mid-Western Nigeria celebrated her first year of independence last month. We are all happy that we have all co-operated to make the creation of the Region possible. We hope that the brotherly love and spirit which animated all the people of this country and also the political parties during that memorable occasion will continue to be manifested in all our deliberations. (*Hear, hear!*)

Mid-Western Nigeria is grateful to all those who made the creation of the Region possible. We are particularly grateful to the Federal Government which is the foster parent of the new Region. Our appeal is that the foster parent should make it possible for the foster child to enjoy life more abundantly.

I wish to say that a foster parent owes a duty to a foster child. It is my belief; and I submit that when a new state is created in a Federation, the Federal Authority has a duty to provide the new state with means to make a viable existence. The Mid-Western Region of Nigeria deserves some financial assistance. This is a young Region with practically nothing to start with.

I submit that it is the duty of the Federal Government to give the new Region a free grant for her to start her life.

It is a fact that the Mid-Western Region is a potentially rich Region, but what lies in its potentiality cannot be made use of at present. When a new Region is—

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): On a point of order, I think that one of the reasons why the Mid-Western Region was created was that the Region was said to be economically viable.

Chief Udochi: It will be incorrect for anybody to argue that the constitution has made no provision for free grants to be given to new Regions. It is very well known that the organic law of the country is a duality, which people always refer to as conventions and laws of the constitution. If one arm of the organic law does not make provision for a free grant in this circumstance, it should be understood that the other arm implies such a grant.

Common sense suggests that when a new state is created it must be viable. Assistance must be given to the new Region for initial foundation. I submit that the viability of the Mid-Western Region is not in doubt, but we want something to start with.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Abubakar Isandu): On a point of order, I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Afenmai (*Mr Udochi*) will do better for his Region if he advises them to reduce the number of Members of their House of Assembly and the number of their Ministers.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Chief Udochi: The Mid-Western Region was created out of the old Western Region. Tribute should be paid to the Western Region Government for their co-operation in the struggle for the creation of the Mid-Western Region. If anything was left undone after or during the creation, the fault should not be that of the Western Region. I argue in this vein because I thought it was the duty of the Federal Government to have devoted some attention to the question of the distribution of the assets and liabilities of the old Western Region between both the new Western Region and the Mid-Western Region. The failure of the Government to address itself to this task has left the new Region with practically little or nothing with which to start.

[CHIEF UDOCHI]

Only a few days ago the Chief Justice of the new Region was complaining of lack of law books in the Region's court library. But that is not to say that it is only in the Ministry of Justice that we lack essential necessities. Lack of materials is everywhere. If the distribution of assets and liabilities of the old Western Region had been made, this lack of essential materials in our Ministries would have been avoided I submit that the Government still ought to put that question in mind.

I feel that the question of a free grant to the new Region is a necessity and I appeal very much to all sides of the House and more especially to the Prime Minister who has some responsibility in this matter to consider the fate of the new Region and make a grant of at least one million pounds to it. I say that at least a grant of £1 million should be granted to the Mid-West.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): The hon. Gentleman, our former Ambassador to the United States of America, must remember that the Minister of Finance of the Federation for the past seven years, comes from the Mid-West. So, there is no need for him to come and beg for money here.

Chief Udochi: I say, Sir, that a grant of £1 million without strings attached will place the Mid-Western Region on a firm footing and will earn for the Federal Government the grateful thanks of a loyal and devoted people.

I beg to support.

Dr L. O. Ibukun (Owo North): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic for his Speech from the Throne. One often wonders what type of image Nigeria presents to the outside world. The events of the last general labour strike, the census rumpus, the Federal Election deadlock are events which are still fresh in our memory, and the adverse publicity necessarily created by these events will remain with us for some time.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishment and Labour (Mr. Akubakar Isandu): The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is intelligent enough to know all that happened last year but he excluded what happened in 1962 and the treason trials that followed. He should put all these things together and tell us what he knows.

Dr Ibukun: I feel that all of us in this country, all the Governments and all the people, should always realise and remember that we are judged in the outside world more by what we actually practise in this country than by what we say and preach outside it.

With the large size of this nation, we have a real opportunity to provide an enviable example of a democratic nation where all shall live in peace and friendly accord.

The President said that the Federal Government will continue to work for understanding and friendship among all nations. I will appeal that it is also very essential, indeed extremely essential, that the Government of the Republic must work hard, and very hard too, for understanding, friendliness and fair-play among the various ethnic groups, and also for tolerance, and friendly rivalry between the various political parties in this country.

There is far too much political bitterness. There is far too much talk and practice of tribal sentiments. There is too much victimisation of those who hold different views from our own.

Our stature in the outside world will be determined largely by the extent to which we combat these home problems. The world has so far been ruled and led by the white races. The Africans are just beginning to make their show and their impression on the world scene.

Even the white races will agree that the future belongs to us as Africans. It is therefore gratifying to note that the Government has promised to give unalloyed support to the Organisation of African Unity; its Charter and its ideals.

It is certainly no empty formality and I am sure that all sides of the House will agree when I offer congratulations to his Excellency, the President and the Government of the Federation for this determination to support the O.A.U.

I will also appeal to the Government to offer the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the O.A.U. every facility and assistance in carrying out its new functions in its base in Lagos.

A powerful source of our economic development lies in the vigorous but judicious exploitation of our country's natural resources, specially its mineral resources.

Some time ago, the Federal Government promised to carry out geological surveys to ascertain how much iron ore deposit can be found in that part of Owo Division which lies in my constituency in Owo North. It was also mentioned that in that constituency lies a probable site for the establishment of an iron and steel industry for this country.

I wish on behalf of my people to appeal to the Government and the Ministers concerned to expedite action in setting up such an industry in Owo Division so that we too can have a little share in the employment and development opportunities arising from such an industry.

It is gratifying to note from the Speech from the Throne that for the first time the Government intends to use television as a medium for education, providing instructions to schools in a number of subjects including science, French, mathematics and music.

Television is no doubt an effective medium for instruction and considering that many adults in this country are still illiterates, I will strongly advise that instructional programmes for adults are also included.

In my view, some orientation in the trend of education is necessary in this country where, perhaps, as a remnant of the colonial days, our school boys still learn more about the outside world than about this country.

I feel that instructions on television should not be principally in French, science and mathematics only but also in the history of Nigeria, in the history of the Hausas, the Yorubas and the Ibos.

The Speech specified that voluntary agencies will be allowed to run adult education classes for men and women. I think the word "allowed" does not go far enough. One of our big problems in this country is illiteracy and the Action Group of Nigeria made a very bold plan to solve this problem when a number of years ago, the Action Group Government in Western Nigeria—

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : Having allowed my Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) the latitude of reading his maiden speech, he has not grown out of the use as he continues to read as if we are in a lecture room.

Dr Ibukun : The Action Group Government of Western Nigeria introduced for the first time a Free Primary Education Scheme into this country and for the first time on the continent of Africa. That party tried very hard to solve this problem of illiteracy. The scheme has been copied all over the Federation.

The Member for Ilorin East (Mr T. O. A. Dada) was led into the Chamber by two N.P.C. Members. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Dr Ibukun : The Free Primary Education Scheme introduced into this continent by the Action Group Government has been copied all over the country. But even so, there are still very many people—(*Interruptions*).

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : It is very unfortunate that the traffic on carpet crossing has started in this new Parliament again. The N.P.C. should be very careful about how they polute politics in this country.

Dr Ibukun : Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government must not merely allow voluntary agencies to run adult education classes. The Government must encourage these agencies and must go far enough to assist them in finance and in equipment and facilities so as to make the course as effective and as productive as possible.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : An Action Group Member is joining another party in this House and this shows that—(*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Dr Ibukun : The Speech from the Throne has promised special recruitment campaign for prospective candidates for the medical profession and the Speech has also stated that the Nigerian Law School will be given a new permanent site at the Victoria Island.

The Government should be praised for paying attention to both the medical and the legal professions. It appears, however, that as is usual with all the Governments of the Federation, little attention is being paid to engineering profession.

Perhaps the discrimination against the engineers arises from the fact that there are hardly ever any professional engineers in Parliament and that they are hardly ever represented in our Governments.

[DR IBUKUN]

It should, however, be realised that our advancement does not only depend on getting numerous lawyers. Like any other advanced or developing nations, Nigeria will not get off the ground in the modern world until the profession of engineering is upgraded and until people are prepared to pay the same attention to engineers as they pay to lawyers.

I hope that all the Governments of the Federation should make a real, genuine and sincere effort to pay attention to the engineering profession in the same way as they pay to the legal profession.

The unsatisfactory state of the engineering profession in this country perhaps arises from some other reasons. The first and perhaps the most important is the very poor status of the professional engineer in the Nigerian society.

It is a disadvantage to be a candidate for an election in this country if you are an engineer. In this country, engineers do not normally receive national honour and they are not given credit in any way.

People sometimes receive honours because they are business men, because they are lawyers, and because they are either politicians or administrators, but never because they are engineers. Engineers are never selected to head or to be Members of National Commissions. These are matters of status and status is very important for any profession.

I believe that the Government can attempt to put this right and the earlier this is done the better for this country.

Another reason is the relatively poor reward by way of income enjoyed by engineers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs (Mr E. T. Orodi): Surely, I would not like to direct that Mr Speaker should come in and save us from this monotonous way in which the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is trying to belabour a point which is out of the scope of what we are discussing.

I hope that Mr Speaker will kindly direct the hon. Member to make this appeal during the Budget Speech.

Mr Speaker: It depends on how important the Parliamentary Secretary takes the hon. Member's ideas. But I am of the

opinion that Government's encouragement of engineering is vital to this country. Therefore, I think that the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) should be allowed to stress his point as long as it does not take up his time.

Alhaji Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (Gwarzo): We cannot all be Members of this House. Some must be carpenters. We need bridges. Engineers are busy building bridges for us. We do not invite even lawyers to come to this House. No doctors, lawyers or engineers who stood for an election and won was denied the opportunity of coming to this House. We like engineers to remain in the field to build bridges for us.

Dr Ibukun: I hope that the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Dandago*) who has just spoken will remember also to tell the lawyers to stay in the courts so that they can deal with our cases.

Mr Speaker: Order! I will insist that any Member raising a point of order will indicate the number of the order first before I accept his point of order.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): I am speaking on a point of order which relates to Order 26 (11) which reads thus—

Except when the House be in committee no Member shall speak more than once on any proposition before the House except in explanation if the Member then addressing the House chooses to give way or to a point of order or, in the case of the mover of a substantive motion or of an order of the day, in reply, but any Member may second a motion or amendment without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate if he do so formally by saying "I beg to second".

It appears that the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*), having spoken once on this Motion for an Address, has come to speak for a second time only to make propositions against all other professions in favour of the engineering profession. I humbly ask that he should be disallowed from continuing to speak.

Mr Speaker: I had ruled earlier that the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) was entitled to speak, but I will give the House further information to satisfy Members. He spoke yesterday on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill from 9.08 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.; he did not speak on the Motion for an Address.

Dr Ibukun : It appears many Members are jittering because of this talk about engineers. For the information of hon. Members, I am a professional engineer apart from being a politician, and if I am the first and only engineer in Parliament I think it is only right that I should propagate the ideals of the engineering profession.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman who is a doctor of engineering is attempting to mislead the House, because the former Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr G. O. D. Eneh*) who is no longer here is also an engineer. So the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is wrong in saying that he is the first engineer in the Nigerian Parliament.

Dr Ibukun : Then, I am the second. As I was saying, the period of training of professional engineers is a very tedious and concentrated one and, naturally, the engineers once they are trained expect substantial reward for the hard work which they did during their period of training.

- It is our hope that the Elwood Regrading Team for salaries and wages, and also the government, will pay attention to this matter when it arises.

It is expedient that like lawyers and doctors, engineers are registered; so that employers and the public will know who are professional engineers and who are not. It is very proper that the government should give immediate recognition to the newly-established Nigerian Society of Engineers, and also to support the setting up of a machinery for the registration of engineers throughout the country.

We have been told to expect an amendment to the Trade Union Act—

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I do not want to enter any special plea on behalf of the members of my profession, but I would appeal to the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) to realise that all other professions that have been properly regulated and recognised by government, have taken the initiative to organise themselves and put up proposals for government to draft the necessary bill.

Dr Ibukun : I thank the Attorney-General for his guidance, and I hope that in due course when a proposal is made to him he will give

it due attention. I hope that the government will give recognition to the Nigerian Society of Engineers and, also, agree to a machinery to register engineers throughout the country.

We have been told to expect an amendment to the Trade Union Act in the course of this meeting. From this, one is led to think that the proposed amendment has resulted from the last general strike which came up successfully, principally because of the united voice of all the trade unions.

It is hoped that when the bill is being brought before the House the government will bear in mind that a group of people fighting for their basic rights cannot be repressed by the passage of restrictive laws; they cannot be forced to give up their basic rights, but they can be convinced only by gentle persuasion and by reasonable compromise.

Although, I will not advocate strikes as means of reprisal, neither can I support irresponsibility on the part of the trade unions, but I feel that the present legal provisions restricting the activities of the trade unions are quite adequate. I feel that what is needed is more consideration and further guidance by the Ministry of Labour.

Mr Speaker : This is speaking in anticipation of a coming legislation, which is out of order.

Dr Ibukun : Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I will congratulate the government for announcing the setting up of a Nigerian National News Agency which is to provide a Nigerian News Service on a world-wide basis. I had the opportunity of serving on a committee which started the preliminary discussions on the setting up of such an agency, and I feel satisfied to hear that our deliberations have not been in vain.

Many people in this country sometimes wonder why on many of our radio networks and newspapers we hear more news of foreign countries than our own. I had the opportunity of serving as professional and administrative head of a broadcasting organisation in this country and I know the difficulty in collecting news locally in Nigeria. Out here it is an expensive exercise to gather news; therefore the establishment of a news agency will go a long way to filling a need-felt gap by providing local items of news, apart from projecting a better image of the Republic abroad.

[DR IBUKUN]

I also look forward to the formation of a National Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, for science and technology is to-day the key to development. I would, however, advise that once the council is established it is kept as independent as possible, not subject to regular and insistent governmental control.

We hope that the council will function independently of government inasmuch the same way as our universities. This would enable such a council to give advice based on sound scientific and technical judgment.

There is, however, a tendency for research in this country to be based on competition with foreign countries. We hope that the council, when it is set up, will bear in mind that its attention must be concentrated on local problems.

Finally, I would like to pay some attention to my constituency—Owo North. Only about one or two areas in that constituency have even rural water supply; no single town there has electricity.

For the past two years houses at Ikare have been wired because it was thought that electricity would be supplied, but we are being told now that unless the people in that town declare for the N.N.D.P., electricity will not be switched on for us.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. A. Lana): On a point of order, I think the hon. Gentleman is trying to misinform the House. Electricity supply is the responsibility of the Federal Government and not that of a regional government; and I think that as soon as all necessary arrangements have been completed, Ikare will be electrically commissioned.

Dr Ibukun: But we are being told that unless the people in that town declare for the N.N.D.P., electricity will not be switched on. It is not the intention of my people to declare for the N.N.D.P.—electricity or no electricity. It is gratifying to note from the Speech of the President, however—

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha North): On a point of order, for the enlightenment of the hon. Gentleman speaking, electricity supply is the function of the Federal Government but the regional governments have to give financial assistance to some places in connection with the supply of electricity. With regards to the

particular town mentioned by him, the supply of electricity to this town was started by the regional government then in power that was the Action Group Government—but the government that took over from the Action Group Government made away with the money.

Mr Speaker: This is a point of explanation.

Dr Ibukun: We have some ray of hope from the Speech which was given by the President that the Federal Government would make every effort within the next year to provide electricity and rural water supply to as many places as possible. We hope that it would be borne in mind that we in Owo Division have suffered long enough and we look forward to some assistance from the Government.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): It is a pity that though so many hon. Members have spoken, to the shame of most of us on the Floor of this House, nothing has been said about the plight of teachers. We have been speaking since the past three days and I think that most of us here are teachers. It is a shame, therefore, that most of us have left out talking about the plight of teachers.

Looking through the pamphlet containing the Presidents' Speech, one can see that so many things have been said about the improvement of our educational system, but if our education should improve we must get teachers to run the education. Yet nothing was said in the President's Speech about the plight of teachers.

For example, page 3 of the President's Speech reads, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:

In order to raise not only the general standard of education but also its relevance to the economic cultural and social requirements of our country, my Government will undertake a thorough revision of the content of education in our schools at all levels.

Who will help in doing this but the teachers? I still quote another paragraph from the President's Speech.

Television broadcasts to schools on such subjects as Science, French, Mathematics and Music will be introduced.

Again, who will help in carrying out this project but the teachers? I quote further, Mr Speaker.

A National Educational Resource Centre will be run on behalf of all Ministries of Education in the Republic who have all consented to it.

Again, it is only the teachers who will do this. Now, I go to my final quotation.

Voluntary Agencies will be allowed to run adult education classes for young men and women in employment who want to improve themselves or remedy deficiencies in their normal education.

Do we expect these voluntary agencies to do the teaching? Certainly not. They will only employ teachers who will, in turn, help these agencies to carry out their work.

Personally, I have dedicated myself, during the past five years, to advocating an improvement in the plight of teachers, and this I shall constantly do as long as I am here because without teachers there can be no Abubakars; without teachers there can be no Azikiwes; without teachers there can be no Olu Ibukuns; there can be no Eliases; there can be no Akinloyes and there can be no Jalo Waziris and a host of all others. Yet it seems that when most of us come here we forget the source through which all of us rose. I think that we should do our best to help the teachers.

When the Morgan Commission awards were given to workers in the Ministries they were very happy. The Nigerian Union of Teachers then selected some people to see the then Minister of Education, but up till now nothing has been done. This is a shame. If we want to improve educationally, physically, morally and even socially, we need to help the teachers because they are the builders of our nation.

*“Desirest thou the teachers’ work,
Ask wisdom from above;
It is a work of toil and care,
Of wisdom and of love”.*

When most of us go back to our constituencies we should pray for these teachers so that they may continue to do their best to help us because they are the people now nursing the young generation which will take over from us when we are dead. Such workers must be encouraged. Yet, nothing was said in the Speech from the Throne about these teachers. I think that this is a great omission.

I now go to the second omission in the President’s Speech and that is in respect of code of conduct of our Ministers. This important point has been left out in the President’s Speech. I think that something should have been said about it.

A few weeks ago, we were reading in our national newspapers odd and ugly things affecting some of our Ministers, and it has been said that something is going to be done. We should actually have been told what these things are that the Government is trying to do about this matter.

The Minister of Aviation, Dr Mbadiwe, will come here and cry and cry again, and he is very corrupt. We all know this.—

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central): On a point of order, I think that it is not only unparliamentary but it is also utterly irresponsible for a Member of this Parliament to get up here and say that a Minister of State is very corrupt. If a Member has an impeachment on any Minister, I think the Member should bring this up by a substantive Motion but not to make a generalised statement to the effect that a Minister of State is corrupt.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members should be careful of the words they use in expressing themselves. Referring to a Member of Parliament as corrupt or irresponsible is certainly very unparliamentary.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): No matter what our political differences may be, they may be permanent or temporary, as the case may be, Ministers of State are in high positions of trust and as such their dignity should be respected on the Floor of this House, irrespective of the parties they come from.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): I think that for correction of impressions, it should be ruled that not only for Ministers of State but also for ordinary Members of this Parliament, their names should not be impugned by a generalised statement. We do not mind if the hon. Member who was speaking can substantiate with facts his accusation that the Minister is corrupt. If so, then he is entitled to say it, but if he cannot substantiate his accusation with facts, I submit that he must

[MR UKEGBU]

withdraw his comments and tender an unqualified apology to the Minister in the name of this House.

Mr Kolade : I was just on my second point of omissions from the President's Speech. This is in respect of the code of conduct of our Ministers.

Although the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) is asking me to mention particulars, I do not think that I need to do this because even the Minister himself agreed and most of these things were written in the newspapers.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) please depart from his attack on the Minister.

Mr Kolade : The reason why I feel that such a thing should have been incorporated in the Speech is that the need for a code of conduct for the Ministers has been abundantly expressed on the Floor of this House—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, I said I should be the principal judge of breaches of order.

Mr Kolade : If something had been done or said about this matter in the Speech, it should have given us some confidence that there would be some improvement in the near future. In some of the other countries in the world, take England for instance—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, Standing Order 13 (10) states—

A Member must make himself responsible for any facts stated in his question. It is out of order to base a question on a newspaper report.

So far, most of what the hon. Gentleman has been saying is based purely on newspaper speculations. I hold no brief for any Minister whose integrity is being violated, but for a Member of this House to come to the Floor of this House and begin to base his statement, which is open to be read all over the world, on the speculations of newspapers, is really bad. I would urge that the hon. Member withdraws the particular mention made of the Minister and apologise to this House right away.

Mr Speaker : I have already ruled that the hon. Gentleman should depart from this path.

Mr Kolade : I am saying this because even the Prime Minister made a statement about that. So this is not a secret.

The final point I want to make on that second omission is that we expect the Minister who did such a thing to resign especially when there are—

Mr Speaker : Order. If the hon. Gentleman will insist on repeated references to such a very controversial matter, I will ask him to resume his seat.

M. Attahiru Abubakar (Lafiagi-Pategi) : In contributing to the debate on the Motion for an Address to the President for his Speech to both Houses of Parliament, I take this opportunity to thank the President and the Prime Minister and all the Ministers for joining together and co-operating with one another for the smooth running of this Federation.

I note with pleasure that the Government has promised to do its best to improve agriculture which, as a matter of fact, is the most important aspect of our economic growth. In his speech the President outlined some agricultural industries which will be established, such as Bacita Sugar Industry. As Members are no doubt aware, sugar is now being produced in Bacita in my constituency, and this production started in February 1965.

If I am not wrong, about 1,500 acres of cane have been planted and about 1,486 acres are still required. We would be most grateful if the Federal Government will continue to give more aids in order to enable the company to flourish.

I am also gratified to note that the Government will encourage the development of water resources so as to provide adequate water supplies for the urban and rural areas. In some places in the North, such as my area, water is very scarce. Women have to go as far as two to three miles in order to fetch some drinking water. This is extremely poor when compared with other parts of this country, places like Lagos, Western Region and the rest of the regions.

In several places we have what we call bore holes. This is a scheme devised by the Regional Government for the improvement of water supply in the rural areas. Through this scheme money is given to rural areas and they sink very deep wells from which they get water. But unfortunately the number of

such wells is very few and very inadequate for the teaming population.

I am therefore appealing to the Government to do its best to provide those areas still suffering through lack of water, with some drinking water which is a bare necessity of life.

I beg to support.

Prince A. Olaniran (Oshun South-East) : In contributing to the debate on the Motion for an Address to His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his Speech, I would like to add these few words of advice as a means of achieving the real unity envisaged by the former speakers on the Floor of this House.

Western Nigeria is the cause of the present unrest in all parts of this country. This unrest was nurtured by the Nigerian National "Destructive" Party (N.N.D.P.) which was recently formed—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, if there is any lawlessness in this country it is brought about by the U.P.G.A. and their Uppaism.

Prince Olaniran : As a result of the intra-party *coup d'etat* which has been staged by some unscrupulous politicians in that part of the country, and not until this party is forced to go back to the electorate in Western Nigeria and seek fresh mandate for their actions, the situation will still remain the same.

I will make mention of the regrettable atrocities of this party during the last Federal elections, with particular reference to my constituency, Oshun South East, whereby my uncle Salawu Adebisi was murdered in cold blood by the N.N.D.P. As a result of this case of murder twenty-nine members of the N.N.D.P. were arrested and charged for murder and the case is still pending in court.

Furthermore, most of our political leaders who are expected to be democratic are only democratic by word of mouth. For example, in Western Nigeria, sanitary inspectors, tax clerks and local government police are the main weapons of oppression, victimisation, intimidation and the Customary Courts are made the deadly places of punishment of innocent U.P.G.A. supporters mainly because of their unalloyed support for the world renowned United Progressive Grand Alliance.

Going into the record books of the Customary Courts in Western Nigeria—

M. Abubakar Ibrahim (Muri South-West) : On a point of order, under Standing Order 26 (1), no member shall read his speech but can only make short references to his notes.

The Member for Oshun South-East (*Mr Olaniran*) is reading his speech and he should be ruled out of order.

Mr Speaker : Members must try as much as possible to make less references to their notes.

Prince Olaniran : Going into the record books of the Customary Courts in Western Nigeria, and in particular in my constituency, Oshun South-East, a check on the imprisoned members of the public would reveal that more than eighty-nine *per cent* of the prisoners are members of the United Progressive Grand Alliance as a result of their refusal to join the Nigeria National Democratic Party. I would rightly say that the former Speaker of the Western House of Assembly, Prince Adeleke Adedoyin, now a back bencher of the N.N.D.P. will bear me out, and until the present situation is rectified, because the Region is an essential part of the whole country, peace will be far to come by.

On the distribution of amenities, I will refer the Federal Government to the proposal made that every part of the country receives equal share of the advantages as provided for by the Federal Government. During the last sitting of the Federal House, that was during the latter part of 1964, the Federal Minister of Mines and Power promised to supply Ikire, Apomu, Ikoyi and Orile-Owu with electricity in the near future and possibly during the 1965-66 fiscal year. As the supply of electricity is a stepping stone to industrialising certain big towns in the Federation, particularly in the field of cottage industries, I would implore the Federal Government to conduct an emergency survey of these areas as this valuable amenity is highly essential to the rate of progressive development in the field of agriculture.

I am sure that if the Federal Government follows the proposals in the Speech from the Throne squarely and with unbiased mind, not only the people in my constituency would

[PRINCE OLANIRAN]

benefit from the supply of electricity in particular but also the people of the Region as a whole. However, I am happy that Government is not silent on this.

On the provisional expansion of programmes of the Government to provide adequate communication facilities to all big towns in Nigeria, I will call on the Federal Government to put to heart the supply of adequate postal facilities and telephone links between my constituency and the other parts of the Region. To be candid, my constituency with a population of over twenty-seven thousand is without a standard post office. The telephone link in the headquarters of my constituency is a farce, and as such does not serve any useful purpose. It is high time the supply of telephones was extended. Should this be done earlier I am sure that it would be more of an asset to the Government than a liability. I therefore call on the Minister of Communications to step in and order an effective survey of the proposed site of a standard post office in Ikire.

Coming to education, I would like to remind Government that at this stage of progress in the country, rural areas should always be given top priority in the award of post secondary and technical education scholarships. In the past years Oshun South-East had been neglected if you take into consideration her turn-out of qualified school leavers annually. With the assistance of the Minister of Education neglected brains from rural areas would receive their due shares of educational facilities. Many of the useful brains who do not have the opportunity of furthering their education have constituted a blemish on this country by coming together and forming an association known as the "Association of Unemployed". At least fifty *per cent* of the set-up of these people could have utilised their brains to the advantage of the entire country if they had been given the opportunity to do so, but because of the unfortunate system of assistance to rural areas adopted by the Federal Government, this is not possible. As a result, many of these boys and men have constituted themselves into bodyguards to our top politicians particularly in Western Nigeria, and they are used to victimise political opponents.

I was going out one day in my constituency and some of the N.N.D.P. thugs led by the

late Hon. Julius Ogunmuyiwa set on me and beat me up. The Local Government police—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On point of order, under your guidance in this House, I do not think it will be good to speak evil of the dead. The same thing—

Mr Speaker : Order.

Prince Olaniran : I think the Federal Government must now do something so as to get rid of the thugs who are being trained by the N.N.D.P. at camps very near Ogbomosho, between Ejigbo and Ogbomosho, the hometown of Chief S. L. Akintola. If the Ministers of Labour of the whole country could sit together and plan for the future of these boys turned out of our secondary schools and modern schools, particularly in Western Nigeria, they could be made good use of. The Government should by now plan to reason together as this is a stain on the white linen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : I rise to support the Motion for an Address of Thanks to His Excellency the President for the Speech he delivered to both Houses of Parliament.

No doubt, there may be one or two lapses in the Speech, or one or two things expected to be said which were not said, but I am not going to deal with those now for two reasons. Firstly, one cannot reasonably expect a government which was mounted after an election of new Parliament and which, according to the Prime Minister's announcement, is not yet complete, to be able at this first meeting to present a comprehensive programme. Secondly, no matter how good a programme may be, if the unity of the country is threatened, if there is mutual suspicion among the people and among the leaders of the country, the implementation of any programme would meet with very great difficulty.

Therefore, my main task is to join those who have appealed that we should find a way of restoring confidence among the various peoples of Nigeria and also among our various political parties to see whether it could be possible to bring this country back to a united fold where-by we can plan together and move together as people of one country.

As I have said, no matter how good a programme a government may have, if there is no unity in the country that programme cannot be implemented.

When I appeal for unity I am not appealing for unity either because my party or my own section of the country is so weak that it cannot take care of itself. But I do think that there is a greater benefit to derive by staying together and operating together as citizens of a country.

I would venture some suggestions as to what things should be done to bring about the unity of the country. No doubt, two things in recent months have greatly shaken the unity of this country—firstly the Census issue and secondly the last Federal Election. But we should thank God that these issues have come and gone now. If only we can learn some lessons from the results of these two issues, if only we can learn to rebuild on the debris of the confusion caused by these two issues, I think it will be in the greater interest of all of us.

I want to suggest about five or six things which, in my humble opinion, will help to restore the confidence which has been lost and bring about unity. The first suggestion is that, as the President and the Prime Minister have agreed, the Constitution of Nigeria should be reviewed and re-written and a new Constitution given to the country.

The second suggestion is that there should be an overhaul of the electoral machinery of this country so that politicians and the masses at large will be able to build complete and implicit confidence in the result of any election.

The third suggestion is that if we really want to run a country and if we really want to move forward as a united bloc, then it will be most advisable that the leaders of the various political parties in this country should try to find a way to come to the Centre. If this country is going to be a united country, politics should be in the Federal Parliament. So long as the leaders of the various political parties remain in the Regions and operate from the Regions and hold a lot of power in the Regions, it will be very, very difficult for their lieutenants and subordinates who are at the Centre to be able to weld the country together.

Alhaji Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (Gwarzo): On a point of order, it is not where the leaders of the political parties live or

operate that matters, but it is a change of heart which this country requires.

Mr Amechi: I am not saying the leaders should necessarily and physically move or come down to live in Lagos. If Dr Okpara wants to live at Umuahia, if the Sardauna wants to live at Sokoto or if any other leader wants to live in his own Region and take part in the politics of the Federation here in this Parliament, it will be in our greater interest.

Mr Speaker, for purposes of record, I do not mean any harm at all. Let me say that one of those who advocated the cause of a region originally, for instance the North, was the Prime Minister, but since the Prime Minister came down to Lagos and started running the country, there is a marked difference in the way he thinks and acts from the way other regional leaders think or act.

Definitely when you remain in a region, the natural tendency is for you to observe the affairs immediately surrounding you there; it is natural that your surrounding and political outlook will be over-shadowed by the area immediately surrounding you. If the leaders come to the Centre here, they will be able to appreciate the point of view of the other side.

For instance, if somebody who stays in the Mid-West and has not been to the East or the North does not appreciate the differences in the ways of life of the people of the East or the North, you cannot blame him with justification because he has not had the opportunity of appreciating those people's ways or life. But if the leaders would meet here at the Centre and notice the differences in their various ways of life, they would be able to handle the affairs of the country with greater understanding.

My fourth suggestion is that if not by legislation, let it be by persuasion, that political parties in this country should be formed on national and ideological basis rather than on tribal or regional basis. So long as political parties are formed on clannish, tribal or regional basis, so long will there continue to be inter-tribal mistrust and misunderstanding in this country. Therefore, either by legislation or by persuasion, we should try to form political parties based on national interest and on ideological basis rather than on clannish or tribal differences.

[MR AMECHI]

The fifth suggestion is that in the distribution of amenities which belong to the Federal Government, I think we should be fair. If we have been fair in the past, let us see whether there are any loopholes and whether we can be fairer in the distribution of these amenities so that every section of this country will have a feeling of belonging to one unit. If in the distribution of amenities one section or the other is discriminated against, that section will not be satisfied, and as long as one section of this country is not satisfied in the way amenities are distributed, we cannot reasonably hope to have the mutual support of all of them and also unity.

My sixth and final prescription in this direction is that both in the armed forces, that is, the Police, the Army and the Navy and in Public Services of the Federation, promotions and employments should be on merit and nothing more. There might of course, in the spirit of coming together, be concessions here and there. If there is a particular section of the country which for one reason or the other has lagged behind, and if a mutual arrangement could be made for them to come forward to meet the others, nobody would fight against these things. But if in the Civil Service to-day people seeking promotions are no longer judged by their qualifications or the merit of their services, but the first consideration is based on their tribe or clan of origin, we cannot have a contented Public Service in this country. So long as we do not have contented armed forces in this country, we cannot, even as politicians, think that we are safe.

The fever and the heat generated—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): Standing Order 26 (2). The Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Amechi*) is very irrelevant. If he wants promotion to be by merit it should start with the Airways where Chief Ladigbolu Coker who has served nineteen and a half years overseas is—

Mr Speaker : Order.

Mr Amechi : I consider what I am saying serious. I have not gone into the merits or demerits of any particular case and I do not intend to do that now. On all sides, there might have been these mistakes; nobody, I think, can come here and plead innocence of these things. These things have existed in

the past on all sides. I can excuse the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) because I can appreciate his limited education. He did not understand what I was saying.

As I was saying, the heat generated by the last election having subsided, I think our leaders, particularly leaders in high places should learn to talk with dignity and decorum. There are no more federal elections now, and therefore, there is no need for any form of heat again. Any heat now would be unnecessary and uncalled-for.

If a leader talks in a way which is devoid of dignity and decorum, he is inevitably inviting disrespectful remarks from small fries who, in normal circumstances, should not point fingers at him.

I think that our leaders, if they really want to build a united country, should try and guard their words and speak more cautiously, particularly now that it is not necessary to come out and speak in bombastic, boastful ways.

There have been talks about the breaking up of the Federation. I personally have worked right from my days at school for the freedom of Nigeria as a united country. When I came into politics, I was not working for one section of Nigeria. There is everything to gain by this country remaining a big united country. There is everything to gain by the stronger parts of this country carrying the weaker ones along with them. But I do not see what we gain by disintegration.

To-day we are proud to stand up in the comity of nations to say that in Africa Nigeria is the largest country. We are proud to stand up in the comity of nations to say that in Nigeria we have potential wealth. To-day we are happy that we are assisting our brothers in other countries in Africa with learned men in spheres of work. In African countries, we have magistrates, judges, public servants of eminence. These are Nigerians. It is our honour that these people come from us. It is our pride that we have been able to be of assistance to our African brothers by giving them these men who, unfortunately, they do not have at the moment. We have been able to do this because we are together as a nations, and because we are great.

Therefore, let us make a better use of our greatness to become greater instead of disintegrating. As I said earlier, when I make

this appeal, I am not making it out of a point of weakness.

If, after trying all these ways, we become convinced that we can no longer exist as a nation, in the words of the President, "let the operation be as painless as it could be". How ever painless it could be, in our hearts it would be very, very painful for having moved together for a very long time we have been obliged by our inability to keep together, to go into disintegration.

I do not want to go into personalities. I do not want to go into particular issues. Neither the N.C.N.C. nor the N.P.C. can claim complete innocence in the trouble which we had, and perhaps which we still have to-day. I think that both parties have been guilty of aiding the one man who has, all these years, caused trouble in this country.

In 1953, it was Chief S. L. Akintola who caused—

M. Tanko Abubakar (Keffi) : On a point of order, I wish to draw the attention of the Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Amechi*) to Standing Order 29, which deals with irrelevancy in speech. The Motion we are debating now is Motion of Thanks to the President, but the hon. Member is giving us a political lecture on how Nigeria should be run.

Mr Speaker : I think the speech of the Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Amechi*) is in order, except that he is mentioning the conduct of the Premier of a Region, which I think is liable to cause confusion and protest, and is very much against what he is advocating.

Mr Amechi : If your arm will lead you into sin, it is better to cut off the arm and remain without an arm but a straightforward man. If Mr Amechi has been responsible for the acts and events that have cost this country lives, if Mr Amechi is responsible for knocking two brothers' heads together, it would be sensible for the two brothers to try and get Mr Amechi out of their way. Similarly, if it is Mr "A" or Mr "L" or Mr "S" who is responsible—

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : The order of the letters given by Mr Amechi is wrong. The order should be "if Mr "S" or Mr "L" or Mr "A".

Mr Amechi : Let us remove that Mr "S" or Mr "L" or Mr "A" in order that we may have unity and move forward together.

The sum total of what I have tried to say this morning is that if we can move forward as a nation (and it is desirable that we move forward as a nation) if we can implement this programme enunciated by the Government through the Speech by the President, it is necessary that we first of all build a foundation on which we can erect the super-structure. That foundation is nothing more than building a united country, by trying to find out the defects in our present machinery, and amending those defects.

We should build first of all a united country, restore the confidence that has been lost in the past, in order that we may be in the position to implement this programme.

I beg to support the Motion.

M. Tanko Abubakar (Keffi) : It is gratifying to note from the President's Speech from the Throne, the elaborate schemes which the Government intends to undertake in the Federal Republic of Nigeria during the current Six-Year Development Plan.

I would also like to congratulate the Government on its efforts in keeping pace with other developing countries of this Continent.

I note with pleasure that in its Six-Year Development Plan, the Government intends to provide modern amenities to both towns and rural areas alike. These modern amenities are in the nature of water supply, electricity *et cetera*, and in this case, I would like to suggest to the Government that in distributing these amenities, less developed areas should be given priority.

Last year, several Members of this honourable House spoke extensively on the condition of roads in some parts of the Federation. Well, I must say that in my opinion the condition has greatly improved but there still remains much to be done in some directions. For instance, the Makurdi-Akwanga-Jos road in the Northern Region is hardly motorable, and yet this road is being maintained by the Federal Government and it carries over 2,000-3,000 vehicles a week. I am quite aware of the fact that geographical positions of certain places have made it very difficult for them to be noticed by the Federal Government, but all the same, much as I would

House of Representatives Debates

175

[*Debate on the Address*]

27 MARCH 1965

[*Debate on the Address*]

176

[M. TANKO ABUBAKAR]

not like to dwell too long on this topic, I would like to appeal to the Government to pay some attention to this important road.

As several hon. Members have already challenged the efficiency and partiality of the Nigerian Railway Corporation on the Floor of this House, it is not my intention to talk again on that subject but I hope the Government will step into it.

Turning to the recent events in Ghana and to what befell our High Commission there, I think the conduct of Ghana towards Nigeria is very insulting. We should no longer keep quiet on this issue. I therefore appeal to our Government to press hard on Ghana until we have received our deserved apology from them. In fact, I must say that the conduct of Ghana has fallen below expectation and the relationship between Ghana and Nigeria cannot go on unchecked.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief B. O. Olusola (Ekiti South II): I am happy that this opportunity has been afforded me to say something on this Motion. I join the other speakers who have spoken before me in congratulating the President for his excellent Speech from the Throne which, as far as I am concerned, contains very bold, imaginative and far-reaching plans. If the Government of this Federation can carry out the programme of work outlined in the President's Speech, I have no doubt that it is capable of doing more things which will bring about the progress of Nigeria.

I would like to raise some few points. The first one is that the Government of this Federation is to be congratulated on its intention to set up a geographical survey team to explore the mineral potentialities of Nigeria. I venture to suggest that when this team is going to carry out its assignment, attention should be paid to that part of the Federation which has been neglected. By this I refer to the Western Region of Nigeria, and to Ekiti in particular.

Ekiti is a very hilly area and quite a lot of mineral resources, such as columbite and estone, can be found in these hills. In it has been said that some marble deposits have been discovered in commercial quantity around Ado Ekiti. Some of these deposits have been experimented upon at Oshodi and ave been found to be of the rarest, purest type.

If limestone at Ekiti is well explored, it might be got at such a quantity that will necessitate the building of a cement factory there as we have at Ewekoro. If this cement factory is built, it will provide employment for our teaming number of school leavers.

Another point I wish to stress is the problem of unemployment in Nigeria, particularly in the Western Region. The rate of unemployment is soaring every year. However, I have to congratulate the Government for trying to set up some industries at Surulere, but this is not far-reaching enough.

Something must be seriously done about this question of unemployment. Millions of school children leave school every year and there is no work for them. The textile mill which was sited at Ikeja sometime ago helped to absorb some 1,200 workers. If the Government can have some more mills like that, then the problem of unemployment will be slightly solved.

Now that we have five Universities in this country, I wonder what the Governments of the Federation are doing towards providing these graduates with work. It would be a sad day when we start having unemployed graduates. I appeal to the Governments to tackle this question of unemployment seriously.

I have to congratulate the Federal Government on its intention to have the Law School sited at the Victoria Island. This is a tribute to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of the Federation, Dr T. O. Elias, who is the father of Nigerian Legal Education. In having this Law School, efforts should be intensified towards carrying out bold reforms in our legal studies. Formerly we had our students going very far away to study in universities abroad and then returning to Nigeria to find it difficult to keep abreast with local conditions. With this sort of reform in legal education, and with the new School for Legal Education, there will be the tendency to enrich our legal education with contributions from local conditions. I hope the Government will intensify its effort in this direction.

Again, I think the Government should do something about the opportunity being given to expatriate lawyers to practise in this country. Foreign firms go to expatriate lawyers while we have capable lawyers like my hon. Friend on the other side of the House, who could be

entrusted with any legal work. I hear some Members asking to know whom I mean ; I am not mentioning names but just want to say that our lawyers in this country should be preferred by these foreign firms to expatriate lawyers.

I now go to another point, and this concerns customs tariff. I believe it is a step in the right direction to raise protective tariff walls to protect our local products, such as cement, beer, metal windows and vono beds. But these products should be made cheaper. The aim of this high tariff is to protect local industries in order to make their products cheaper. But what happens is the contrary. We have articles manufactured here selling higher than those manufactured abroad. This is an absurdity. I think the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Finance should take note of this. When products are manufactured locally they are intended to be cheaper so that the common man could buy them. But our products are dearer than those manufactured abroad. Because of this, our tariff system should be revised to bring these commodities within the reach of the low-income wage-earners.

I have to thank the Government also for these low-cost houses being built at Surulere. A lot of Members have already spoken on it.

I want to say something about the Nigerian Building Society. I think the rate of interest they charge at the moment is very high. When any of their customers defaults just for a small period they proceed to purchase the property.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : On a point of order, I say that this is not a matter within the scope of this honourable House. It is a commercial concern and as such based on contract. Anybody who does not want to may not go there. The issue of rate of interest in a business is purely a contractual liability, and when one contracts on these terms it has nothing to do with this House.

Chief Olusola : My hon. Friend is somebody with considerable legal experience, but he should know that even in the field of contract we are subject to legislative control. We cannot just because of contract pursue the doctrine of *laissez faire*. This Parliament exists to protect the interest of the common-man. I believe that this propensity towards money-making by this particular organisation should be curbed.

I now refer to arms. It is a very good idea to have arms and ammunition manufactured in Nigeria, but I think the Government should be very careful and exercise strict control over it. Without siting an arms and ammunition factory in Nigeria we find weapons being sold all about the markets in the country. With a small amount one can buy revolvers and double-barrelled guns in some markets. When we have this arms and ammunition factory sited in Nigeria the Government should exercise very strict control over it.

I heard the story when the Prime Minister visited some students and they were asking to be trained in the use of arms and ammunition. The Prime Minister humorously remarked : "You students are dangerous enough as you are without arms". So when we have the factory sited in the country we should be careful and see that its products do not get into the hands of unscrupulous elements who can make use of them for illegal purposes.

I should like to speak about investment in Nigeria. We should encourage investment in industries in Nigeria. I remember the case of a Nigerian Sugar Company where I was a director at one time. We invited people to buy shares in the Nigerian Sugar Company and within a very short time the capital was over-subscribed. This shows that Nigerians are willing to put their money into investments, especially those that are profit-yielding like the Nigerian Tobacco Company, the Star Brewery and the Nkalagu Cement Factory. But we should go into very serious advertisement about investment.

There are lots of people who have money and do not know where to put them. We should have some investments officers who should go about and carry out some propaganda about investment. There should be wider advertisements of what the Stock Exchange stands for so that people can be invited to invest their money in industries.

At the moment the bulk of investmens possibilities are in the hands of expatriates because they know the value of investment in industries. This is necessary so that one could lay something by for the rainy day ; something he can look up to as a means of livelihood when he grows old. People in this country should be encouraged to save and put their money in profitable investment.

[CHIEF OLUSOLA]

Finally, a lot has been said about constitutional reform in this country. When carrying out this constitutional reform a lot of safeguards should be included in the Constitution. The principal one is that there is no sanction in our constitutional law for any region which sabotages the efforts of the Federal Government, moreover when it is done with impunity and nothing is done about it. If any region decides to boycott an election or the census, there is no sanction for dealing with it. We should give allowance in our Constitution in order to check these things—either for the region to leave the Federation or for the Federation to give it the boots.

Alhaji Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): In supporting the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne, I have some few observations to make.

Firstly, in his Excellency's Speech mention was made of the establishment of more agricultural industries, such as the Bacita Sugar Industry. I hope the Minister of Trade and Industry will answer my request by establishing at least one in Zaria Province where a lot of sugar-cane is grown at Makarfi. With the introduction of the Bacita Sugar Factory a subsidiary factory can be established in Zaria to feed the main factory at Bacita. It is known that ginger is grown in large quantities in Southern Zaria. Is it not possible then to start an industry which requires ginger as raw materials? I understand that soft drinks can be made with ginger. If that is so, why do we not try to use the local raw material in making it on the spot? I need not mention the fact that distribution of industries should be as evenly as possible.

Secondly, although there has been a lot of pressing demand for an enquiry into the affairs of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, I feel that even before appointing a commission of enquiry, I ought to ask the Minister of Transport to use his good offices to see that something is done, and done now, in order to ease the congestion situation in passenger trains, especially in Northern Nigeria stations.

There has been a lot of complaints from the general public that they do not enjoy travelling by train because of the inconveniences suffered by passengers. In order

to assist the Minister, I wish to suggest that the following steps be taken:

- (i) increase in the number of passenger coaches on trains, whether limited or local,
- (ii) increase in the number of trains.

With regard to my latter suggestion, I would like to point out that if there are more trains up and down throughout the week there will be no congestion.

In view of what the public are saying now about the inefficiency of and lack of co-operation from the staff of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Minister can help by advising the Railway Authorities to take stern measures against any unco-operative official of the Corporation whenever such an official is found to be working against the interest of the Corporation and of the public.

Thirdly, scouting plays an important role in the character of our youngsters, although there was no mention of it in the Speech from the Throne. I would like to express my full support for the organisation and appeal to the Federal Government to contribute a large sum of money in support of the recent appeal made by the Nigerian Chief Scout. Funds are necessary in carrying out this valuable service, and I am sure Nigeria is ahead of nearly all the other African countries as far as this organisation is concerned.

Again, I wish to suggest that when the new Headquarters for Scouts in Africa South of the Sahara is to be established, consideration be given to its being built in Kaduna. I have many reasons to support my request. First of all, even on local basis the North has been embracing the Scout Movement more than any other Region in the Federation. Whenever there is an appeal for funds both the Government and the people of Northern Nigeria give a substantial amount towards the betterment of this excellent and useful organisation.

In brief, I need two things: the first, to see that the Federal Government responds favourably to the Nigerian Chief Scout's appeal, and the second, to have the new African Scouts' Headquarters in Kaduna.

Lastly—and this is a very important matter that has been worrying the junior workers wherever they may be in this Federation—workers contributing to the National Provident Fund are complaining bitterly. After investigating the matter, I wish to suggest to the

Government some steps to take to meet these complaints. Workers who contributed to this Fund for a year or more and then left or retired should get something back from it. Now it seems they do not. If a man fails to get the promised addition, it will be more honourable to refund to him what he was able to save while he was working. If that is not the policy, it will be wise to inform the workers that in the event of their resigning their posts they may forfeit all that they have saved in the Provident Fund. Other Members may wish to say something on this matter. I am confident that the Government will not feel happy to learn that it is being suspected of fraud. A well-intentioned scheme such as the Provident Fund should be encouraged. I appeal to the Government to do everything possible to explain to the workers what to expect in future. For the time being, I am afraid there is something wrong somewhere.

I beg to support.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : In making my own humble contribution to the Motion of Thanks which has been very ably moved, may I, with respect, make the following observations.

The Speech is remarkable for its simplicity, fascination, comprehensiveness and dynamism. It touches on almost every aspect of our national life, with certain few omissions which some of the previous speakers have rightly pointed out.

May I mention at this stage one of the serious omissions in the President's Speech, and that is a statement on the rule of law. The Speech is completely silent on the efforts the Government will make towards upholding the rule of law. It does not mention what assurance we shall get from the Government that we shall continue to maintain and foster the independence of the Judiciary. That part of our Constitution which provides that Judges will be appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Chief Justice instead of on the advice of the Chief Justices ought to be scrapped. This attempt merely brings the Judges under the whims and caprices of the politicians and the moment our Judges are inhibited and are unable to dispense justice without fear or favour in accordance with their training and oath of office, it is good-bye to the freedom of the common man.

The Speech also, in making propositions on the modernisation of nursing and midwifery professions, failed to mention what efforts the Government is making towards increasing the salary of nurses and midwives. Midwives and nurses are humanitarian workers who have devoted their lives to the service of humanity and they regard strike as a very bad weapon for seeking a redress. We should not take undue advantage of this. We ought to encourage them. I must say that it is very discouraging to know that a girl who has passed the West African School Certificate spends four to five useful years and succeeds in becoming a state registered nurse or a state certificated midwife only to be paid £30 per month, whilst her counterpart who does not devote herself to the service of humanity comes out as a graduate and receives a salary of about £720 per annum. A Secretary-Typist receives even a much higher salary. If this sort of thing continues, I am sure that most of our girls will desert the nursing profession and the little remaining will stop devoting their lives to the service of humanity.

May I also mention that the President's Speech failed to say something about the revision of certain aspects of our laws. Most of our laws are still based on the British system and I think mention should have been made of the efforts being made to make our laws more Nigerian. For instance, the time is overdue for the revision of our matrimonial laws. What we have now is the British system and I think it is high time that we should evolve our own laws based on the Nigerian custom and the changes in our society.

On the question of adoption, I will mention that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should look into the possibility of enacting a law to make provision for the adoption of children, at least, for purposes of inheritance. Nigeria is essentially a polygamous country and we should not continue to apply the rules of English law which advocate monogamy. If a man marries under the Ordinance and subsequently cohabits with another woman and gets children when the other marriage is valid, our law says that the children of the other woman are illegitimate and cannot be adopted so as to inherit their fathers property. This is an aspect of our law which I will call upon the Attorney-

[MR ANAH]
General and Minister of Justice to look into so as to make it possible for Nigerians to adopt children if only for purposes of inheritance.

May I also touch the question of Low Cost Houses. This is a very bold and dynamic venture by the Government to build many houses for workers in Lagos. But I would say that as we think of low-cost houses, we must also think of the implementation of effective rent control in the big towns of the country, especially Lagos and Port Harcourt. I must say that there is some sort of conspiracy by our big politicians who have houses in nearly all the big towns in the country. The big politicians always frown at any move to control rent. I think this is a matter which should be looked into by the Government.

On local production of arms and ammunition, I have this little contribution to make. It is praise-worthy that we will now produce some arms and ammunition locally at least for self-defence. But I must warn that for our own internal security, there should not be a concentration of this production in one Region. May I appeal to the Federal Government to see to it that these factories are sited in all the Regions so as not to give one particular Region any advantage or to constitute itself into a terror to all the other Regions.

The President's Speech said nothing about the gentleman's agreement reached between the President and the Prime Minister and endorsed by the Chief Justices of the Federal Republic. I was expecting a statement on the position of the agreement in the President's Speech. It is a very serious agreement and all the people of this country are looking forward to its implementation. For example, it was agreed between the President and the Prime Minister and endorsed by the Chief Justices of the country that in areas where after the elections there appear to be a mockery of democracy, like the Lagos North constituency, the election should be nullified. We have not heard from the Government—

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, the validity of the election in Lagos North is now before a court and it should not be challenged in this House.

Mr Anah : I think some of us should be honourable enough to know that where their representation is in doubt, they should resign honourably.

Mr Akubakar Isandu : I think it is clearly stated in our Standing Orders that a matter pending in court should not be raised on the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : I think this bit of speech concerning the Lagos North Constituency which is pending in court should not be too fully discussed.

Mr Anah : I am much obliged, Mr Speaker. The point I was trying to make is that we are waiting to hear something about the implementation of the gentleman's agreement between the President and the Prime Minister.

On education, I am delighted to hear that Government is making efforts to raise the standard of education at all levels. In doing this, the Government should discourage the injection of politics and tribalism into our institutions of learning. This happened in the University of Ife and it is rearing its ugly head again in the University of Lagos. I am calling upon the Government to institute a high powered commission of inquiry into the unwarranted expulsion of a professor of international repute in the person of Professor Eni Njoku from the University of Lagos. If we are genuinely desirous of giving our children sound education we must discourage the nefarious efforts of allowing civil servants, confusionists and academic Lilliputians to head our institutions of higher learning.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is a bush man from Onitsha.

Mr Speaker : There is no bush in Onitsha.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : On a point of order, I would like to point out that the hon. Member is attacking in a vague manner Dr Biobaku, who was recently appointed to the post of Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member made a poor comment about the activities of the University Council, which I think, as far as we are concerned, is a detail which should not be read too long.

Mr Anah : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have been cautious not to mention anybody's name. I simply left a cap so that whoever it fits can wear it. However, I would

not like to belabour this point. I have simply called for a high powered Commission of Inquiry into the mess now going on in the University of Lagos which had been respected for years because of its academic discipline and academic standard.

With regard to the question of preventive medicine and drainage, I would like to say that I am happy to note that the Federal Government is going to undertake a comprehensive drainage scheme in some parts of the country. I would like the Minister of Works and Surveys to come over to Macedonia and help us. Onitsha is the gate way to the Eastern Region and it is the centre of education in Nigeria. Eminent Nigerians like the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) were trained at Onitsha. Even the Clerk of this Parliament was also trained in Onitsha.

The present dirty position of Onitsha does not befit its reputation and tradition. There is no drainage system at Onitsha. Experts have estimated that it will cost about £3 million to effect a comprehensive drainage in Onitsha. This is not a burden which the Regional Government alone can carry and we are praying the Federal Government to come to our aid.

Now, I would like to talk about my constituency—Awka Central. I would like to call on the Federal Government to come over to Macedonia and help us. The Federal Government should come over to this part of the Federation which has been relegated to the background for many years and help us. The people in this area have been contributing financially and in many other ways towards the maintenance of the Federation, but unfortunately not a single industry or amenity has been sited in this constituency. There is no need to intensify the geological survey of this area to ascertain unknown mineral resources when no effort has been made to tap the known ones. In my constituency, *Ndikelionwu*, a geological survey has revealed a large iron deposit, but until now the Minister of Mines and Power has done nothing to tap it. Therefore, I would ask the Federal Government not to intensify their geological survey until efforts have been made to tap the existing mineral resources.

On the question of agriculture, a section of my constituency known as *Orumba* is prepared to offer large acres of land to the Federal Government for agricultural development. I

am sorry to say that this section of my constituency has never been remembered by the Federal Government when siting amenity

On the question of establishing fishing industries, I am calling on the Federal Government to site a fishing industry at *Agulu* which has a fishing lake near it. Fish of various kinds abound in this lake and in the night reptiles emerge from this lake, thus constituting a great danger to the people living there.

I was also gratified to note that the Federal Government will provide rural water supplies to the drier parts of the Federation. In this respect, I will call on the Federal Government to place *Aguinyi* clan on the priority list as this clan is one of the driest parts of the Federation. It has so many secondary schools and the children there travel as far as four miles to fetch water.

I hope that it is not asking too much of the Government to place my constituency on the priority list for rural electrification.

Now, I come to the question of democracy which in fact occupied a major part of the President's Speech. Whatever happens, I believe that Nigeria is still a democratic country, but the practice of politics in this country seems to make a mockery of our written democracy. Elections are never free and fair. In this regard, I am calling for an immediate revision of our Electoral Act. We should make thuggery an offence during elections. We should also restrict political campaigns during elections. We should similarly stop open political campaigns as is the case with many European countries.

In some European countries political campaigns are held long before the actual elections take place. We should restrict our campaigns only to manifestoes, distribution of pamphlets, leaflets and appearances on the television net work. Let us embody in the new Electoral Act, that the United Nations Organisation shall supervise our general elections and accept the nomination papers. It does not matter how much it costs us, provided we get in return the type of Government that will truly represent the majority of the people of this country.

If I may make mention of our foreign policy, I must say that our Government is paying lip service to our foreign policy of non-alignment. The government should give a practical demonstration of this policy. What prevents

[MR ANAH]

us, for instance, from signing a cultural agreement with the Soviet Union? Why are we delaying the establishment of an Embassy there? Why do we show scepticism in accepting scholarships from the Soviet Union? They are a great nation which made a tremendous stride both in the scientific and technological fields within a very short time, and we ought to embrace them just as we have embraced the West and take what is good in them.

I hope the Minister of External Affairs will shake off the shackles of colonialism and imperialism which have been truly responsible for his nonchalant attitude towards the Soviet Union, or the East.

Then I would like to make a little contribution on the question of the unity of this country. I must say that we must take our searchlights to all the parts of the Federation in order to find out why in certain sectors of this great country it is impossible to achieve unity. What is actually responsible for dividing us? Why is there so much discontent, so much unrest and so much tension in some parts of the Federation? If we can know the causes of those ills, we ought to apply the correct antidote if we are serious about building a healthy nation.

Let me take for an example the case of the Western Region and Tiv Division in the Northern Region. They are the Congos of Nigeria. When Kasavubu did away with Lumumba he thought he would have a rest not realising that that would be the beginning of trouble without end.

In the same way, it will be impossible to achieve peace, tranquillity and unity in the Region with that great son of Africa—that great freedom fighter, that highly respected intellectual, that lawyer politician and one of the foremost architects of Nigerian independence who spent his youthful days in fighting colonialism in all its ramifications—languishing and rusting away within the four walls of Calabar Prison.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North): On a point of information, I do not want hon.

Members to come and deceive us on the Floor of this House. When I asked Dr Okpara to make a statement pleading to the Prime Minister for his support of Chief Awolowo's release from prison, he could not say a word. Therefore, the hon. Gentleman had better keep quiet!

Mr Anah: I am not surprised at the rude interruption of the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*). The Member for Lagos North thinks he is in a County Council.

A majority of the people in the West are very much embittered by this act of gross ingratitude and are prepared to fight and shed the last drop of their blood until their accepted leader is released from the prison so as to join other leaders of this country in their task of nation building.

It was Shakespeare in *Macbeth* who said: "Thou hast murdered sleep, and thou shalt sleep no more." Those people from the West who think they can ever have rest, peace and unity in their own Region without Chief Obafemi Awolowo are surely living in a fool's paradise.

The same thing applies to the North. It will be day dreaming for any patriotic Northerner to think that peace and unity can be secured in Tiv Division by doing away with Tarka.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has exhausted his time.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed, Monday, 29th March, 1965.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.47 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 29th March, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Alhaji Abdul Razaq reports from the Business Committee that, in accordance with Standing Orders 55 (1) (c), they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday the 30th of March, as follows :—

- (1) United Nations Peace Keeping Operations—No. 1 in the Order Book.
- (2) Zaria Aerodrome—No. 2 in the Order Book.
- (3) Performance of the Nigerian Army in Lagos—No. 5 in the Order Book.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Textile Mills

O.11. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many textile mills were established by the Federal Government from 1963-65; and where they were located.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): The Federal Government has at no time established any textile mill anywhere in the country. However, Sir, I should like to add that the Federal Government is at present more concerned with creating a favourable climate for the establishment and growth of industries.

Nigerian Participation in Industry

O.12 Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industries in this country are owned solely by Nigerians; and how many are owned in partnership with foreign concerns.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: I regret that at the moment, available statistics are not sufficiently detailed to enable me determine the ownership of the great number of industries already established in this country.

O.13. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what are the required conditions for indigenous Nigerians wishing to establish industries either individually or in partnership with foreign concerns.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : There are no specific conditions as such for indigenous Nigerians wishing to establish industries in this country. Nigerians operating in businesses other than in their own names are required to register such businesses in accordance with the provisions of the Business Names Act: alternatively, they could incorporate such companies under the Companies Act and proceed with their businesses.

If foreigners join in the promotion of such businesses or as partners, however, they will in addition have to fulfil all necessary immigration requirements as laid down under the Immigration Act.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Mambila-Cameroon Road Link

O.16. Mr Abel G. Jiah asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to connect Mambila and West Cameroon with a good road.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Dominic M. Mapeo): There is no provision in the current economic programme for the construction of Trunk Road 'A' between Mambila and West Cameroons. A decision to make provision for the construction of such a road now or for its inclusion in a future programme will depend on the result of feasibility surveys now under consideration.

West Coast Builders

O.17. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will make a statement on the result of the court action taken against West Coast Builders for failing to settle a bill of £3,422 in respect of a plant which was hired by them.

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : The civil suit which the Federal Ministry of Justice has instituted against the West Coast Builders is still pending in the High Court of Lagos.

Road Improvement Grants

O.21. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how much the Federal

[MR DAMLA]

Government paid in grants for road improvements to the Northern Nigeria Government in 1962, 1963 and 1964 respectively.

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : The Federal Government does not, as a rule, award grants for road improvements in any Region. A special allocation is, however, made for the maintenance of Maiduguri-Gambaru Road because of its importance as the only international link with the Chad Republic. A similar allocation is also made for the improvement of roads in Sardauana Province, in the interest of national security. Allocations of funds made in these respects during the financial years 1962-63 to 1964-65 are as follows :—

Year	Allocations for maintenance of Maiduguri-Gambaru Road	Allocations for maintenance of roads in Sardauana Province
1962-63	£13,500	£44,680
1963-64	£19,260	£35,180
1964-65	£19,260	£31,960

Mr Vincent Shisha (Iharev Masev) : May I know from the Minister what happens to the amount of money voted for the tarring of Aliede-Lafia-Jos Road ?

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : That question requires notice.

Jos-Kaduna, Akwanga-Jos Roads

O.22. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the Jos-Kaduna and Akwanga-Wamba-Jos Roads will be tarred.

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : Fifty-eight miles of the two Trunk Roads 'A' between Jos and Kaduna have been tarred. However, the section of Trunk Road 'A16' between Mararraba and Jos is not included in the 1962-68 Economic Programme.

As regards Akwanga-Wamba-Jos Trunk Road 'A', the attention of the Hon. Member is invited to the latter part of the reply to question O.4 on the 16th of April, 1964. As soon as funds are released, a contract for the reconstruction of this road will be awarded.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : Is the Minister aware that as a result of the untarred road from Jos to Kaduna, traffic has been held up on this road and as a result Jos now has been relegated to the background ?

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : The Minister is not aware.

New Parliament Building

O.23. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how much has so far been spent on the proposed new Parliament building at the Victoria Island.

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : A sum of £127,733 has so far been spent on the preliminary investigation and design phase of the proposed New Parliament Building at Victoria Island.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : When is the Ministry really starting work on this new Parliament Building ?

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : That is a new question.

Makurdi-Jos Road

O.24. Malam Yakubu Alanana asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the Makurdi-Jos Trunk Road 'A' will be tarred.

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo : Portions of this road between Jos and Asob and ten miles between Makurdi and Lafia have already been tarred.

If funds are available in the forthcoming financial year for the reconstruction of the rest of this road, work on it will be undertaken.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

1958 Laws of Nigeria

O.25. Chief J. M. Udochi asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether he is aware that Volumes I-XII of the Revised Laws of Nigeria, 1958, are not available for sale at the Federal Government Printing Press Bookshop ; and whether he will arrange to make them available soon in view of the increasing demand for them by newly qualified lawyers.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : the stock of sets of the Volumes of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria and Lagos, 1958, became exhausted as a result of a sudden increase in the demand for them last year. However, a consignment of these volumes is now on the way from the United Kingdom and will be available for sale to the public in due course.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Is the Minister aware of the fact that copies of the Nigerian Constitution are not available anywhere in the country ?

Dr T. O. Elias : I am not aware, but if my hon. Friend will come to my Chambers, he will get a copy.

Mr W. O. Briggs : Why is it that the twelve volumes of the Laws of Nigeria are not printed in this country. Are there no printers in this country ?

Dr T. O. Elias : The Federal Government Printing Department will be able to answer that question when it is put down on the Order Paper.

Chief J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East) : Is there any possibility of the Minister giving to an individual Member of this House a set of this Nigerian Constitution free of charge.

Dr T. O. Elias : That is a new question.

TRANSPORT

O.26. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport if he has made efforts to collect from the Western Nigeria Government the sum of £18,936-1s-5d representing the expenses incurred in maintaining the river craft owned by that Government as stated in the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1963-64.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Yes, Sir. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the officials of my Ministry the dispute holding up the settlement of this account has now been resolved. The Western Regional Government has written to accept full liability and has recently informed my Ministry that a payable order in full discharge of it has now been issued.

O.27. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport, if he will give an assurance that he will not close the lagoon passages leading from Lagos to Badagry as a result of the extension work being done at the Apapa Wharf by the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima : I give assurance that there is no intention whatever of closing the lagoon passages leading from Lagos to Badagry as a result of the extension work being done at the Apapa Wharf by the Nigerian Ports Authority.

AVIATION

O.28. Mr Abel G. Jiah asked the Minister of Aviation, how many trained staff of Northern origin are in the Fire Services Division of his Ministry.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : The number of trained staff of Northern origin in the Aerodrome Fire Services of my Ministry is eight.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central) : Is the Minister aware that by the nature of the flowing garment worn by the Northerners, they are not fit for that type of job ?

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe : I am not aware.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (26TH MARCH)

Question again proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President as follows :—

"Your Excellency,

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

Alhaji Mahmud Dantata (Kano East) : I must first of all express my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his comprehensive speech delivered to this honourable House last Wednesday.

Before embarking on my own personal observations generally, I want first and foremost to comment on the points made by the President in his speech.

The pursuance of a policy of non-alignment by our country in the field of foreign relations is as laudable as our policy in Africa which aims at maintaining friendly relations with other African states, where and when necessary. I have used the phrase "where and when necessary", because of the constant provocative attitude of some African states.

[ALHAJI MAHMUD DANTATA]

I welcome the Government's intention to undertake a thorough revision of our educational system in all our schools at all levels so as to raise, not only the general standard of our education, but also to make it relevant to the economic, cultural and social requirements of our country. But I must say that this plan is as good as a delicious food without salt.

I will be failing in my duty to the whole nation if I do not point out to this honourable House that the young citizens of this country need not only a sound education but also some means to ensure their livelihood; and the only means to their livelihood is employment. Unemployment in this country is a household topic throughout the Federation. It is a well known fact that lack of employment among our youths usually drives them into various evil quarters. I would like to recommend to this House that, in order to minimize if not eradicate unemployment which is a social disease in our community to-day, the Government must, and I repeat the word must, establish various types of industries which will absorb these unfortunate citizens. The welfare of men and women of this country is of paramount importance, and the Government should find ways and means of preserving them.

I wish to refer also to the low-cost housing units to be constructed in Surulere. It is my candid opinion that the 10,000 houses which the Government proposes to build are far too inadequate, compared with the existing hundreds of thousands of people requiring such accommodation. I think it will be a good idea, and an economic one for that matter, if the Government can increase the number in such a way as to accommodate at least 50,000 people.

I also want to make some comments on the Government's insistence on greater participation by Nigerians in commerce and industry. This is a field in which I can humbly say that I was born and bred. It is an admitted fact that commerce and industry are the main live-wire of our economy.

I must not continue to comment on this subject without first expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry for his devoted and untiring efforts in steering and improving the methods of commerce and industry in this

Federation. It has always been my fervent prayer that he may be able to continue to carry this delicate responsibility, so that the economic stability of this great nation of ours may continue to be firm.

In order to insulate the said live-wire, I want to make the following suggestions to the Federal Government. The first is that the indigenous businessmen and women who have commercial and industrial activities with the outside world should be highly encouraged. The second is that the indigenous men and women should be highly supported and encouraged to participate in all types of commerce and industry as partners and or shareholders in all the foreign firms establishing in Nigeria. I know that this has been the practice of the Government, but I hope that the practice will be solidly welded.

I now come to the most important point in commerce and industry, and that is our local commerce and industry. There are a number of poor methods used by our local businessmen and women in conducting their commercial and industrial businesses. These local business people will do marvellously well if they can get the support of the Government financially, technically and otherwise. There are a good number of local industries in this country which can produce goods that can be exported to the outside markets provided they are modernised and technically equipped. These industries should be given top priority consideration and attention.

It is highly commendable that the Government will participate in the 1965-66 International Trade Fair and Exhibition in Europe and North America. I hope that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will take action quickly to collect as many as possible of our local products for display at these Fairs. By so doing, I can assure hon. Members that our local commerce and industries will be highly projected.

I now want to speak on agriculture. It is high time some vigorous efforts were made by the Government to modernise and improve our system of agriculture. More agricultural industries should be established throughout the Federation. Farm settlements and institutes which will enable young men and women to settle on the land are very essential. More tractors and other farming equipment should be made available to almost all the farmers in the Federation. This, I am sure, will not only

help the farmers to modernise their system of farming, but will also make for a high standard of production and thus strengthen our economy.

I very much welcome the idea of establishing a National Agricultural Credit Bank. This, when established, will help to widen the agricultural activities of our farmers.

I now come to my personal comments. All I have said before are my observations on the President's Speech.

I will be doing a great amount of injustice to the whole Federation, and particularly to the entire electorate of my constituency who confidently elected me to be their accredited representative in this honourable House, if I fail to point out the great economic set back facing this great nation of ours. There are at least three items on which I want to speak. These are Transport, Commerce and Hire-purchase.

Starting with transport, I want to say that there are at least two set backs on this item.

The first one is the deteriorating condition of transport in this country. Secondly, there exists a high practice of monopoly in this field by certain foreigners who make arrangements with the commodity owners to see that ninety *per cent* of the goods go to them and only ten *per cent* go to the indigenous transporters. This is very bad. The majority of these foreigners have not got vehicles of their own. All they do is to go and obtain the documents for the goods to be carried and just sit down majestically in their empty so-called transport offices and the real indigenous transport owners will be flocking in like amateurs, begging them for the loads to carry. They then give the indigenous transporters rates which are always half of what they got originally from the goods owners.

Another funny side of the story is that some of these unscrupulous transporters are not authorised by the immigration authorities of this country to practise in this line of trade. It is very bad and disgraceful for an indigenous citizen to be deprived of his *bona fide* opportunities, subjecting him to indignation by foreigners.

I therefore strongly crave that the Government should do something about this and check it up. Let the indigenous transporters enjoy the fruits of their land. Let us allow them to control and not to be controlled as is the case now.

Now, I come to commerce. This is one of the pillars holding the security and the economic stability of this country. But to my surprise and great sorrow, I observe certain irregularities going on in this important field, few of which I would like to make mention of here.

First of all, there is a strong conspiracy by certain foreign traders, especially the Asiatics and some of the foreign firms operating on a commercial and industrial basis. These foreign firms are always in the habit of selling eighty to ninety *per cent* of their products to foreign traders, leaving the remaining ten or twenty *per cent* only to indigenous traders. These indigenous traders have to beg the foreign traders to sell the goods to them and they do so at a very high price, leaving them with very little or no profit.

This wicked practice, if allowed to continue, will no doubt not only demolish the concrete foundation of our economy, but will also ruin the lives of millions of our beloved citizens. In short, something should be done and done quickly to check this practice.

By virtue of my being the President-General of the Amalgamated Northern Merchants Union, through which a countless number of complaints of this nature pour into my ears everyday, I wish to say that my Union is ever ready and prepared to co-operate with other genuine Unions in the Federation to build a strong and united battalion under the direction and command of the Federal Government to crush this economic paralysis.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Dantata*) is not making any effort to observe Standing Order 26, Rule (1), and I guess that this speech was written for him by the Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*).

Alhaji Dantata : Another serious point is that foreign traders indulge themselves in competing with the ordinary indigenous retailers. This is how they play their wicked game. As an instance, if a foreign trader sells one hundred wholesale articles to an indigenous retailer at the price of 21s-6d each, the same foreign trader will sell one or two articles of the same kind and quality to an ordinary buyer or shopper at the same price of 21s-6d each.

[ALHAJI DANTATA]

This obviously shows that the foreign trader is all out to plan a commercial *coup d'etat* against the poor indigenous retailer because as long as there is no difference in the prices between goods bought on a wholesale basis and the ones bought on a retail basis, then there will be no way out for the indigenous trader to survive in his or her retailing trade. Serious steps must be taken to arrest this situation.

Another great economic cerebro-spinal-meningitis which penetrates right into our pockets, is hire-purchase. The hire-purchase system in this country is very bad indeed. I do not mean that there should be no hire-purchase system at all in this country, but the terms and conditions imposed thereunder are ruinous, discouraging and uncommercial because of the following reasons. Firstly, the interest charged is mercilessly exorbitant. Secondly, the total period allowed for repayment is rather too short, and thirdly, the treacherous methods of seizure of vehicles immediately one fails to pay a month's instalment is disgusting.

All these obnoxious conditions make it practically impossible for the hire-purchaser to survive. I am quite sure that some hon. Members here are aware of the hire-purchase system being adopted in Europe. There, the conditions are humanly fair and encouraging.

I therefore wish and hope that this honourable House will think of this seriously and, if possible, make new legislation, changing the present poisonous one and replacing it with a fair one. This will not only give opportunity once more to those unfortunate victims of this bad system, but will also contribute effectively to the fulfilment of our Six-Year Development Programme.

In conclusion, I pray that Almighty God may grant us wisdom in our deliberations and always guide us to achieve our objectives in the building up of this great and blessed nation, so that unity, stability and love for one another may reign supreme.

I beg to support.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President. It is a pleasure to note that the Federal Government is having a greater plan now than ever to extend amenities to the people in the rural areas. This is good news indeed and I hope that every Member in this House will certainly be happy to hear this good news,

The composition of this House is made up of elected Members from all the Federal constituencies. Now, we have something to tell our people in the constituencies. More of the amenities to rural areas come from the Regional Governments, and District Councils.

Many of us who are old Members of this House have many a time criticised the Federal Government for having not taken the trouble of extending important amenities to the people in the rural areas. I am glad that the Federal Government has taken strict note of this.

This is the first and the most impressive Speech from the Throne ever because this is the first time that the Federal Government has laid down a bold scheme to extend amenities to the people in the rural areas.

The Federal Government may not come directly to develop the rural areas, it may carry out this development project through its agencies or through the District or Local Councils but still we have the satisfaction that the Federal Government is known to be richer than any of the Regional Governments.

The Federal Government is having the money, and we are happy that money is now being voted for extension of amenities to the people in the rural areas. Members will now have something to say to their constituencies when giving account of their stewardship.

I want to lay one emphasis and it is that if money is to be granted to a Regional Government for rural water supply as it is laid down now, I want it to be specific that such amount has gone to such and such Regional Governments for extension of water supply to the people in the rural areas.

Now, there are two important federal amenities which the people in the rural areas will enjoy. These are postal services and electricity supplies. The responsibility for providing these two amenities falls on the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Mines and Power respectively.

We know that postal services are very, very important and essential. A White Paper which was presented to this House during the life of the old Parliament stated that before a postal agency could be converted into a sub post office, its volume of business must be up to twenty-four thousand units. I feel that this is a very high figure,

I can hear an hon. Member saying that the figure has been reduced. Yes, I know that it has been reduced to eighteen thousand units. I follow the trend of events in this Parliament, but the point is that even eighteen thousand is still a very high figure.

There are many communities that are interested in community development. They build post offices. They have the money to run them. They do not even ask for any grant from the Federal Government but the Ministry of Communications is not prepared to give approval to such postal institutions.

I strongly recommend that this volume of business be further reduced to twelve thousand units. Where a community is prepared to work through communal labour, to do everything, to build a post office and community leaders are able to get the community interested in postal services, that community should be entitled to the grant of £500 which the Ministry of Communications normally gives to a community post office. A further reduction of these units would give the people the opportunity to extend their postal services.

Now, I come to another important federal amenity and that is electricity. Electricity is a live wire to any industrial development in any country. I am happy that the Niger Dam Project is going on. The Afam Gas Industry which is a natural power is also there. Certainly, these two projects when in full operation would considerably reduce the cost of consumption.

I am coming to a point and that point is this. We have an electric power station at Oji River. This power station is supplying electricity to the Enugu Coal Mine, Onitsha Urban Area, Awka and also to Nsukka; but there is no indication whatsoever that the people of Awgu who own the land on which the power station is built will get electricity supply.

Less than twenty miles away we have hospitals and other industrial schemes by private arrangements. I am now appealing that if the Federal Government is prepared to supply electricity to every corner of this country after the Niger Dam Project has been completed, the people who live around the Oji River should not be left out.

I am sure that the Afam Gas Industry and the Niger Dam Project when completed, will generate enough power to satisfy the whole

country, especially Awgu which is near the place. I hear an hon. Member calling me a geologist. It is not a question of being a geologist, I am telling the truth.

Now, there is one other interesting thing. The Federal Government has now promised to give encouragement to farm settlements and farm institutions. We do not expect the Federal Government to have farm settlements in small scales here and there. We know that the Federal Government is a big Government and we are sure that it will grant money to the Regional Governments for the development of this scheme or to other agencies to extend farm settlements in the Regions.

It is necessary that in the allocation of revenue, agriculture should follow health closely in the order of priority. There is need for farm technicians to be trained to become soil chemists and such other related matters, so that they can help to control the prevalence of crop pests.

It is one thing to set up farm settlements, but it is another to manage it effectively and fruitfully. Farm settlements are essential to our economic development, but if we do not take good care of the crops, destructive insects may bring our efforts to naught.

No one grumbles that the Federal Government is investing substantial amount in agriculture, but I would like to point out that the government should take note of the desirability to set up several farm institutions in the regions, and not in the city of Lagos.

No doubt, the siting of such institutions will be considered in consultation with the various regional governments. At this stage, I do not intend to be selfish for I am not given to being selfish. But I want to say that one of such Federal Government-financed farm institutions should be sited at Oji River which is one of the best centres in the East.

If the government establishes a farm settlement at Oji River, I assure this House that it will serve not only the people from that area of Eastern Nigeria, but the people of Northern Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria as well. There is water and electricity, and it has an excellent and salubrious climate.

I come to another important item—health services. Good health is a must to any individual, community or nation, because unhealthy people never achieve high standards.

[MR CHUKWU]

From the President's Speech, I notice that the Federal Government is taking much interest in the improvement of our health services.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to cite one or two paragraphs from the Speech to illustrate my point.

Work on the first phase of the Lagos Medical School block will commence during the year and both the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the University College Hospital, Ibadan, will expand their facilities to cope with our country's increasing demand for medical education. The special recruitment campaign for prospective candidates in secondary schools for the medical profession will be undertaken throughout the Federation.

Special programmes for the eradication or control of diseases such as small-pox, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, cerebro-spinal meningitis, sleeping sickness, yaws and river blindness, will be undertaken. My Government will explore the possibility of practical co-operation between the Federal and the Regional governments in this connection.

A determined effort will be made in the field of preventive medicine. This will include modern drainage schemes for the big towns and rural health schemes in co-operation with Regional Governments.

There is need to train more doctors to meet with the expansion in the building of more hospitals, because if hospitals are built without a corresponding increase in the number of trained Nigerian doctors, all our efforts would amount to a complete waste of money.

I have taken note of the fact that the Federal Government is already having two medical institutions in the country—one in Ibadan and the other in Lagos. May I say that it will be a commendable gesture if the Federal Government, while being anxious to improve the country's health services, should build new university teaching hospitals in the other regions, that is one in Eastern Nigeria; one in the Mid-West and one in the North.

Each region should be free to establish its own teaching hospital alongside with that of the Federal Government.

We are not unaware that the Mid-West was until recently part of Western Nigeria; nobody would quarrel if the Federal Government

erects a teaching hospital there. No one would frown also if the West were divided again, at the siting of a federally-financed teaching hospital in Western Nigeria for a second time and if Eastern Nigeria were split into ten states to have ten new federally-financed teaching hospitals built there. The same goes for the North. If the North splits into twenty states, it should have twenty teaching hospitals established for them by the Federal Government.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town): On a point of order, may I know if the Member for Awgu (*Mr D. N. Chukwu*) is advocating for the creation of an Oji River state?

Mr Chukwu: That is a question. All I am saying is that the government should provide some inducement to the people of this country by way of building teaching hospitals in all the regions.

I am glad to speak out my mind boldly because the government is one that takes criticism happily. We have made a lot of criticism of the government on several occasions and at no time have we been hushed down. I take it that the new *Abubakarian* government will not fail to interest itself in our criticisms in future.

I just want to say something about geological surveys so that our mineral resources can be vigorously exploited. In the past, geologists travelled on foot from place to place in search of mineral deposits, but to-day the scientists have discovered an instrument called aeromagnetic plane by which modern geologists travel from place to place in search of deposits.

With the aid of this aeromagnetic plane, I am sure that the government will be able to ensure that our geologists travel far and wide to discover our mineral deposits.

The task of discovering mineral deposits no longer entails going about on foot; in fact that era has passed. We want technical experts who are conversant with the operation of the new aeromagnetic plane to come out here to help train our people in the use of it.

They should be invited to this country to stay for a limited period, so that when they finally leave the local people, who would then have been fully trained, will begin to manipulate the aeromagnetic plane.

I know that if we go deep, as we are already doing, into the field of geological survey in this country, we shall discover that Nigeria's

economic potentialities are great and I am happy about that. Nature has given us wealth.

Many hon. Members think that the economic potentialities of this country are such things that will flow like the Atlantic Ocean. There is no doubt that we have wealth buried in this country. Now I shall give hon. Members one indication of what I mean.

I raised a question in this Parliament sometimes ago. I asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many cosmetic industries had we in this country. I know that many hon. Members think that cosmetic industries are very cheap but I assure them that there they can get silver and gold. The Minister then replied that there was one cosmetic industry being built.

I made haste to the place where this industry was being established. When I got there I asked the director of the industry what progress his company was making and he told me that they were making satisfactory progress.

I then asked him to tell me what quantity of local raw materials they were making use of, either as adhesives or allied materials, in addition to the imported raw materials. I was surprised when he told me that he was sorry we had no raw materials they could make use of in this country and that all their raw materials were being imported. The chap then asked what my name was and I told him I was "hon. Okafor from Awka." Really, I did not want to disclose my identity.

Several hon. Members : Why?

Mr Chukwu : I am a scientist and an industrialist.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : The hon. Gentleman should be more revered in his references to Awka than he has done so far.

Mr Chukwu : I am sure that the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) is just a "fresher" in this Parliament. I only said that I was hon. Okafor from Awka so that I could disguise my identity knowing very well that if I actually disclosed my identity to the director he would be scared. However, Awgu and Awka are in the same territorial zone and I had something at the back of my mind which I wanted to discover.

Mr F. A. Ogiike (Orlu South-East) : I can see that the President's Speech covers a wide field but I doubt if it covers private conversations such as the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*) has been making references to.

It will certainly be irrelevant to have all the private discussions that the hon. Member has had during his long term of office in this Parliament before we can also have opportunities to speak under this Head. I therefore submit that the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : As far as the speech so far made by the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*) is concerned, he is quite relevant. Maybe if I hear him more, I shall discover his irrelevance.

Mr Chukwu : Thank you, Mr Speaker. The only thing I want to do is to speak on the economic potentialities of this country. I just want to tell hon. Members what I achieved out of my question in this Parliament and my subsequent visit to the cosmetic industry.

As I was being conducted round the industry I picked two pebbles of their raw materials. When I got home I made researches into these two pebbles and discovered that we have large quantities of these things in this country. Technicians can give these things any names. What matters in science practically is not name or colour but material effect and impact.

Let me assure hon. Members that as a result of the discoveries revealed by my research, I am now able to establish a factory which will supply three thousand tins of face powder an hour, in this country and the factory is 100 per cent Nigerian.

My real point is that the more we are able to make use of the available raw materials we have in this country, the richer we shall be.

I beg to support.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West) : I wish to associate myself with the views already expressed by many Members of this House—the highest Legislature of our land—by expressing my thanks to the President for his Address. There is no doubt that the President has fully outlined the Government's proposals for the coming year.

It is therefore our duty in this honourable House to give the Federal Government every co-operation so as to enable the Government

[Mr OKAFOR]

achieve more results for the benefit of the teeming population of this Federal Republic.

It is my intention to take a little time to speak mainly on the unity of Nigeria. It appears to me that there are manoeuvres, left and right, to continue to damage the image of Nigeria and I do feel that those of us who are elected into this honourable House should co-operate with our various political leaders by avoiding utterances and activities which, I think, engender ill-feelings and at times provoke tribal sentiments. I think that if this is done this Federal Republic will be a very good place to live in.

I just want to make a reference to a speech or rather a disparaging comment made by the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) on Saturday on the Floor of this House. The hon. Member in spite of your ruling, Mr Speaker, continued to damage the reputation of the Minister of Aviation and I feel that at this moment, it is really important to seize this opportunity to correct certain impressions and give the other side of the story so that the members of the public of Nigeria would be able to know and decide for themselves whether in fact the Minister of Aviation misconducted himself or not.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): Hon. Members will agree with me that on Saturday when the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) was making reference to the hon. Minister of Aviation, he was checked and asked to desist from that line of debate. But this morning the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is trying to spark off some arguments in this Parliament.

I would urge him to refrain from making this statement. I am only appealing to him because if he does not refrain from this type of statement he is going to spark off some hot words from the order side of this House.

Mr Speaker: In order not to make a ruling in anticipation, I would like to hear some of the hot words the Members for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is going to pour.

Mr Okafor: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a matter of fact, I would like hon. Members to grant me their indulgence and listen to me. I am not going to attack anybody. What I shall try to do is to give the fact as we know it

and leave it to the hon. Members of this House, and perhaps to the members of the public, to decide. Certainly I am not going to attack any individual at all.

The Ijora Cause-way Affair is a matter of public interest and I think that since three leading newspapers in Nigeria have taken it upon themselves to spark off this controversy, it has become very necessary for an objective man to make more researches so as to present the fact as we know it.

Dr Mbadiwe secured three acres of land at Ijora Cause-way from the Federal Government in 1961 when he was an ordinary citizen. The purpose was to use the land for newspaper and genuine enterprise. In order to create a high-class business and thereby provide employment opportunities—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kanumbu-Nganzai): May I humbly appeal to the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) that no amount of explanation will help in this respect. This is a matter which, as far as some of us are concerned, has been settled once and for all and I wonder if the hon. Gentleman would be good enough to drop it.

Mr Okafor: I do not know why Members are afraid. I must reopen this matter in order that both the Members of Parliament and the public at large may be in possession of the full facts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): On a point of order, I still maintain that the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) should not and cannot be a lawyer for the Minister of Aviation (*Dr Mbadiwe*), who is still alive and who is competent enough to speak for himself. Since this matter is a rather controversial issue, the hon. Gentleman speaking now should stop defending the Minister on the Floor of the House.

Mr Okafor: I will, after presenting the matter to the House, give opportunity to anybody to speak on it. It is our wish that hon. Members should have an opportunity to have a full-dress debate on the matter.

M. Adamu Yola (Tangale Waja): On a point of order, since many hon. Members are waiting to contribute to the debate on the Motion of Thanks, and the hon. Gentleman is taking a long time to introduce his comment,

if he has nothing to contribute to the debate, I wonder if he would please sit down.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree with the hon. Member that too long an introduction to a controversial issue leads to a lot of waste of the time of the House.

Mr Okafor : I think an important ingredient of democracy is the ability of a man to listen to the other side, and not to pass judgment on anything without listening to the other side.

I want to state categorically that when this land was secured Dr Mbadiwe was a private citizen—

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : On a point of order, my objection is on Standing Order 26 (8) which states—

The conduct of Her Majesty, (and here I take that to mean the Republic of Nigeria's members of Government, the President and Members of this House) and judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion ;

The defence which the hon. Gentleman is seeking to put up on behalf of the respected and hon. Minister of Aviation falls within the premises of this Order because it will raise his conduct as a Minister of State. If he wishes to do that either by way of an attack or by way of a defence, it must, I respectfully submit, be upon a substantive Motion.

Mr Speaker : I think this matter is definitely raising a matter which involves the conduct of a Member of this House, and so I would ask the hon. Gentleman, in accordance with the Standing Orders, to depart from discussing the conduct of the Minister.

Mr Okafor : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. But may I make this one point, perhaps for record purposes. If at any time it is the duty of anybody in Nigeria to work towards the unity of this country, and that unity does not include a section of the people, that unity excludes certain people and a section of the Press is given the opportunity to damage some people who will not have a right to reply, then I am sorry for the unity of Nigeria.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, it appears that the hon. Gentleman is casting aspersions on the Members of this House, I do not see any reason why he

should come here and begin to give the impression that there is no unity in this country and that a section of the country is denied participation in that unity. I think very seriously he is trying to mislead this House.

Mr Okafor : When I spoke about unity, I was thinknig of our ability to give everybody a chance to put his case. I was not talking about a unity that will make it impossible for, or that will prevent the other man from having a say. I had wanted to seize the opportunity on the Floor of this House to state this case, but since you, Mr Speaker, have ruled against that, I want to withdraw.

But it will be pertinent also to guide the Press and the public at large about most of these events. If Members refer to Official Report, Parliamentary Debates, First Parliament, Fourth Session 1963-64, House of Representatives, Volume II (b) Column 1888, they will see what our able and respected Prime Minister had to say on this type of case—

Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa (Awka North West) : On a point of order, I do not know when it has become the practice in this House for Members to come in here wearing semi-singlets and cover cloths. The hon. Gentleman at my far right is not properly dressed.

Mr Okafor : With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

Nigeria is a young country. There are many Nigerians in business, some of them have also entered into politics, but it does not mean that after they have come into politics and are lucky to be appointed Ministers, they should throw away their former business interests. There are quite a large number of hon. Members, not only in this Federal House but also in the Regional Houses, who have got their private business interests.

... I hope it is not being suggested that if a businessman gets elected into Parliament and becomes a Minister, such a businessman should no longer have business interests because he is a Member of Parliament or a Minister.

... I want us to approach this matter with all sense of responsibility. I also want to tell the House straight-away that, I, as Prime Minister, cannot accept that whenever a man is appointed a Minister, such a man has to sever his connections with all private interests.

[MR OKAFOR]

I will not accept it (Applause). If I am satisfied that this is not going to interfere with the Minister's duty as a Minister, then I will ask him to continue. But if I am sure that it is going to interfere with his duty, it is also my duty to tell him to sever his connection.

I have merely quoted this. That is the Prime Minister of Nigeria speaking about the code of conduct of Ministers.

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North): On a point of order, Sir, nobody is interested in challenging your ruling here. We all know that your ruling is final, but if we can go through the debates of last Saturday, we will find that an hon. Gentleman, in spite of your ruling—and with your permission I will quote the last sentence of his speech to show that he never at any time relented on his attack on Dr Mbadiwe—in spite of your ruling, he continued and he was being cheered by Members. I thought that to say that a Minister is a corrupt person is so serious that opportunity should be given to this House to hear the facts of the case.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Surely, I am always happy to allow Members to make their contributions, to discuss matters under Minister's responsibility, but when it comes to private conduct, and particularly when it is likely to drag the names of Ministers into the matter without substantive reasons for doing so, certainly it is wiser not to allow such things. So, I should not allow any discussion on the conduct of a Minister if it is likely to drag the Minister's name into the matter.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): We sympathise with the present situation and we agree with your stand that the matter should be brought up properly through the right channels. The matter is not being ruled out entirely for discussion; it must be by a substantive motion.

Mr Speaker: The Standing Order says we cannot discuss the conduct of a Minister, at least at this stage, unless there is a substantive Motion, and I am asking the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) to abide by the Standing Orders.

Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu (Aboh): May I then, with your permission, ask the Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) to present an unreserved apology to Dr Mbadiwe.

Mr Okafor: I definitely would abide by your ruling, there is no doubt about that. But

I can never subscribe to a patched unity. There must either be unity in Nigeria or there is no unity at all. After all everybody has a Region. We can all go back to our Regions and appoint a Commission of Inquiry—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order, order.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central): Surely, that is what we expect from the champions of disunity in this country.

Mr Okafor: Yes, that is the unity base—when you give you do not want to take! When you give you are bound to take. After all, we are all here. Three newspapers continued almost in and out of season on one man. We want to reply; now we are not given the opportunity to do so. Members are building a very dangerous edifice.

I now want to go to another aspect. I want to speak on the Press of Nigeria. I want to speak on the leading newspapers of our country, including the *Daily Sketch*, the *Citizen* and the *Outlook*. I would like, seriously, to appeal to our newspapers to show a little restraint, and in doing that, they should not always give the impression that they are being induced; because I have documents here to show that when the controversy started, a committee was set up solely to destroy one man and the sum of three thousand pounds was shared to three newspapers—

Mr Lana: Mention their names.

Mr Okafor: £1,500 to Mr Olu Adebajo, £750 to Mr Abiodun Aloba and £750 to Alhaji Babatunde Jose.

Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr Lana: Seriously, I challenge the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) to go outside this House and—*(interruptions)*.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town): On a point of order, I will appeal seriously to Members to know that people who have no opportunity to defend themselves in this House should not be challenged by the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*).

The Press in this country and specific persons working for the Press have been challenged and have been said to have committed a criminal offence, on the Floor of this House where they have no opportunity to defend themselves. This is improper and the hon. Gentleman who has been making the

challenge should be asked to withdraw these allegations of corruption on the Floor of this House where the people have no opportunity of defending themselves.

Mr Okafor : I want to say that I take full responsibility for what I have said. The sum of three thousand pounds was given to pressmen.

I also know, Sir, that the Press is an important arm of the State. The Press could be used to transform Nigeria into a better country. I know that. Some of these newspaper men are my personal friends. We begin to remember leading editors of Nigerian newspapers. They have in no small measure contributed their quota towards the achievement of independence of Nigeria. Some of them are doing very well. But why should three people, because of money, feel that they can uproot the U.P.G.A., that they can do anything with impunity and without regard? We can understand the *Daily Times* and the *Daily Express* because they are foreign papers. But what of the *Morning Post*, a Government newspaper, financed by the tax-payers, attacking the Minister in and out of season—*(Interruptions)*

Mr Speaker, I am very happy that I still have twenty-five minutes to go.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central) : On a point of information, I want to show this to hon. Members, through Mr Speaker, if there is any need for the unity of Nigeria. This document is about the Hausas.

Document shown to Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Order. There is no breach of Order of this House by this document.

Mr Okafor : As a matter of fact, that one is no document; it is the election placard of one of the hon. Members here.

In conclusion, I want to appeal to our—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, it is shameful for the members on the other side of the House to stand up to defend or attack. When any matter touches a member of the U.P.G.A., they always become rowdy, but when any matter touches a member of another political party, they then sit quietly. That is a bad thing.

Mr Okafor : I want to end my short contribution—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker : I think it is time we got down to serious business. I do not want anybody to waste the time of the House by raising unnecessary points of order and I think it is a dishonour to the House for anyone to disrespect the ruling of the Chair.

Mr Okafor : If you look at the front page editorial of the *Daily Express* of last Saturday you will find that the Premier of a Region and the national president of a big party was asked to shut up. That is the sort of thing we want to put a stop to—*(Interruptions)*.

I want to appeal—

Mr D. A. Agboola (Ila) : On a point of order, Standing Order 32 (1) states—

Subject to paragraph (2) of this order and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 63 (Appropriation Bill), no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject.

The hon. Member speaking has exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker : Order. I think quite a lot of his time has been wasted by the House and it is only a matter of courtesy that we should allow him at least, to wind up after exhausting his time.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, I do not quite understand what the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is driving at. Does he mean that corruption in high places should be encouraged or does he mean that certain people should be excluded?

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Okafor : In winding up, I have to tell the *Daily Express* that that is not the way to sustain the unity of Nigeria.

I want to appeal to our Northern brothers with these few sentences. I want them to note these. They must try as much as possible to accommodate our radical views in order that Nigeria may stay. They must as much as possible endeavour to be completely Nigerian. They must also do their best to point out without fear and without favour any evil anywhere

[MR OKAFOR]

in Nigeria. In the East, in the Mid-West, in Lagos or in the West, they must be able to point out—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kanumbu-Ngan-zai): On a point of order, in all seriousness, may I appeal to the hon. Member speaking to address those of us he refers to as Northerners as fellow Nigerians.

Mr Okafor: I would like them to feel that they are entitled to a very, very good share of the national cake of this country, and in having it, they must be prepared also to take—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr Akubakar Isandu): On a point of order, I am happy that I come from a place where this type of people—Ibos—are predominant. Nobody can say what the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is saying now in a congregation of the Ibos.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central): We are prepared to bear all this if the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is prepared to bear the responsibility for any bitterness existing in Nigeria to-day. We are prepared to bear what he has said if he is prepared to bear the responsibility for the failure of the N.C.N.C. in the last Government.

Mr Speaker: Members are making speeches in the guise of raising points of order. That is out of order.

Mr Okafor: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I still have twenty more minutes to go.

I would like you to bear with us. More often than not, it has been our lot to think aloud on the methods or measures whereby we feel Nigeria can be one. We have always felt so. (*Interruptions*)

M. Tanko Abubakar rose on a point of order.

Mr Speaker: Will the Member for Keffi (*M. Abubakar*) please resume his seat.

Mr Okafor: I think evidence of maturity is the ability to listen. Anybody who is unable to listen and perhaps commit that to understanding is never mature. This Parliament being the highest Legislature of the land, we must be able to debate because this is the only forum where we have a "complete" Nigeria.

This is the only Legislature that brings together people from all the various constituencies that make up the Federal Republic of Nigeria. If we cannot forge the unity of Nigeria on the Floor of this House, I do not see where again we can.

I now want to talk about the N.N.D.P. I want to appeal to them—

Mr Speaker: The Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) has exhausted his time.

Chief H. O. Davies (Ekiti West): I am rising to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the President.

In the first place, I wish to congratulate our revered Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for his wise statesmanship, his calmness and tact which enabled him to steer the ship of State successfully through the stormy weather into which we sailed immediately after the 1964 elections.

May I also thank two great men of our land? I refer to Sir Adetokunboh Ademola, the Chief Justice of the Federation and Sir Louis Mbanefo, the Chief Justice of the Eastern Region, for their peace-making role through the crisis.

May I also express our appreciation of the discipline and spirit of sacrifice shown by the members of the N.N.A., particularly those who had won the election since December and had to give patient, disciplined and loyal support to the Prime Minister in his effort to search for a solution to the crisis.

It is said that the weakest link proves the strength of the chain. The manner in which we finally overcame that crisis is proof positive of Nigeria's maturity, and the fact that the quality of our leadership as well as of our followership is very high.

My prayer, in which I am sure all Members of this House including the loud-mouthed Members behind me will join, is that at any time and more particularly in her hour of trial, this country may never be wanting in Sir Abubakars, Sir Adetokunboh and Sir Louis Mbanefos.

It is very difficult for one like myself, ever wanting to discover the morals taught by daily occurrences, to resist the temptation of looking back at the chain of events leading to that crisis.

When I look back, I discover that one sinister fact emerges with conspicuous aloofness. It is the fact that our elections were conducted in the primitive and unwholesome atmosphere of thuggery and hooliganism. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Will the Member for Ekiti West (*Chief Davies*) please continue with his speech.

Chief Davies : It is too soon to forget that three citizens of Nigeria lost their lives through thuggery in Ijebu Province ; two women in Abeokuta sustained fatal injuries from shots fired at them while they stood at a polling station waiting to cast their votes. Many others received divers injuries. Houses were smashed up and vehicles were burnt, destroyed and damaged.

It is difficult to assess in terms of pounds, shillings and pence, the damage which we civilised independent Nigerians inflicted upon ourselves before we could be elected to this Parliament.

The question I ask is : Have all these been worth our while ? Here we are sitting together in the serene atmosphere of this House, sharing jokes and good humour. It is really heart-rending to think that we let loose on ourselves before we came here, hell on this earth and we brought to the people of this country the nightmare of terror and force of fear.

I shudder to think of what Nigeria may be like in another ten or twenty years if we fail now to meet this sinister challenge to our body politic. It is a challenge to our manhood as well as to our leadership to devise an effective means of rooting out thuggery and hooliganism from all future electioneering campaigns.

I venture to suggest that a three-pronged attack should be made on thuggery if we want to encompass its total elimination. Firstly, I would suggest that all political leaders should agree to subscribe on their honour to a clear and unambiguous declaration never to hire, to maintain, use or consent to the use of thuggery, directly or indirectly at any time.

Secondly, legislation should be passed to punish not only the use of thugs but also the hiring or maintenance of thugs. The law relating to punishment for possession of Indian hemp should be tightened.

Thirdly, it is my sincere belief that such people who can be hired for a small sum of

money to offer violence to the person or property of other people, can only be those people who have no respectable employment or means of decent subsistence. They are the idle element in our society.

The devil, it is said, finds work for the idle hand to do. If we are to eradicate thuggery, we must forestal the devil and provide better work than the peddling of violence for these men to do.

We cannot afford to wait until our industries and our commercial activities generate full employment. This is bound to take some time. We must find an interim solution to unemployment. I would suggest that our Federal Ministry of Defence, in co-operation with the Ministries of Agriculture and Education in the regions, should be able to evolve a joint scheme for the absorption of these people, who constitute a serious danger to the future stability of our Federation.

I have in mind the system of Nahal and Gadna in Israel, which other developing countries like Ghana have studied and adopted. It is high time we started studying how other countries are coping with this problem of unemployment.

Turning to the vexed question of unity in this country, I was particularly gratified to listen to the Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Mbazulike Amechi*), when he suggested the prophylactics against the disintegration of the Federation. His suggestions were quite exciting although they were nearly marred by the blasphemy which he uttered at the tail end of his brilliant speech against one of the two best Regional Premiers of Nigeria.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, Order 27 (i) :—

Any Member deviating from the provisions of these orders may be immediately called to order by Mr Speaker or the chairman, or by a Member rising to a point of order. A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker or the chairman for decision.

My point, with due respect to the Member for Ekiti West (*Chief Davies*), is that many Members have stood up here on a point of order but they were not allowed to speak. Is it

[MR MBAH]

because the General Secretary of the "Egbe Omo Olofin" is speaking that Members cannot raise a point of order?

Mr Speaker : I think the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is raising a point of disorder.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : On a point of order, Order 26 (6) :—

No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.

The Member for Ekiti West (*Chief Davies*) is imputing improper motives on the speech of the Member for Onitsha Central (*Mr Amechi*). I consider that to be out of order.

Chief Davies : I was particularly happy that that suggestion emanated from no other source than from the Member for Onitsha Central who by his public pronouncements in the past did earn for himself the title of "the stormy petrel of the UPGA", when he advised all leaders to be cautious in their public pronouncements. I take it that we are already witnessing a change of heart which must be the turning point in our search for unity in this country.

I was equally gratified to note from the President's Speech that every effort will be made to encourage a more vigorous exploitation of our mineral resources. To this end, geological surveys should be intensified to ascertain the unknown mineral resources of the country. I am sure that any survey carried out in Ekiti Division will be amply rewarded.

Previous geological survey in Iyin-Ekiti showed that the stones around the area are valuable marble stones. Other mineral deposits have also been located.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : On a point of order, may we know whether the hon. Member speaking who was smuggled into Ekiti Division to contest the election is trying to....

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

Chief Davies : On behalf of the people of Ekiti Division, I must express my pleasure that special programmes for the eradication or control of diseases such as smallpox, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, cerebro-spinal-meningitis, sleeping sickness, yaws and river blindness, will be undertaken.

There is, however, one serious omission from the list of diseases I have enumerated. It is the dreaded scourge known as guinea-worm. This disease abounds throughout the Ondo Province. Every tenth person on the street is suffering from guinea-worm.

When the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) was speaking, some of his N.C.N.C., UPGA friends labelled him as a "guinea-worm doctor". Well, I was very happy to hear that because it suggested to me, first, that he was a doctor; secondly that he was living in a guinea-worm area; and thirdly, that he was doing something to eradicate guinea-worm.

But after he had finished speaking, I discovered that he was not a doctor of medicine but a doctor of engineering. Guinea-worm cannot be destroyed with a sledge hammer and that is why I am appealing to the Government not to leave the control of this disease to the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*).

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) : On a point of information, there is pipe-borne water in the Member for Owo North's (*Dr Ibukun*) constituency. There is no guinea-worm or typhoid fever in Owo Division.

Chief Davies : I know that in *Dr Ibukun's* constituency, there are lots of people suffering from guinea-worm and I would like the Government to include this disease in the list of diseases to be eradicated.

It is a pity that *Dr Ibukun* is not in the House to-day. He has spent a long time trying to belittle the biggest and the best profession in the world, and that is the honourable profession of law.

I was surprised that he did that. The difference between the profession of Law and that of Engineering is a very simple one. Give the lawyer the facts and he will do the job; give the engineer, particularly one from the ringworm area, the job and he will finish the tools.

I am also very happy to learn that the Federal Government is now taking interest in matters like water supply and electricity and have pledged to assist the Regional Governments to supply these to all the different parts of the country.

I would say, speaking for myself, that I agree with the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okoye*) that health is the basic wealth which any

member of the society has and it seems a little odd that matters of health have been left to the Regional Governments.

I must say that some Regional Governments are doing very well to help the people in their search for good health. But I should say that there is a ceiling put on their efforts by the scanty resources at their disposal.

I would be happy indeed to see that these points written on behalf of the Federal Government will be translated into action. I may again say here that this affliction in Ondo Province, excluding Owo, can also be cured by good pipe-borne water supply.

I shall be very happy indeed if the Federal Government will do its utmost to see that not a single part or section of the country exists without good water supply.

With regard to electricity I should also say that the surest way of starting industrial activities in any community is to supply electricity to that area. There are places in Ondo Province where electric wiring has been completed but the connection to supply power has not been made. I hope that this will be made this year.

I beg to support the Motion.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): In rising to contribute to the debate on this Motion I should like to associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by Members of the N.N.A. on the Floor of this honourable House, and to dissociate myself completely from the views expressed by the Members of the "Useless Party Grand Alliance".

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): On a point of order, the language used by the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari*) in this regard is rather unparliamentary and I would like him to withdraw it.

Alhaji Muhtari: It was definitely not my intention to speak on this Motion but for the unfair reference made by the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) to Northerners and the Nigerian Press. That is why I find it necessary to stand on the Floor of this House to defend both the North and the Press.

The remarks of the hon. Member on the North is, to say the least, a reflection of the highest standard of dishonesty on the part of the N.C.N.C. His statement is hypocritical

in that he knows that Northerners in the country regard themselves as Nigerians more than any other people from any other part of the Federation.

It is in the Northern Region that one can find people from other regions working for the Local Authorities and for the Regional Government as well. It is in the Northern Region that one finds people from other regions owning land and property and going about freely, without fear of molestation.

I challenge the hon. Member or any member of the N.C.N.C. to state here the number of Northerners who are working in Eastern Nigeria.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East): I am surprised that the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari*) should make this kind of remark when in actual fact five of my own brothers who were residing in the North have been driven home.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): On a point of order, I do not know why Members think that going home is a bad thing. Anybody who likes going home is a man who respects his home.

Alhaji Muhtari: It is gratifying to note that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) who is an Easterner is supporting me.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central): May we appeal to the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari*) to allow us to listen; we have dashed the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) to the N.P.C. and he should continue to sing along with the choral voice.

Alhaji Muhtari: If, according to the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) to be a Nigerian is to be denied the opportunity to serve other regions, then the North will know what to do.

In any event we are not going to do anything. We believe in the unity of the country. We believe that anybody anywhere in the country no matter to which tribe he belongs should be allowed the freedom to live anywhere and to work anywhere in the country.

We are convinced that U.P.G.A. will never be satisfied. I am telling the truth. We are now convinced that U.P.G.A. will never be satisfied in this country unless and until one particular tribe dominates everybody. U.P.G.A. supporters have a very wrong impression—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman who is speaking and who is a Native Authority Head in the North should desist from fanning trouble on tribalism in this country.

Mr Speaker: I think the less we talk of tribalism or of tribal tendencies the better.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, some people do not know that irrespective of political attachment, alignment and sympathy, we highly respect this country. One of these people is my hon. Friend the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*). I am really disappointed to hear him join with some of the less knowledgeable and less dignified Parliamentarians to fan the embers of tribalism. I will appeal to him to assume the responsibility expected of him and to talk of one Nigeria.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari: The trouble with U.P.G.A. supporters, especially the uninformed ones, is that they do not know that whether it is the N.N.A. or the U.P.G.A. that wins the election, the fact remains that 167 representatives must come from the Northern Region. This is what they do not understand. That this Parliament should be filled by Southerners is what U.P.G.A. wants. This is what the U.P.G.A. supporters were made to understand.

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Speaker: Order. I think the hon. Member is attacking the U.P.G.A., and that is not the spirit of the debate.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I maintain that there will never be unity in this country unless the ordinary Hausa man or Ibo man or Yoruba man or any other tribe recognises the other as a Nigerian. In this connection I should like these people, if they are honest, to teach other people, let us say, a crew on the air, a labourer in the locomotive workshop, or a shopkeeper, never to look down upon any other tribe. On unity, I appeal to all Members to borrow from the North how democracy is being worked out, how we adhere to the rule of law and how we treat everybody alike. They should borrow these things from the Northern Region.

During the course of his speech, the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) bitterly attacked the Nigerian Press. Let me say that his attack is, to say the least, hypocritical, unjust and untimely. I should like to remind the old Members of the House that it was the Minister of Aviation, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, who, on the Floor of this House when contributing to the debate on the Press Bill, said that the Press Bill that was being presented to the House was intended to usher in independence for the Nigerian Press. Now that the Nigerian Press is independent and is telling the truth, the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) is coming here to tell us that the Press is useless and corrupt.

Mr Speaker: I have already ruled that this affair of Dr K. O. Mbadiwe and Ministers should be discontinued.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): On a point of correction, I did not at any stage say that the Press is corrupt. I did not say so.

Several hon. Members: You said so.

Mr Okafor: I named three people and said that they are corrupt and I tendered documents to show that they are corrupt. They took money.

An hon. Member: Tender evidence.

Mr Okafor: It has been tendered. I have given it to the Police.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari: The Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) cannot deny the fact. Nobody is a fool. He cannot fool us here. According to him our Press is corrupt because it always tells the truth. Let me say here emphatically that we have full and implicit confidence in our Press. Any attempt to give the impression that the Nigerian Press is corrupt is unpatriotic. It will give the outside world the impression that we are not mature. Therefore, we have full confidence in the Press and we shall continue to defend the freedom of the Press whether on the Floor of this House or anywhere in the world. And to the Press—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central): On a point of order, did the hon. Member who is speaking and who is trying to champion the course of the Press not vote in favour of the Press Law? He is now trying to defend the freedom of the Press.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari : The question of the Press is one thing and the debate before us is another thing. It was Dr K. O. Mbadiwe of the N.C.N.C. who insisted that the Press Bill must be passed and we, being gentlemen and Members supporting the Government, had to agree to pass the Bill. The Federal Government (I am not speaking on behalf of the Federal Government as such), the Members of the N.P.C. and the N.N.A. as a whole have full confidence in the Press. On this I will quote what the one-time British Prime Minister, the late Sir Winston Churchill, said to the Press :

*Give us your confidence,
Put your confidence in us ;
Give us your grace and your blessing,
And under providence, all will be well.*

We shall always defend the Press because the Press is for the truth. That is all. I have nothing with the Press personally. Why did the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) not attack the N.B.C. ? It is the N.B.C. that is causing confusion. We should always defend the Press.

Dr P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to both Houses of Parliament.

I must seize this opportunity to thank the Almighty God, the people of my constituency, the Igbominas and the Northern Ekitis and other friends who have helped me to get into this House. It is my ardent prayer that parliamentary democracy should thrive in this country in order that our Republic may be an example to other African states.

There are two prerequisites which must be obtainable before we can stand as an example to others. These prerequisites are boldly written in front of us and that is, "Unity and Faith". I am not here to give a lecture, although I am a Lecturer, but I crave the indulgence of hon. Members to permit me to say how essential it is for this country to have "Unity and Faith". It appears that Members of this honourable House are playing with the word "Unity" without really thinking of what they mean. It is our duty to preserve the unity of this country, and I am glad to say that, hitherto, the only single party which has been keeping this country together is the N.P.C.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, I want to know whether the Member for Ilorin East (*Dr Dada*) is taking

this House seriously when he contested against the N.P.C. as a candidate and now comes to tell hon. Members that it is the only party which loves the unity of this country.

Mr Speaker : That is a question.

Dr Dada : I would like to remind the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) that the N.P.C. is a magnanimous party which forgives its sons when they offend.

I would like to say that some people sitting in this House to-day are causing great trouble in this country and the very people will come here to say that Nigeria must be united or we go apart. May I remind such people of the story in the Holy Bible of King Solomon when two women were fighting for a living child and a dead child. The owner of the living child wanted King Solomon to settle the matter but the woman whose child died said that the child should be cut into two so that the living child will be neither her's nor the other woman's. I think the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Okafor*) said this morning that we either unite this country or we go apart. This is a very serious thing to say and I challenge him not to utter such a statement in the future.

There have been several acts or utterances which make the unity of this country to be at stake. I will remind Members of the controversy which characterised the last census : how our able and God fearing Prime Minister was sued for accepting what was correct. These things are too many to mention, but we have to face it that we are keeping this country together and it is our responsibility to do so.

In contributing to the debate on the President's Address, I would also like to remind the Government of the duty it owes to the Universities in this country. Although we have only one University in the Northern Region, that University has not been well catered for, and it is doing splendid work. I would, therefore, urge hon. Members to help me urge the Government to give more funds to that University in order to cater for the vast Region of thirty million people. I would also appeal to the Federal Government to make available to the Northern Nigeria Government funds to enable it to implement its laudable plans of providing essential social services to the teeming population which has obviously been neglected since the colonial era

[DR DADA]

May I also call the attention of this honourable House to the Trunk A road from Ajase to Kabba. Several Members have spoken on this road but I would like to mention it again because it is a Federal road. Anybody who travels on this road will be ashamed that it is a Federal road. I want this road to be tarred. What is being done at the moment is unheard of. The road is only being patched in few places. I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys to regard the Ajase-Kabba road as essential because of its economic importance.

Besides, the point was used against my friend whom I had the honour to defeat during the last elections, and I do not want this thing to continue because there is not a single amenity in the whole constituency. We have no water, no hospital, no telephone link and no industry whatsoever. Therefore, I would urge this Federal Government to make sufficient funds available to the Northern Nigeria Government so that it may carry out its gigantic plan.

I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): The Speech by the President in opening Parliament was delivered in a brilliant style and, in fact, it contains many programmes of which any progressive country in the world should be proud. But I sincerely think that the Speech should be read along with that delivered by the President on the 18th day of February, 1965, on the occasion of the First Session of Parliament this year.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would refer to the first paragraph of the President's Speech delivered on the 18th of February, 1965. He said:—

I welcome you all to this Session of the new Parliament, the first to be summoned since the parliamentary elections of last December. We all witnessed the historic events of the recent constitutional crisis which was peacefully resolved under a five-point agreement aimed at securing unity and peace throughout this Republic.

The President in his Speech delivered at the opening of this Meeting on Wednesday the 24th March, reiterated our policy both as regards our participation in the United Nations Organisation and the Organisation of African Unity. The Speech went on to enumerate what the

Government will do during this year.

As I said earlier on, the Government's programme is an impressive one of which any Government in the world can be proud of. The question now is how the Federal Government would implement this programme. It is one thing to draw up a programme and it is another thing to be able to implement it to the benefit of the people.

Our experience shows that on previous occasions the Federal Government had drawn up beautiful programmes — particularly the present Six-Year Development Programme—but the facts are obvious to everybody that due to our own limitations and weaknesses, most of the jobs that could have been done to implement those Programmes have failed.

It would appear that the Speech did not take cognizance of the factors which militate against the implementation of Government's programmes. In this connection, I would respectfully refer, in particular, to the situation which makes it necessary for the Government to emphasise the importance of peace and unity in Nigeria. We cannot pretend that the atmosphere in the country to-day is conducive to the implementation of the laudable programme put before this honourable House.

One big reason why the Government felt compelled to emphasise the need for peace and unity is the festering sore which the political situation in the Western Region now constitutes. It is a pity that some of the leaders of this country believe in self-deception. It is said that a chain is as strong as the weakest of its links. We cannot close our eyes to the festering sore of the Western Region. The Federation as a whole is as strong as any of its component parts. We know that since 1962, the people of Western Region have been afflicted by all sorts of ailments, and I think that it is the duty of the Federal Government to find a solution or even a cure to most of the ailments that afflict the people of Western Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): On a point of order, if there is any festering sore in the Western Region, it was caused by the Action Group. May I say that if the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) would be fair to himself, he would know that he is one of the architects of the trouble in the Western Region.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) has given an information to this House. It is left to this House to attach any weight or no weight to his information. It was not a point of order really.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that the factors which now militate against the progress of this country are caused by the Government of Western Region. I am a man of Western Region origin. Although I feel I should always act as a citizen of the world, but I cannot shirk my responsibility or pretend to gloss over the affliction which touches my people, because once it touches any part of the Federation, it touches the whole Federation.

Mr Lana rose—

I can see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr Lana*) trying to raise another point of order, but I would like to advise him that he has the opportunity to get up and contribute to the debate.

The point I am trying to make is that the facts are clear to Members of this honourable House that for the past three years—particularly from the 1st of January, 1963—the Western Region has known no peace, and this affects the economy of the whole Federation very seriously, and that of the Western Region in particular.

This year, the Government of the Western Region is budgeting for £19 million, and only God knows how they are going to get at least half of that amount. This is the lowest amount ever budgeted.

Mr Lana : On a point of order, I do not think that it is proper for the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to misinform this House. In the first place, the budget for the Western Region this year is £28 million.

At the same time, I do not think it is proper to bring the Government of a Region on the Floor of this House for a debate when that particular Government has no means of defending itself. The hon. Gentleman speaking if he wants, can go outside this House to campaign against the Western Region Government and not to criticise it on the Floor of this honourable House.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Speaking for myself, although I have no love for the N.P.C., I have the greatest respect for the Government

of the Northern Region. I am telling this House quite honestly that the Government of the Northern Region is just like the United Nations. It is the Northern Region that has the greatest number of tribes in Nigeria in their Government.

The next Government is in the Mid-Western Region where there are eight tribes. But in the Northern Region there are more than that.

A situation has been created in the Western Region where out of 53 Members of the House of Assembly 49 of them are functionaries. Where there are about seven seats which have been vacant since 1960 none has been filled till to-day. The number of political prisoners in the Western Region has risen to a figure which is unprecedented in the history of this country.

This is a matter of a very serious consequence to the economy, peace and unity of this country. We are all interested in the progress of Nigeria, otherwise we would not be here. But where there is a Government in the country which in words and deeds goes all out to destroy all that the nationalists of this country have been fighting for for the past three or four decades, I think the Federal Government should not just look on. The Federal Government should do something about it. To-day there are many problems facing us.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : On a point of order, I think there is a great discomfort in this House, and this is probably due to poor ventilation. Would it not be better if something were done to improve on the air conditioning system here ?

Mr Speaker : It is a pity that nothing can be done as far as that is concerned. I have made an investigation, and I am told that it is due to power failure. I have referred the matter to the appropriate authorities.

Chief J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East) : May I suggest in that case that an ambulance be got ready for anybody who may likely faint ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I am speaking with all seriousness that the Federal Government should do something about the situation in the West. We do not advocate that an emergency should be declared in the West. But we do say that the people of the Western Region should be given the opportunity as early as possible—

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): On a point of order, the West Regional Government is a properly constituted Government, and the hon. Gentleman is incompetent to discuss anything which is Regional.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I do not intend to argue that point with the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*), but if he cares to remember he will know that the Privy Council nullified the appointment of Chief Akintola at a time when the Privy Council was an arm of our Judiciary, and it may not be long before Chief Akintola and his henchmen will give account of their stewardship to the nation.

I hear an hon. Member saying that they will run away. I know they will run away.

Why I referred to the Speech made by the President on the 18th of February, 1965, was because I have a suggestion to make.

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West): On a point of order, I think it is not fair for the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to come to the Floor of this House to criticise the Government of the Western Region—the Government which is trying to repair the damage done by the former Action Group Government.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: That is why I referred to the statement made by His Excellency the President on the 18th of February, 1965, where he made reference to the five-point agreement aimed at securing unity and peace throughout this Republic, and included in the five-point agreement is an early election in the Western Region. That is why I am calling upon the Federal Government to see to it that the people of the Western Region are given the opportunity of electing the Government of their own choice.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): On a point of order, only Chief S. L. Akintola in this country has the power to order an election in the Western Region.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I was reading an article which contains the speech of the President of the United States of America to their Congress recently on the civil rights of the negroes in America, and this passage, which I ask your permission, Mr Speaker, to quote, struck me forcibly. He said:—

An ink bottle broken against an American Embassy, a fire set in an American Library, an insult committed against an American Flag anywhere in the world, does far less injury to our country and our cause than the discriminatory denial of the right of any American citizen at home to vote on the basis of race or colour.

Well, some people say that they want the Government which is now in the Western Region to be in power for another three or four years. When that Government got into power on the 1st of January, 1963, August 1965 looked like eternity. But it is now just around the corner. The Western Region Government is now composed of people who are not bold enough to contest seven by-elections in the Region. They are the people who deprived the citizens in those constituencies the opportunity of their representatives being heard. They are the people who are not bold enough to conduct Local Government elections in a Region where the life of the Local Government Councils expired since June or July last year. They are the people who cannot get the genuine sons and daughters of the Western Region to support their Government.

They are the people who scored only fourteen *per cent* of the votes cast during the last Federal elections, where there used to be seventy *per cent* of the voters.

The average percentage of voters in the West is usually seventy, but during the last Federal elections only twenty-three *per cent* voted, and this twenty-three *per cent* included the supporters of the N.C.N.C., the Action Group, and the N.N.D.P. The N.N.D.P., inspite of their rigging and dumping of ballot papers in boxes, scored only fourteen *per cent*; yet they claim to represent the people of Western Nigeria!

I would, therefore, appeal very strongly to the leaders of the N.P.C., who have an effective Government in Northern Nigeria, to allow the people of Western Nigeria to have an effective Government in the West.

One other point which I would like to touch upon, which was omitted from the Speech by His Excellency the President, is the review of the Constitution—another of the five-point agreement.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): On a point of order—

Mr Speaker : What Order ?

M. Ali Umaru : Order 29. The hon. Member is continually mentioning the five-point agreement with the President. As far as that is concerned, I feel that the five-point agreement is a gentleman's agreement which has neither legal nor constitutional validity. The Constitution has been discussed by us in this House.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I think that if the hon. Gentleman knew more about the rules of debate, he would not have raised these frivolous points of order. I was referring to the Speech by His Excellency. His Excellency referred in his Speech to the five-point agreement and I am entitled to refer to the contents of the Speech by His Excellency the President.

The other point is the review of the Constitution. Unless we want to continue to deceive ourselves, we must admit that there is tension in this country ; that most of the people are not happy ; that we have not been able to provide security measures for our workers, for our people, our peasants, and our farmers ; and that we have not been able to give them the maximum measure of happiness. Our duty is not to come here and draw salaries and allowances. It is our duty to come here to urge the Government to provide maximum benefits for our people.

There are those of us here who, Minister or no Minister, will continue to render services to this nation. But we know that there are those whose greatest ambition in life, because they have enough money, they have enough houses and they have everything they want, is to become Ministers. I have one or two of them around me here. They will do anything on earth to achieve their ambition of becoming Ministers. For the past two weeks they have not been having more than two hours' sleep. They have been running around to canvass for Ministerial appointments.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Will the hon. Member please wind up.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : One other thing I want to suggest to the Government is the introduction of a more liberal banking system. As far as I know, Nigerians are not as lazy as the erstwhile overlords used to paint us. I have discovered to my delight that most Nigerians are very enterprising and, but for lack of capital, most of the businessmen and businesswomen in this country would compare

very favourably with businessmen and businesswomen anywhere else in the world. In this connection, I should like to refer to the Speech by His Excellency and, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote :

An Investment Centre will be established to assemble information on specific projects and advice potential investors at home and abroad on our industrial development programmes.

Our people have no capital and the only thing in which they can participate is investment in industries and trade. What we have discovered is that an average Nigerian is a very enterprising person, but without capital he cannot do much. Thus, the responsibility lies squarely on the Federal Government to see that the average Nigerian businessman or woman gets capital to pursue a legitimate trade or industry. And one way in which we can do this is to discard the old colonial banking system or banking set-up and allow people to raise loans and improve their businesses.

Some people on my right are saying, "Credit without security". I am not saying that there should be credit without security. A good banking system will always require security and this security may take the form of landed property, share certificates, and so on. One of the reasons why the economy of the United States of America is very sound is because their banking law is very liberal. Those who have been there recently will agree with me in saying this. We know that there, even on the television, the banks advertise for loans. They want people to come and raise loans to improve their businesses. Almost everyday one can listen to it on the radio, one can see advertisements on the television asking people to go and raise loans.

It is all right if we want the Government to be all-powerful and to participate in trade, but we have not yet decided on that. Individual citizens should be given the opportunity to have some money to improve his trade. That is the last suggestion I would like to make.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq (Ilorin Town) : I rise to support the Motion of Address to His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his Presidential Speech, from the Presidential Chair.

Mr Speaker : It is now one o'clock and, under Standing Orders, sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : As I was saying, I support the Motion for an Address to the President for his able and magnificent speech delivered from the Presidential Chair.

The importance of foreign affairs to our Government is spot-lighted by the prominence which the President has given to the foreign policy of the Government. This Government has stated, like the former Government, that our foreign policy will be that of non-alignment. This is a welcome enunciation of the Government's policy on foreign affairs. I hope, however, that this Government, unlike its predecessor in office, will execute our foreign policy of non-alignment in a real manner of non-alignment.

Let us hope that in the conduct of our foreign policy during the tenure of the present Government we shall all be happy that we are truly more non-aligned than we used to be under the former Government.

We have very often been labelled in the outside-world as a moderate country. Nigeria has always been referred to as being moderate in her foreign affairs. Of course, in diplomatic circles among the Western powers, the phrase "to be moderate" is just an euphemistic phrase for saying that one is pro-western. So that when we are referred to as being moderate, they mean we are pro-western. This is brought about not by the fact of the enunciation of our own foreign policy but by the manner in which we had hitherto conducted our foreign policy.

I hope that the new Government that is now coming through will execute our foreign policy in such a way that those who have labelled us as being moderate will cease to label us as such. Our policy in Africa is highly commendable. This also has been well dealt with by the President in his Speech, but very often we have forgotten or we are not being mindful of certain facts which obtain in foreign affairs in Africa.

I think that in approaching our foreign policy we should bear in mind that the relationship between African countries and Nigeria should

be looked into by dividing African states into three groups. The first group of African states are those who are friends of Nigeria. These are those who love Nigeria and who will go anywhere with us and do whatever we do. They are those who respect and love us, not merely because of our largeness of territory or population, or limitlessness of our natural resources, but above all, because of the intelligent and humble manner in which Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of this great country, has been conducting the affairs of Nigeria. These are the good friends of Nigeria who listen with compelling understanding when Nigeria speaks in the comity or Nations, and particularly in the Councils of the Organisation of African Unity. Our policy towards this first group should be that of what we have we hold. These are our friends, we should hold on to them and we should do nothing that will scare them away from us.

There is the second group of African states which, for some considerable length of time now, have been looking at Nigeria with jealousy and suspicion. This second group of African states are not as many as the friends of Nigeria. These however, give twisted and warped interpretation to acts or omissions of Nigeria in foreign affairs, and whatever Nigeria does they are always cynical and they will always find faults with it. Our policy towards this group should be to try to inspire confidence in them and have mutual understanding with them so that we could enlarge our circle of friends.

The third group of African states are those whom I might call the enemies of Nigeria. This group consists of some African states which are very small in number and size. Although these states are small, yet they are very vocal, very cynical and very vociferous. They command a tremendous instrument of propanganda and, although they are very few in number, yet they are the most effective critics and enemies of Nigeria. Among this group will be found African states which complained sometime ago that Nigeria takes them for granted and, that is, because of our attitude towards them. Some of these African states complain that because they are small Nigeria disregards them. These are the type of countries which find nothing good in whatever we do in Nigeria. These countries

are very touchy about protocol, neglect or non-consultation or on any *faux pas* committed by Nigeria.

These countries that I have categorised are not to be named in the House because I assume that hon. Members are intelligent enough to know them. Among this third group of African states can be found such countries that, out of jealousy, say that Nigeria is big for nothing. They say, out of sheer contempt and jealousy, that they do not like Nigeria. When we stand upon the principle of legality and fairness in the conduct of our foreign affairs, they stand for political expediency.

For an example, when we said that we were going to stick to the O.A.U. principle of non-interference in the affairs of the Congo, they turned round and said that as far as they are concerned, Tshombe's Government is no government at all because they, without trial, had presumed Tshombe guilty of the murder of Lumumba and, for this reason, they disregard the legal government of the Congo. Therefore, they claim by so doing that they have a right to interfere in the affairs of the Congo. But we say that we are going to stick to the Charter of the O.A.U., the principle of which Charter is that there should be no interference in the domestic affairs of any other country.

I recommend that our policy towards these small groups of African states should be that of caution, mixed with the law of Moses. We have, in the past, been treating these countries with great caution, but, unfortunately, our caution has been misinterpreted to mean our weakness. It has been thrown back to our face that we are not exercising caution but that we are weak and cannot act, and it is for this reason that now and from henceforth, I suggest that we mix our caution with the law of Moses which is no more than a law that extracts a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye.

So many hon. Members who have spoken before me on this Address have spoken in relation to Ghana and the recent events at our High Commission in Accra. I join them in saying with all the emphasis at my command that we deplore, and that we are indignant about this Ghana Government inspired demonstration and near looting of the High Commission of Nigeria in Accra.

It is true that many hon. Members have demanded that because of this hostile act of the

Ghana Government towards Nigeria, there should be a break in diplomatic relations between us and Ghana. On this I join the hon. Prime Minister in saying that, although Nigeria is very indignant about what had happened to our High Commission, nevertheless we should not proceed by breaking diplomatic relations on account of it. Let me not be mistaken as under-rating what had happened to us in Accra. The meaning of what happened to us is that we Nigerians and our country, Nigeria, have been trampled upon in Ghana. That is what the act of the demonstrator was meant to be and that is what we understand it to be. Nevertheless, we should not break diplomatic relations because of it.

Diplomatic relations are unilaterally broken but they are never resumed after they have been broken except by bilateral action. We have had the experience in this country of the break up of diplomatic relations, and up till now we have not been able to resume diplomatic relations with the country with which we broke it.

However, the most important thing in our attitude towards Ghana is to protest, which has been done; and also to demand an apology and an assurance that there will be no recurrence of such a hostile act against our accredited representative in Accra.

Further more, I think that by not breaking diplomatic relations on account of this, we are teaching members of the O.A.U. and all African countries at large that Nigeria is big and magnanimous. We are magnanimous in saying that although we know that we have been ill-treated, nevertheless we want to make friends and so we still leave the door open and our arms open to receive more and more friends.

Leaving the foreign affairs aspect of the Speech by the President, I now move on to another aspect of the Speech, and this is coming nearer home to our domestic affairs. I speak of nothing but electricity in this country. Again, many people have spoken about this. The only thing I want to say about electricity is that I still have not heard any acceptable and tenable reasons why there should be disparity in the prices of electricity being consumed from one town to the other in this country. I do not see any reason why people in Lagos should pay

[ALHAJI ABDUL RAZAQ]
for electricity at a cheaper rate than we do in Ilorin; or indeed, why people in Ilorin should pay more cheaply than the people in Maiduguri,

This is an aspect of the utility services of the Government to the country and we do know that we want the E.C.N. to run on a profit basis. It is, I understand, a policy of the E.C.N. that the more consumers there are in a particular town, the less you pay per unit in that town. That, I understand to be the policy. But I say, Sir, with the greatest respect, that the E.C.N. should be advised to change that policy. Let everybody in this country pay the same flat rate per unit of electricity.

For an example, when the Minister of Mines and Power was opening the electricity undertaking for Oturkpo, it was announced that the unit there would cost 3d, whereas we in Ilorin Town who have had the benefit of electricity for well over one year before Oturkpo have always had it for 5d per unit. It cannot be said that Oturkpo which was just beginning, had already had more consumers than Ilorin which had been operating for more than a year.

However, the principle upon which I speak is that whether a man is from Port Harcourt, Aba, Ilorin, Abeokuta or indeed Degema or Abonnema, he should be able to pay the same price per unit of electricity anywhere in Nigeria, and that the transport cost of this power be spread over to everybody in the country.

Another aspect on which I wish to speak is the effort that the Federal Government has been making to take Nigeria into the European Economic Community, the E.E.C. which is properly referred to as the Common Market in Europe. It is a pity that the President's Speech was silent on what effort we have been making to enter into the Common Market.

I know that earlier when this proposal came forth, the attitude of Nigeria was that we should not be members of the Common Market. But I also know that with time this attitude has changed and we have decided to join the Common Market. What I now ask is this. At what cost are we joining the Common Market? What is the price we are paying and what is the sacrifice? I think that hon. Members of this House should know through the Speech from the Throne what effort the Government is making to enter into the Common Market.

It is true that our Ambassador Plenipoten-

tiary accredited to the European Economic Community gave a press conference about this aspect some time ago, but certainly hon. Members of this House should not be left to depend upon such a source of information in knowing how far this country is being committed into entering the Common Market. We should know particularly what sacrifice we are going to make in entering and what advantages will be derived. This is important because at one stage, as I said before, everybody in this country was anxious on joining the Common Market. Now that we have changed, we should know whether there are certain factors which impel us to decide to change from our earlier attitude and to know what prices we are paying for it.

The next aspect which I propose to touch is the question of the industrialisation of this country. What I propose to do is to join my hon. Colleague from Lafiagi-Pategi constituency in expressing our thanks to the Government for the establishment of the Nigeria Sugar Company in Bacita in Ilorin Province. We are very grateful for this but what comes out of this industrialisation is a note of warning that I propose to sound. I do hope that the Federal Government will take into consideration the fact that it should open its eyes wider and its ears wider in order to avoid Nigeria becoming a dumping ground for European unwanted machinery on the pretext of Nigerian industrialisation.

A great many machinery salesmen from Europe come to this country on the pretext that they want to found this industry and that industry in this area and that area in Nigerian. Unless we are careful and examine their propositions very carefully, we will soon find that they will convert Nigeria into a dumping ground for the machinery that are no longer wanted.

Hon. Members will remember that we have now reached a jet age in which most of the machinery that had been in use in the 1930's, 1940's and even 1950's are becoming obsolete and out of date in Europe. Naturally, manufacturers of these machinery will want to sell their products and some of them come here on the pretext of industrialisation, saying that they are going to contribute their capital by means of their machinery. Some other countries have had sad experiences about this aspect. One has the experience in which one buys some machinery, establishes an industry with

it and as soon as this machinery starts to break down one has no spare parts to repair it, because it is out of date and manufacturers no longer manufacture the spare parts for this particular machine. Now then, what does one run into when one gets to a stage in which ten or twenty years hence some of these factories will have to be closed down when the machinery has not worked out the price at which it has been paid for?

I only sound a note of warning that in accommodating these industrialists when they do come to this country, we should examine them closely and see that they are not merely coming to get market for their unwanted machinery but that they are genuine industrialists and investors.

That apart, another aspect of industrialisation is that it is high time that we gave thought to the establishment in this country of machine parts and tools factories in order to avoid high costs of maintenance of machinery even where the manufacturers of this machinery have not closed down that aspect of it in Europe. What I mean is that while we are industrialising this country, we should also bear in mind that it should be the policy of this Government to encourage the establishment of factories that will manufacture tools and spare parts so that they will be ready at hand to repair any damage that may occur in our respective factories.

This makes me mindful of experience again in some other countries where, for example, some such countries in purchasing their aircraft bought a Russian Iulysian Aircraft. And when the Iulysian Aircraft broke down on the West Coast of Africa, it could not be repaired in West Africa. It had to be dismantled into pieces and flown back to Moscow for repair. This was because there were no tools or spare parts factories in West Africa that could cope with that particular kind of machine, namely, Iulysian 18. This is only an illustration to show that the same fate that met this type of aircraft could also meet most of our important and essential machines in our textile factories, shopping factories, paint making factories or beer making factories and so on and so forth. So, I ask that it should be incorporated in the policy of the Government that machine spare parts and tools factories should be encouraged and established.

On the Nigerian Ministry of Aviation, the President in his Speech has dealt with the aspect of aviation that will be created during

the tenure of his Government. I now ask in earnest that it is high time that Ilorin Airport was developed to a stage in which the Nigerian Airways will be using it as a commercial airport. There is an airport in Ilorin but it is not developed for commercial purposes. We should know that Ilorin town is now growing very fast. We not only have the Sugar Company there, but also we have other companies coming there too. What is more, we do have aircraft flying over Ilorin from Lagos to Kainji Dam twice a week. This Dam again is in Ilorin Province. We very much wish that there should at least be a staging airport in Ilorin town and that is the reason why we ask that Ilorin airport be developed to a stage at which the Nigerian Airways plane that flies to the North from Lagos to Ibadan and from Ibadan to the North, can stop at Ilorin to take passengers and from there henceforth to Kaduna. It is very important that Ilorin town's airport should be developed to a stage where our planes can use it.

The President in his Speech specified that there was going to be an aspect of the Air Training Development to be established at Oshogbo which is only 60 miles from Ilorin town. When this Training School use their aircraft for practice, who knows whether there may well be engine trouble in the course of their exercise and Ilorin Airport is so near that they should use it to save their own lives. So, it is very important that Ilorin Airport should be developed.

At the moment, it is being used by smaller aircraft like the Northern Communication Flight of the Government of Northern Nigeria, but the land is so wide and the people are so co-operative that we should build a commercial Airport there because they will provide all these advantages to aviation in this country as I said. What is more, apart from the fact that Ilorin town is going to become the industrial Midland of Nigeria, it will also provide a lot of passengers like hon. Gentlemen of this House who would like to visit me in Ilorin town. They will then have the opportunity of flying in and flying out as best they can.

I do not want to be too parochial in my speech to-day because I hope I will have another opportunity to speak during this meeting. But before I wind up, I earnestly plead—again for Ilorin—that the Railway Corporation has two important major things

[ALHAJI ABDUL RAZAQ]

to do for us in Ilorin.

The first one is the repair of the railway crossing in that area. We have a death-trap which but for sheer luck would have prevented many hon. Members from attending the present meeting of the House. Indeed, the quorum of this House in future will probably not be formed if the Ilorin railway level crossing is not well looked after.

Whenever the railway crossing at Ilorin is damaged and it is left unrepaired, it will be impossible to move by land from Lagos through Ilorin to the North. You just have to stop at Ilorin. This railway level crossing at Ilorin is a death-trap.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Ilorin Town (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*) should wind up please.

Alhaji Razaq: I ask therefore that a proper level crossing should be provided for Ilorin town. And what is more, the Ilorin railway station is well over due for reconstruction; it is in fact a disgrace to the town. The population of the town has grown more than most towns in this country to 208,000 people, and it deserves a fitting railway station. I plead that this should be provided for the people of Ilorin.

Finally, I notice from the Speech that the Federal Government is providing housing for 10,000 people in Surulere. Here again, I plead that the housing programme of the government should be extended to all the regions of Nigeria. The limited resources of the regional governments are such that on this aspect of low-cost housing the Federal Government should come and aid us in the regions.

Good houses are not only for Lagosians, they are also for all Nigerians; and therefore the Federal Government housing scheme—irrespective of what the various regional governments provide by way of housing to those in the regions—should be extended to all parts of this country, particularly the North.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has exhausted his time.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): I will not listen to these undertone-speaking political "swines" and "dogs".

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, I am quite aware of the fact that the

Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) was aggrieved, perhaps, by the unprovoked calling of names by some of the younger Members of this House; but that is no reason why a "chief" of his status and stature should use such an unparliamentary language. May he be made to withdraw that remark?

Mr Odulana: I rise to contribute to the debate on the Motion for an Address—

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): For the benefit of those of us who are new Members in this House, we would like your ruling, Mr Speaker, on whether an hon. Member could refer to other hon. Members as "swines" and "dogs" because we are very capable on this side of using stronger words?

Mr Speaker: It is a pity that I did not hear this reference.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): On a point of information, there is no English word like "swines"; there is no "s"!

Mr Odulana: As rightly pointed out by you, Mr Speaker, the other day the President's Speech covers a very wide field that I think, in consideration of the short time before us, it will only be necessary to touch on some few items of importance in the Speech.

In this regard, my first item relates to the Lagos and Kano airports which have to be further developed and re-equipped to enable jet aircrafts to land safely on them. While I agree that these two airports should be developed, I have to advise the government that we do not develop them just for the advantage of B.O.A.C. and Pan American airlines.

It will be observed that the B.O.A.C.'s VC. 10 runs between Lagos and London thrice weekly, and some three days ago it was announced that the flight would be increased to five times a week. It is understood that the VC. 10 and Pan American airlines carry passengers from Lagos via Kano to London on charter basis.

I do not know the amount of profit the Nigerian Airways makes by this arrangement, but it is desirable that the Ministry of Aviation or, if you like, the Federal Government, should think of buying one or two of the VC. 10s and commission them into service, no matter what it costs Nigeria. Even if it means asking for

loan from abroad, let us go a-borrowing and we will know how to pay back.

Aircraft chartering from B.O.A.C. and Pan American or other countries' airlines should be stopped without further delay, and the government should see to it that Nigeria has its own aircraft of that type that is now being chartered and hired by Nigerian Airways.

The indication that every effort will be made to encourage more vigorous exploitation of our mineral resources is most welcome; but may I once more remind the government that unless a drastic measure is taken in this respect to stop by legislation or by restrictive customs duty, the importation of foreign mineral materials, the pains which we are taking to discover our own raw materials would amount to a waste of time and money.

Mineral resources abound in large quantities in this country, and we should not continue to import foreign raw materials unnecessarily, thereby making this country a dumping ground for all sorts of raw materials.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Federal Government the birates deposit which has been found in large quantities in Benue Province. The Government should make use of this mineral deposit.

I do not see the reason why birates to the tune of two million pounds should be imported into Nigeria annually by all firms exploring oil in this country when we have it in our midst.

The Shell BP and all other oil companies still import birates into this country. The birates imported by Shell BP and Gulf Oil Company weighs only 4.8 *per cent* and the one found in Benue Province weighs more than that; it is even more superior.

The crux of this matter is that these oil companies want to help the foreign countries where birates comes from so that the one found in Nigeria will be of no use.

As I said last year, birates is a sort of mineral wealth that is used by firms exploring oil in this country. When oil companies drill a certain area and they want to test its extent, birates is the substance they use in deciding it.

Birates is like a stone and these oil companies import two million pounds worth of it from overseas to this country when it can be found here. It is high time they stopped importing this thing.

Under this same item, I would like to touch the cement manufactured in this country. There is no doubt that the cement manufactured at Nkalagu Cement Factory, in the Eastern Region, and at Ewekoro Cement Factory in the Western Region, is very good.

Very soon, the cement factory being built in Sokoto Province in the Northern Region, will start production. Nkalagu and Ewekoro Cement Factories are using Nigerian limestones in producing cement but the fact still remains that these two factories cannot meet our requirements. Therefore, we need more cement factories as we have a large deposit of limestones in Nigeria.

In an attempt to exploit our cement trade, certain firms are in the habit of importing clinker, which is eighty-five *per cent* cement, to this country and they sell it as cement. Another sad thing is that they import this clinker because they pay little or no custom duty on it.

When this clinker arrives in Nigeria these firms sell it at much higher rate than the Portland Cement made and bagged overseas. If there is no intention on the part of these firms dealing in clinker to exploit our cement trade, I do not see the reason why they should not use our limestone in manufacturing cement.

If these firms persist, the custom duty on clinker should be raised to the extent that they would not be able to import it from overseas. The importation of clinker to this country should be made illegal. If this is done, they will be forced to use our limestone as well as labour in the production of their cement.

I think hon. Members would like to know the meaning of clinker. Clinker is a type of limestone and when it is brought into Nigeria, these firms use gipsom to stick it together.

When I spoke about this thing last year, these firms were paying five *per cent* custom duty on clinker; the figure has just been increased to ten *per cent*. This clinker costs the same price as the cement manufactured at Nkalagu and Ewekoro as well as Portland Cement.

I would like the Federal Government to legislate against the importation of this clinker forthwith.

[MR ODULANA]

As regards the construction of a petroleum refinery near Port Harcourt, I would remind the Government as I did last year during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, that there is the absence of catalytic cracking plants in the refinery which will make it an unsuccessful venture. The people who are building this oil refinery are out to hoodwink us and it is therefore necessary for the Federal Government to approach another foreign firm to help construct a better oil refinery in any suitable place in Nigeria.

The Federal Government should see to it that adequate facilities and encouragement are given to any foreign firm that wishes to help us build an oil refinery which will supply high quality grades of oil suitable for all types of vehicles whether light or heavy.

The Federal Government should see to it that by-products from our crude oil are not thrown into the lagoon. I am afraid, this is the sort of thing that will happen in the refinery which is being built in Port Harcourt.

The oil refinery that is being built in Port Harcourt can only produce low-grade oil suitable for small cars. I am telling you this—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of information, I have just returned from Port Harcourt. I had talks with the General Manager of the refinery and the type of oil which they will produce will be suitable not only for motor-cars and lorries, but also for our aeroplanes.

Mr Odulana: The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport will in the end agree with me that this is so. Mr Speaker, I have made a very good research into the oil refinery at Port Harcourt and there are no catalytic cracking plants—(Interruptions)

I want hon. Members to take a look at the strap of my wrist watch. This strap is made from the residue of petrol oil. Nylon shirts are made from the residue of crude oil and even the net used for catching fish, which is being imported in large quantities from Japan into this country to-day, is made from the residue of crude oil that is refined.

Yet, according to latest reports, the British people represented by the Shell B.P., have agreed to ship the residue of oil to England

and buy it there at a very cheap rate. Why is it that a plant that can change this residue of crude oil to so many different materials of use in this country cannot be installed here in Nigeria to effect the refining of crude oil in this country instead of sending it to England for refinement? I think the reason is that the Shell B.P. wants to continue to sell all these things to us at a high price.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): The Member for Ijebu-North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should go straight and tell us the company he has in mind. I think he must have a particular company in mind.

Mr Odulana: I think a word is sufficient for the wise and I shall end my comments about oil refinery. I know that several hon. Members will know very little of what I am talking about but I am sure that when oil experts read about it in the *Hansard* tomorrow, they will know what to do.

I now go to another item. We have heard that it is the intention of the Federal Government to insist on greater participation by Nigerians in commerce and industry in this country. This will be an ideal proposition if it can be fully implemented, and there is no doubt that it is a very good proposition for the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, not only am I advising the Government to take a stern measure to see to it that before approval is given to any industry where Nigerians and foreign investors are coming together the future progress of Nigerians in such industry is firmly secured but also that the Government should see to it that all necessary encouragement and co-operation from the official side of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Internal Affairs and Finance are duly given with minimum delay.

We have also heard that it is the intention of the Government to modernise and improve agriculture which is the most important economic pursuit in Nigeria. This is also a good proposition, but is the Government aware that during the colonial days a very large area of our forests rich in all kinds of commercial timbers throughout the country, especially in the Western and Mid-Western Regions, had been, and still are, in the hands of foreign firms on leases ranging from twenty-five to fifty and even to ninety-nine years?

These leases were made when Nigerians had no knowledge whatsoever of the economic potentialities of timber, rubber and so on. The rights conceded to these expatriate firms under these agreements cover over 90 per cent of the richest forest reserves in Ijebu Province alone and these agreements cover very long periods indeed.

I am now asking the Federal Government, in conjunction with our regional governments to see to it that this sort of iniquitous agreements drawn up in the colonial days of slavery under British rule and which to-day are not compatible with the independence status of Nigeria as a sovereign state are immediately revoked so that indigenous Nigerians would be free to explore the natural resources of their God-given land.

It is then that the aims and aspirations of this Government to improve agriculture can be a reality and it is then that Nigerians can be free from the yoke of expatriate firms still using us as drawers of water and hewers of wood.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe): May I call the attention of Mr Speaker to Order 26 (1). I believe that it was after proper deliberations that the rule was made that hon. Members should not read their speeches.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is only making intelligent references to his notes.

Mr Odulana: Several hon. Members during their contributions to the motion of Thanks to the President for his Speech made mention of the absence of certain important items from the Speech of His Excellency. One such point, which I personally think should have been specifically mentioned by the President but which was omitted is the construction of a central sewage system for Lagos City to make this Federal Capital of Nigeria worthy of its name and standard.

I think we all are tired and disgusted with carrying mess in the day and in the night, bailing of stinking water from septic tanks every now and again, and it is time that the Government did something to effect a modern sewage system for Lagos City.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the recent election controversy of December last which extended till January this year and ended with the little election of the 18th instant.

I do not believe that the Nigerian public attach particular importance to the utterances of

the U.P.G.A. No group of people in the world ever received so much verbal sympathy and so little practical support as the U.P.G.A. If I were an U.P.G.A. candidate boycotting elections I would not allow myself—

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, you had previously ruled that the Parliament should not be used as a forum for vituperation or castigation of political parties and yet the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) is now doing the same thing without giving consideration to your ruling. This type of speech is a good example of vituperation and castigation of political parties and has no relevance to the debate at all.

Mr Speaker: I think the speech of the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is getting a bit provocative to the U.P.G.A.

Mr Odulana: As I said before, if I were an U.P.G.A. candidate boycotting elections (and if I were an U.P.G.A. candidate I hope I should be boycotting elections) I would not allow myself to be carried away by any message of sympathy—

Mr Anah: Mr Speaker, Sir, you had ruled the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) out of order and had told him not to use this House as a forum for castigation or vilification of U.P.G.A. but in spite of that he insists on disobeying your ruling.

I would therefore ask that if he is not prepared to obey your ruling he should be asked to resume his seat.

Mr Odulana: I will not allow myself to be taken in by any message of sympathy, not even if it were signed by the one hundred and eight hon. Members which number they scored at the last General Elections.

In the first place, I would like to look back on the original cause for which we went into the elections and the wind of change which at present is blowing around us and ask: if the wind had blown eastward, would there have been any change of heart as is now being envisaged? I am therefore willing to propose in the interest of those political swans and ducks who are—

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is old enough in Parliament to use better language.

Mr Odulana : The idea is that those who vomited before are now swallowing back the stuff they had vomited. And what creatures swallow their vomit? The swan and the ducks.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) has exhausted his time.

Furthermore, I would like to remind the House that there are very many Members wishing to speak and our time is limited. I think it is for the convenience of the House that Members should make their speeches shorter. Most of those who have made their speeches have taken their full time of thirty minutes. I hope Members will be brief and speak to the point.

Mr I. I. Akpabio (Opobo North) : I am saturated with gladness to be called upon to have a say on the Speech from the Throne. After much struggle I am very happy that I have been—

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, an U.P.G.A. man is making a speech from the Ministerial Bench.

Mr Speaker : Order. Ministerial Benches have not yet been allocated.

Mr Akpabio : I really congratulate our leaders on the way they manipulated the affairs of this country during the 1964 political crisis. First and foremost, we appreciate the broad-based system of government in this House. If this will be made to benefit the entire people of this country, I will salute it; but if this is meant to kill the minority I will say that I repudiate the measure. We feel that for the interest and solidarity of this country ministerial appointments should be distributed to all the political parties indiscriminately.

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : On a point of order, the Member for Opobo North (*Mr Akpabio*) who is talking about ministerial appointments should be asked to shut up his mouth. If the UPGA have any guts they have no right to claim to want to hold any ministerial appointments at all in the present—

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Akpabio : I appreciate the idea of breaking up the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the President's Speech. Really,

we have a lot of unemployment in the country and the unemployed constitute the nuisance of this country. Therefore, the breaking up of this Ministry will make it possible to cater for our youths more effectively.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government for the proposal to unite the E.N.D.C. Boatyard with the Federal Boatyard in Opobo. We wish to see this amalgamation fructify as quickly as possible. My own people are very happy over it.

But the idea about it is that for this to be successful—and this is probably the first Boatyard in Africa—we feel that the Ministry concerned should take into consideration the recruitment of experts who will be able to man the affairs of the Boatyard on a larger scale. Also, for this Boatyard to be successful, the dredging of the Opobo River is inevitable.

On many occasions the people of Opobo had sent petitions to the Houses of Parliament and our accredited representatives had been raising the issue of the Opobo River, but the Federal Government has not yet come to our aid. With the Port Harcourt port so congested, people started looking for a second boatyard in the East, and Opobo came to the rescue. We realise that the Opobo Boatyard is very nearby—it is only about eight miles from the town while that of Port Harcourt is about twenty-four miles. So that for the success of the Opobo port, the dredging of the Opobo River is very important. We cannot get out of it because of the present congestion in Port Harcourt. This neglect has brought economic setback to the people of Opobo. Members do realise that Opobo is the area where we have palm produce and for that reason we really need a port.

As a result of lack of ports mercantile firms, businessmen and other firms have all deserted the area and Opobo has now become a special place for the unemployed. The delay in opening up the port and the congestion in Port Harcourt have caused economic setback to Opobo.

Opobo was and still is the largest producer of palm produce, both in quality and in quantity. Lack of trade competition, poor costs offered by the purchasers have made the producers to have very little or no interest in their natural occupation. Therefore, I strongly appeal to the Federal Government to

give the dredging of Opobo Port a second thought in order to relieve Port Harcourt of congestion, enhance the economy of this great nation of ours and bring back the former glory of Opobo.

On the question of postal facilities, I have to say that my constituency is a very large one and we have no good post offices at all. As the accredited representative of my people, I have to say that we really need a post office; it is important and inevitable. If the Minister of Communications—

Mr A. E. Udo (Enyong East): On a point of order, Standing Order 28 subsections (4) and (5) say:

(4) *During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.*

(5) *Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.*

The new Members of this House are very disappointing indeed. It seems to me that many constituencies have sent people to come here and disturb. Such people should be sent back to their constituencies so that we who are left will have the opportunity of listening to intelligent debates.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It is true that there are lots of interruptions which waste the time of the House and I would like to ask Members to co-operate and allow progress to be made.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): On a point of order, I do not think it is true to say that some people were elected by their constituencies merely to come here and disturb others. It is not true. The truth is that so many people are products of boycott.

Mr Akpabio: It is now timely, and with our new system of broadly based Government in the Centre, we feel the Constitution should be reviewed. In doing so education should be made a Federal subject. The burden is too much on the Regional Governments and many teachers are not happy at all in the rural areas. They are not paid adequate salaries and even those poor salaries that are paid to them are not paid regularly. When I came to Lagos I realised that children here enjoy free primary education even though their parents are in a position to pay the fees, whereas in the rural areas where there is little or no money, the poor parents are forced to pay for their children.

Coming to the question of the creation of more states, I would say that this is inevitable. In order to enable the people run and man their own businesses, we really wish to rule ourselves as is the case in the other parts of the country. Even in the United States of America there are now fifty-one states, whereas we have only four here. This is not sufficient for a vast area like Nigeria. The people of this country are very eager to develop their own economic potentialities. We therefore need the creation of the Old Calabar State. We need it very much. We call for the immediate review of our Constitution so that the Federal Parliament will have the power to create states without reference to the Regions.

Sometime ago somebody said that Calabar would be made a military base. Ever since then we have been looking forward to this, but nothing has yet been done. We are on the boarders of Nigeria very near the Cameroons and the rest of the neighbouring countries, and if there is any foreign aggression it will come through Calabar. Therefore we feel that for security reasons there should be a military base in Calabar.

I feel we have a task in hand and it is with unity and co-operation that we will be able to achieve this. I therefore sincerely hope that all my hon. Friends here and all over the country will co-operate with the Government and help in making this country one Nigeria, with one constitution and one destiny.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): I rise to support what is before the House. The difficulty of the House is not with the old Members. I am three Parliaments old in this House. The difficulty of the House is with the new Members who do not want to listen and learn from the old Members.

In the House one hears controversial issues, one conflicting with another, somebody praying for the unity of Nigeria and at the same time praying for the creation of more states. I do not know how these two can go together.

I am most grateful for the first time in this House to register our sincere thanks to the Government for announcing that they will develop Lagos and Kano Airports. This is a very welcome proposal.

[ALHAJI BELLO DANDAGO]

All that we ask for Kano is not anything new. We want to have what we had before restored to us, that is all, and with the present kind gesture of the Federal Government, this is going to be done very soon and that means that more planes will begin to land in Kano.

I am being very much disturbed by some of the amphibian Members around me, and I do hope, Mr Speaker, you will kindly protect me from them.

I take it that the development of Kano Airport will give us the opportunity to help other foreign planes that may have cause to land in Kano, Nigeria.

Furthermore, with the development of the Airport, the one time lively Kano Airport Hotel will come to life again. Many people of international repute used to spend some nights there, but somehow ever since planes stopped landing there, the hotel was closed. I do sincerely hope the development of the Airport at Kano will bring about the reopening of the Kano Airport Hotel.

Another very welcome proposal is the intention to eradicate or control diseases. This is another indication that the Government have the welfare of the people of this country uppermost in their minds.

I note with joy that water resources are going to be developed in the rural areas. Members all know that I come from a rural area, that is why I am very deeply interested in this scheme. Water is not a luxury. It is a bare necessity of life. It is a thing we all need, whether we like it or not. Its importance can only be appreciated when we see people in the provinces and rural areas going as far as two to three miles carrying very big pots in search of water to drink. This shows that some people in this country are actually living in a pre-historic world.

With the development of water resources in Nigeria, a lot of water diseases, especially guinea worm, will be done away with.

But I noticed that not much was said about our Armed Forces. I am thinking here of our ground forces—the Army, the Navy and the Police. These should be enlarged because the respect of a nation depends solely on the quantity and quality of its Armed Forces. This is the very centre of the respect a country receives from its neighbours.

I do not want to mention names. We have around us some naughty and impertinent States. I hope it will not be necessary for Nigeria to engage these States in closer quarters, because there is a limit to everything, including patience. When our patience is taxed, we agree; but when it is over-taxed, very well, Sir, then we shall engage the people in closer quarters.

We can only do this with the quantity and quality of our Forces. Our Police Force did a yeoman's service during the last elections. The Local Authority Police also did a yeoman's service.

Several hon. Members : No, no ! Shame, shame !

Alhaji Bello Dandago : I commend the Nigeria Police along with the Local Authority Police. They go together.

I think it is now time for the Government to consider having the same service condition for most senior Local Authority Police officers with their counterparts in the Nigeria Police Force. There is disparity in the equipments they now use. For example, a senior police officer, say, a Superintendent of Police in the Nigeria Police Force, with his counterpart of the same rank, a Superintendent of Police in the Local Authority Police, with similar educational qualifications, shoulder to shoulder, are made to face an angry mob. The one is armed with a revolver while the other is armed with a baton. I wonder how that can work. They are both responsible people. Once we considered it necessary to have them, they will be as responsible as any other senior officer in the Government service.

I can hear an hon. Member asking me to speak on the boycott of the last election. This boycotting business is no concern of mine. I will not go into it. I am serious. I will not play in politics.

I can also hear an hon. Member in the U.P.G.A. asking whether I am not a politician. I will reply him by saying that I am a politician of the Nigerian type, not of the Ghanaian type.

My hon. Friend in the U.P.G.A. has again just asked me where Mr J. S. Tarka now is. I can assure him that Mr J. S. Tarka is there. He will not die. He will come here. But the point is that I do not want my hon. Friend in the U.P.G.A. to force me into making a statement. But in the hon. Member's Region of

origin, he jolly well knows what would have happened to Mr Tarka. But in my Region of origin, nothing will happen to Mr Tarka. He will come here.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): I do not know whether the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) is aware of an N.P.C. plan to charge Mr Tarka with a more serious offence and send him to prison?

Alhaji Bello Dandago: I sympathise with my hon. Friend the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*), because he is a lawyer without brief.

What I did say, and I will not change my mind, is that in Northern Nigeria, what is supreme is the law. The law comes first. No matter what you call Mr Tarka, the law is there to protect him. If Mr Tarka goes contrary to the law of the land, I think he will face it, but not in the way people in the Region of origin of the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) will do it. That is the difference.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central): I think the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) is dwelling too much on Mr Tarka. There is an appeal on Mr Tarka pending in the Court, and as such, the matter is *sub judice*. He should, therefore, not mention it on the Floor of the Parliament. Again, Mr Tarka is not here to defend himself. It is rather unfair to discuss him here or attack him here.

Mr Speaker: There is far too much noise and persistent interruptions being made. I must say that those who make these interruptions should be responsible for the waste of time in this House. Particularly, those of them who unnecessarily raise points of order or those who interrupt persistently are less likely to catch my eye for the speeches.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: I am grateful to the Government that they have in mind the improvement of our agriculture. The immediate task of any Government is to feed its people and feed them well. We are, therefore, most happy that agriculture will be improved. I hope encouragement will be given to the younger generation who do not want to do physical or manual labour. Any incentive which can be given to our young men to make them take interest in manual labour will be appreciated.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West): On a point of order, how many prisoners is the Government of Northern Nigeria feeding in the North?

Mr Speaker: The Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) should know that that is a question and not a point of order.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: We feed as many prisoners as we imprison. Secondly, we imprison as many as those who go contrary to the law.

I beg to support.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central): I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for the speech ably delivered to this honourable House. I have listened to Members who spoke. Many have spoken on this Floor about their homes and about their constituencies, but no single Member has ever referred to the status of Lagos and the status of Lagosians as such.

I can hear an hon. Member saying that it is my duty here to discuss Lagos affairs, as I am representing Lagos constituency. I know this. I made my first statement deliberately because I know there are some Members who will go out and say that they have got the interest of Lagos at heart, but who, while they are here, have the opportunity to discuss Lagos, but will not say anything about Lagos.

I intend to call the attention of this Federal Government to the disabilities that the people of Lagos are now subject to.

Now, let us consider many things. The first thing I would like to consider is this. We have no "mother" at all in Lagos. Hon. Members from the regions have got mothers in the form of their Regional Governments but the people of Lagos only have a father and that father is the Federal Government. The people of Lagos are suffering and they have been suffering for too long.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (*Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima*): It is obvious that a man cannot be born without a mother. A person may have no father but he must have a mother.

Mr Shitta-Bey: I am grateful to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and I would like to say this. We had a mother at

[MR SHITTA-BEY]

one time and that mother was the Western Region. The mother has been taken away from us and we now want a substitute.

I can hear an hon. Member asking if Lagos now wants to join the Western Region. I am not saying that Lagos wants to go back to the West but we accept whatever means with which the Federal Government wishes to ease our present suffering in Lagos.

So long as we do not suffer any more in Lagos, we are all right. Whether we form part of the Western Region or stand as a separate region, it does not matter at all.

I had better say this at once. I am not committing myself as such but I am offering a prayer to the Federal Government to consider the present status of the people of Lagos. I want now to strike at the point.

Lagos people have been denied or deprived of the right of self-determination and human dignity has been practically taken away from them. For instance, the people of the Western Region can determine their own destiny; the people of the East, North, and the Mid-West can, but what about the people of Lagos? If hon. members refer to the Lagos City Council, that is not sufficient at all.

Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho) South: I think that the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) should realise that the Lagos City Council is the mother of Lagos. Lagos should get whatever she wants through the City Council.

Mr Speaker: It is surprising how many new Standing Order authorities we have got.

Mr Shitta-Bey: The Lagos City Council is just a council like all other local councils in the other Regions of the Federation.

Now, I must go straight to the point I have to make. We in Lagos cannot determine our own rights. For example, the Minister of Lagos Affairs has got an overall right to interfere in the affairs of the Lagos City Council. In fact, he can even dissolve that Council. What type of autonomy is that? It is no autonomy whatsoever.

This country is dedicated towards: (1) upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter and (2) upholding the principles of the Charter of the Organisation for African Unity. I think this country has also subscribed to the

principles inscribed in the universal declaration of human rights.

I will now say one thing. In the preamble to the Constitution and to the Charter of the United Nations, it is specifically stated therein and in fact, it is a section of the Charter itself that there should be respect for human dignity and the right to self-determination should be recognised.

It is also in the preamble to the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity subscribed to by all Heads of African States. The relevant portion states:—

CONSCIOUS of the fact that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples:

CONSCIOUS that it is the inalienable right of all people to control their own destiny—

The people of Lagos have not been given the right to control their own destiny. I cited the preamble to the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity in order to show that this country itself believes in one thing, that is, offering the right to self-determination to individuals.

We have a similar situation in Vienna, the capital of Austria but Vienna is a state and it a viable state. We the people of Lagos pray the Federal Government to concede to us our right to self-determination. We want to rule ourselves and we, therefore, call for the creation of a Federal State within the life of the present Federal Government.

I promise the Federal Government that if made a state, Lagos would be a viable state and in fact, the richest state in the whole of the Federation.

If we can go abroad and say that we are fighting for the dignity of man and for the right to self-determination, why can we not do the same thing in Lagos, and set the people of Lagos free rather than subject them to all sorts of indignity.

I appeal to hon. Members to take this matter seriously. I am sure every Member in this House has benefited something from Lagos. Some Members here were even trained in Lagos and I can count two or three of them who were trained in my father's compound—*Shitta-Bey's Compound*.

If we talk about homes, the people of Lagos have no home. Please give them a home. Some Members here can boast of being all right when they get home but we have nowhere to go to. We only stay in Lagos. I appeal to the Government to help us and give us our own right to self-determination.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): We are really interested in the speech of the Lagos man but we want him to tell us how the Lagos people would feel if the Federal Government removed the capital of Nigeria from Lagos.

Mr Shitta-Bey: I am very grateful for that question. We shall be delighted indeed if the Federal capital is removed from Lagos and shifted to somewhere else. We want the right to self-determination in Lagos.

I do not want to belabour this point, but we pray the Federal Government to help us. We want to rule ourselves. We cannot be in slavery for ever. We cannot be in perpetual slavery all the time. Slavery has been abolished for a very long time. We appeal to the Prime Minister to help the people of Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishment and Labour (Mr Akubakar Isandu): Much as I understand the concern of the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) to see that Lagos rules itself, I should also think that he will not expect the Federal Government to do that for them. This is because they did not agitate for anything until Lagos was carved out from the Western Region for a purpose and that purpose is that we want the Capital of Nigeria to be in Lagos.

Mr Shitta-Bey: There are several acquisition schemes which have taken place in Lagos but to the dismay of all of us in Lagos, most of the people affected have been removed without proper resettlement.

I know of those who were removed to Yaba and Surulere and I remember that the Federal Government did one thing which was classical. They resettled those removed from the centre of Lagos.

I am now appealing to the Federal Government about the people living in the area where a second bridge for Lagos is proposed to be built. We do not know what is going to happen to them. We appreciate the need and

necessity for the second approach bridge but we are praying the Federal Government to please make available alternative accommodation for those who will be displaced from there, particularly the tenants and landlords.

This is necessary because taking them away from their respective places where they have lived for the past thirty, forty or hundred years and throwing them into the wilderness is an act of what I will regard as grave injustice and wickedness.

I therefore appeal to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lagos Affairs to look into this problem and to help the people of Lagos, particularly those to be taken away from the Olowogbowo area.

I want now to say something about foreign affairs. I would like to support the Federal Government on our policy of non-alignment.

I would like to appeal to the Federal Government however to let us be realistic in our approach to international affairs. If we want to pursue this policy of non-alignment we must be realistic about it.

There should be no question of steering a middle course. If we want to support the West, let us declare it. If we want to remain non-aligned let us declare that. I hope the Government will take a more positive step in realising our main objective of non-alignment.

In this connection I would also like to refer to the people of Lagos who were resident sometime in Congo (Brazzaville). These people's property were seriously damaged by rioters in that country.

I remember that at that particular time I wrote an open letter to the hon. Prime Minister appealing to him about a possible help to our people. That was in 1962 and it was even published in the press. Up till now the Ministry of External Affairs has not been able to do anything about it. Properties worth about £66,000 were damaged. This is a very serious matter.

Those people are Nigerians whether they are Lagosians or not. We know our own international obligations. We realise that if our property are damaged abroad particularly in countries where we are regarded as aliens it is the duty of the Federal Government here to take it up with the foreign Government over there.

[MR SHITTA-BEY]

If the Government there did nothing to protect our people that government would be committing an international tort. I was made to understand when I got in touch with the External Affairs Office that the British Government was trying to do something about the payment of this money.

When these people returned home the Federal Government did a noble job that time to house them and provide them with clothing. But their properties in the Congo (Brazzaville) were damaged and up till now no penny has been recovered for them. We appeal to the Federal Government to take this matter up with the Congo Government and even with the British Government to make sure that some money is made available to the people so that they can know that they have really benefited from their Government.

In 1956, I remember, when British interests were affected in Egypt, when there was rioting there and properties were damaged, the British Government did not waste time at all. It took steps and I remember that the Egyptian Government paid heavy damages to the British people. That was a good thing. I pray and still hope that the present Government will do something to help our people who are still in the Congo.

On the police, I would like to praise the efforts of the Police very much. The Police have been doing very good job in this country and I appeal to the Federal Government to encourage them further. We cannot be talking about policemen being involved in bribery when they, as far as I have investigated and found out to be true, are not being properly paid.

I appeal to the Federal Government to increase their salaries by 60 per cent to enable us to check bribery and corruption in the Police Force in this country. It is the only way out of it.

Hon. Members will agree that the Police, particularly those in the Traffic Section, are doing wonderful job. But we cannot rid them of corruption unless we accept the responsibility of adequately paying them.

I would like to appeal to the Federal Government again on one point. This is a matter on which I should like Members to be very serious. It concerns the status of the legal

profession in this country. I am saying this with all seriousness. The legal profession in this country will become nothing if at the rate things are going on in this country they are allowed to continue.

Our sons and daughters are not being sufficiently protected when they qualify to practise as lawyers. Most of the jobs go to expatriate lawyers. This is why many lawyers lavish away around the country now. I think it is the duty of the Federal Government to safeguard their interest.

I am saying this so that the Federal Government may make sure that by the time our people in the Law Schools are turned out there will be adequate provision made for them to secure jobs and remain independent as lawyers without begging.

Lastly, I wish to appeal to all Members, even those whom I would like to describe as the products of our recent election boycott. They know themselves and I am not going to refer to them by names. I would like Members on all sides of the House to know that there is one thing which is paramount to the unity solidarity, progress, peace and prosperity of this country and that is the release in no distant date of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who has contributed so greatly to the development of this country. Let us forget our personal interest in the man and forget also whatever we may think about him. But the fact remains that he has done a lot for this country and for the independence which most of us enjoy to-day by driving about in big cars.

Those who did not at the material time work at all for the independence of this country are now enjoying the benefits accruing therefrom. I appeal to all of you.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central): On a point of order, those advocating for the release of Chief Awolowo should bring on the Floor of this House a Motion to legalise serious crimes.

Mr Shitta-Bey: Hon. Members who are contemporaries and colleagues of Chief Obafemi Awolowo will not deny that he is a man who ought to be released. He has contributed his own quota to the development of this country. They will not deny that.

I will appeal to hon. Members to give a very good thought to this matter and I am

quite sure that the present Federal Government will release Chief Obafemi Awolowo at no distant date. (*Interruptions*)

Finally, I would just like to touch on one thing again—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): On a point of order, no true Nigerian will crave the indulgence of the House for the release of Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Mr Shitta-Bey: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development and Education (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): We, on the Government Bench, would like to thank all hon. Members for the good thing they have said about the Government's policies as contained in His Excellency the President's Speech. Members have praised the policy of the Government, believing that nobody could have produced a better policy-speech.

I am not going to talk on most of the points raised by hon. Members. I would only talk briefly on the one very important point, which is contained in the Speech and on which some hon. Members have spoken.

If we maintain, as we do, the freedom to express ourselves—to express our honest views—inside and outside Parliament, on the running of the affairs of this country, Nigeria will be a truly great, prosperous and happy place for everybody to live in.

We have all talked about providing medical facilities, about schools, about good water-supply, roads and so on, for our people. We all know that all these depend on one thing—the unity of this country. If the country is not united, we cannot achieve any one of these things which we have undertaken to provide for our people.

Now, those of us who are from the Northern part of Nigeria, can assure the nation that we are determined to maintain the unity of the Federation and to maintain the Constitution of the Federation by all constitutional means at our command.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, we have all be listening in silence to the speech of the Minister for when he got up to speak we thought he was going to speak on behalf of the Cabinet which represents

the whole Government. I do not think it will be proper for him to speak about the Northern Region here.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: Those of us who come from the Northern part of Nigeria, can assure the nation and hon. Members here, that we are determined to maintain, by all constitutional means, both the unity and the Constitution of this Federation.

We think that there is nothing wrong for anybody to aspire to be the Prime Minister or to be a Minister or to be the President. We do not mind that, but what we do mind and what we will resist is any temptation or attempt by anybody to change the situation in the country or the Constitution through unconstitutional means.

We are all members of one family. Whether we come from the North, from the West or the East or the Mid-West, we are all now members of one family. We have one member of our family who has demonstrated his capability of holding the position of Prime Minister. We have proved that nobody could have provided a more stable government than Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

Every Member of this House should simply be proud of the fact that one of us has been able to prove himself so capable of holding the post and of satisfying everyone of us. Now, if that is the case, why should we have any difficulty in improving upon the unity which we have in the country. Why should we talk of reviewing the Constitution at all? What is actually wrong in the present Constitution?

Several hon. Members: Many things!

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: The Constitution has worked very well indeed and it is only in the opinion of people who are bent on leading the country that something is wrong with what we have so far done.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): On a point of order, it appears the Federal Government has not agreed on this point. But the Prime Minister of Nigeria has agreed to a review of the Constitution, and now one of his Ministers is telling the nation that there is no need to review the Constitution. In other words, is the Minister speaking, challenging the authority of the Prime Minister?

Mr Speaker: This is a question and not a point of order.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I am trying to tell hon. Members of this House that we are wasting time.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, we would like to have a ruling on this matter. I do not know whether it is conventional or even constitutional for a Minister to address the House at this stage during the debate on the President's Speech. The Ministers are there to defend Government policies which have been challenged and they have ample opportunity to do so during the debate on the Budget Speech. We would like to have your ruling as to whether it is proper for a Minister, at this stage, to defend what has not been challenged?

Mr Speaker : I do not know whether the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) is a bit confused, but I thought he would have understood by now that after a lengthy debate of about three or four days on the President's Speech, the Government would be entitled to wind up. In any case, I could remember that since the debate on the President's Speech started, I have not given a single Member of the Government the opportunity to speak and as such, I think the Minister should be allowed to speak.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I am not used to some of these parochial statements on the Floor of this House. I am supporting the first point of order raised by the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*), that if the Minister of Economic Development and Education is speaking on behalf of the Government, then this is not the language he should use. He is defending a particular section of the country, thereby fanning the embers of tribalism. A Minister of the Federal Government should address the Houses of Parliament as a spokesman of the Federal Government and not as a spokesman of any particular section of the Federation.

Moreover, many of us have not had the opportunity of contributing to the debate on the President's Speech, and as such, I wonder why the Minister of Economic Development and Education should be called upon to speak at this stage.

Mr Speaker : I would not like hon. Members to feel otherwise about the rulings of the Chair which I make. I should have thought that the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) understands what is meant by "The Minister

of Economic Development and Education" whom I called, rather than "Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim" which is a different thing altogether.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I would like hon. Members to be patient and listen to me because what I am going to say will serve as a piece of advice. I am doing this because everybody has talked about the unity of this country. Everybody has stressed the importance of unity in this country and as such I am taking the opportunity to comment on it. I am not going to do anything more than that. Moreover, it is my privilege as a Member of this House to express my own personal opinion.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, the cat is now out of the bag. The Minister of Economic Development and Education is speaking as Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, which is against the Speaker's ruling that he called on the Minister to speak as the Minister of Economic Development and Education.

Mr Speaker :] Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I am speaking both as Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim and also as the Minister of Economic Development and Education.

What I am saying is that we have been able to provide a very efficient Government. All hon. Members here should be proud of us. Is there any reason why, for example, hon. Members would not give us a clear twenty more years to rule this country? (*Prolonged interruptions*). Having provided a Government that has been admired even by those hon. Members on the other side of the House, is it asking too much when I say that we should be relied upon to have another uninterrupted twenty years more to serve the country?

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I suppose the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Education realises that the present Government has already done fifteen years and has only five more years to serve.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I am now asking for another twenty years. The reason is clear. I am not joking. All of us have agreed that we made a very good progress economically and socially. Politically, I think we have done very wonderfully well in maintaining our great

country, Nigeria, with a population of about fifty-five million people—which is the biggest experiment in the whole of Africa. We have maintained the unity of our people with different tribal groupings comprising more than two hundred and fifty dialects. We have been able to live somehow together. Our economy has progressed and I think that we should congratulate ourselves. We should have confidence in the same set of people who led us so that they may continue to lead us for many more years.

I think if all of us will, for a moment, try to adhere to the Constitution and allow it to remain for a longer period, our economic progress will be very great indeed. We should forget at the moment the question of reviewing or changing our Constitution. (*Interruptions*). In my opinion, what is important now is how to improve the economic growth of this country and, therefore, we should direct our energy and attention towards this goal. We should let alone this question of changing the present Constitution. The politics of advocating for a review of the Constitution should be let alone.

I can assure hon. Members of this House that we shall produce statistics to show that we have made very good progress. I shall be reporting to this House later, but all I am trying to tell hon. Members is that they should believe in the fact that we have made good progress which nobody could have done better. For this reason, I am suggesting that we allow the present Constitution to remain in progress for a longer period of time. I urge hon. Members to forget about the talk of any change in the present Constitution whatsoever. We in the Government will surprise you, all we want is just to be allowed to continue to ensure the stability of this country so that there can be economic progress.

I sometimes do not understand why people want, for example, to create more states in this country. Why? Why can people not learn some lesson from the giant Northern Region which has succeeded in living smoothly in spite of—

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East): On a point of order, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that there is no peace in the Northern Region, especially in

the Tiv Division. The only man who is trying to bring peace to that area is the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*)—and he is now in prison. It is shameful on the part of the Government of the North not to be tolerant enough. For this reason, I will tell the hon. Minister to please desist from saying that there is peace in the Northern Region.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: I am a federalist, I am not a regionalist. I do not share the views of those who are tribalistic or who are very narrow-minded. When I talk of the North, it is just because I feel there is a good case there to be quoted as an example. We all know—I do not want to be dragged to discuss the Regions.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East): On a point of order, if, in fact, we are operating a democracy here we cannot take example from the Northern Regional Government which has not enfranchised its women.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: What I am saying is that people should stop being petty. In Africa, some people are talking of a Union Government for Africa, and here in Nigeria we have some people who want to break up the Federation into pieces in order to serve their own selfish ends. In any case, I suggest to everybody here to borrow a leaf from the Northern Region where, as I said, the different tribes have learnt to live together as brothers and we are bringing this idea to the Federation as a whole. We want to teach the rest of the people to be broad-minded and to forget about becoming clan heads.

Why should people talk about franchise for women when we have got many other economic and social problems to think of? Why should anybody attempt to disturb the very quiet position in which the Northern women find themselves? We are not going to be deceived to introduce the very misleading idea about enfranchising women adopted by Europe and America where, as a result, they have many mental cases. There are mental cases in the so-called modern countries due to the fact that the men are disturbed in their offices and when they come home they take dictation from their wives.

In Northern Nigeria, our women are happy. They have not asked anybody to come and enfranchise them; therefore, the question of giving vote to women in the North is not

[ALHAJI WAZIRI IBRAHIM]
important at all. Our women are happy, they have not asked for anything of the sort—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, the Minister of Economic Development and Education, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, should make it clear that he is speaking for himself and not for the Government of Nigeria, because it would be scandalous to here outside the frontiers of Nigeria that a spokesman of the Government is advocating that women should be put in bondage and that mental cases are caused by women.

Mr Speaker: I am sorry, I thought at first that the Minister was winding up for the Cabinet, but he has indicated that he is speaking for himself, and his views, which I think he is entitled to, should go through.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: What I am saying is this, people exaggerate this enfranchisement of women in the North. They make capital of it. What I am saying is—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): On a point of order, the Minister is speaking for himself and not for the Government, he should stop using the word "we".

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: We in the North are perfectly happy; our women are happy about their condition, and I appeal to other members of the Republic to please leave us in peace. Not a single Northern Nigerian woman has told anybody that she is unhappy. We know what is right for our women and our women know what is right for themselves. Therefore, this question of vote for women should not—

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe): On a point of order, I think it is wrong for the Minister of Economic Development, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, to come here and mis-inform this House.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central): On a point of order, Sir, you have been the Speaker of this Parliament for a number of years and, Mr Speaker, you know those who say that they are educated, that they are intelligent and progressive, yet they are not. They are not progressive at all because if they want the unity of this country, they must respect the genuine peculiarities of each area. If the Northern Region—

Mr Speaker: That does not look like a point of order.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: Now, I wish to be given a few minutes more, and I would wind up. Let us be clear about the position of women in the North. Some hon. Members are really ignorant of the situation, and I would try and educate them.

I am going to say something which would help my hon. Friends, or my brothers. We have got many economic problems. These economic problems are sufficient to engage us for some time. Even in Europe and America where women vote it has only added to confusion. It does not help them. In those places, because of the disturbance of the order of nature—that is the control of women over men—they have mental cases. (*Interruptions*) That is true.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): On a point of order, and this is on the point made by the Minister of Economic Development and Education. The hon. Minister himself is not an orthodox Northerner. He does not keep a *pudah*. He is asking that women be controlled whereas he himself does not practise it!

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is quite right. What I am saying is that we should not force those millions who are not yet convinced about this so-called modern ways of having one wife. We should be patient and carry them with us. I myself have three wives, and I do not see anything wrong in it. But it is wrong to disturb a peaceful community, or those peaceful people who are satisfied by trying to force this enfranchisement of women on them. That is the point I am making, and I am begging everybody to stop talking about women enfranchisement in the North.

Mr T. O. Umekeje (Awka South): On a point of order, and I wish to quote, with your permission, Mr Speaker, Standing Order 29 (1):

Debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment, except in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House.

I feel that the Minister of Economic Development and Education is spending his time on preaching social order of the North, and he wants to try and get this House convinced in that direction. He should keep all this to himself, and he should stop misinforming (this

House by saying something short of accuracy. He is in this way trying to show that enfranchisement of women—

Mr Speaker : Order. The hon. Gentleman's point of order is irrelevant.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, since the Minister of Economic Development and Education is speaking in his personal capacity as Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, if I may point out with due respect, he has certainly exhausted his time. He is in his personal capacity entitled to thirty minutes. He started at ten minutes to five o'clock, because I observed the time then.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Minister please wind up.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : On the question of the unity of this country—which is the main subject on which I really want to speak—I think we should admire and encourage those our leaders who have contributed so much to the unity of this country. We should encourage those who have brought good relationship between their Region and another. One such leader is that great son of Nigeria, Chief Akintola. (*Prolonged interruptions.*) In my opinion, if anybody has done so much to bring about understanding between the North and the West, it is Chief Akintola. How can one afford to fight somebody—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of information, there has been no misunderstanding between the North and the West. The North, the West, and the East, particularly the West and the North, have so many things in common. But on political ideologies there is misunderstanding among the N.P.C., the Action Group, and the N.C.N.C.

The hon. Minister went to the Western Region recently to see farm settlements, and he went about—

Mr Speaker : Order: The Minister of Economic Development and Education.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central) : On a point of information, I think the alliance between the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. is formed to fight against the North.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : There is only one important thing and a very serious matter on which I wish to lay an emphasis. As soon as I

finish making that I shall sit down. Honestly speaking and with every sincerity of purpose, I emphasise that if we want this country to continue in peace and unity we need some people who can balance. At the moment the only people who can balance the Yorubas and the Ibos are the Northerners. If the Yorubas and the Ibos are left to themselves they will kill each other.

M. Salihu O. Abdul (Igbirra South) : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for the Speech he delivered to both Houses of Parliament. Several Members have already spoken and according to them they have described the Speech as sound and comprehensive. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! These private conversations which are sometimes made by those who have very loud voices should please stop.

M. Salihu O. Abdul : Those Members who have spoken previously have described the Speech of the President as sound, comprehensive and quite fitting. Our Government really deserve praise for what it has been doing for the country since the attainment of our independence.

It is sometimes true that a vigorous and progressive Government may succeed in changing the face of a country in a comparatively short period of time, both by its direct actions and by the type of leadership it gives to the country. But when we remember that out of the total national income of about £20 to £30 per head per annum all our Governments and local authorities collect and spend less than £10 per head per year, we cannot expect our Governments to be able to do everything for us over night.

Nigeria is predominantly an agricultural country. About seventy *per cent* of our population derive their living from farming and it is not, therefore, surprising that agricultural projects should receive so much attention from most hon. Members. Generally speaking, agriculture is the back bone of our economy and it will continue to be so for a very long time to come.

Industrialisation is just complementary and, in fact, dependent on agricultural development. About eighty-five *per cent* of the total value of our exports is made up of agricultural products and, for this reason, the importance of any

[M. SALIU O. ABDUL]

development in the field of agriculture cannot be over-emphasised.

It is really unfortunate that the Federal Government is only concerned with the research side of agriculture. However, I still feel that our problems in this field should be made known to the Government. Firstly, our farmers are illiterate and, therefore, it is difficult to introduce modern farming techniques and proper use of credit facilities where they are available.

Secondly, the communal system of land tenure throughout the Federation is quite discouraging to good farming because of its insecurity. Thirdly, the legal system of inheritance in most cases often leads to fragmentation of holdings into small un-economic units.

Fourthly, most of our farmers owing to poverty invest in their lands only their family labour. Fifthly, farmers are always looked down upon by our educated elements who seem to regard farming as something to be taken for granted.

Our agricultural problems are numerous, but those I have mentioned are the important one that deserve immediate attention. As the Federal Government is only concerned with the research side of it, I am, therefore, suggesting that both intensive and extensive research programmes be carried out on our major crops with a view to improving their method of cultivation and processing.

The Federal Government should also advise all the Nigerian commercial banks to make it possible for our good farmers to get loans from them on any minimum form of security where possible.

Several Members have spoken about the essence of unity in a developing country like ours. Really speaking, the destiny of the Federation depends on three factors—namely, unity, internal security and economic development.

Regarding economic development, the ball has been set rolling and the outstanding problems which I feel the Government is likely to face are firstly, sources of capital for industrial and economic development and, secondly, the problem of supply of trained personnel to help in the implementation of our development plans.

Internal security is also very important for the fact that no foreign investor will ever invest in an unpeaceful and unstable country. Any country-wide chaos to-day will not only affect foreign investors but also our peasant farmers who will have to abandon their farms to look for shelter. Therefore, the importance of the maintenance of law and order by the Federal Government, the Regional Governments and the Local Authorities throughout the country cannot be over-stressed.

The unity of Nigeria is no doubt an important problem with which to concern ourselves in finding the necessary solution. The achievement of Nigerian unity is a vital asset in our claim to greatness and in the attraction of foreign investments and loans, which we cannot do without at present.

If our country is broken up, then the nation will definitely cease to be the largest in population in Africa and we may have to give up our leadership of Africa.

Some of the factors working against the country's unification are historical and geographical problems, ethnic groupings and the role of politicians. Improved system of communication will surely reduce the geographical problems. Through education the problem of ethnic groupings as well as historical problems will gradually disappear.

It will then remain the problem of the role of politicians. This affects the country's unity greatly. Struggle for political power nowadays takes more time, energy and money than any other single issue of national interest.

Some of our leading politicians are seeking for bubble reputation at all costs and at the expense of everything else. This type of struggle often gives rise to bitterness, hatred and suspicion amongst the various tribes and parties. Can we not persuade these power mongers to be contented with what the Almighty God has given them in the interest of the country's unity! Unless this is done, disunity will continue to threaten our stability.

My proposed solution to this vital problem, therefore, is the setting up of a Council of our natural rulers, That is Emirs, Obis, Obas, Chiefs etc., drawn from all parts of the Federation. The natural rulers are not active politicians, especially those from Northern Nigeria.

Such a council may consist of about two natural rulers from each province. The Council should meet at least once or twice in a year to advise the Government on all matters affecting the country's unity. Even their meeting alone would have some psychological effect which will surely be of some advantage to the country as a whole. I am not in any way suggesting a Federal House of Chiefs but an advisory council whose advise should be limited to matters affecting the country's unity alone.

Some people may argue that a Republican Government has no room for such a body, but I would like such people to bear in mind that we are not expected to make a carbon copy of what obtains in other countries. We can modify our own system of Government to suit our local conditions.

I am now turning to the problems of the rural areas. Members from rural areas form about 90 *per cent* of the population of this honourable House. Rural areas should by right receive about 90 *per cent* of the total amenities provided for this Federation by the Federal Government, but that is far from being the case at present.

In my own area, for example, there is not a single Federal Government amenity. The existence of the Federal Government is not felt at all by my people.

I was in this honourable House throughout the last five years and I made the same appeal to the Federal Government to provide amenities for my people but nothing was made. My people are not convinced that I have been begging the Government for help in this direction.

We have mineral resources like marble and imestone deposits all over Igbirra Division. It was only recently that these mineral deposits were discovered at a place called Oguda, in Okene district and farm centre.

I am now appealing to the Government to help me and my people as early as possible this time. This is an opportunity for the Government to make its existence felt by

Igbirra people, and the Government can do this by setting up one small cement industry.

Members from rural areas are always placed in an awkward position, especially when none of the amenities provided by Government is extended to the areas. When we go back for a re-election at the end of the life of this Parliament, our people will definitely ask for what we have done for them for the five years we have been hon. Members of this House. They will not know that it is not our fault that amenities have not been provided for them. I know that we cannot all be Cabinet Members, but those of us who are fortunate to be in the Cabinet should please help those of us who are Floor Members of this honourable House, otherwise we shall always be placed in an awkward position.

I beg to support.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): To allow Mr Speaker to dispose of this business, I would like to move, That the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

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

"Your Excellency,

We the Members of the House of Representatives here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 30th March, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE
OF SELECTION

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The Committee of Selection reports the appointment of the following Committees :—

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Alhaji Garba Jabo	Mr J. O. Taiwo
Alhaji Zanna Musa	Mr E. K. Swen
Hindi	
Mr J. Kagho-Omomadia	Mr I. I. Akpabio
Chief Adebisi Jinadu	Chief V. O. Onabanjo

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Alhaji Zakari Isa	Mr P. Ejukwa
M. Ibrahim Muku,	Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi
Sarkin Shamu Bida	Mr B. O. Ike
Mr Peter Ipu	Mr J. B. Eboigbodi
M. Zanna Isa	Chief I. O. Ajanaku
Mongono	Chief Wahabi Aileru
Mr J. A. Yacim	Mr Okon Bassey
M. Yusha'u	
Mohammed	

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

M. Muhammadu	Mr L. L. Borha
Mustafa Umar	Mr B. N. Ukaegbu
M. Yakubu Alanana	Mr B. O. Olusola
Alhaji Ahmadu Ribadu	Mr M. F. Adeegbe
Mr E. O. Odo	Mr M. D. Iyorka
Mr S. Senu-Oke	Mr J. Udo-Affia
Mr F. I. Okoronkwo	

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
INFORMATION

Voice of Nigeria

O.29. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Information, in how many languages news items are broadcast by the Nigerian External Broadcasting Service; and during what hours of the day the Broadcasting Service operates.

The Minister of Health and Information (Dr M. A. Majekodunmi): The "Voice of Nigeria", which is the External Service of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation transmits for seven hours daily, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The programmes are broadcast in four languages; Hausa, Arabic, English and French. Details of the news broadcasts in these languages are as follows :—

- 2 p.m. news in Hausa
- 3 p.m. news in English
- 4 p.m. news in Arabic
- 5 p.m. news in French
- 6 p.m. news in English
- 8 p.m. news in French

As from the 4th April, 1965 the "Voice of Nigeria" will operate till 11 p.m.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): Why is it that there is no news broadcast in Ibo?

Dr Majekodunmi: There is no news broadcast in Ibo because the Ibo listeners are resident in Nigeria and Radio Nigeria adequately caters for them.

MINES AND POWER

Port Harcourt Refinery

O.14. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Mines and Power how soon the oil refinery in Port Harcourt will come into operation.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): The Nigerian Petroleum Refinery Company is doing its best to bring the Refinery on stream by September 1965.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East): Is the Minister taking any precaution to see that indigenous contractors are considered before expatriates?

O.15. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Mines and Power what grades of oil the Refinery at Port Harcourt will produce when it goes into operation.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): When the Refinery goes into full operation, it is hoped to produce the following grades of petroleum products:

- (a) Premium Grade Motor Spirit
- (b) Regular Grade Motor Spirit
- (c) Dual Purpose Kerosine/Aviation Turbine Kerosine
- (d) Automotive Gas Oil/Diesel Oil/Marine Diesel Oil
- (e) Light Fuel Oil
- (f) Heavy Fuel Oil
- (g) Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : Is the Minister aware that super grade oil will not be available there when it starts operation? I think what is put down here is a mere camouflage.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : Will the local production help to reduce the cost of petrol in Nigeria as is the case in the United States of America?

Mr Speaker : That is a different question altogether.

Mineral Survey of the North

O.30. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what progress so far has been made in the Mineral survey being carried out in Northern Nigeria.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : Mineral survey has been going on in Northern Nigeria for the past 60 years and a considerable amount of work has been done during this period. Some of the mineral deposits investigated in Northern Nigeria include tin and associated minerals on the Jos Plateau; limestone at Sokoto, Yandev and Igunmale; coal in various parts of Benue Province; kyanite at Biruin Gwari in Zaria Province; the Agbaja iron-ore near Lokoja; marble at Jakura; dolomitic marble at Burum in Benue Province; and, diatomite at Bularaba in Bornu Province and artesian water supply in Bornu and Sokoto Provinces. An aeromagnetic survey of an area of about 16,000 sq. miles embracing mainly parts of Zaria and Sokoto Provinces has just been completed.

O.31. Mallam Yakubu Alanana asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will survey the Nassarawa Eggon hills for mineral deposits.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : Nassarawa Eggon Hills are being mapped geologically at present and detailed investigation of minerals will be done when staff and fund become available.

O.32. Mallam Yakubu Alanana asked the Minister of Mines and Power when he will make a geological survey of Northern Nigeria.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : Geological survey of Northern Nigeria has been in progress since 1919 and recently modern techniques, such as aerial photography and geophysical methods, have been introduced to facilitate survey work. The areas mapped already include Jos Plateau Kuseriki, Birnin Debbi, Gummi, Gusau, Tan Gaza, Shinkafe, Potiskum, Gombe, Lau and Lokoja.

Electricity Supply

O.33. Mallam Yakubu Alanana asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether Nassarawa-Eggon, Wamba, Mada, in Akwanga Division will be supplied with electricity on the completion of the Kainji Dam Project.

Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika : The towns envisaged to get their electricity supply from Kainji Dam are those lying near the 330 k.v. Transmission line running from the Dam to Kano through Kaduna and Zaria. The towns mentioned by the hon. Member are not anywhere near the transmission line and therefore will not be supplied with electricity from the Kainji Dam.

DEFENCE

Recruitment of Female Personnel

O.34. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Defence, whether he will consider the recruitment of more women into the Army.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla) : The need does not arise at present but the hon. Member may rest assured that the matter is being kept constantly in mind. There are at present 27 female Nursing officers in the Army and plans are afoot to recruit more female personnel as soon as circumstances permit.

Air Force Training School

O.35. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Defence, when work will commence on the proposed Air Force Training School at Zaria; and if he will make a statement.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla : My Ministry has no proposal to build an Air Force Training School at Zaria. If the hon. Member has the Civil Aviation Training School in mind, he should direct the question to the appropriate Ministry.

FINANCE

American Vaccine Aid Scheme

O.36. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, what disciplinary action he has taken against those responsible in his Ministry for the forfeiture of a grant of £8,680 as a result of the delay in submitting claims under an American Aid Scheme for Vaccine Production.

The Minister of Finance (Chief Okotie-Eboh): The forfeiture of the grant of £8,680 resulted from delays both in submission of claims for reimbursements, and in the processing of claims for such reimbursements. The delays arose mainly through inadequate institutional arrangements rather than through inefficiency on the part of the persons dealing with this matter. Investigations are still being carried on but it appears that when these investigations are completed, they would confirm my preliminary findings that the delays of which the hon. Member is complaining arose through ineffective institutional arrangements rather than through personal inefficiency.

I would add that this particular project took place some years ago, and that the period during which claims for reimbursement could be submitted expired on 1st September, 1959.

Association of Customs Agents

O.37. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, if he has given official recognition to the Association of Customs Agents of Nigeria; and if he will allow that body to select a representative of their choice to serve on the Board of Customs and Excise.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I understand that the Association of Customs Agents of Nigeria is an Association of persons licensed by the Board of Customs and Excise to practise as Customs Agents. It does not appear to me that there is any need for this Association to have my official recognition.

The membership of the Board of Customs and Excise is laid down by law. The law does not make provision for representation on the Board of such interests as this Association, and I do not consider that any need exists for such representation.

Ministry of Finance : Loss of Funds

O.38. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance who will be held accountable for the loss of the sum of £6,882-13s-7d which occurred between June 1961 and January 1963 in the Administrative Branch of his Ministry; and if he will make a statement on the present position of this case.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: A Board of Enquiry which was appointed to investigate this loss submitted its final report to me on the 4th of this month. The report, which is now under

consideration in my Ministry, contains recommendations for the prevention of any recurrence of such a loss, together with recommendations regarding the responsibility of certain public officers.

Measures have already been taken to reinforce the system of checking payment vouchers, and I am satisfied that these are adequate.

The Board's recommendations in regard to individual responsibility will be forwarded to the Public Service Commission, with which lies responsibility for determining what disciplinary action, if any, should be taken against the individuals concerned.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West): As far as I can see, the question is, who will be held accountable for the loss of a specific sum of money? That question has not been answered.

Kainji Dam Loans

O.39. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Finance, how much external loan has been raised for financing the Kainji Dams Project; what countries granted the loans and on what conditions; if he intends to raise any loan locally for this project; and how much he hopes to get.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: The Federal Government has raised externally a total of \$137.8 million (approximately £49.3 million) to finance the offshore cost of the Kainji Dams Project from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the following countries;

Italy

United Kingdom

United States of America and

The Netherlands.

The terms of the different loan offers are rather lengthy and with your permission Mr Speaker, I will have them published in the Hansard.

I do not intend to raise an Internal Loan specifically to finance the local cost of the project.

Mr R. B. K. Okafor (Owerri West): Is the Minister of Finance aware that the Federal Government's external loans are assuming dangerous proportions and that we might eventually be written off as a debtor nation?

Chief Okotie-Eboh: To the ignorant mind, it may look dangerous.

The terms of the Loans are as follows :—

1. INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT :

Amount of Loan .. \$82,000,000 (approximately £29.3 million).
Interest Rate .. 5½ per cent.
Repayment Period .. 35 years including a five-year grace period.

2. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT LOAN :

Amount of Loan .. \$25,000,000 (approximately £9 million)
Interest Rate .. 5.45 per cent.
Repayment period .. 25 years including a five-year grace period.

3. UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT LOAN :

Amount of Loan .. \$14,000,000 approximately £5 million).
Interest Rate .. ¼ per cent above the U.K. Treasury Borrowing rate.
Repayment period .. 25 years including the five-year grace period.

4. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GOVERNMENT LOAN :

Amount of Loan .. \$14,000,000 (approximately £5 million).
Interest Rate .. ¼ of 1 per cent for the first 10 years then 2 per cent for the amortization period of 30 years.

5. NETHERLAND'S GOVERNMENT LOAN :

Amount of Loan .. \$2,800,000 (approximately £1 million).
Interest rate .. 5½ per cent.
Repayment Period .. 25 years including a seven-year grace period.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Alhaji Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (Gwarzo) : Every country is jealously guarding its interests and security as regards its military matters and Nigeria is no exception. So, in the interest of the security of the State, I am asking my two hon. Friends, if they are reasonable, not to move Motions numbers 2 and 4.

Mr Speaker : I think this is entirely up to them. If they do not want to move the Motions, then they can rise and say so.

Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed (Kubau-Soba) : Mr Speaker, I do not move.

ZARIA AERODROME

Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed : I beg to move—

That, in view of the increasing economic importance of Zaria which is also an educational centre, this House urges the Minister of Aviation to cause the Nigerian Airways to improve the Zaria Aerodrome and operate a weekly internal air service.

This Motion is simple in itself and non-controversial. I am sure that Members will give this Motion an overwhelming support.

Zaria is well-known for its historical background both in the field of Western and Islamic education.

Besides being a flourishing commercial centre, Zaria is the seat of a university of international repute as well as being the regional headquarters of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. Its population, judging by the last nation-wide census, has increased to over one million people.

Industrialists are very much interested in coming to Zaria to establish some kind of industries, but the lack of a direct air service to and from Zaria is their main setback.

There is no doubt that with a big institution like the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, many people, both from within and outside this country, would wish to come to that part of Northern Nigeria either as visitors, or for the purpose of studying in the institution.

Bearing this in mind, it is disheartening to note that there is no proper direct air service to and from Zaria. In the past, we had a small air-strip which was used by the Nigerian Army as well as by high-ranking government officials —(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : There is far too much noise in the House, and the Official Reporters are unable to write down what the Member for Kubau-Soba (*M. Yusha'u Mohammed*) is saying. Will hon. Members please maintain silence, and the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor should raise his voice a little bit.

M. Yusha'u Mohammed : Many hon. Members in this House are aware that Zaria was formerly the seat of government in the

[M. YUSHAU MOHAMMED]

North until it was shifted to Kaduna, so it can be seen that Zaria is not just one of the centres in Northern Nigeria which are springing up to importance. It has been a town of importance for many years back.

It is difficult for anyone to travel by air to Zaria and back; our local businessmen are hard hit by this deficiency. If you are in Zaria and you wish to travel by air to another place, you have to give one or two weeks booking notice to the Air Booking Office at Kaduna or Kano and, worst still, even where your booking has been confirmed, you have to travel either to Kaduna which is 52 miles from Zaria, or to Kano which is 106 miles from Zaria, a day previous to your scheduled departure date.

This is the picture of the difficulty the people of Zaria always encounter. We are told that the Federal Government is to spend some £3½ million for the purpose of establishing the Nigerian Air Force training school. The people of Zaria will be happy if the government considers alongside with the building of the Air Force training school operating at least a weekly internal air service to and from Zaria.

If this is done it will accelerate the development of commerce and trade to a standard almost equal to that of any commercial centre in this country.

Despite the fact that the introduction of a weekly internal air service would enable businessmen with an inclination to establish industries in that part of Northern Nigeria to travel faster by air to survey the area it would also enable other people—since we have the Ahmadu Bello University in the town—to come and see what progress Northern Nigeria is making in the field of education. It would enable people from say America, London, Russia, Liberia, and other parts of the world to come to Zaria without any difficulty.

It is my hope that the Minister of Aviation will make a short trip to Zaria to see for himself the striking business activity going on in that town in order to confirm my argument that Zaria of all places badly needs, at least, a weekly internal air service.

I do hope that the government will give this Motion some serious thought. The people of Zaria are very grateful to the Federal Govern-

ment for what it is doing to develop the town, but we feel that with the introduction of a weekly internal air service the economy of Zaria in particular, and that of Northern Nigeria as a whole will be better placed.

I beg to move.

Alhaji Saidu Zango, Iyan Gari (Zaria Central): I rise to second this Motion which has been ably moved by the Member for Kubau-Soba (*M. Yasha'u Mohammed*). The Motion is straightforward, non-controversial and timely; and I have very little to add to what the Mover said when moving the Motion.

Of course, Zaria is one of the important centres in Northern Nigeria, besides being a seat of higher learning. Therefore, it will enhance the economy of Nigeria, and be a credit to the Federal Government, if an internal weekly air service is put in operation in Zaria.

During the life of the First Parliament, a bill was passed to establish a Federal Civil Aviation Training Centre in Zaria. It is observed that this centre is sited on the spot of the air strip in the town. The work on the building of the centre is now in progress.

I must say that I admire the Federal Government's determination to carry out whatever plans it wishes to execute, and it is my feeling that the government will not hesitate to accept this Motion to operate a direct air service to and from Zaria.

I should like the Minister of Aviation, when commenting on this non-controversial Motion, which I am sure he will accept, to give an undertaking to improve the air services in the other provincial centres of the North.

Finally, may I say that if this proposal is accepted by government to run a weekly internal air service in Zaria, huge revenue is bound to accrue from that source.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): There is no harm in anybody expressing the desire for any improvement in any part of the country. I would like to say that I am in sympathy with the Mover and Secunder of this innocuous Motion, but I am sure that if opportunity is given to everybody to bring up such Motions, those who have no aerodrome will pray that the Government should build aerodromes in their small villages.

I do not want to waste the time of the House since it looks as though we have not got much to do to-day, except to say that the government takes note of the prayer.

M. Ibrahim Gusau, Sarkin Malamai (Sokoto Central): I would like to support this Motion, and to warn the government to take this matter very seriously. There is much deterioration in the provision of air services in Northern Nigeria.

As has been pointed out by the Mover of the Motion, Zaria is not only an educational centre, but also a commercial centre; and that has made it to be one of the important towns to be found in the North.

We are very much concerned with the condition of air services in the North, and I should like the government to note the prayer that it should operate a weekly internal air service to and from Zaria.

This Motion is one of the important Motions which those of us from the North expect to bring for discussion on the Floor of this House.

Fortunately, this one for Zaria is now before us and it is expected that before long more of its kind will be brought for debate in this House.

We know that in the past this airport was operating very satisfactorily but unfortunately, a few years ago, it started to deteriorate. As a matter of fact, this is one of the reasons why we think that the Government should take a serious note of this Motion.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I am in some difficulty about this Motion and I am grateful to the House for their kindness to me, realising that I am carrying somebody else's baby.

If the House will agree, I propose to move the following Amendment to the Motion:

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

"in view of the proposal to establish in Zaria, a new Civil Aviation Training Centre, this House welcomes the intention of the Federal Government to rehabilitate the Zaria aerodrome."

In other words what the Mover of the Motion is asking for is already being taken care of, and I think that he will be happy to accept the Amendment.

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

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

Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That in view of the proposal to establish in Zaria, a new Civil Aviation Training Centre, this House welcomes the intention of the Federal Government to rehabilitate the Zaria aerodrome.

PERFORMANCE OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY IN LAGOS

Mr J. M. Damla ((Pankshin West): In view of the explanation given by the Government Chief Whip, I do not move.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 31st March, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural Research Projects

O.40. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will name all the various Agricultural Research projects he has conducted in Badagry Division from 1960 to date ; what were the results in each case ; and how much was spent in completing each project.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : I should explain that the Department of Agricultural Research does not choose its research projects on a divisional basis but on the basis of the importance of the crop or commodity to the Federal Republic as a whole. Thus the Department is engaged in conducting research into the cultivation and production problems of food crops such as rice, yams, maize, cassava, grain legumes, sweet potatoes and coco-yams in the main centres of production.

In so far as improved yields of these food crops are produced or consumed in Badagry Division, the Division must be assumed to benefit from this work.

Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : Will the hon. Minister explain to this House whether the purpose of research is not to improve methods, and if so, what demonstrations are being held in connection with those food crops he has listed ? I have in mind the type of demonstrations which will show farmers that such research will actually pay. It is not the mere spending of money on research that matters. We want to know which of these researches have been demonstrated as paying.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : A lot of demonstrations are being carried out in the country in the field of research and if the Member for Benin East (*Chief Oronsaye*) would himself like

to be shown the improved methods of cultivating one of these crops, I shall be too pleased to arrange for him to be shown.

Fishing in Badagry

O.42. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will carry out a research in order to develop fishing ponds in Badagry Division.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : The Federal Government's responsibility in regard to fisheries and fishing is for fundamental research in respect of the whole of the Federation and development in respect of Lagos only.

The development of fish ponds in Badagry Division is therefore a matter for the Government of Western Region.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : May I know from the hon. Minister of Economic Development what the Federal Government is doing in respect of Buguma in the Eastern Region ?

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : This is the responsibility of the Niger Delta Development Board and I have seen some experiments made on fish ponds in connection with this area. Again, I shall be pleased to arrange for the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) to see some of these experiments if he is interested.

COMMUNICATIONS

Lagos-Kaduna Mail Service

O.46. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to remove the present delay in the delivery of mails between Lagos and Kaduna.

The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : My Ministry has recently concluded arrangements with the Nigerian Railway Corporation to convey mails to various parts of the North and East by the Limited Train Service instead of the Express Service that was being used. The new Service is considered more reliable and quicker and it is hoped that it will go a long way in removing the delays in the delivery of mails between Lagos and Kaduna.

Barikin Ladi Post Office

O.47. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider

increasing the staff of the post office in Barikin Ladi to enable them to cope with the work there.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari : The staffing situation at Barikin Ladi Post Office is under regular review and it is considered that the present strength of staff—2 Postal Officers and Telegraphists—is adequately related to the volume of work at the Post Office. However, another staff review will be carried out shortly, and if an increase is considered justified, this will be implemented.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : Has the hon. Minister of Communications any plan at present to improve the mail services between Barikin Ladi, Langtang and Shendam areas? I ask this question because at the moment we have only one mail service a week in these areas and I think that this is absolutely insufficient.

Gindiri Post Office

O. 48. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, whether the Gindiri postal agency has attained the unit required for its conversion to a Sub-Post Office; and if he will make a statement.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari : A Postal Agency may now be converted to a Sub-Post Office if the units of business transacted reach 18,000. Since the current units of business transacted at Gindiri Postal Agency are 18,679 conversion will take place as soon as funds become available.

Gembu Postal Agency

O. 49. Mr Abel G. Jiah asked the Minister of Communications, when Gembu Postal Agency will be converted to a Sub-Post Office.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari : The current annual units of business transacted at Gembu Postal Agency are 21,690, and conversion to a Sub-Post Office will take place as soon as funds become available.

LIGHT AND WATER AT MEMBERS' FLATS

Mr S. D. Lar : On a point of Order, Mr Speaker, some of us Members have a complaint to lodge. We did not eat last night and we have not had our break-fast this morning. Yet we are expected to sit for a very long time to-day.

I therefore want to lay this complaint before you, Mr Speaker. We have been forced to go on hunger strike. We want to eat because we want to work. I really do not know where to lay this complaint but I am appealing to you, Mr Speaker, to see that Members have sufficient water in their flats to do their cooking and washing and that they have light too.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

VALIDATION OF MARRIAGES (NORTHERN NIGERIA) BILL

Bill for an Act to validate certain marriages in Northern Nigeria and for connected matters, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

EXTERNAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the External Loans Act, 1962, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1958, by making provision in certain cases for the retention of records by the Police; and for the avoidance of doubt as to the exercise of the right of appeal by a prosecutor in particular cases, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to make further provision for the custody of children whose welfare is endangered by disputes; to provide for the continuation of contribution towards the maintenance of a young person where the original contributor dies; to remove a doubt as to the amount of contributions which may be required in respect of children and young persons in pursuance of the Children and Young Persons Act; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely—

That the Second Report for Session 1964-65 together with the Proceedings and Minutes of Evidence of the Public Accounts Committee appointed by the previous House be laid before this House, and be printed.

Members will recall that on the 16th of March, 1964 the Committee of Selection reported the appointment of the Public Accounts Committee for the Session 1964-65. This Committee produced its first report in September 1964. By an order of the previous House of Representatives on the 23rd of September, 1964, this report was printed.

Unfortunately, the Committee did not conclude its second report until the 27th of October last year when the House of Representatives adjourned *sine die*, and dissolution was imminent. Members are all, of course, aware that Parliament was dissolved on the 8th of December, 1964, and that we are now not only in a new session of Parliament, but that we also have an entirely new House of Representatives.

In accordance with parliamentary practice a report of a Committee appointed by a previous House cannot be laid on the Table of a new House without the approval of the latter. The purpose of this Motion, therefore, is to obtain the approval of this House to lay on the Table the second report of the Public Accounts Committee appointed by the former House; and also to obtain the order of this House to print the report.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved—That the Second Report for Session 1964-65 together with the Proceedings and Minutes of Evidence of the Public Accounts Committee appointed by the previous House be laid before this House, and be printed.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL
AND THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL
BILL (SECOND READING)

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I rise to move—

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 18 (1), the day appointed for the Second Reading of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill and the University College Hospital Bill be brought forward from Thursday, 1st April, to this day.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari: I beg to second.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central): We do not know the reason for bringing to this day, these two important Bills. Already we are billed to listen to what will no doubt be a marathon budget speech from the Minister of Finance to-day. We do not know what he has there. He might have some tax shocks for us and I am sure Members will require some time to recover from the shock of the new taxes he might impose on us.

But quite apart from that I think that at least the University College Hospital Bill is such an important Bill that Members would like to take their time to study the Bill before debating it. If this Motion had been moved yesterday, we would perhaps have had a very good opportunity of going home and preparing ourselves for the Bill to-day.

But outside that, I do not think there is any justification for bringing down these two Bills here to-day. I would, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House to kindly withdraw this Motion so that the original programme will stand.

Already the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill is a big enough subject to occupy us to-day and we do not see why we would crowd these two other Bills in to-day. We have a long sitting ahead of us at this meeting, and I do not see the need for this haste about the whole affair.

So, I would ask the Leader of the House to kindly withdraw this Motion.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): Actually when these two Bills were first presented and scheduled for Second Reading on the 1st of April, I felt there were going to be too many Bills for that particular day, and I think the Leader of the House has correctly done what we expect him to do by bringing these two important Bills up for debate to-day.

We do not know what the Minister of Finance has in mind. It may be that he will present his budget for only one or two hours and then there will not be anything to do for the rest of the day.

So I support the bringing forward of these Bills to this day. Quite apart from that, it is always said that a Parliament without a Cabinet is like a railway without a time table. Therefore we must respect the views of the Cabinet.

I support the Motion.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South) : My view is that even with myself, when Bills do come up here and are scheduled for debate in Parliament, it is my practice to arrange my time table in consonance with what the Minister says as to when the Second Reading is to be taken, and this regulates my parliamentary work accordingly.

Quite frankly, even my own file for tomorrow is not here, and on these two vital issues I intend to speak for some time. I am not necessarily giving an indication that there will be any objection whatsoever to either of the two Bills, but we should really be given time, as fixed already, to come here and help in getting the Bill passed, and at the same time putting down whatever amendments we think should be made for the proper working of the Bill when eventually it becomes an Act of Parliament.

I think that the Leader of the House, at worst, should be quite prepared, whenever anything like this is going to be done, to give us at least prior notice so that Members will be told and they will come here fully prepared to debate the Bill because that is really the purpose of any Bill coming before Parliament.

I would say that this is very vital. This does not suggest that any of them could be controversial. A Bill has not got to be controversial before any Member speaks on it.

I know the Minister of Finance very well, and as the Leader of the House he is very efficient—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of order, is the hon. Gentleman trying to bribe the Minister of Finance? What about the leader of his own Party?

Chief Ogunsanya : If the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport wants

to have our opinion of Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, I can assure him that we regard the Minister of Finance as a Minister next to none.

Coming back to what I was saying, I think the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House will think again, and I am quite sure with his ministerial colleagues he will be quite willing to leave these Bills to come up on the scheduled date, when we can all come here and really do our best to help the Government.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not know whether my friend the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) keeps his file in Lagos or in Ikorodu.

However my friends know very well that if they start frowning their faces I will do the contrary.

What was at the back of our mind was that when I finished my Budget Speech and if there was still time to-day the House should do some work. But as hon. Members now complain that they have not seen the Bill, I think it is wise and proper that we should leave it until tomorrow. So, I ask the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

10.22 a.m.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move—

That a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of seventy-eight million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand, five hundred and ten pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act" be read a second time.

It is with humility and pride that I rise to introduce the first Budget to be presented to the new Parliament. I am immensely proud that charge of the nation's financial fortunes should have been entrusted to me once again, and at the same time I feel very humble indeed when I realise how great and growing a responsibility I have to bear. But above all, the emotion which fills my heart is my gratitude

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

to the Prime Minister for giving me this further opportunity to serve the many millions of citizens of this great Federation.

This is the fifth Budget to be presented in this House since the euphoric days of Independence in 1960. Those were famous days indeed, as the new-born nation stepped proudly into the world with all the confidence of brash youth. Yet critics and doubters were no lacking, amidst the abundance of goodwill that flowed from our friends throughout the world. Even among these, indeed, there were some who, whilst wishing us well, yet doubted whether we were equal to the challenge of independent nationhood.

The critics have been confounded, and the doubters scattered in confusion. This does not mean that the road has been smooth in the last four and half years. On the contrary, Independence has presented us with many complex problems. I do not claim that we have solved them all, but we have faced them with resolution, and have left no one in doubt that Nigeria is destined to be a powerful influence in the affairs of Africa and, indeed, of the world.

In the past twelve months Nigeria has emerged successfully from two crises, and is, I believe, the stronger for it. In June widespread strike action caused disruption of normal public services, and affected private industry also. The cost of the strike to the country in economic terms was heavy, and the repercussions of the increased costs which are the inevitable result of the wage increases agreed upon will be felt for a long time to come. But the strike also gave the nation an opportunity to demonstrate its steadiness and sound commonsense. In a situation which in some countries would have caused widespread civil commotion—even toppled the government—the populace remained calm, and it was thus possible for the two sides in the dispute to sit round a table and iron out their differences in an atmosphere entirely free from the threat or fear of violence.

The second crisis, and without doubt by far the graver, is still fresh in the minds of all of us. I refer, of course, to the crisis which followed the General Election at the end of December. Of the crisis itself and its causes I wish to say nothing. The wounds suffered and inflicted

are healing over, and it would do no service to the country to re-open them.

There was world-wide anxiety when for a while it looked as if the fabric of the Federal Republic was crumbling. I have no doubt that there are some countries, even within Africa, which would have welcomed the Federation's disintegration. Nigeria is widely regarded as the best example of parliamentary democracy in Africa, and there would have been much glee in some countries if we had failed. So it is cause for joy that, through God's guidance, we were able to turn from the brink of disaster which would have blighted the aspirations of millions of our fellow-countrymen, and disappointed the hopes of our many friends abroad.

Nigeria is a country of diverse peoples who, of their own free will, agreed to join together as one nation to share the joys and sorrows of brotherhood under a federal system of democratic government.

A great historian once said, "Freedom provokes diversity, diversity preserves freedom." In other words, our democratic way of life and our diversity are mutually advantageous. Rightly used, our diversity should be, not a handicap to progress but a sturdy bulwark of freedom.

No Federation can avoid occasional stresses and strains arising between its components. It would be idle to think that they can be eliminated completely, and no less unrealistic to talk of secession, and the break-up of the Federation, whenever they occur. For strains and stresses will occur, of that we can be sure. What is essential is that when such difficulties do arise, "we should", in the words of Lord Caradon, "turn these strains and stresses to use as checks and balances."

This has an important bearing on the economic and financial problems facing Nigeria to-day. Economic and financial laws do not operate in a vacuum, but within the social and political framework of a given community. Where there is political uncertainty, where the citizens are ever quick to adopt the "posture and position of gladiators", ready to pounce on each other, there also will be found economic uncertainty. And without solid economic foundations there cannot be that steady social advance which we all so greatly desire. By promoting political stability and avoiding the dissipation of our energy on petty squabbles, we shall create

conditions in which we can devote ourselves to the urgent task of raising the living standards of our people, and in which others will the more willingly assist us.

The Members of this House have been elected to serve the many millions of Nigerian citizens whose representatives they are. The electors are not interested in party strife and bickering. They want to better their position in life, to be sure of a full stomach each day, to have a sound roof over their heads, schools for their children, and medical care available when needed. In order that these modest ambitions may be achieved let us all, my fellow-countrymen, irrespective of our differing political persuasions, unite under the able leadership of the Prime Minister, with renewed devotion to those ideals which have already served us well as guide-posts to national greatness. In this spirit therefore I have chosen to call this Budget "The Rededication Budget."

By its very nature a Budget must be concerned with things material, with revenue and expenditure, with pounds and pence, with taxes and loans and interest rates, with the balance of payments and terms of trade. Of such stuff is a Budget made, and with such matters must a Budget speech be principally concerned. But man shall not live by bread alone... No nation that cares only for material well-being can hope to achieve greatness. No nation in which the main concern of every citizen is his own immediate advantage will ever prosper.

Three years ago I spoke of the need for sacrifice and saving, of the need for everyone of us to accept the need to set aside part of the fruits of to-day's labour for that investment without which there can be no increase of prosperity tomorrow, no growth in the economic sense. That need, the need for sacrifice, is no less great than it was when I first spoke of it.

For without growth there can only be stagnation. Without a steady increase in the national product, an increase which must outpace the rising population, there can be no increase in the level of living. Let no one be in any doubt about this inescapable truth. If we are so reckless and improvident as to live only for to-day, then tomorrow will be bleak indeed.

Now, therefore, is the time for everyone of us to rededicate himself to the ideals on which

the Republic is founded, and to resolve, in national unity, to work all the harder, to accept the necessary sacrifices with glad hearts, that our children may take their places as citizens of a great and prosperous nation.

To achieve unity we must be able to recognise the forces which are inimical to it. Be not deceived. There are plenty of ill-intentioned people in the world, not least, I am sorry to say, one of our close neighbours in West Africa, who would be delighted to see Nigeria disintegrate in chaos.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Who are those ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Your friends !

These people will spare no effort to frustrate our unity by setting tribe against tribe, class against class, and Region against Region. Thus they would exploit our diversity to their own ends.

But this is not all. For these people, who care nothing for the welfare of Nigeria, import their foreign dogmas and political theories in order to disrupt the fabric of our society. It is unhappily true that there are certain elements in the community who willingly lend themselves to the propagation of these unwanted theories. Some are genuine, if misguided, idealists, academics whose lack of experience of practical affairs blinds them to the realities of day-to-day life. (*Hear, hear.*)

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Who are those ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am not referring to you this time. Others are unprincipled power-seekers, men who do not hesitate to preach disaffection, men who would not scruple to destroy our society, men who propagate ideologies which they scarcely understand themselves, with one end in view. They are ever ready with specious talk, but in the end they seek their personal power and again, and we may be sure that, having achieved it, they would be careless of the welfare of the people whose support they bought by false pretences.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dip-charima) : That is "Ugaism" !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : No, it is "Chike Obiism" !

Mr Speaker, I must draw the attention of this honourable House to a cankerworm which,

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

if we allow it to grow fat and multiply, will surely destroy the economic fabric of the nation. That cankerworm is the new socialism.

Many brands of so-called socialism are peddled in Nigeria to-day. Indeed, a claim to being socialists is the common factor of a number of incompatible political factions. Socialism is fashionable, and so any little splinter group incorporates it in their propaganda machinery without any real thought of its meaning and implications.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Onitsha Central): That is "Otoboism!"

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It is because you are ignorant of the economic factors ; they militate against us.

I think it will help to avoid confusion if we confine the term, "socialism" to the meaning which it bears in those countries which claim to be "socialist republics."

The tenets of socialism require that state ownership of land, of capital, of the means of production and distribution must replace private ownership, with the abolition of inheritance as necessary corollary. This may sound innocuous enough. But this is not the whole of socialism, nor the most important part, for the basic principle of socialism, the principle from which nationalisation springs, is the complete subordination of individual freedom to the supposed interests of the State.

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, this is debatable. If any hon. Member wants to speak on this, I shall be ready to reply him.
(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It is the loss of individual freedom, that must make socialism and wholesale nationalisation completely unacceptable to all true and honest Nigerians, for we value personal freedom highly. Let anyone who doubts this turn to Chapter III of the Constitution, which many of us would regard as the most important of all the chapters. Herein are guaranteed the freedoms we hold so dear—respect for family life and home, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of movement, freedom

from discrimination, respect for property. These personal freedoms are all part of our Nigerian way of life, which it is our duty to uphold.

The so-called socialists among us know this in their hearts, they know that their brand of a socialist order of society would be unacceptable to the average Nigerian. And so they try to sugar the pill by attaching euphemistic epithets to it, such as "progressive" and "democratic".

This is what in the socialists' jargon is called revisionism. They regard a revisionist as a heretic and, if he will not recant his heresy, he is cast out. The reason for this is clear. The revisionist is daring to assert his personal freedom by saying that the state is wrong, and in so doing, he strikes at the very heart of socialism. Let there be no mistake about this ; there can only be one kind of socialism, and this, as I have shown, is by its basic denial of personal freedom un-Nigerian and a violation of entrenched clauses of our Constitution.

Nigeria's need to-day is not for doctrinaire theorists importing foreign dogmas that have little relevance to Nigeria, but for men of initiative, men with new ideas, planners and thinkers, the kind of men whose pioneering vision, allied to faith and plain hard work, built the United States, the Great Britain, the Canada that we know to-day.

We need men with practical ability who will preach what they truly believe and practise what they preach. A nation cannot be built on theories, but on the effort, the enterprise, the initiative and the peculiar genius of every individual citizen.

It is important that we should make known in clear terms what the country's political objectives are, for the rapid economic progress of this country depends upon her political stability. If people, misusing the freedom of which I have already spoken, continue to make irresponsible calls for nationalisation, rabid socialism and the like, an impression of confusion and uncertainty is created which does immense harm to Nigeria's economic prosperity.

We need the assistance of foreign investors to speed the development of the economy, since we lack the resources to do this unaided. But these dangerous doctrines, and the confused image they produce—

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, it is very rare, Sir, to call the Minister of Finance, on a Budget day, to order but the point has been worrying my conscience and I feel that he should be called to order. (*Interruptions*)

Several hon. Members : What order ?

Mr Ukegbu : The order is on irrelevancy.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) is entitled to raise a point of order.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : I am saying that because this Budget Speech is going to be read all over the world it is important for the Minister of Finance to say whether the theories and counter theories he is proposing are the views of the Government or of his own academic intelligence as a Minister of Finance.

This is actually going to portray us as a reactionary nation and our Government as a reactionary Government. Are we anti-socialist ? I want the Minister of Finance to state categorically whether the Government is anti-socialist or whether he himself is propounding his own theories. That is very important.

Mr Speaker : This is not a point of order. It looks like a question.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : It is not usual to interrupt the Minister of Finance when making a Budget Speech but where a Budget Speech is packed full of hard punches and all sorts of theories and doctrines which are debatable I think he should expect points of order.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Minister of Finance is discussing our economic policy. It is very difficult to depart from capitalism and socialism, and I think it is for him to draw the line where he wishes us to follow.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) being a small man always likes to be seen and heard.

Mr Ukegbu : On a point of protest, when my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance made this remark last year, I gave him an answer which I will now repeat. He says I am a small man ; I agree, but I say that at the vital points—the head and the heart—I am bigger than

the Minister of Finance. He is only big at the tummy. If he makes this remark again, I shall give him the same answer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But these dangerous doctrines, and the confused image they produce, will deter genuine investors and drive them away, leaving only speculators who are interested not in genuine productive investment but in making quick profit to the detriment of our own economy.

I want, therefore, to reassure our many friends overseas that the Federal Government of Nigeria will remain stable and democratic. We shall continue to do all in our power, through policies designed to strengthen our free enterprise economy, to create and sustain that necessary atmosphere of confidence upon which future growth depends. I am sure, Sir, that the Government will have the full support of every hon. Member in this worthy endeavour.

Now, I propose to review briefly events of the past year on the home front, at least in so far as they have a bearing on our financial and monetary policies.

The most significant and far-reaching event was, without doubt, the agreement reached in regard to increased wages and salaries following the publication of the Report of the Morgan Commission. The events which led to the agreement are familiar enough to us all, and it would be tedious for me to rehearse them here to-day. The immediate result of the agreement was to provide increases in remuneration for those earning less than £600 a year, increases which ranged from five per cent to no less than 32 per cent. Coming as they did, at least as far as the public sector of the economy is concerned, after a virtual five-year freeze, the increases cannot be regarded as immoderate.

Indeed, I have nothing but praise for the moderation exercised by the lower income groups during this period. In a way, the Morgan award, as it has become known, may perhaps mark the beginning of a social revolution, for it was deliberately confined to the lower income groups, and was thus consciously a measure to narrow the gap between the well-off and the poor.

And a word of praise is due also to those, and the civil servants in particular, who enjoy salaries exceeding £600 a year. Their salary scales remain as they have been for the past six

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

years, despite the undoubted increase in the cost of living during that time. In terms of purchasing power they are less well-off than they were six years ago. They have accepted a real sacrifice in the interest of the nation as a whole, and we should be ungrateful if we did not acknowledge this.

The cost of the Morgan award was heavy, and its repercussions will be felt for a long time to come. The recurrent expenditure of the Federal Government alone was increased by some three million pounds solely on account of the award. Clearly, the total cost must be impressive, indeed formidable, when to this figure is added the cost to the Regional Governments, to all the statutory corporations, and to the private sector of the economy.

Of course, this figure represents the additional cost for fifteen months since the award was made retrospective to the 1st of January, 1964, and it will not, therefore, be fully repeated in a normal year. But it does draw attention to the great difficulty caused where a pay increase is made retrospective. This is most marked, of course, in the commercial and industrial sectors where the prices of goods and services are based upon the known costs at the time they are supplied.

The pay increases do not affect recurrent budgets alone. Indeed, their repercussions are likely to be more prolonged on projects in the capital budgets, since estimates, particularly those for projects which have a high labour content, must necessarily be revised upwards. This is an additional burden which must be met almost entirely from our own limited internal resources, since it is internal costs that have been increased, and these cannot, as a rule, be met from external aid.

A wide-spread pay increase will almost inevitably have some inflationary effect, with more money competing for the same supply of goods. But the immediate price increases which followed the Morgan award were clearly due to an unjustified mark up by traders who cared more for the opportunity of a quick profit than for the well-being of their country.

On the other hand, it must be recognised that the wage and salary earners form a small and in some ways privileged minority of the population. By far the greater part of our people still live from the land they cultivate,

and their lot will be worsened if they are unable to share in the increased prosperity of the wage earner. It is, indeed, the ordinary farmer who, because he is least able to make himself heard above the clamour of organised labour, is least able to protect his interests.

Let us not forget the farmer in our anxiety to give a fair deal to the wage earner. It is sometimes said that the farmer is the backbone of a nation, and I believe this to be true. But I also believe that within the next few years there must be a revolution in farming methods in Nigeria. To-day, the bulk of our agricultural output is produced by methods which have changed little in the last half century. They are methods which grew up in and were appropriate to a static subsistence economy.

But to-day we are faced by a rapidly increasing population, whilst at the same time with the spread of education, fewer and fewer young men are content to follow the pattern of life of their fathers and their grandfathers.

In brief, there is an ever-shrinking supply of agricultural labour to produce the needs of an ever increasing population. There is a real danger that, if this situation is allowed to drift unarrested, we shall find ourselves unable to produce enough food for all the mouths demanding it.

Let us therefore avoid the said experience of some other developing nations which, pursuing the goal of industrialisation at all costs, have so neglected their agriculture that they have to import essential foodstuffs in order to avert starvation. Increased productivity on the farm must go hand in hand with industrialisation, and I think that the most fruitful approach to the problem lies in the encouragement of farm settlements.

This is perhaps more a problem for the Regional Governments, which have already taken steps to establish a few farm settlements. But efforts must be intensified to increase the number of such settlements. To this end the Federal Government is prepared to seek ways and means of assisting well thought out programmes of farm settlements. I believe that these settlements have an important part to play in two directions. Firstly, they should, by establishing the status of farming as a worthwhile career, curb the tendency for school leavers to drift from the country in response to the lure and glamour of the big

towns and cities. And secondly, they should serve as the focal points of agricultural development from which new knowledge and new methods will gradually — and I hope not too gradually — extend throughout the countryside.

Before I leave the subject of wages and employment, I want to refer briefly to some other aspects of the Morgan agreement. The agreement did not relate solely to increases in pay, and indeed these increases were perhaps in the longer term the less important part. In the agreement the Government gave certain undertakings. In this regard it is appropriate to say that the present Government will stand by the agreement which was, of course, entered into by the previous Government. These undertakings related to such matters as housing, rent control and transport.

Disappointment is sometimes expressed because full effect was not given to these undertakings within a matter of a few months. I can well understand the impatience of the workers and their representatives, but I ask them to accept Government's assurances in good faith, and to realise that these are intractable problems, the solutions to which cannot be found in an hour or a day by waving a magic wand. But I have no doubt that solutions will be found, given patience and goodwill.

The past year has seen rapid monetary expansion which has been a cause of serious concern both to the Government and to the Central Bank. The high rate of growth in money supply reflects the continual enlargement of the banking system's credit in response to the financial requirements of both public and private sectors of the economy. Total credit to the private sector rose from £134.4 million at the close of 1963 to £158.8 million at the end of 1964—an increase of over eighteen per cent. Inevitably this increase in money supply was accompanied by a substantial rise in imports, a deterioration of the trade balance, and a further decline in our foreign exchange reserves. This is a subject to which I shall return later.

The Central Bank has continued to play its part in contributing to the financing of the National Development Plan by holding Federal Government Development Loan Stocks. In February, the Central Bank, acting for the Federal Government, issued a new £15 million loan, the Federal Republic of Nigeria Second Development Loan.

At the time of issue, the Bank already held some £14 million of previous loan issues. Only some £3 million of the new loan was subscribed by the public, and the Bank has therefore had to take up the balance. Its total holdings of long-term Federal Government Securities thus now aggregate nearly £26 million, after the first three years of the Six-Year Development Plan period.

It is thus apparent that unless the market shows an increased willingness to invest in Government Stock, issue of further development loans during the second half of the Development Plan period will of necessity be on a smaller scale if the Central Bank's agreed maximum holding of £40 million worth of long-term Development Loan Stock is not to be exceeded, with the attendant inflationary dangers of such an extension of deficit financing.

I trust, therefore, that all those who hold surplus funds for which an investment in Development Loan Stock would be appropriate will without further hesitation increase their holdings of these Stocks to the limit of their ability.

Development Loan Stocks are of course, as I fully realise, of limited attraction to the small investor, for whom the National Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds are a much more attractive investment.

It is regrettable that the Nigerian public has not yet shown that ready response to previous calls for national savings that is so necessary for the full and successful realisation of all our plans for the economic development of the Federation. Despite all the publicity that has been given to these savings media, public response has fallen far short of what had been hoped and of what is needed.

But I remain convinced that the potential of small savings is great, and I shall therefore continue to explore all possible means of persuading the man in the street that investment in Savings Certificates and Premium Bonds is both patriotic and profitable. The savings exist, but they are hoarded away, sterile, bringing neither profit of their holders nor benefit to the nation.

So much for the mobilisation of domestic resources through Development Loans and small savings. I now revert for a brief space to the Central Bank of Nigeria. The regular issues of Treasury Bills by the Bank on behalf

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

of the Government are firmly established, and are of great benefit both to those who hold surplus short-term funds for investment, and to Government in providing temporary funds to even out the fluctuations of revenue accrual.

At the present time a total of £35 million of Treasury Bills are on issue, of which £4½ million is on-lent to Regional Governments. This represents a substantial enlargement of the volume of Treasury Bills in issue, and the Central Bank has had to take up increasingly large amounts. The extent of the increase of the volume in issue can be appreciated by comparing the bare statistics for 1963 with those for 1964. In the former year the monthly average of Treasury Bills amounted to £8.1 million, whilst the average amount of Bills outstanding was £23.5 million.

In 1964, the average monthly issue rose to £10.9 million, and the average amount outstanding to £31.4 million. It will be necessary to keep a careful watch on this tendency for the total amount in issue to rise at a faster rate than investment outlet, since it is not without some inflationary danger.

The Central Bank has continued to be actively involved with the financial problems of the Marketing Boards. At the beginning of the current crop marketing season the Bank raised the limit of its refinance facilities to the Marketing Boards financing consortia from £27 million to £30 million, exclusive of facilities made available to Licensed Buying Agents.

Developments towards the end of 1964 relating to the marketing of cocoa were such that the Bank itself had to undertake direct lending to the Western Nigeria Marketing Board to finance cocoa purchases.

1964 generally was a year of consolidation and increasing pressure in the money and capital markets. The commercial banks continued to be seriously strained, and increasingly sought rediscount facilities at the Central Bank. Government also increased its dependence on the money market to meet temporary shortage of funds, as is evidenced by the substantial increase in the average amount of Treasury Bills outstanding to which I have just referred.

An important and gratifying development in the money market is the vigorous growth in call money facilities outside the Central Bank, a development which accords with the need to deepen the financial mechanisms of the economy. Two acceptance houses and one

commercial bank offered call money facilities in 1964, and commercial bank lending to these funds is growing substantially.

The Lagos Stock Exchange continued to make satisfactory progress during the year, and quotations were given to eleven more stocks, thus bringing the total number of listed securities at the end of 1964 to forty-two.

It is of paramount importance to the economy that all the financial institutions should be properly equipped to make their full contribution to the development of our country. Official policy towards the banking system has been, and will continue to be, to encourage the development of sound institutions, whether Nigerian or foreign. Within this policy of non-discrimination it is Government's intention to encourage indigenous banks to develop into stable financial institutions which can make their full contribution to the development of the economy, especially in those areas where foreign banks cannot usefully operate.

A year ago I indicated that revision of the Banking Act was contemplated, to ensure that not only commercial banks (as that term is generally understood) but also all financial institutions in the country, perform their functions efficiently, whether these functions be deposits receipt, discount, investment, or financial services of any other kind. The rapid growth of the economy has emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the Banking Act, and this is now being undertaken. Full advantage is being taken of the experience gained in other countries with problems similar to our own, and I am confident that the revised Banking Act, a Bill for which I hope to introduce later this year, will play a major part in sustaining the stability and continued sound development of our economy.

As I have said, one of the amendments proposed relates to the receipt of deposits. It is my intention to bring the business of receiving deposits within the scope of the Banking Act, for the protection of the general public. But this cannot be done immediately, and I therefore wish to warn the public to be on their guard against fraudulent operations in this field.

There have been a number of invitations for deposits made in recent years. The usual pattern is for a very attractive rate of interest to be offered, and for very substantial assets to be claimed. My strong advice to the public

is to have nothing whatsoever to do with such offers, which are almost certainly fraudulent.

The commercial banks' aggregate deposit liabilities rose during the year by nearly twenty *per cent*, their level at the end of 1964 being £115 million. But deposits did not grow as fast as loans and advances, and by November the ratio of loans to deposit liabilities exceeded one hundred *per cent*. Thus, whilst savings deposits maintained their upward trend, the lag in the growth of aggregate deposits has made it increasingly difficult for the banks to satisfy rising demands for credit.

The monthly loan deposit ratios ran at a very high level throughout the year, the average being 91 *per cent*, compared with 80 *per cent* and 88.7 *per cent* in 1962 and 1963. And as I have just indicated, towards the end of the year the ratio exceeded 100 *per cent*, standing at 106 *per cent* at the end of December. To buttress their over-lent position, the banks resorted to outside finance, which took the form of substantial borrowing from overseas head offices and from other foreign banks.

Whilst some satisfaction is to be found in the fact that the banks are in position to obtain assistance from abroad when under pressure, it is nonetheless regrettable that it should still be necessary to seek such assistance at all, since its cost represents a further call on our external reserves. The policy of Nigerianising the credit base must not and will not be relaxed.

In the final analysis, only rising levels of deposits can supply the working capital needed by the banks, and these in turn will only be generated if there is public confidence in the banks. At the very root of the matter, therefore, lies the need for sound banking policy and practice, and it is my firm resolve to encourage and promote this.

The over-lent position of the banks was but one symptom of the inflationary pressures which, generated by expansionary forces in the economy, threatened economic stability and became a matter of serious concern to the Central Bank. To contain the threat, the Bank applied a form of credit squeeze by advising the commercial banks to limit increases in their aggregate loans and advances to 15 per cent of the levels in the preceding twelve months. I am glad to be able to say that the commercial banks in general heeded this advice, and in consequence bank credit has

been less readily available. The Central Bank has also taken other measures directed against monetary expansion and further erosion of the external reserves. But the dangers are by no means over, and both Government and Central Bank are maintaining a careful watch on developments.

Before closing this review of money and capital markets and turning to another topic, I find that a few words about the contribution of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank can scarcely be avoided. This Bank's unique position ensures that it is destined to play a significant role in the development of the capital market. The Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, amongst other functions, encourages promising enterprises to incorporate as limited liability companies by offering to take up shares after incorporation. It further encourages such companies at the appropriate time to apply for a Stock Exchange quotation for their shares, which thus become available to the public. This policy has two important advantages. Firstly, it helps the growth and development of the Lagos Stock Exchange as the companies seek a quotation for their shares, and secondly it engenders public confidence in industrial shares, for the association of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank with any company is increasingly recognised as a good indication of the company's viability and sound management.

Nigeria still depends for her living in the world on exporting primary products, and these therefore are, and will for a long time remain, of vital importance to the economy as a whole. The level of agricultural output was generally maintained in 1964, except for a decline in groundnuts after the previous bumper crop, and in soya-beans. Commodity prices also, with one major exception, remained at much the same level as is the previous year. But I regret that there is still no sign that the industrialised countries are prepared to take any positive steps to assist primary producers to obtain more satisfactory prices for their exports. It cannot be said too often that much as we welcome aid from the richer countries of the world, it would be far more satisfactory if the need for such aid were avoided by the maintenance of a more reasonable level of prices for the commodities which these countries buy from us. Aid can never be a real substitute for trade, and that trade must be on satisfactory terms.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

The world cocoa situation has given, and continues to give, cause for great concern. I think hon. Members are probably familiar with the pattern of events of the last six months. In October, the Cocoa Producers' Alliance instructed its members to withdraw supplies from the market, following failure to realise the Alliance's indicative price of 190s a hundred-weight. In accordance with her obligations to the Alliance, Nigeria stopped selling cocoa, and remained out of the market for some three months, until the members of the Alliance at a meeting in Lagos last January agreed that, despite the failure to achieve the indicative price, sales could be resumed. With the wisdom of hindsight it is easy to say that the Alliance's course of action in withdrawing supplies from the market was doomed to failure from the start. Following a good crop in the previous season, manufacturers were comfortably placed for stocks when the withdrawal began. The Alliance permitted certain of its smaller members, whose economies are less resilient than our own, to continue limited sales, and there was thus a continuing, if restricted, supply of cocoa filtering into the market, so that any manufacturer who needed to replenish his stocks was able to do so. The blockade was incomplete and therefore largely ineffective. Finally, the Alliance's position was further weakened when it became apparent that the major producers were likely to enjoy record crops. Indeed, crop forecasts for Nigeria of 220,000 tons, on which we were working in November, increased rapidly and embarrassingly to 280,000 tons by the beginning of February. With this abundance of cocoa, world prices fell precipitously as soon as the producers re-entered the market, reaching their lowest level for many years at less than 130s a hundredweight.

This cocoa crisis—and a crisis indeed it is—has created grave problems for the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the Western Nigeria Government, and, ultimately for the Federal Government itself.

The Marketing Board is required by law to purchase all cocoa offered for sale to it, and for smooth working it is necessary that the Board's funds should be constantly revolving, its resources for purchase of more cocoa being continuously replenished with the proceeds of cocoa sales. This is of course an over-

simplification, but it serves to illustrate the point. There is necessarily a time lag between purchase from the producer and sale to the consumer, and the Board therefore requires credit to finance its stocks of cocoa between purchase and realisation. In normal circumstances, when sales proceed in an orderly manner, the credit requirement remains fairly constant, and is obtained by discounting ninety-day bills on the basis of a contract for sale of the produce. This system has worked well. But it is ultimately dependent upon a contract for sale being entered into, and must therefore inevitably break down if for any reason no sales are made. This is precisely what happened during the cocoa crisis. Following withdrawal from the market, no further contracts were concluded, and the normal sources of credit almost immediately dried up. The Marketing Board was able to meet its obligations by obtaining substantial credit first from the Central Bank and subsequently from the Federal Government. At the peak, the Marketing Board had £14.4 million from the Central Bank, £6 million from the Federal Government, and £5.3 million from the commercial banks. Following the resumption of cocoa sales the Board has been able to reduce these borrowings by £5.4 million, but at 12th March it still owed the Central Bank over £13.3 million and the Federal Government £6 million.

An hon. Member : Throw them out.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : That is not my business. Let the hon. Member go and throw them out.

Although these loans were made on an essentially short-term basis, it is now evident that the Marketing Board will not be in a position to repay them in full within the original limit of ninety days, for at the present level of world cocoa prices the Board cannot cover its full marketing costs.

Some hon. Members : It is a shame !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If Nigeria did not join in the Alliance hon. Members would say it was Pan Africanism and Nigeria did not partake. It is not the making of the Western Nigeria Government, it is the making of the Alliance. Hon. Members should not blow hot and cold at the same time.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East): On a point of order, the Western Nigeria Government was busy planning thuggery instead of planning cocoa sales.

Mr Speaker: Surely, the Member for Ekiti East is not serious.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: It thus seems probable that substantial balances of short-term borrowing will have to be converted to a longer term. For the Western Nigeria Government the position is difficult, because it relies very largely each year on a large contribution from Marketing Board profits to its capital development fund.

Chief A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja South): The Western Nigeria Government should resign.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: But there is no reason for that. What is the business of the Member for Ikeja South (*Chief Ogunsanya*) in that?

Chief Ogunsanya: My business in the West is that I am a Westerner.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: Finally, the cocoa crisis is bound to affect the balance of payments adversely, firstly because the three months stand-still on sales meant that no foreign exchange was being earned at all from this source, and secondly because sales at the present low price level earn less for a given tonnage.

We have weathered the storm, but its effects will be felt for a long time to come. I believe the cocoa crisis has clearly demonstrated that there is a most pressing need for international action to avoid repetition of such events, which can do no one any good, but will surely embitter relations between producer and consumer countries. It seems ironical that the consumers did not regard the 190s a hundredweight that we sought as excessive—indeed it was a very modest aim. Individual consumers protested that they saw nothing unreasonable in our demand—but would not meet it for fear that their competitors would undercut them. If the consumers are sincere in this, then let their Governments take active measures to promote a workable agreement, instead of standing by as they have done, self-righteously declaring that they cannot intervene in a straight-forward commercial transaction.

I have dwelt at some length on the cocoa crisis because I think it is important that its implications should be widely understood, and because I hope that the Government of the major consuming countries will—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, there is too much interruption. May I remind hon. Members that they have the opportunity of debating the Minister's policies.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: As I was saying, I have dwelt at some length on the cocoa crisis because I think it is important that its implications should be widely understood, and because I hope that the Governments of the major consuming countries will pay some heed to my assertion that this is not, as they would like to believe, a simple commercial matter in which Government intervention would be inappropriate.

Problems of transportation have continued to have an adverse effect on the export of agricultural products, and in particular on the rate at which the groundnut crops can be disposed of. So acute was this in 1963-64 that less than 45 per cent of the record total of 831,000 tons of the season's groundnuts sold had actually been shipped by the close of the season. At the ports, stevedoring contract and port labour disputes periodically hampered efficient operation, whilst the dispute between the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited and the West African Lines Conference over a 10 per cent increase in shipping freight rates proposed by the Conference had a further disruptive effect. Agricultural exports still constitute the biggest source of foreign exchange earnings, and the serious effect of any situation which hinders their expeditious evacuation and export needs no emphasis.

I have spoken of the need for better prices for our exports, which are essential if trade earnings are ever to replace aid. It is no less important that our export markets should be expanded, and further efforts in this direction have been made during the past year. Following the exploratory talks to which I referred in the Budget speech a year ago, formal negotiations have been opened with the European Economic Community, which the Government recognises to be an important and rapidly expanding market to which it is most important that our

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]
 exports should have access on an equal basis with those of other producers of tropical products, unhampered by the Community's external tariffs. Negotiations with the Community were started in July, the aim being to work out a form of relationship between Nigeria and the Community which will secure free entry of our products, especially cocoa, palm oil, groundnut oil and plywood. The form of association we seek is essentially different from that of the nineteen Associated African States, since we want trade relations with the minimum of institutional links. This is not the moment to make a full report to the House on the state of the negotiations, but I can say that very satisfactory, even spectacular, progress has been made in our discussions with the Community, and there is every prospect that agreement will be reached before the end of the year.

The European Economic Community has made some most encouraging concessions to Nigeria. With only three exceptions, all Nigeria's exports to the Community will enter duty free. The exceptions are cocoa, groundnut oil and palm oil, which are of course of the highest importance. The arrangement proposed with regard to these three commodities is that initially the Community will admit free of duty a quantity calculated as the average of the six member-nations' imports of the commodities from Nigeria in the three years 1962 to 1964. This will be the basic quota, which will be increased by 3 per cent in each year of the agreement. These arrangements will be of very real benefit, and should make Nigerian produce very much more competitive within the six nations of the Community, since it will be relieved of the present import duties which range from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. In the case of the three key commodities I have already named, any imports in excess of the agreed quota would be required to bear the normal duty.

Negotiations can only succeed when both sides are prepared to make concessions, and our negotiations with the Six were no exception. On our side, therefore, certain concessions have been provisionally agreed in respect of Nigerian imports from the Community. It is proposed that the present Nigerian import tariff, which provides for a single duty, should be revised by splitting each rate of import duty into two parts, a fiscal charge and an import duty. The fiscal charge would be imposed on

imports from any source without discrimination, but the import duty would not be payable in respect of imports of agreed products from any of the Six. By this procedure we should be able to maintain the level of revenue, and to provide tariff protection for Nigerian industries where necessary, through the fiscal charge, whilst granting the nations of the Community some advantage by exempting their imports from the import duty.

Hon. Members may be assured that the negotiations for association with the European Economic Community in no way imply any abandonment of the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or of our trading interests with Britain, America, and those other countries outside the Six who have for long been our good and valued customers. We have so far remained faithful to these, and we shall continue to do so. The fact is that some two-thirds of our foreign trade is with countries outside the Community, and we have no intention whatsoever of endangering the security of this trade in our efforts to gain entry of our produce to the Community on reasonable terms. Every effort will be made to ensure that in offering reciprocal concessions to imports from the Community we do not depart radically from the fundamental principles that have hitherto governed our external trade policies.

This review of developments in primary commodities would be incomplete if I made no reference to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which took place in Geneva in the first half of 1964. The Conference lasted for nearly three months, and was attended by delegates from one hundred and twenty-three countries. Its purpose was to seek ways and means of assisting the external trade of developing countries in order that they may earn the foreign exchange which they need for their economic development.

Perhaps there were some who, setting their hopes too high, were disappointed at the outcome of the Conference. I do not share their view. For whilst the apparent outcome of the Conference was limited to an expression of general principles, its real achievements go much beyond this. For the first time the closely allied problems of the trade and development of under-developed countries were identified and discussed, fully and frankly, in the widest forum possible. Developed countries, regardless of their ideological

differences, agreed in principle to the removal of trade barriers, and accepted that more ready access to their markets must be available not only to primary commodities but also to manufactured goods originating from less-developed countries. Again, recognition was given to the need for increased financial assistance to the less-developed countries, as well as for compensatory financing to offset the instability of their export earnings, and, closely allied to this, for stabilisation of commodity markets through international commodity agreements. Finally, it was agreed that an effective international organisation is needed to promote action on the principles agreed upon at the Conference.

For the less-developed countries, indeed, the Conference was undoubtedly the crowning achievement of the year in its particular field. For the first time, and notwithstanding their diversity, they spoke with a single voice in pressing for concessions from the advanced countries. This development is one which will, I am sure, have far-reaching political and economic consequences, for it clearly shows that the under-developed countries are emerging as a formidable force in international affairs.

Thus the Conference on Trade and Development holds out real hope of promoting trade and increasing our foreign earnings—and of reducing our dependence on Aid. But all the willing buyers in the world are of no use to us unless we can get our goods to them with the maximum speed and efficiency, and our ports, and the lines of communication to them, thus form a vital link between producer and consumer. Trade passing through the sea-ports has increased with almost startling rapidity in recent years. The tonnage handled at Apapa Quay alone has more than doubled in a decade, increasing from 766,000 tons dead-weight in the year ending 31st March, 1955, to an estimated 1,700,000 tons dead-weight in the year which ends to-day. Indeed, the Nigerian Ports Authority has succeeded in achieving the impossible, for I understand that the tonnage now being handled at Apapa is some 50 per cent higher than the theoretical maximum with the facilities available. This reinforces my long-held belief that one practical man is worth a dozen theoreticians, and I am glad to see that the Ports Authority is clearly staffed by practical men. I congratulate them on their fine achievement. (*Hear, hear*).

Four new berths at Apapa are well on the way to completion, and indeed one has been in use for some considerable time. Their completion will ease the pressure on the port facilities, but will also underline the present inadequacy of the lines of communication to Apapa. This is a cause of great concern to the Government, for the acute congestion which already exists causes serious and costly delays, and unless the situation is remedied it will not be possible to derive full benefit from the very large investment in new port facilities.

Hon. Members will be glad to know that Government has not been inactive, and I am pleased to be able to inform the House that a World Bank team is expected next month for an appraisal of the Apapa approach roads. If all goes well, it should then be possible to start negotiations for a World Bank loan for this vital project by the middle of the year.

I can hear an hon. Member shouting "Loan loan". I would kindly appeal to him to be patient and listen more to what I have to say. After all, the hon. Gentleman in question contested the last Federal Elections with the aid of a loan. Now, he does not like the idea of obtaining loans.

I am hopeful, too, that negotiations will soon begin with the United State Agency for International Development for a loan for the reconstruction of Western Avenue and the Agege Motor Road, which form no less important links in the lines of communication to the quayside at Apapa. (*Hear, hear.*) Consultants have already studied this project and I understand that their report will shortly be completed. There are therefore grounds for optimism that the problems of financing these vital projects will soon be satisfactorily resolved.

At this point, I propose to turn from trade, and the factors that help and hinder it, to review the balance of payments. This is very important to hon. Members. It is appropriate to do so because, when all is said and done, our trading with the world is the dominant influence on the balance of payments position.

Like most developing countries, Nigeria has borne her share of the set-backs and misfortunes which have beset the external trade of primary producers in the last decade. For most of this period, and more especially in the latter half,

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

adverse terms of trade have persisted, and have been the result of the general fall in world prices of primary products since the mid-nineteen-fifties. The consequent balance of payments deficits are a phenomenon about which the international financial institutions are unanimous in expressing their concern, and to which hitherto they seem to have been quite unable to find any solution.

It is not long since balance of payment difficulties were mainly associated with developing countries, but as recent events have shown, this is by no means the case, and even highly developed industrial economies are not immune to them. But our difficulties are of a different nature from those of the industrialised countries. The state of development of their economies is such that they can normally take corrective action which will redress the balance within a relatively short space of time. Developing countries are not in the fortunate position of being able to help themselves out of their balance of payments difficulties so readily, for they are much more deep-rooted, even chronic. In concert with other countries in a similar position we have drawn the attention of the two major international financial institutions to the need for some positive action to solve the balance of payments difficulties, which are now a dominant feature of developing economies. It is some comfort that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have taken cognisance of our representations, and at the request of the Conference on Trade and Development are now studying proposals for providing assistance of a permanent nature towards solving the balance of payments problems of developing countries.

Provisional data on merchandise trade for the calendar year 1964 show the value of exports as £211.3 million, with imports at £252.5 million. The corresponding figures for 1963 were £189.5 million and £207.5 million respectively. Thus the trade gap widened from £18 million in 1963 to £41 million in 1964, and the trend of the previous two years, when the gap was substantially narrowed, has been very sharply reversed. Export performance was in truth very satisfactory, and the figures speak for themselves with an increase of nearly £22 million. This increase is particularly satisfactory when the disruptive effect of the nation-wide strike in

the middle of the year, and the withdrawal of cocoa from the world market in the last quarter are considered.

Unfortunately the upsurge in imports was even more pronounced, for they increased by no less than £45 million. I cannot conceal my disappointment at the magnitude of this increase, which has occurred notwithstanding the measures taken during the year to restrain the growth of imports of manufactures. On the other hand, it is fair to recall that the restraining measures were taken in August, and that it would be some months before their full effect would be felt, since goods ordered before the wide-ranging Tariff changes of 3rd August might well not be received in Nigeria until three or four months later. It is not possible to control the import flow by fiscal measures with the ease and speed of turning a tap off and on.

Imports of machinery and transport equipment increased by nearly £24 million compared with 1963, to £75 million. Imports of motor cars in particular rose significantly. Increases in imports of capital goods arose partly from the expansion of projects financed by foreign capital, and in particular, by companies engaged in petroleum operations, and partly from increased drawing on foreign loans and other assistance, which are for the most part tied to capital goods manufactured in the country providing the assistance.

In these circumstances, of course, although the goods so imported swell the total value of imports, they do not affect the trade gap since they are offset by corresponding invisibles. To this extent the increase in the value of capital goods imported is welcome, in that it is an indication of an increasing tempo of economic activity.

The substantial increase in the value of exports which I have already remarked upon was due very largely to the very satisfactory expansion of petroleum exports the value of which went up by more than 50 per cent, from £20 million in 1963 to £32 million in 1964.

A further large expansion in petroleum exports is expected in the present year, and already the oil industry's export earnings have outstripped both cocoa and groundnuts to establish the industry firmly as the most important source of foreign exchange.

Hitherto, the Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited has been

the only exporter of oil, but I am happy to say that already a second company, the Nigerian Gulf Oil Company, is producing and exporting oil commercially. There is every indication that these two companies will soon be joined by others in contributing to the industry's export-earnings, which by conservative estimates are expected to reach a level of not less than £100 million by 1967. The balance of payments situation will thus be transformed almost overnight.

The pattern of our external trade in 1964 shows that transactions with the European Economic Community are increasing. In the first eight months of the year the six countries of the Community took nearly 37 per cent of the total exports, whilst imports from the six amounted to 22.8 per cent of total imports. These figures may be compared with the totals of 34 per cent and 22 per cent respectively in the corresponding period of 1963. The increase is not spectacular but it is indicative of a trend which I have no doubt will increase if the negotiations for association with the European Economic Community of which I have already spoken can be brought to a successful conclusion.

In contrast to the trend of trade with the Six, our trade with the United Kingdom has continued to decline. Over the same eight-month period, imports and exports in 1964 amounted to 32.4 per cent and 36.9 per cent of Nigeria's total trade, in each case a decline of about three per cent compared with 1963. Nonetheless, accounting as it does for about one third of our external trade the United Kingdom is still our biggest single trading partner.

Exports to the United States fell, whilst imports increased. This rise in imports is related to the increase in purchases of machinery and equipment from the United States, an increase arising from imports tied to financial assistance, which requires that goods be procured from the country giving the assistance.

Trade with Eastern Europe has increased satisfactorily, although it still accounts for a relatively insignificant proportion of the total. It is particularly encouraging to note that exports to Eastern Europe increased three fold, from £1 million to over £3 million. The large trade deficit with Japan has continued, the value of imports increasing

by nearly £2½ million in the eight months, whilst exports to Japan remained insignificant.

Preliminary estimates of the services account indicate that most items were in deficit in 1964, and that outgoings in respect of travel, freight and insurance dividend remittances and servicing of loans continued to rise. These last two items are of course the unavoidable corollary of the policy of attracting foreign investment and indeed to some extent at least an increase in outgoings on dividend remittances and loan charges is a measure of the success of that policy.

The overall deficit on current account in 1964 is estimated at £66.4 million, this being the aggregate of the estimated deficits on trade and services. However, the actual run-down of foreign exchange reserves was just over £17 million a substantially better performance than in 1963, when the loss amounted to £30 million. This improvement which has occurred despite the very much larger deficit on current account, is due to the much better performance of the capital account compared with the two previous years.

The difference between the current account deficit and the actual run-down of reserves—some £49 million—was offset by an inflow of funds. Drawings by Governments and the public corporations on external loans accounted for £8.6 million, an the balance of a little over £40 million came from private foreign investment. Whilst there is some cause for satisfaction in an inflow of foreign capital on this scale, indicating as it does that our efforts to attract investment have their reward, the size of the trade gap and the sharp reversal of the previous trend to narrow it, give no cause for complacency.

At the end of 1964 the external reserves stood at £77 million, which is a little below the level of four months' imports which, as I have said on a number of previous occasions I regard as a safe minimum. In fact, I believe the position to be rather better than the bare figures would suggest. Two factors in particular lead me to this conclusion. Firstly, corrective measures taken by the Government in the latter half of 1964 had not had time for their full effect to be felt by the end of the year. Secondly the withdrawal of supplies from the cocoa market during the last quarter of 1964 meant that foreign exchange

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

earnings from sale of cocoa were an estimated £5 million below what would have accrued in normal circumstances.

I have in previous budget speeches stressed the need for maintaining adequate external reserves, and I do not propose to speak about this at great length to-day. Nonetheless, it is a subject of such vital importance that a few words must be said. Foreign exchange reserves from Nigeria's last line of defence against imbalance in her international transactions, and the maintenance of adequate reserves ensures that we are able to meet our international commitments. Moreover, the level of reserves is a measure of the degree of prudence with which we manage our affairs, and is one of the first matters that an investor will take care to inform himself about. A satisfactory level of reserves will give the prospective foreign investor the confidence to make his investment.

At this stage I would like to turn for a while to discuss the National Development Plan, whose third year is drawing to a close. We are, indeed, exactly at the half-way mark in point of time, and it is appropriate that I should review the performance in the first three years and try to forecast what is likely to happen in the coming three years.

My hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, will no doubt have much to say on the wider aspects of the Plan and its progress, and I shall, therefore, as far as possible confine my remarks to its financial aspects.

In the first year, the gross domestic product increased by 3.1 *per cent*, and preliminary indications are that in the second year the growth was maintained at much the same rate. Provisional figures show that Government expenditure in the implementation of the public sector of the Plan during the first two years totalled about £150 million. Within this overall total, Federal Government expenditure amounted to £86 million, of which £11.4 million came from recurrent budget surpluses, £21 million from internal borrowing, £14.5 million from the internal resources of Statutory Corporations, and £15.9 million from foreign aid. The balance, over £22 million, was drawn from external reserves and other accumulated funds.

The figures of actual expenditure in the first two years of the Plan tell a story of very satisfactory performance, if considered in the light of the numerous and formidable difficulties which had to be overcome. No one making a realistic appraisal of our development effort in these years can deny our achievements when he considers in concrete terms the projects which have been completed or are well under way.

In the vital power sector, the Niger Dam Project makes excellent progress, and work progresses on the Electricity Corporation's transmission lines programme, for which the World Bank has provided a £10 million loan. The Afam Power Station has already been commissioned whilst construction of the Ughelli Power Station is going ahead.

In the transport sector no one can fairly say that we have been dragging our feet. The great Niger road bridge is nearing completion, as also are the Shagamu-Benin, Tegna-Daura and Otta-Idiroko roads, whilst work will soon begin on the Gusau-Sokoto-Yelwa and the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road projects, as well as on the second Lagos Bridge. All this represents a massive investment.

Nigeria Airways has expanded its services, and now operates its domestic and inter-African routes with modern aircraft which are maintained in the Company's modern engineering base, completed over a year ago.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has completed the Bornu extension which was officially opened to the new terminus at Maiduguri last December. The Corporation has on order twenty-nine diesel locomotives and a total of eight hundred wagons, a proportion of which will be built in the Corporation's own shops. Delivery of these locomotives and wagons will begin very shortly.

Steady progress has been made in the field of broadcasting, that vital medium of instruction and mass information. The Nigerian Television Service is now firmly established, with permanent offices and studios in replacement of the makeshift with which it started, whilst the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation's External Service is equally firmly established in its new headquarters.

Substantial, even spectacular progress has been achieved in the expansion of higher education facilities with the establishment of the University of Lagos and the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

With all this—and the catalogue I have just recited is by no means exhaustive—the needs of defence and security have not been neglected. The Army has been expanded and modernised, the Navy's new flag-ship is due to be launched within a month, and the Air Force, the youngest of the three Services, will soon reach a pitch of efficiency second to none among Air Forces in Africa.

I now propose to say something of the achievements of the private sector, which I sometimes feel receive less than their due share of acknowledgment and appreciation. The private sector has seen some remarkable expansion, particularly in industrial activity.

The gross production in major manufacturing industries in the first year of the Plan was nearly £82 million, and a quarter of this was contributed by industries established since 1958.

In this context I must again refer to the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, which is already fully justifying the faith and vision of those who established it by the fine work it is doing.

In its first year of operation the Bank sanctioned financial assistance to nineteen industrial projects located in all parts of the Federation. The Bank's equity participation in these projects totalled £254,000, whilst loans exceeded £1 million.

It is gratifying to be able to record that no less than eight of these nineteen projects were promoted by companies in which the controlling interest is held by Nigerians, whilst in the remaining eleven, the Bank by its participation was able to secure an equity interest either for private Nigerian investors or for itself. Not the least important function carried out by the Bank is the advice and assistance which it is able to give to project promoters in helping them to work up their proposals to the stage where they can satisfy the Bank's exacting technical, economic, financial and managerial criteria.

I gladly take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the good work of the Board of Directors and of the General Manager and his staff in establishing the Bank on sound lines.

Two major new industries in which the Federal Government itself has a substantial interest will enter production during the year. First in point of time will be the security printing works of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Limited, in which the majority interest is held by the Federal Government and the Central Bank.

A year ago I was able to announce the date of the foundation stone ceremony, which took place on 4th April last year. It is thus peculiarly fitting that I should to-day be able to inform the House that the official opening of the security printing works will be performed by His Excellency, the President, on the 10th of April. (*Hear, hear*). Training of staff in the skills demanded by this specialised work began in the factory on Victoria Island last January, and the Company is already in production. Prior to this, eight Nigerians were sent for initial training in the United Kingdom factories of the technical partners. I feel sure that hon. Members will be delighted to hear that banknotes from our own security printing factory will be in circulation before long.

By the middle of the year the oil refinery of the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Company Limited will have begun operations. This will be a milestone in the development of the Nigerian petroleum industry, for it means that henceforward we shall to all intents and purposes be self-sufficient in refined petroleum products, which will, of course, be produced from our own crude oil. Imports will virtually cease. The refinery is one of the largest single projects in the Plan, for the total investment will be of the order of £10 million, half of which is being provided by the Federal and Regional Governments.

I feel sure that the House will be interested to learn that, following a recent decision of the Company's Board of Directors, a plant for the production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas is to be added to the refinery. When this is completed and in production, the total saving in foreign exchange costs will be of the order of £15 to £20 million annually.

Another major enterprise undertaken with the full assistance and participation of the Government is the plantation and mill of the Nigerian Sugar Company Limited at Bacita. The first crop was harvested some three

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

months ago, and already sugar grown and refined in Nigeria is available in certain parts of the country.

The Company's immediate objective is to produce twenty thousand tons of sugar a year, about a third of our total consumption. But it already has plans for increasing the area under cultivation so as to double the output. The sugar industry is an especially welcome development in that it provides employment for a very considerable labour force.

These are three major Government-sponsored industries which come into production during the year. The Federal Government is also associated with a number of other industries which have yet to be completed and commence production. In some cases the Federal Government is a partner in the project, whilst in others it has made possible the establishment of Regional industries by giving its guarantee to suppliers' credits.

In addition to industries in which Government has a direct or indirect interest, numerous other industries have been established by private enterprise since 1962, in many cases by Nigerian investors acting in partnership with foreign investors who are attracted to Nigeria as an investment opportunity by the generous incentives offered by Government, and by the favourable investment climate which has been nurtured with such care over the years.

The following catalogue of industries which have begun production in the last three years in the Federal Republic is by no means exhaustive, and is impressive evidence of the success of the policies which have been steadfastly followed by the Federal Government under the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister, Allhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in recent years: three factories for bakery products; five for chocolates, sugar confectionary and miscellaneous food preparations; three breweries; a cigarette factory; five plastic and rubber footwear factories; six textile factories; two tyre factories; six paint factories; six factories manufacturing pharmaceutical products; a glass bottle factory; a cement factory; five factories producing miscellaneous non-metallic mineral products; two radio assembly plants; and two gramophone record factories. All these factories bring the two-fold benefit of

providing import substitutes and of providing a substantial number of new employment opportunities.

Criticism is frequently levelled against the Government for not spreading development sufficiently widely. This is not a fair criticism, and it cannot be sustained by the actual facts.

But in truth the very size of Nigeria both in terms of area and population, does pose real problems. Of every six people in Africa, one is a Nigerian, and of every thirty-five square miles of the continent, one is Nigerian. In a country of this size it is difficult to bring home to the ordinary citizen the extent of the industrial development that is taking place, unless it happens to be on his own doorstep.

A man in Birnin Kebbi probably knows nothing of developments in say, Calabar, and even if he did he would remain unimpressed, since he could see no direct benefit to himself, and he would be unable to appreciate the indirect benefit which accrues to him from any development that serves to strengthen and advance the economy of the country as a whole.

Let me give an example to illustrate my point. The Bornu railway extension has cost something like twenty million pounds to complete. During the construction period it provided employment for thousands, and now that the line is open it is already contributing to the economic growth of a wide area of North-Eastern Nigeria.

Those of us who are in a position to take a broad view know that anything that strengthens a part also strengthens the whole. But a man in my own constituency, Warri, does not feel any impact on his everyday life from this massive investment which, owing to the size of Nigeria, has produced its tangible results hundreds of miles away from his home. Or, again, take the Niger Dam Project. This is by far the largest single investment in the whole Development Plan. It has already at this early stage of construction provided employment for thousands of Nigerians. But what is the impact of this on the man in the street in Okiepupa? There is no impact, because the scene of operations is so far distant. The very size of this country, which is a source of pride to us, is nevertheless a real handicap in bringing home to the ordinary citizen that impressive development is taking place throughout Nigeria.

Projects which by any standards can rightly be regarded as bold and imaginative make but a limited impact. It is because of the size of the country that many people tend to judge the performance of the Government by their own immediate surroundings. They look into their own village for some tangible evidence of the Government's development effort, and, failing to find it, they accuse the Government of lethargy.

These people forget that it is the end result of the Development Plan that we are concerned with, the sustained economic growth that will ultimately benefit every man, woman and child in the country. I would therefore ask that the Government's performance in the field of economic development be judged, not by individual projects but in relation to its success in promoting overall economic growth. I am confident that in a very few years' time the results of our efforts will be evident enough in their effect on the level of living throughout the country.

A major question in many minds is, what will happen to the Six-Year Development Plan in the remaining three years? The answer is that the Federal Government remains as determined as ever to follow the plan through to its completion. It is, of course, a flexible document, as has been made clear from the day it was launched.

Experience during the first three years has required the introduction of some modifications, and some of the basic assumptions have been found to be not fully adequate. What is important for Nigeria is that the maximum possible progress in implementing the plan should be made before 1968, and I think we can claim to have done reasonably well by this half-way point.

Executive capacity has been increased, and the planning machinery improved. We have at last reached a stage where we shall be able to make increasingly extensive drawings on foreign loans and other forms of aid. Indeed, the limiting factor now lies in our domestic financial resources.

Hon. Members will recall that I said a short while ago that the Federal Government expenditure in the first two years was met to the extent of twenty-two million pounds by drawing on accumulated funds. In other

words, we were using past savings to pay for present development. Those savings have now been fully drawn, and it is therefore even more important that we should effect the maximum possible saving from current income to invest in development projects. I take the opportunity once again to urge the need for sacrifice. If as a nation we are so imprudent, so selfish, as to consume the whole of our current production there can be no savings, and without saving there can be no investment.

This question of domestic savings and resources is now, as I have said, the major limiting factor in the further implementation of the development plan. If it is overcome, as, given the necessary spirit and determination, it can be, then the plan will have been substantially implemented by 1968.

Turning now from domestic resources, I propose to review the progress of mobilising external financial assistance. A year ago I attempted to outline the main problems which are encountered in attracting external finance of the magnitude required. The main problems to which I drew attention were, the tying of aid to off-shore costs and to specific projects, the lack of skilled personnel to undertake the feasibility studies and project appraisals required by foreign lenders, and the very detailed project documentation which some donor countries insist upon.

These problems still persist, but as we gain experience they tend to become less formidable. Where it is not possible for our own experts to make the detailed project studies required, we have been able to obtain the services of foreign experts under technical assistance schemes at very little cost to Government. But the problem of tied loans remains, and unless aid-giving countries can be persuaded to modify their present attitude this will continue to be a real handicap.

Whilst, therefore, I fully appreciate the reasons which lead donor-countries to tie their aid, I ask them very seriously to consider whether the ultimate objective of their aid-giving would not be more readily attained if they adopted a more flexible approach to this problem.

A year ago I stated that the total external finance firmly committed for implementation of the public sector of the plan amounted to £196 million. I am glad to be able to announce

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH] that this has now increased to the level of £230 million. Let me make it clear, for it is important that there should be no misunderstanding, that this is the total of firm commitments. It must not be supposed that we are already in a position to draw on this total sum. Far from it. Only a part of the total is yet the subject of the formal project agreements which are usually pre-requisite to drawing on any loan, grant or other form of assistance.

Thus it is that of the total capital expenditure of £150 million in the first two years of the plan, less than twenty million pounds, or 13 *per cent*, represents foreign aid, a figure far below the 50 *per cent* financing from foreign aid which formed one of the plan assumptions. I do not believe that the facts of this situation are as disappointing as the bare figures might suggest.

The truth of the matter is that the level of external finance thus far committed to the plan has been very encouraging, whereas the process of utilising these commitments proves to be painfully slow. At the beginning of the plan period the basic difficulty was a lack of adequately prepared projects to attract foreign lenders. This is no longer the case.

Numerous projects now exist on paper, and it is other factors that limit our ability to utilise loans and grants, sometimes even after the relevant loan and project agreements have been signed. For example, although a loan agreement may have been signed, it may not become effective until certain stipulated conditions have been fulfilled by the borrower. Depending on the nature of these conditions it may be several months before the agreement can take effect. Then again, there will probably be delay—in the case of a large project, substantial delay—while tenders are invited and evaluated, and contracts awarded.

I will illustrate my point with the case of the second Lagos Bridge. The West German Government earmarked financial assistance for the project as long ago as 1960. Thereafter, it took some three years for the feasibility studies to be conducted and for agreement to be reached both on the technical aspects of the project and on the terms and conditions of the promised loan. The loan agreement was eventually signed last September, and only then could tenders be invited. The tender period closes to-day, and tenders will be opened on

15th April. They will then have to be evaluated before a contract can at last be awarded. Not until then can any drawing be made on the loan—nearly five years after it was first offered. I hasten to add that in setting out this example I do not intend any sort of criticism of our German friends. My intention is rather to explain, through a concrete example, the various protracted phases between the first offer of assistance and our drawing on it.

In my Budget Speech a year ago I was able to inform the House that I had been able to secure firm promises of long-term loans from various sources to meet the estimated £44 million off-shore cost of the Niger Dams Project. I can now report that, since then, the financial arrangements have been successfully completed with the signing of loan agreements with the World Bank and with the Governments of Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The completion of the financial arrangements leaves the way clear for orderly execution of the project, and I have no doubt that the House will join me in recording our appreciation of the great contribution which the World Bank and these four countries are making towards the fulfilment of this vast project.

Another agreement which it has given me great satisfaction to conclude is one with the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank. By this agreement the Association is to make available two credits totalling over £12½ million, the one to assist in financing the expansion, construction and equipment of certain secondary technical, craft and teacher training colleges in the Federal territory and in the Regions, and the other for a programme of road construction in Northern Nigeria. This agreement is the outcome of the World Bank's change of policy towards the financing of road and educational projects, of which I spoke in my last Budget Speech. The World Bank also sent an appraisal mission during the year for the purpose of examining the technical, economic and financial feasibility of a number of projects for the rehabilitation of tree-crops in Eastern, Western and Mid-Western Nigeria, with a view to making a financial contribution to their implementation.

It would be ungenerous not to pay tribute to the World Bank and its affiliates for the considerable part they are playing in

encouraging and assisting Nigeria's economic development. Since the Development Plan was launched they have committed nearly £58 million for loans to assist a number of key projects. The Government, and I am sure the people also, very much appreciate the assistance which the Bank is rendering.

Substantial progress has been made in drawing down the £80 million commitment from the United States. By the end of February, almost £36 million had been committed to specific loan and grant projects. Just over half of this is for forty-year soft term loans, and the balance for development grants and technical assistance. By the end of 1964 expenditure was just short of £16 million, and I expect the rate of expenditure to gain rapid momentum during the coming year. Authorised loan projects include £1.14 million for Telecommunications Engineering Services, £5 million for the Niger Dams Project, £4.3 million for the Ibadan Water Supply, £3.1 million for the Calabar—Ikom Road, £2.7 million for the Port Harcourt—Umuezeala Road, £643,000 for Port Harcourt Comprehensive School, and £1.35 million for Teacher Training Colleges in Northern Nigeria.

Moreover, in preparation for additional loans, some of which should materialise within a matter of a few months, the United States has provided grants for a number of feasibility studies in roads, water supplies, sewerage systems, airport facilities and educational facilities. A welcome development is that the United States has recognised our need for assistance in meeting the local cost of capital projects and has agreed to finance a portion of these costs. Among United States grant commitments are £5½ million for professional and technical education, £7 million for agricultural development, and £1.8 million in industry.

Time does not permit me to mention in detail the offers of assistance we have received from many other countries, but I assure them that we are nonetheless grateful for their assistance. I am sure that Nigeria can rely on the continued support of all those who have already offered or given generous assistance, and for my part I can assure them that we shall strive to justify their faith in our ability to develop our economy in an atmosphere of political and social stability. (*Hear, Hear*).

Assistance from abroad will not be squandered on easy living or on prestige projects, but used only to secure the growth of the economy and to provide a firm basis for future expansion.

In the course of the year it was my privilege to represent Nigeria at a number of international conferences. I attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference in Kuala Lumpur, and from there travelled to Tokyo for the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The value of these international conferences, as I see it, lies in the unique opportunity they provide for the participants to exchange views on monetary developments in their individual countries and in the world as a whole and to discuss the various solutions propounded for these problems.

During the meetings in Tokyo last September the African members of these Institutions combined to discuss their particular problems, and in a series of informal meetings, at which I had the honour and pleasure of taking the chair, a memorandum was drafted for presentation to the Managements of the two Institutions. The purpose of this was to draw attention to those problems of development which we believe had particular relevance to Africa, and to put forward proposals whereby the Institutions' existing policies and procedures could usefully be modified to meet the particular needs of developing countries in Africa. The representations seem to have been well received, and I have no doubt that they will be further discussed at the Annual Meeting this year.

Before turning to my next topic, I must mention that at the Annual Meeting of the World Bank, Mr John Garba, whose interim election as an Executive Director of the Bank I recorded last year, was re-elected for a full term of office. With his colleague from Mauritania he will represent the interests of African member-countries on the Board, and I am sure that our interests are in good hands.

Not the least important of the year's international occasions was the inaugural meeting of the African Development Bank, which took place in Lagos some five months ago. The member-countries did honour to Nigeria at this meeting when they elected me to be the Bank's first Chairman. The main object of the African Development Bank is to advance

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

the economic and social development of its members individually and jointly by promoting the investment in the Continent of public and private capital. A major objective of the Bank is to encourage the better utilisation of resources by supporting projects covering more than a single country, and so to promote co-operation in economic development in place of wasteful economic nationalism. The Bank will also provide technical assistance and advice in the preparation, financing and implementation of development plans and projects. The main call on share capital was due earlier this month, and with its capital thus largely subscribed the Bank is now in a position to start operations in earnest.

If I have dwelt at some length on development in the public sector of the economy, this does not in any way imply that I attach little importance to the private sector. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have already referred to the Federal Government's determination to strengthen our free enterprise economy in an atmosphere of confidence. Government's policies are directed to this end because we recognise and acknowledge that private enterprise and private capital can most effectively promote rapid development over a wide area of the economy. It is Government's intention to continue the policy of offering incentives and protection to foreign capital, a policy whose effectiveness has been proved in recent years. In pursuance of this, the structure of industrial incentives is at present under review, with the objective of establishing a pattern of industrial incentives for specific industries of high priority which Government would like to see developed by the private sector. In a free economy Government should not and will not attempt to direct or intervene in the operation of the private sector. But ours is a developing economy in which private capital formation, falling far short of need, will tend to concentrate in certain areas of activity, to the neglect of others which, though not so immediately profitable, may be of great ultimate importance to the economy as a whole. Whilst I do not want to try to anticipate the outcome of the review to which I have just referred, it may well be that in the future rather more selective incentives than hitherto will be offered, in order to provide a more positive inducement to

private capital to invest in otherwise less immediately attractive areas of the economy.

In speaking about investment incentives I wish also to refer briefly to exchange control policy. Nigeria's exchange control is relatively free and unrestricted in a world where completely free exchange is almost impossible. It is our firm intention to adhere to this policy, for as realists we accept that few investors will be prepared to put their money into a country unless they can be reasonably assured of being able to enjoy their profits and to realise their capital if the need should arise. But, paradoxical though it may seem, Government does not expect investors to take full advantage of their freedom to transfer profits. It is hoped that private capital will re-invest a fair proportion of its profits in Nigeria, rather than exercising its privilege of transferring the whole. For such re-investment is essential to growth and capital formation.

Whilst many foreign companies do re-invest a reasonable proportion of their profits there are others which repatriate profits in full and at the same time rely over-much on the slender resources of the banking system to finance their working capital requirements. This is not a fair response to the policy of free and unrestricted exchange control, and I wish it to be known that I can and will withdraw my permission for local short-term borrowing where it is evidence that the applicant is using such facilities as a substitute for adequate permanent capital.

And now, Mr Speaker, I turn to the Estimates themselves. The out-turn of 1963-64 was very much as I forecast in the Revised Estimates twelve months ago. It was then indicated that after transferring £2.8 million to the Development Fund, there would be a final recurrent surplus of £194,000. The published accounts for the year show that in the event £3 million was transferred to the Development Fund, leaving a final budget surplus of £138,000. It was in fact a disappointing year in that the contribution to capital development from the recurrent budget was substantially less than had originally been hoped.

The out-turn for the year which ends to-day is, by contrast, likely to be very much more favourable than had seemed possible when I presented the draft estimates for 1964-65 a

year ago. In the Approved Estimates for the year, the estimated surplus of revenue over expenditure was such that it was possible to provide for a contribution of no more than £1.35 million to the Development Fund, a figure which fell far short of the real need.

Hon. Members will see from the revised Financial Statement for 1964-65, at page 11 of the printed Draft Estimates, that the surplus for the year is now expected to be such as to enable the transfer of no less than £10 million to the Development Fund. (*Hear, hear.*)

Several hon. Members : Please say that again.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Do hon. Members want me to say it again?

Several hon. Members : Yes, say it again.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : At page 11 of the printed Draft Estimates, the surplus for the year is now expected to be such as to enable the transfer of no less than £10 million to the Development Fund. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, this is an improvement about which I am particularly happy, especially when it is remembered that the cost of the Morgan salary and wages award, some £3 million, has had to be borne by the recurrent budget during the year.

The very substantial revenue surplus now forecast is mainly due to two factors, the first of which reduced expenditure, whilst the second increased revenue. In the knowledge that a heavy burden was likely to fall on the recurrent budget as a result of the Morgan Commission, whose Report was then expected, I decided at the beginning of the year to limit the expenditure authorised by warrant to eighty-five per cent of the totals appropriated by Parliament. The object of this was to ensure that any increase in salaries and wages arising from the Morgan Report could be contained within the total appropriation. During the year substantial releases have had to be made from the amounts thus reserved, but this was only to be expected, and I am reasonably satisfied with the revised estimate of recurrent expenditure, which at just over £75 million is nearly £3 million below the Approved Estimate for the year.

But the greater contribution to the surplus comes from increased revenue, the result of

the Tariff changes which I brought into effect last August. From October onwards there was a marked upsurge in Customs and Excise revenue, and I now anticipate that total revenue under Head 1 will prove to be nearly £14 million greater than was originally estimated. Lesser increases on certain other revenue Heads bring the revised Revenue Estimate to £16 million above the Approved Estimate.

Under the revenue allocation arrangements about £9 million of this will go to the Regional Governments, leaving a net increase of £7 million available to meet Federal Government expenditure. Whilst almost the whole of the anticipated revenue increase will be derived from import duties, I think that the most significant of the revenue measures introduced during the year was the extension of excise duties to a wide range of goods produced by Nigerian industry. This was a bold step which was taken to establish on a firm basis what will be an increasingly important source of revenue.

Import duties have for long been the principal source of revenue, and are likely to remain so for some time to come. But as the economy develops, and Nigerian industry produces an ever-widening range of manufactures, so it may be expected that the importance of import duties will decline, if not in absolute magnitude at least relative to other revenue sources, whilst the importance of excise duties will, conversely, increase rapidly.

So much for the past year, whose out-turn now promises to be so much more favourable than had seemed possible even six months ago.

I estimate that total revenue for the coming year will exceed £160 million. This represents an increase of more than £13 million over the revised estimate for 1964-65, and no less than £28 million more than the Approved Estimate for the same year. The Regions will receive £64 million, leaving net Federal revenue of £96 million. The estimated allocations to the Regions exceed the revised estimate for this year by £2.5 million. It may perhaps seem that the Regions are going to get a very small share of the overall increase—only about one-fifth. In fact they will really do rather better than this, because the revised estimate of revenue allocations for 1964-65 includes a substantial sum—nearly £2 million—in respect

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

of arrears of allocations of revenue from the royalty on tin. I do not propose to explain at length how these arrears came about, beyond saying that it was due to a malfunctioning of the revenue allocation machinery that has now been put right.

However, if we deduct these arrears from the revised estimate of allocations for 1964-65, it can be seen that the true increase which the Regions will share is about £4.5 million, or slightly more than one-third of the total.

A glance at the summary of Revenue Heads at page 12 of the Estimates will show that substantial increases are forecast under Heads 1, 2, 4 and 6. Within Head 1, the greatest increases appear under General Import Revenue and General Excise Revenue respectively. The estimated increase under the former is little less than £18 million, which may to some appear too ambitious a target. But I do not believe it to be; in the light of the trend over the last six months, since the August Tariff changes began to take effect, I regard it as realistic. The estimate for General Excise Revenue is more than doubled, but this again is fully realistic in the light of the effort now being made to improve the effectiveness of revenue collection from this source. I would also draw attention to the fact that the former separate revenue sub-heads for mineral waters and matches have now been merged into the General Excise Revenue sub-head.

Turning for a moment to Head 4—Mining, I wish to draw hon. Members' attention to the large increase in estimated revenue from the royalty on oil and gas. The estimated increase here is not far short of threefold, and indicates the very rapid expansion that is expected of the petroleum industry. There is also a big increase in the estimated product of the royalty on tin, reflecting the markedly more favourable level of prices that has been reached and maintained since the estimate for 1964-65 was prepared.

Three points to which I want to draw hon. Members' attention arise under Head 3. Firstly, agreement had been reached with the Governments of the Regions to give some relief in the rate of vehicle licences in respect of agricultural tractors and similar machines which are not normally operated on public roads, but which their owners have to license to permit their occasional use on public roads.

All the Governments except that of Mid-Western Nigeria have agreed to introduce a special annual licence fee of five pounds for such vehicles. The Government of Mid-Western Nigeria, however, felt that it was unable to make the revenue sacrifice involved. An Order relating to the Federal territory will be published very shortly.

Secondly, with regard to the Pool Betting Tax, it is my intention to increase this from the Present rate of ten per cent to twenty per cent. The higher rate already applies in Western and Mid-Western Nigeria, so my proposal will do no more than bring the rate of tax for the Federal Territory and Northern and Eastern Nigeria up to this level. I shall move a resolution to give effect to this increase during the present meeting.

Thirdly, I wish to give a word of explanation about the new sub-head for a Casino Tax. The last Parliament passed an Act six months ago to provide for the licensing and control of a casino in the Federal territory. A licence was issued under this Act last December, and it was made clear to the licensee that steps would be taken to impose a special tax on casinos. The taxation of a casino's operations is likely to present unusual problems of assessment and control, and these are now being studied by the Federal Board of Inland Revenue. In due course a Bill to make legislative provision for the tax will be laid before Parliament. In view of the special problems involved, it is probable that it will not be possible to draft a Bill for presentation at the current meeting of Parliament. However, I understand that the casino may soon open its doors, and I therefore give notice that the casino tax legislation will, if necessary, be made retrospective, to cover the casino's operations from the day it opens.

Total Federal recurrent expenditure for the coming year is estimated at £86 million, which is an increase of £8 million compared with the Approved Estimate for 1964-65, and almost £11 million more than the revised estimate for the same year. It has been extremely difficult to keep the increase down to this figure, but even so I cannot conceal the fact that I am considerably disturbed at the continued high rate of increase in recurrent Government expenditure. The increase over 1964-65 is almost exactly ten *per cent*, and this

means that Government current consumption is increasing considerably faster than the overall growth rate of the economy as a whole. The net increase in estimated recurrent expenditure is in the main attributable to recent increases in salaries and wages, and to the recurrent costs arising from completed development projects. Public Debts charges are up by nearly £1½ million. My hon. Friend the Minister of Establishments and I have striven to restrict expansion of the Civil Service to the practical minimum, and we have been mindful that any increased workload will be substantially offset by the 17 per cent increase in working hours which was introduced six months ago. Some substantial increases in Personal Emoluments votes have nonetheless been unavoidable, particularly in respect of security and defence, and the Foreign Service. The House may be assured that my Colleague and I have done all we can to keep increases in establishments to the minimum. Even so, the total estimate of personal emoluments is some £4 million higher than for 1964-65. The problem of keeping a curb on Government recurrent expenditure whilst at the same time providing a reasonable level of services for an ever-expanding population is an intractable one, but we shall not relax our efforts to increase efficiency on the one hand, and to root out extravagance and waste on the other.

The format of the Estimates is familiar, and needs no comment. I would draw attention, however, to the fact that there is a new Head, Head 24, for the Ministry of Aviation, which was established as a separate Ministry last year too late to enable separate provision to be made in the Estimates for 1964-65. But the total number of Heads remains unchanged, for there is no longer a separate Head for Inland Waterways, the Department now having been integrated with the Ministry of Transport.

I now turn to review briefly some of the main features under individual Heads of the Estimates.

The provision under Head 22—Cabinet Office—is increased by £600,000. This is mainly due to the annual increase in the recurrent grants to universities, in accordance with the undertakings given in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1964, and to a special grant to the

Northern Region Government to assist in improving the training of their Native Administration Police Forces.

There is an increase of nearly £1.5 million under Head 23—Police—wholly attributable to the personal emoluments section. The increase provides for a considerable expansion of the Force, and also takes into account the revised salary structure for the Police Force.

A change of form is made in the estimates of the Ministry of Communications under Head 26. Whereas hitherto detailed provision has been made in the personal emoluments section for the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Division, the whole provision is now made in a one-line vote. This is in anticipation of the conversion of Posts and Telegraphs to a quasi-commercial organisation, about which my hon. Friend the Minister of Communications will, I am sure, have more to say during the debate.

The Ministry of Education's estimates show an increase of something over £½ million, a large part of which is attributable to increases in grants-in-aid, the lion's share being required to meet the expansion of primary education in the Federal territory.

The other major social services Ministry, the Ministry of Health, shows an increase exceeding £1 million. The main elements in this increase are personal emoluments and drugs, medical equipment and supplies, each of which accounts for approximately a quarter, and the subventions to the two Teaching Hospitals and to the Medical School.

The total provision for the Board of Customs and Excise goes up by a little over £200,000, an increase of nearly 25 per cent. In the light of the ever-increasing responsibility of the Department I am sure that this will be money well spent. The total revenue collected by the Department has risen by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Within a space of five years it has gone up from an actual collection of £75 million in 1960-61 to the estimated £117 million in the coming year.

The extension of excise duties to a widening range of domestic manufactures has greatly added to the burden falling on the Department, since the administration of excise duties requires techniques and procedures very different from those with which the officer experienced in collection of import duties is

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

familiar. The greater part of our imports necessarily enter the country through the principal sea and air ports, where the import duty can be charged with relative ease. By contrast, goods liable to excise are produced in factories large and small throughout the length and breadth of the Federation, and the task of identifying them all, let alone of keeping them under proper Excise control, is formidable. The Excise side of the Department is thus one which must be reinforced without delay.

The duties of the Department are not, I scarcely need point out, confined to collecting revenue, and it has a vital task in the prevention of fraud and evasion. To this end, provision is made for a considerable expansion of the Preventive Service.

The Board of Customs and Excise has had a successful year, and I am glad to be able to record that all ranks of the Department have responded to the call I made on them a year ago to show the Nation by their increased diligence that they could measure up to the heavy responsibilities which fall on the Department.

The Chairman of the Board was elected as a Vice-Chairman of the Customs Co-operation Council, in the activities of which the Department takes an active part. Indeed, we now have a Customs Officer attached to the Embassy in Brussels, where he is able to participate fully in the work of the various committees of the Council.

A year ago I spoke of the re-classification of the Tariff in accordance with the internationally accepted Brussels Nomenclature, and I said that the re-classified Tariff would be used on an experimental basis for about four months, after which it would be brought into legal operation. In the event, the extensive Tariff amendments of August 3rd threw the provisional time-table out of gear, since they necessitated elaborate re-classification of many of the items in the experimental Brussels Nomenclature Tariff. However, I shall in the course of the present meeting introduce a Bill to bring the new form of Tariff into legal effect, and I expect that it will take effect within the next two or three months. I would add that due notice will be given of the actual date on which the formal change from the old to the new Tariff will take place and I am sure that, with the experience already gained from operating the new Tariff on an experimental basis, no difficulties will arise.

I have on previous occasions spoken at length about the problems and the challenge of smuggling. Whilst I do not wish to seem repetitious, I must make some reference to the matter if only because silence might be taken to indicate a lessening of the problem. This, unhappily, is far from the truth. Indeed, higher duties increase the incentive to evade them, and the smuggler hatches new devices every day. A number of important seizures were made during the year, mainly in the Calabar area, and hon. Members will recall that it was during one such operation that a senior officer of the Nigerian Navy was lost by drowning. I feel sure that the House will support me in paying tribute to this gallant officer.

But Calabar, although perhaps the most notorious, is not the only area where smuggling, organised and deliberate, takes place. Our land frontier is so extensive that it is a physical impossibility to keep continual watch over its whole length, or even to establish a Customs station on every road and track which crosses it. Thus, certain routes are approved for the importation of goods by land. There are some of our fellow-countrymen who consider no distance too far to travel in order to avoid using an approved route, and it is not unknown for traders dealing in fast-moving goods to go a thousand miles out of their way in order to evade payment of duty by entering Nigeria clandestinely through an unapproved route.

A new problem has recently arisen from the extension of excise duties to many more goods. Here, the difficulty is to detect the smaller factories, some of them perhaps no more than a single room in a house. I have heard it said that excise duties should not apply to the small-scale manufacturer. This I cannot accept. Unless the petty manufacturers are brought within the excise net they will make excessive profits at the expense of the revenue, using the duty as a protective umbrella from the competition of the larger manufacturers. The excise laws are made to apply to all those who produce excisable goods, and I am determined that they should be applied without favour or discrimination. I therefore advise those who wish to escape the heavy penalties prescribed for evasion of payment of duties to take steps to comply with the law before it is too late.

In my last Budget Speech I announced that the Federal Board of Inland Revenue planned to embark on a vigorous drive against tax defaulters through the legal machinery. This has already had the desired salutary effect, for following a few prosecutions, many tax dodgers have come forward to make good what they owed or to give information about their affairs which they had previously failed to disclose.

The difficult task of income tax investigation, which is a specialised job quite distinct from the day-to-day assessment and collection of tax, continues to progress under the guidance of an expert made available by United Kingdom Technical Assistance. Tax fraud investigations are usually complex tasks, often prolonged, and rarely are the results spectacular. But I am in no doubt of the great and increasing value of the Investigation Branch, and of the continued need to strengthen it.

After nearly two years' search, the Department has been able through the United Kingdom Technical Assistance scheme, to secure the service of a Chief Instructor, and it has therefore been possible to resume the training of new entrants into the professional class of the Department.

For some time past, it has been a matter for concern that federal transactions in the regions have been the main cause of delay in completing the monthly consolidated Treasury accounts. These transactions have been undertaken by the regional governments on our behalf. In December 1963, an experiment was started with the establishment in Northern Nigeria of Federal Pay Offices to handle federal transactions in the Region, so enabling direct payments to be effected. The experiment has proved most effective, and has resulted in increased speed and more effective control; and I therefore intend to extend the system to all other regions as soon as practicable, beginning with a Pay Office in Eastern Nigeria during the coming year. Once this scheme is established in all the regions, I am confident that the monthly Treasury accounts will be produced much more quickly than is at present possible.

I have digressed a little from my review of the main features of the Recurrent Estimates. It remains for me to say that the Estimates before the House show an estimated surplus of Federal retained revenue over recurrent expenditure of £10.1 million. I propose that

£10 million should be transferred to the Development Fund, and provision for this is made under Head 64 of the Estimates. This appropriation leaves a final Budget surplus of £76,400. It is very satisfactory to be able to present to the House estimates which provide for so substantial a contribution to the Development Fund, the more so when I consider that for 1964-65 the equivalent provision was no more than £1.35 million.

I now turn to speak briefly about the Capital Budget. Estimates of capital expenditure will be laid before the House at a later stage of this present meeting, when there will be an opportunity to discuss them in more detail. For the present I shall confine myself to a general review of performance and prospects. I think the most significant fact is that during the first three years of the present Development Plan period it has been unavoidably necessary to spend from our domestic resources at a greater rate than those resources have been accumulating. As hon. Members are well aware, the broad financing pattern which was adopted for the Plan envisaged that half the cost would be met from external sources and half from domestic resources. For reasons which I have already explained, it usually takes a long time to bring an external financing arrangement to the point where it can actually be drawn upon, and this resulted in a disproportionately high use of domestic resources at the beginning of the Plan period before external financing arrangements could be completed.

Members will doubtless have noticed in the published Treasury accounts that at the 31st March, 1964, the Development Fund showed a debit balance of £6.8 million. On the information at present available to me I estimate that this will have increased to a debit balance of the order of £25 million at 31st March, 1965. When the Development Programme was launched three years ago, the Development Fund showed a credit balance of £22 million. Thus, in the first three years development expenditure has exceeded development receipts by an estimated £47 million, part of which has been met from accumulated balances and part from realisation of investments.

It was only to be expected that accumulated balances would be drawn on heavily at the beginning of the Plan. Had this not been

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

done the Plan would never have got off the ground. But the drain on these resources has been accelerated by the regrettable but unavoidable necessity to devote to the needs of security and defence a greater proportion of the total effort than had been reckoned with. Thus are the best-laid plans for economic development distorted by external threats and dangers.

Some may say that the Government should have neglected the needs of security and defence, others, perhaps, that when these needs arose the Government should have discontinued development projects which had already been started. I do not think either view point will command much support. For my part, I have no doubt whatsoever that the decision taken, to meet the needs of defence whilst continuing with those other projects to which we were committed, even at the cost of a Development Fund deficit, was the correct one.

But there is a limit to the deficit that can be absorbed without harmful effect, and the Government has accordingly decided that the Capital Estimates for 1965-66 shall be contained within the assured financial resources estimated to accrue within the financial year.

I estimate that about £19 million will be available from internal resources. The recurrent budget surplus, as I have already said, is expected to contribute £10 million. I propose to raise a further Development Loan, of which £7½ million will probably be retained by the Federal Government. Other internal sources will contribute about £1½ million, and in passing, I would like to say that if the small savers respond to my calls on them, as I believe them to be capable of doing, the total contribution of these other internal resources could be appreciably increased. Receipts from external sources under firm agreements are expected to read £22½ million. Thus, the total resources available are likely to be of the order of £41½ million.

As against this, the aggregate sum of the capital proposals for the coming year which have been submitted by the various Ministries totals some £90 million. Clearly, the gap between what we would like to do and what we shall be able to do is very wide, and the task of closing it is formidable indeed.

By the very nature of capital expenditure it is not possible to treat each year in isolation. One cannot wipe the slate clean on the 1st April each year and start afresh. Contracts and commitments entered into in one year inevitably spill over into the succeeding years, and thus it is that, in allocating the resources available, first consideration has to be given to such commitments. More harm than good would be done at this stage if the Government were to attempt to abandon such projects or to withdraw from its obligations. For example, it would be quite unthinkable to abandon such projects as the Niger Dam, or the Telecommunications Programme.

In the early years of the present Development Programme, as I have said, events which could be neither foreseen nor controlled by the Federal Government made heavy expenditure on security and defence unavoidable, and this in turn caused some distortion in Plan sector priorities. Accordingly, in order to redress the balance of the Plan and to remove this distortion, priority will be given, in allocating the balance of available resources, to projects in the Development sector. And, among competing projects in this sector, priority will be given firstly to projects for which external finance arrangements have been finalised, and then to those projects which are most likely to attract external finance during the year. By thus concentrating on projects which will be assisted by external finance, we can ensure that maximum use is made of available resources.

But it is only fair to warn honourable Members that, within the resources available, the amount of new projects that can be included in the Capital Estimates after provision has been made for continuing expenditure on existing commitments, will be limited. To do otherwise would require a further excursion into deficit financing, and this I shall most firmly resist, for it would be a slippery slope leading to loss of confidence, inflation, import controls, all those sad results of imprudent financial policies which we can observe in some other parts of the world—and some not so far distant—and against which Nigeria has most firmly set her face.

And now, Mr Speaker, the moment has come to open my bag of Budget secrets. I do not think that anything in it need cause undue alarm. I do not propose to make any changes

in the rates of direct taxation. Both Companies Income Tax and Personal Income Tax rates remain at their present level. However, I am not fully satisfied that the Companies Income Tax is yielding its due share of revenue. In particular, the present rate of initial and annual allowances are such as to reduce the true incidence of tax on a company's profits very much below the nominal rate of 40 per cent on taxable profits. I have this matter under review, and it may well be that some modification of the existing capital allowances, which in some respects appear to be over-generous, will prove necessary.

I propose to make a number of Tariff amendments, but I have no major shocks in store. The full list of amendments will be contained in two Tariff Orders which will come into effect at mid-night to-night. The amended duties, which affect both the Customs Tariff and the Excise Tariff, will thus take effect from tomorrow, 1st April.

Let me say at once that few of the changes are specifically intended as revenue measures. The present amendments, which I shall outline in a moment, are made with four aims in view, firstly, to protect local industries against competing imports; secondly, to afford relief to certain local industries; thirdly, to raise additional revenue from thriving and established local industries; and lastly, to rectify some anomalies that have become apparent since the last Tariff amendments.

Here, then in brief, are the details of the Tariff changes. To assist local industries and to discourage unnecessary imports, the duty on certain goods is being increased. These are, mosaics and tiles to 66½ per cent; leather to 66½ per cent; towels and towelling to 50 per cent; wood manufactures to 75 per cent; and printed labels of all kinds, which are at present exempt will in future attract the general *ad valorem* duty of 33½ per cent. I have also decided to remove the exemption on tomb-stones and memorials, as I feel that those who can afford to import these from abroad can also well afford to pay the standard rate of duty on them.

Also to assist various industries, certain import duties are being reduced. The duty on white cement imported for the manufacture of cement paints goes down to 33½ per cent; the duty on cement clinker to ten shillings the ton; on wire rods for processing into reinforcing rounds to 20 per cent; and on

mechanical handling equipment for use by the Nigerian Ports Authority to 10 per cent. Other measures to assist specific industries are the exemption from duty of bank-note and postage-stamp paper and certain other materials used in security printing; and the exemption of anthracite, which is used by the tin-smelting industry and is not available from Nigerian sources. Finally, bottles, blending agents and flavouring concentrates are exempted from duty when imported for use in the manufacture of aperitifs and similar alcoholic beverages.

One change is being made in the Export Tariff. In order to conserve supplies of scrap metal, an export duty of £3 the ton is being imposed.

Turning now to the Excise Tariff, I have a number of changes to announce. There will in future be a duty of 5 per cent on aluminium household utensils. The duty on plastic footwear is increased to three shillings the pair, and the duty on interlock fabric goes up to 2/6d the pound, except for licensed manufacturers of excisable goods, for whom the duty remains unchanged. For manufacturers of mineral waters I propose some small measure of relief to offset the recently increased duty on sugar, and accordingly the excise duty on mineral waters is reduced by one quarter, to sixpence the gallon. Finally, there are changes in the excise duty on some alcoholic beverages. The duty on potable spirits is being amended from the present basis of charge on the liquid gallon to the more certain basis of the alcoholic content of the spirits. At the same time, the effective rate of the duty is reduced to the equivalent of £5 a gallon. This means a reduction of 6/8d per standard bottle, and I look to the manufacturers to pass the whole of this reduction on to the consumer. I am also making provision for the first time for an excise duty on aperitifs and similar beverages, at the rate of 32/- a gallon.

As I believe I have already made clear, these several amendments are for the most part not intended as revenue raising measures, and I do not expect them to have any significant effect on the total revenue.

Now, Sir, my task is nearly done. In presenting to the House the largest Budget in its history, I have attempted to review the financial and economic state of the Nation as we pass the half-way mark of the Six Year

[CHIEF OKOTIE-BOH]

Development Programme. I am not discouraged, nay, I am heartened by the picture I see. Indeed, the road ahead is not a smooth one, and I would be the last to allow myself to be lulled by a false optimism. By the same token, I pray that it may never be said of me that I have not been entirely frank and candid in my reports to this honourable House, and, through this House, to the Nation.

We have had our successes, and we have had our set-backs. Revenue are buoyant, but savings sluggish. Industry develops apace, yet we still spend too much on imported consumer goods. It has been a record year for exports, but imports have also established a less welcome record. The trade gap has widened, but the overall balance of payments deficit has been narrowed by greatly increased investment. But one fact transcends all else. The Federation has been tried in the fire, and was not found wanting. The outcome of the election crisis of three months ago proves that Nigerians and their leaders recognise the fundamental fact that the well-being of the whole is in the end more important than the immediate advantage of any one part. Thus has it been demonstrated that in the Federal Republic of Nigeria there exists that political stability, that respect for constitutional government, which provides the essential foundation upon which economic stability and progress can be firmly established.

The foundations for progress have been laid. Let us now, every one of us, re-dedicate ourselves to the task ahead, let us resolve in the year ahead to work harder, to save more, to be less self-indulgent, to devote our energies to the progress of the Nation as a whole rather than to our own personal advantage, each filling his appointed place in a stable and well-ordered society. In the year to come, let us recall these words of William Shakespeare with which I close my speech—

*For so work the honey-bees,
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
They have a king and officers of sorts ;
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home,
Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad,
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds ;
Which pillage they with merry march bring
home*

*To the tent-royal of their emperor :
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons building roofs of gold,
The civil citizens kneading up the honey,
The poor mechanic porters crowding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,
The sad-ey'd justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering o'ver to executors pale
The lazy yawning drone.*

Shakespeare's kingdom of the honey-bees provides a pattern of a well-ordered and industrious society which Nigeria should emulate.

I beg to move. (*Applause*).

12.53 p.m.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dip-charima) : I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : Under Standing Order 63 (3) the debate stands adjourned.

Debate to be resumed—upon Saturday 3rd April.

ADJOURNMENT

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

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto Central) : On the Motion of adjournment I would like to draw the attention of this House to an article published in the West African Pilot about the Speaker.

I think it is most discourteous for the Editor of the West African Pilot to pollute the integrity of the Speaker of this House, who is regarded very highly on all sides of the House, not only in this Parliament, but also in the last Parliament. I feel that attention should be drawn to that article, and wish to add that it is most discourteous to pollute one of our institutions which has proved its worth both during this and the last Parliament.

I really think an apology should be demanded from the Editor who wrote this dirty article.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at four minutes to one o'clock.

House of Representatives Debates

359

[*Oral Answers*]

1 APRIL 1965

[*Sitting of the House*]

360

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 1st April, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
CABINET OFFICE

Umuelemmi Police Station

O.50. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the supply of police vans to Umuelemmi Police Station is now overdue, and whether he will say how soon one will be made available to the station in view of the amount of work done there.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Sani Gezawa): The Prime Minister is aware that due to our limited financial resources, Police transport is still insufficient to meet its needs and that many stations are at present without vehicles. As additional vehicles become available they will be allocated to Regional Commissioners of Police for distribution in accordance with local priorities.

Religious Pilgrimage

O.51. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider setting up a scheme whereby the Federal Government will sponsor a number of Muslims and Christians on Pilgrimage to Mecca and Jerusalem annually.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The Federal Government is already giving considerable assistance to Nigerians travelling to Mecca or Jerusalem through our Embassies and Consulates in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Italy. In particular, because of the large numbers involved, and because of the suffering brought to light over the years, especially elaborate assistance is now available for pilgrims going to Mecca. The assistance includes transit quarters, medical facilities in Saudi Arabia provided by a Nigerian medical team, and repatriation assistance. The Federal Government intends to maintain and to increase the level of help given.

Police at Ajegunle

O.52. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, why the strength of the Police at Ajegunle, Apapa (Badagry East) has not been

increased despite the promise of the Prime Minister to look into the request for increasing the Police strength in this area since 1962.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: The strength of the Police at Ajegunle was increased by 12 constables this financial year.

Independence Celebration Cars

O.53. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, how much was spent in purchasing cars used for the Independence Celebrations; how many of such cars were purchased; if he will state whether they were all bought through direct negotiation with the Federal Government, and if so, what Ministry was responsible for carrying out the transactions.

Alhaji Sani Gezawa: 310 motor vehicles were purchased at a total cost of £375,775. The purchase was made by the Independence Celebrations Office which was then under the control of the Cabinet Office.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House, the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and

From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

I beg to move.

Minister of State for the Army (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved—That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and

From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to make better provision for the Imposition of Customs Duties on goods imported into Nigeria or exported therefrom and for purposes connected therewith be read a Second time.

There are three schedules in the current Customs Tariff Act (No. 60 of 1958). The First shows various rates of duty payable on goods imported, the second contains details of goods which, on importation, are exempted from duty and the third is a list of the few items of exports which are liable to duty.

These schedules have evolved rather haphazardly through the years and, at best, are a mere alphabetical list of commodities liable to or exempted from duty.

The requirements of modern trade and the need for efficient discharge of the responsibilities laid on the Board of Customs and Excise demand that these schedules be replaced by more adequate provisions and, particularly since we attained independence and have had to negotiate direct in international fiscal matters, it has become necessary to make provision for a modern Customs Tariff.

After consultation with various international organisations, the decision was taken, on the advice of experts from the United Nations and the Customs Co-operation Council (of which our country is a member), that the Tariff Classifications according to the Brussels Nomenclature will be most suitable for our needs. This Nomenclature, which had its beginnings in the old League of Nations and is actively sponsored by the Customs Co-operation Council, provides a detailed and positive Classification of Commodities for Customs purposes and, as it is an internationally accepted classification, its provisions and Interpretative Rules have had the touch of international experts, and are clear and precise.

The current schedules had in fact been transcribed on the basis of the Brussels Nomenclature and the revised schedules were brought into operation on an experimental basis on the 1st of March, 1964. The experiment has

proved successful, both to the trading public and the officers of the Customs and Excise, and this Bill seeks to bring the schedules into legal operation.

In transcribing the Schedules, every care has been taken to ensure that the duty rates and exemptions as prescribed in the current Customs Tariff Act remain unchanged.

The replacement of the current Tariff Schedules with the revised Brussels Nomenclature Schedules, is, however, so fundamental that it has become necessary to revoke the current Customs Tariff Act and replace it with a new Customs Tariff Act, but no radical changes have been effected in the main provisions of the Act.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in this Bill are respectively identical with sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 14 of the current Customs Tariff Act. Clauses 1, 3, 6 and 13 are new but incidental provisions which are necessary to give effect to the purposes of the new Act.

Part III of the Bill contains provisions which are essential for the successful implementation of the Brussels Classification and it includes Interpretative Rule 1 (8) which is a transcription of section 2 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1962, which the new Tariff Act will supersede.

The First Schedule in this Bill is a detailed classification of goods which can be imported into this country with the rates of duty applicable. It also contains clear indications about goods which are ordinarily admissible without payment of duty.

The Second Schedule is a list of goods which are admissible on importation without payment of duty, either for special purposes or by particular persons or organisations.

The Third Schedule provides for the few items of exports which are liable to duty and the Fourth Schedule contains details of exports on which duty is not payable.

I hope I have explained the objects of this Bill sufficiently to convince hon. Members of the need to give it an early passage through the House, and I commend it wholeheartedly.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachukwu) :
I beg to second,

Chief J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : This is a very comprehensive and modern Bill. I think those responsible for its data deserve some praise.

When one compares the provisions of the present Bill with the 1958 Act, which it is replacing, one finds that while the 1958 Act merely classified duties on imported goods under twenty-two heads, this Bill has ninety-nine chapters of duties on imported goods ; each chapter having as many as twenty sub-classifications. I think this is a very commendable effort.

There is one aspect of the Bill with which I am not very pleased and for which I thought it wise to make a few comments. This is the aspect of the Bill which tries to perpetuate the raising of taxation by Presidential decree. If one examines Clause 8 of the Bill one finds that it is possible by Presidential decree to levy taxation. All that the Executive has to do is not to call Parliament and once Parliament is not called, this Bill if enacted into Law, will continue to operate for as long as the Executive likes. I thought that was rather going too far.

I know that in the history of Parliaments and Governments, kings had tried to rule without Parliament ; they had always thought otherwise whenever they needed money by way of taxation because Parliament must be called. But we, in our young Parliament, trying to pass a Bill which makes it possible for taxes to be raised by Presidential decree, this is objectionable and I think the Minister concerned will in Committee consider this aspect of the Bill. If the President by decree levies taxes, all that the Executive will do if they do not want you to know about the taxes, is not to call Parliament because if Parliament is not called the taxes can go on for as long as possible. I think this is an objectionable provision and should be amended.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think my hon. Friend who is a member of the Legal Profession, has read the whole Bill upside down, with very great respect for him.

I would refer hon. Members who have got this Bill to look at the very section which he has cited. Section 8 of the Bill provides exactly what he has argued. Section 8 (1) provides that the President shall make the Order and the Order must be placed before

the next sitting of Parliament. If Parliament is called at any given time, of course, the Order will have to be put before Parliament.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote Section 8 (4)—

If any Order made by the President under section 7 is not submitted to the House of Representatives as provided by subsection (1) of this section, such Order shall expire on the day following the last day of the meeting of the House referred to in that subsection.

Naturally I do not envisage a situation in which the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*) feels that any action of the Government that is worthy of its salt could be put aside indefinitely on the pretence that Parliament would not be called. In other words, if there is such imposition of duty which has to be ratified by the next sitting of Parliament and if Parliament did not ratify it, then it would be null and void and, that being the case, I can see no justification in the fears of my hon. Friend.

The question of imposition of duty is such a secret operation that it is not necessary to put it before Parliament immediately because all matters to be put before Parliament must have prior publication. If you were to publicise any Bill for the increase of import duty about two or three weeks before Parliament is called then, of course, the whole system would be shattered—people would seize the opportunity and goods would be imported ahead of schedule.

Therefore, it is the practice and convention all over the world that it is always suddenly thrown on the community in order to avoid dishonesty on the part of anybody. That being the case, I think this is a provision that should be commended because it has been the practice from time immemorial in parliamentary government.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : Much as I am not opposing this Bill, may I suggest to Government that the importation of goods not manufactured in Nigeria should not be hampered by heavy imposition of customs duties.

In this country to-day there is a hue and cry by workers and farmers as regards increased duties on petty articles sold in our markets. I would like Government to do something about these articles.

[MR EDE]

The cost of our locally manufactured cement is higher than Portland cement. I cannot understand why this is so in spite of the fact that the materials used in producing this cement are available in Nigeria. The Federal Government should see to this.

Cars cost higher in Nigeria than in other countries and I think this is due to too much imposition of duties on them. As we do not manufacture cars in Nigeria, these import duties should be lowered in order to allow cars to be sold cheaply. If this is done too, the hue and cry in the country will stop.

I beg to support.

Mr J. Nwankwo (Onitsha Urban): I am supporting the Bill moved by the Minister of Finance. I would appeal to the Minister to consider giving some consideration to the traders. A trader, after ordering goods from the manufacturers, settles his accounts with the manufacturers. The manufacturers will then send a letter of credit to the trader to enable him to clear his goods from the customs warehouse. By the time the letter of credit gets to his hands, the trader finds that Government has introduced an increase in customs duties on the particular goods he ordered. The trader may not be in a good financial position to afford the new increase in customs duties. His goods are abandoned in the customs warehouse, where they eventually spoil, and the trader incurs a heavy loss of money.

All the traders in the Regions are crying against this incessant increase in customs duties. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Finance to give exemptions to certain goods which were already in the customs warehouse before any new increase in customs duties is announced by the Government, and also to curtail customs duties generally on certain goods which form the bulk of the wares of indigenous traders.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I do not want to say much about this very important Bill. I just want to make a comment in connection with the rural man, the poor man in the rural area, the man, who by and large, contributes most of the revenue of this country.

Taxes everywhere in the civilised world are bound to be discriminatory, and customs are indirect taxes. There is no social justice in a man in Lagos who wants to build a house for rent paying the same customs duties on cement or iron sheet as a farmer in the rural area, a man in the jungle, where back is broken under heat and rain, who wants to build a house to live in. This is social injustice and the Minister of Finance, who is famous for his coinage of economic terms (for it was the Minister of Finance who imported the term 'infra-structure' into this society) should realise that for a farmer, a house on his farm is as much an infra-structure as a road. It is not a luxury. It does not compare with a house at Victoria Island, or a house at Ikoyi South-West, or a house at New Lagos—these are houses built for the purpose of rent.

For the farmer in the rural areas in Nigeria, houses are a matter of life or death. There is, therefore, no reason why they should be compelled to pay the same amount of custom duties as people in Lagos who are building their houses for commercial purposes pay. I think the Minister of Finance should take this into consideration. I am really appealing to him from the bottom of my heart. The farmers in the rural areas are suffering.

I can see from the Bill that reference is made to live horses coming into the country free of import duties. There are different kinds of horses in the family of horses. A thorough bred horse, for example, which cost about ten thousand pounds and which is used primarily for the purpose of sports and games cannot come into the country free of import duties. Let us consider, for example, the case of a horse coming into the country for the purpose of animal husbandry. That differs entirely from the case of a horse coming into the country for the purpose of sports and games.

For a long time now, I have been pleading on the Floor of this House for sympathy with charitable organisations—particularly community hospitals and community trusts. Such charitable organisations should be allowed to import drugs free of duties. The Minister of Finance should not be afraid of black practices or black business. There must be some kind of built-in mechanism to check these. After all, Nigeria is growing in stature and status, and men of integrity are coming up. Men of integrity are now being found in our society.

House of Representatives Debates

367

[Customs Tariff Bill]

1 APRIL 1965

[Customs Tariff Bill]

368

For example, I cannot import drugs and sell them. On my record, only the Catholic Relief Society and one or two others are allowed to import drugs free of customs duties, whereas in the country, we have so many hospitals built by community efforts, which are not profit-making organisations, but which import drugs and are compelled to pay, through their nose, customs duties. I think this is very unfair.

Finally, we have the schools. I would say that whatever schools import, ranging from pencils to laboratory *apparati*, books of educational materials, should be free of customs duties. Education continues to be an infrastructure of the first order. I hope the Minister of Finance will take all these into consideration.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East): This Bill which is prepared specifically by the Minister of Finance (LL.B. Sapele) is rather very comprehensive and is of international reputation. It protects, so to speak, quite a lot of the goods coming into Nigeria. But right under our nose, there are certain practices in Nigeria which help to cut off what definitely would have swollen the revenue of this country.

I am glad to observe that yesterday the Minister mentioned, among other things, the loss this Federation suffers through smuggling. I would like the Minister to take particular note of goods coming into Nigeria from Ghana. Right at Idiroko here, almost every thirty minutes, you will see cars loaded with all sorts of goods, coming into Nigeria from Ghana and from the French territories. Portman-teaux and trunk boxes fully loaded enter the country through Idiroko.

It is understood that some of the officials at the frontiers are interested persons in the transaction of goods coming into Nigeria at a terrific rate. I would like the Minister of Finance to probe this matter and see to it that the money that is worth coming into the revenue certainly does come into it.

It is unfair for some people to organise themselves and have illicit exemptions from duties on goods that are supposed to have duties charged on them.

Duties charged on goods constitute indirect taxation and from duties too, we get an appreciable sum of money which swells our revenue.

There are certain commodities which come into this country which are really of necessity and these are commodities that are used by the common man. These commodities should be given the barest minimum of duties and the luxury goods, especially big cars, ought to be very heavily taxed.

In this question of cars, the more small cars we have in this country, the better it is for us. Even in the United States of America, more small cars are now being used by the average people. Those who can afford to buy very heavy cars should equally be able to afford the payment of heavy duties on them.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): I wish to make a contribution to this important Bill.

Mr I. Chikelu (Udi Central): On a point of order, in as much as names have not yet been formally affixed to seats, I thought that we have always considered the other side of the House as belonging to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is always pushing himself forward to the world. I do not know if he wants us to make an addition to the list of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mr Speaker: The protest of the hon. Member is too loud.

Mr Ememe: I do not mind the apprehension of certain people and I will go straight ahead to discuss the Customs Tariff Bill.

Tariff duties are one of the most important instruments of the Government and I know that the Federal Cabinet realises this and tries to employ this method in directing the activity of business in the country.

I have noted, although without satisfaction, that prices of that second-hand clothings, for example, were raised some time ago and of course, the Minister of Finance realised the error and made amendments. But the dealers of second-hand clothings are getting out of hand. Quite a lot of very superior clothes

[MR EMEME]

are now being shipped from America into this country through the backdoor in the guise of their being second-hand clothes.

I do not know how the Government is going to control this. I thought that second-hand clothes were meant for the poor people but it has been discovered that even the rich people cannot afford to buy some of the goods shipped through this avenue. It appears to me that there is a kind of dumping from the United States through this channel.

I have no objection to the minimising or reducing of duties for second-hand clothes especially, when they are supposed to be used by the poor people but when second-hand clothes mean clothes which even the rich people cannot afford, I think the Minister of Finance should look into the whole system and see what could be done.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is propounding a false economic theory. This cannot be called dumping if the cost is so high that even the wealthy people cannot afford to buy it; it therefore means that somebody is making the market because if it were dumping, the clothes would be so cheap that they cost little or nothing.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, this issue of second-hand clothings has been a very topical one in this House and the Federal Minister of Finance himself did in fact set up a departmental commission of enquiry to look into the abuses or other information regarding this trade. I think that it would be *sub judice*, prior to hearing the report of that commission, to bring the issue up again on the Floor of this House.

The Federal Minister of Finance has the matter under very good control. We have argued in favour of allowing the trade to continue, but until we get the report of that commission in this House, I repeat that it would be *sub judice* to continue debate on this second-hand clothing.

Mr Speaker : I would not regard it as being *sub judice* at this stage at least, in this respect. Unless a legislation is coming to us towards that line, I cannot rule the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) out of order.

Mr Ememe : I wish to reply to the point of order made by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) by telling him that his economic theory is completely wrong. It is not the value of the clothes that are dumped into the country that matters, it is the tariff duties that are imposed on them that matter. I am sure, the hon. Member does not understand what he is talking about.

What I am trying to say is that somewhere, in some corner in America, there is an industrialist who makes clothes and sends them to this country as second-hand clothes.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : The Member for Aba South is misleading the House. He is from Aba South and the dealers of second-hand clothings are mostly from Aba and Port Harcourt. It may be that the second-hand clothing dealers did not support him during the last election.

The issue of second-hand clothing caused a lot of row on the Floor of this House and the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) himself supported it. Now, he has turned round to criticise second-hand clothing.

Mr Speaker : This is a second-hand point of order !

Mr Ememe : I think what the hon. Member who has just spoken is trying to say is that without the support of second-hand clothing dealers, I can still come to this House. I want to say categorically that it is the duty of every Member of this House to protect the interest of this country and that is exactly what I am doing.

What I am saying is that there is a misuse or abuse of the privilege on second-hand clothings by some firms. New clothes which come straight from the factory are being dumped into this country as if they were second-hand clothes.

This is the sort of thing that is happening in the country and if you survey this country, it will be seen that the dealers of second-hand clothings are building houses at fantastic rates. How do they get the money if it is not that they are contributing to this type of cheating ?

This point should be very clear in the minds of hon. Members. We are not against second-hand clothing, but we say that there should be no cheating in it, both by the manufacturers and

by the traders who import them into this country. There should be proper declaration of what is contained in the packages. If the clothes are new, they should be declared new and duties should be paid on them as new clothes and not indirectly as old clothes, thereby cheating the Government and the people of Nigeria by importing them into the country in a foul way.

I wish to mention another very important point with reference to local industries. I have noted here that paper-making materials are charged about 33½ per cent duty before they are imported into this country. I do not really understand the wisdom behind this—does the Government mean that this duty of 33½ per cent is not high enough for this type of import?

I consider that materials that are used for manufacturing purposes in this country should be almost free of duty. A duty of 33½ per cent is too high for materials that are being used for manufacturing paper pulp and various other articles in the country.

I would like also to cite one example. Certain industrialists in this country complain bitterly that they cannot manufacture certain goods in the country. I wish the Minister of Finance would listen very carefully to this.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should not direct his address to me but to the Speaker.

Mr Ememe : Certain industrialists in the country are complaining very bitterly that they cannot make profits and so they cannot produce goods that they would have liked to produce in Nigeria because of the high cost of importation of the materials which are used in making such goods. Let us take, for example, papers which are used for covering rugs, packing papers and packaging materials and so forth. These are over-taxed in my own opinion. There should be no reason why such high duties should be imposed on these materials which are used in manufacturing things in Nigeria.

I also would like to say that this is also applicable to those materials used in manufacturing cement. We have all the other materials for manufacturing cement in the country but there is only one material which is imported. This material is highly taxed and the result is that we get cement manufactured in Nigeria selling for about thirteen shillings per bag,

whereas if this high duty on this type of material is waived, the cost of a bag of cement would not be more than six shillings.

This is very material to the development of the country and I think that the Minister of Finance will take very serious note of this. What I am saying to the Minister of Finance in effect is that there is a high duty on materials which are imported into this country for making goods in the country, and that this high duty should be reduced to encourage development in the country.

My main concern about this is that there are many people all over the country who are unemployed. I am sure that even in the Minister of Finance's home town there are unemployed people roaming about and looking for jobs. These people want jobs. But if industrialists who come here cannot make goods, cannot manufacture things and therefore cannot employ people, of what use is it to train these boys without hope of employment? That is why it is important.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : They can get employment in Moscow. The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should take them there.

Mr Ememe : Another very important point in this duty affair is that it appears that our Government puts very great reliance on revenue from duties. I know that the Government relies on duties for about 75 per cent of the revenue it collects. This is a very bad financial policy. If any country has to rely on duties only for revenue, I am afraid, that country is not going to be—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) like many other Members, has really been speaking out of order on this particular Bill. I purposely kept quiet but my hon. Friend who is speaking is going too deep into it.

This speech he is making is one that he should make during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The present Bill refers only to a change of nomenclature on the introduction of a new tariff system. It has nothing to do with all these details which Members have been talking about.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member has gone a long way, though not far away from the contents of the Bill. I agree with the Minister of Finance that there is a large scope for discussion along that line when we come to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Ememe : With the explanation of the Minister I would therefore reserve my comments for the Appropriation Bill.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : In supporting this Bill, I want to say that it cannot be over-emphasised on the Floor of this House that the people of this country, the Nigerian citizens, do not benefit much from many industries that are being established here in Nigeria. My reason is this. If a bottle of beer was being sold for 2s-6d before our Government ever thought of putting up a brewery, why should the price be increased from 2s-6d to 3s-6d now that we have a brewery right here in Nigeria? The same thing has happened in the case of cement and so many other things that are now being manufactured in Nigeria.

We have often been told that some of these duties are being raised in order to protect our local industries, but what do we find? We find that when these local industries finally go into production the prices of their manufactured products rise much higher than those of identical imported products. The people of this country will then naturally want to know what they have actually gained from these local industries, and why they should not continue to buy the imported ones.

We who are in the Government or those of us who are privileged to be in this House can go all the way to tell them that these industries are Nigerian industries and that the money we get from them is used for running the Government, but the average man will not believe at all.

I do not support the idea of making the duties free on livestock. We have to consider how many of us import livestock from overseas. It may be that we are putting up this Bill in order to benefit few expatriates who happen to come to Nigeria with their livestock.

When I advocate that we should exempt those things from which Nigerians benefit more from duty I have in mind something like bread-wrappers the duty on which has wrecked

many bakers in this country. Before we thought of increasing duty on this article, many bakers were doing very well but since the increase in duty, many bakers have closed down their business. The cause is the high rate of duty. I think that if our Government should consider at all the question of exempting any article or material from duty, such articles should be those that will benefit many Nigerian people and not just a few.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I would like to reply briefly to some of the points made by my hon. Friends.

The Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Nwankwo*) made a plea on behalf of the importers who are caught half-way by tariff measures before the goods arrive and urged that as long as they can produce letters of credit or bills of lading or confirmation of order or *profoma* invoices, they should be sufficient evidence for them to be exempted from the new measures. If I understand him, I think that is what he meant.

I want to assure him that this has not been done anywhere in the world. If we do this, we will be letting the way open for fraud of the highest kind. As evidenced by many cases that we have found out, even both the importers here and exporters abroad connive at this type of fraudulent acts by preparing false invoices and false shipping documents; some even declare false weights.

The hon. Members will therefore agree with me that since people have not realised the evil in defrauding their own country, it is only right and proper that such documents should not be taken cognizance of.

But if there is a genuine case—and there have been such cases—I will put such a matter before the Government and where it is necessary, the Government will approve the clearance of such goods, that is, goods that had arrived or were in the warehouse before the imposition of such import duties.

I think hon. Members will accept that this is a fair deal indeed, otherwise the people of the Member of Onitsha Urban (*Mr Nwankwo*) who are in Onitsha market might begin to do all sorts of things there and we will not be able to stop them.

House of Representatives Debates

375

[Customs Tariff Bill]

1 APRIL 1965

[Customs Tariff Bill]

376

The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has made one or two points which I think I should reply to. He says that there are farmers living in jungles and advocates on their behalf that all building materials imported by these jungle farmers should be exempt from duty.

Two points come readily to mind in this respect. The first one is that I do not accept that there are jungle farmers in Nigeria. Whether they are in Orlu, I am not able to say, but my hon. Friend, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, may be able to help me out of the whole thing. I think jungle swamps are found in some part of Warri Division.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe : On a point of information, for the purposes of my argument "jungle" and "rural areas" are synonymous.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It may be that the hon. Member has got a special dictionary for interpretations, but I cannot agree with him that "jungle" and "rural areas" are synonymous for the purposes of his argument.

The second point is whether we can accept, in fact and in truth, that if farmers in the jungle were specifically given permission to import building materials only for their own use, such materials would not be sold to members of the public.

If a farmer is clever enough to order building materials from abroad for his own use, there is no gainsaying the fact that the goods will sooner or later find their way into the open market. So, we cannot make such a discriminatory legislation in this country for some people. If we did, the next thing that will happen, with great respect to my hon. Friend, is that this doctor would become a farmer over-night.

Dr Nzeribe : On a point of order, I did not pull out this idea from the skies. This has happened all over the world—in Latin America, India, etc. If a farmer builds a house and the local revenue authority attests that the house has been built by the farmer and also assesses the value of the building, the farmer will get a rebate if he can produce his papers.

As regards the last part of the point made by the Minister of Finance, I am not only a politician but also a farmer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If the hon. Member who is a "doctor of farming" were patient

enough to look at the Order of the Day he would find that there is an Income Tax (Rents) Bill which will go through its Second Reading to-day and in which the Government is giving concessions, not only to farmers or to any one particular set of people, but to people who borrow money to put up their buildings.

We are quite alert to this particular issue. We have responsibility in this matter for Lagos. We have not got responsibility for the Regions in this respect. The Regional Governments are there. We cannot step on their toes in this matter. So, I advise my hon. Friend to be patient and see what we are going to do. But what I am saying is that it is impossible to take a class of people and exempt them from duties on imported materials which will find their way into the open market. I think this is common sense.

The other point mentioned by the hon. Member was that drugs are heavily taxed. This is untrue. Drugs imported for medical use are free of duty, except, of course, if the drugs are proprietary; that is, drugs mixed by doctors of philosophy like my hon. Friend, Dr Nzeribe, who wants to transform his philosophical doctorate into medical doctorate. If he is going to prepare some drugs which we know will harm the people, being a doctor of philosophy, I think the House will agree that such drugs should not only be dutiable but should also be confiscated.

Dr Nzeribe : As you did last year.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Yes, as I did. You want me to tell the House what happened to you before (*Laughter*). He is my friend. I will not embarrass him very much. He knows what transpired between us on this type of thing.

Some hon. Members : *Wuruwuru !*

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If there was any *wuruwuru* it was to the advantage of the Government and not to the advantage of the hon. Member because we refused him the thing completely (*Laughter*).

The hon. Member urged also that school books should be made duty-free. As a matter of fact, they are duty-free. What is taxable are stationeries, and the House will remember that when last I brought the Bill here we all agreed that on these stationeries the importers are making huge profits. If we say that stationeries

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

should be duty-free because they are going to be sold to school-children, the next thing the importers will do is to begin to sell them to the ordinary businessmen and make profits. Therefore, the House agreed, when I presented that Bill, that all books meant for schools should be duty-free and they are duty-free except stationeries which are used by businessmen.

The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) spoke about second-hand clothing. It is very interesting to see how people can change. If the hon. Member has changed and come to my side, I congratulate him. I am grateful to him for the points which he made, but I think the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezero*) was right when he said that this matter was investigated by a Commission headed by somebody who is now a Justice of the High Court of Lagos. The Report is ready and will soon be published. That being the case, I think it will be superfluous for me to say more about this particular trade at this stage.

The hon. Member also spoke about packing materials, etc., and said that they should be made duty-free. I want to inform him that the packing material industry is rightaway in Apapa where all sorts of packages are made in Nigeria to-day. The House will agree that it is the accepted policy that when such an industry is set up here, it should be protected. So, all that we have done is to protect this; furthermore, the Paper Mill for Nigeria is being set up in Jebba. It is nearing completion, so that it is right and proper that at this time we should protect this kind of industries.

I think these are the points that have been made by my hon. Friends and I now move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Parts I and II—Clauses 1-15—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Part III—Clauses 1-2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First Schedule (IMPORT DUTIES).

Chief J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) : All I want to remark in this regard is that I notice that the duties are uniformly very high. Nobody who knows our need for money for development will quarrel with this, but I hope that strenuous efforts would be made to combat smuggling because the more we raise import duties, the more profitable and lucrative smuggling becomes. I hope the Minister of Finance will take note of that.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second, Third and Fourth Schedules agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed. That the Bill be now read the Third time.—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : Before passing the Customs Tariff Bill into law, I know that a lot has been said by hon. Members, but my simple contribution is to place on record the high standard of efficiency displayed by the officials of the Board of Customs and Excise. Since a Nigerian has been the head of the Board, everything has been going on well and the Minister of Finance must be congratulated on this. Ministers who have not seen it fit to do likewise should take a cue from the Minister of Finance.

I congratulate the Minister of Finance and I hope he will do the right thing to his officials in the right way.

Mr J. Edomwonyi (Benin West) : While associating myself with the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) in congratulating the Minister of Finance for his able handling of all Government matters, I would like to appeal to the Minister to see to it that the low wage-earners are not hard hit by some of these customs duties.

I know that the prices of locally produced materials are being inflated when people know that the duty of imported materials are being increased. For instance, matches which was formally 3d per box when it was being imported is now 5d even though it is manufactured in this country. This affects the people in the rural areas, the people who have not the facility of electricity, because I think it is only the people who smoke that use matches in the urban areas. The people in the rural areas

use matches for lighting their lamps and fires everywhere. When we were using imported matches the price was 2d or 3d per box, but immediately we started manufacturing matches in this country, the price rose to 5d per box.

The same thing with salt. I feel that twenty per cent duty per ton on salt is high. I appeal to the Minister of Finance to kindly review this duty because salt is very essential to everybody. We know very well that if the cost is lowered it will affect the cost of living.

Also, mineral waters which I think should be duty-free is not duty-free. Because we have increased the duty on imported beer the price of locally brewed beer has also gone up tremendously. I think it is because we want to protect our locally manufactured goods that we increase the duty on imported goods. Locally manufactured goods should not cost the same as or more than imported goods.

I appeal to the Minister of Finance to see to it that goods that are being used, especially in the rural areas, are either duty-free or less duty charged on them in order to reduce the cost of living of the people.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to confer summary jurisdiction on Magistrates in respect of dangerous drugs, be read a Second time.

The reason for this short Bill is to bring the jurisdiction of Magistrate Courts in the Regions into line with the jurisdiction of Magistrate Courts in the Federal territory. This Bill seeks to confer summary jurisdiction upon Magistrates in the Regions in criminal matters where persons are being prosecuted for drug offences.

At the present time, under Section 20, subsection (2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Cap. 48) of the Laws, only High Courts in, for instance, the Northern Region and other Regions can take these cases, and this has caused considerable delay. It is thought that

if Magistrates are allowed to handle these non-technical matters, it will make for speedier and fairer justice. So the Bill has been framed with the complete agreement of all the Regional Governments.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Nobody will quarrel with this Bill. Everybody in this country understands that the Clauses of this Bill will serve as an ornament in our law books. It is a symbol of inheritance from the West Minister brand of parliamentarianism.

Everybody in this country is a doctor. Even the hawkers are doctors too. Dangerous drugs and syringes are sold left and right everywhere in Nigeria. There is no country in the world where trafficking in dangerous drugs is as rampant as it is in Nigeria. (*Laughter*).

I can hear some hon. Members laughing. This should not attract any laughter in the Nigerian Parliament. It is unfortunate to know that the Police, nay the Government, cannot check the worst type of trafficking which is even worse than smuggling.

The Minister of Finance has done a lot to discourage smuggling. But I am wondering why the Minister in charge of Police cannot do likewise. This is the only country where the consumers have no protection. Ninety per cent of the people are illiterate. They do not know their rights. They receive injections from quacks and think they are receiving genuine injections. The quacks, as a result, are making much money from their illegal practice.

This law is good, but the law is not automatic. Law does not move itself. When this Bill is passed into Law, it will become a dead thing. It will not work. The Police will not do anything to see it work. Even the Chemist shops are used as operation theatres. It happens right here in Lagos.

Minister of State (Mr E. T. Orodi) : On a point of order, I would like to say on behalf of Chemists that there is no record to show that operations are being carried out in any Chemist shop in this country.

Dr Nzeribe : If the ordinary citizen of Nigeria can contribute to the setting up of a governmental institution, then that citizen has

[DR NZERIBE]

the right to demand protection from that governmental institution. The first protection to be demanded is that of health. Many people die because of carelessness.

It is unfortunate that the medical profession has become very degrading in Nigeria. Very soon, only very few people will go to the medical profession. The profession has been completely polluted. There is no more dignity in it, since one can go to any corner of the road and take injection. People do not go to hospitals again. It is only the worst cases that are taken to hospitals.

I think that while we all support the body of this Bill, the spirit and the implementation of it is the most important. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister of Health and the Minister in charge of the Police to do something about the implementation of this Bill. We are tired of the outward sign of the law. This time, Nigeria should address herself to the spirit of the Law and that is the meaning of democracy.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): I rise to speak on this Bill before the House. Sincerely speaking, it is non-controversial and must be supported. Everybody knows the damage that the so-called medical quacks are doing to the inhabitants of Nigeria, more especially the illiterate masses.

As the hon. Gentleman who spoke before me said, the giving of injections at all corners of this country is rampant. If one went to some of our markets, one would find injections, penicillin bottles, *et cetera*, there. With this end in view, it is essential that this very Bill should be given our wholehearted support in this House.

Since this jurisdiction will be extended to Magistrate Courts in the Regions, I would gladly suggest that it should also be extended to the Alkali and Native Courts in the Northern Region, and also to the Customary Courts in the Eastern and Western Regions. The extension of this jurisdiction to them will do a lot of good to the whole nation.

At the same time, I would like to suggest to the Government to restrict the granting of permits and licences to qualified doctors and chemists. At present quacks are issued with permits and licences to operate drug shops.

The issuing of licences to unqualified people is detrimental to the well-being of this country.

May I also suggest that the Police should take stringent measures against offenders. Every offender should be brought to book. I suggest that this Bill should also prescribe maximum penalties.

I beg to support.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero): Really, this is a non-controversial Bill. As many hon. Members have said, I think we are all aware of the dangerous consequences attendant to non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill. This is the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill. I fail to see the reason why syringes and so on should come into it.

I think what we should direct our attention to is the question of what is rampant now in the country. That is the indiscriminate growing and smoking of opium which comes under this Ordinance. I am saying this because many politicians in this country aid and abet the infringement of this law. Many hon. Members have spoken in this House against thuggery and hooliganism. We all know that before thugs and hooligans go into operation, they normally take some quantity of Indian hemp. An hon. Member said on the Floor of this House that he lost his uncle because certain political party thugs killed him.

In this connection, I am tempted to suggest that instead of inflicting fines of, say, £1,000 or a term of ten years imprisonment, a death penalty should be levied on the offenders. If innocent lives can be destroyed by people who indulge in smoking Indian hemp, I do not think that it would be inappropriate to equally introduce death penalty for those who violate this law.

I would also like to suggest that the Police should be very vigilant when implementing this law. The habit of smoking indian hemp is rampant in this country now, especially at this time we are about to have an election in the Western Region. All the politicians who make it a habit to incriminate other people by dumping indian hemp into their premises must be checked by the Police.

An hon. Member suggested that this law should be extended to the Alkali Courts in the Northern Region. I think this will be a dangerous thing to do. If that is done some

people will indulge in using the provisions of this Bill as an instrument of political power in their Regions.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr G. A. Ezeonido (Onitsha South): Some hon. Members have been asking the Police and the Minister of Health to do something about the enforcement of the provisions in this Bill. I think that hon. Members will equally contribute by reporting such matters to the Police. If they, too, do not report such matters to the Police I do not know how the Police can stamp out sales of dangerous drugs in our markets.

In addition, we should beg the Government to extend the enforcement of the provisions of this Bill to the Customary Courts, because in some places it is found difficult to report such cases to the Nigeria Police authorities. Those places are at times 70 or 80 miles away from any Nigeria Police Station. So, I feel that if the provisions are also extended for enforcement by the Customary Courts it will help to reduce such alleged illegal practices.

Minister of State (Mr J. Jamabo): This Bill is non-controversial. It is very necessary. All that we require to know is how to enforce it, and I must say here that the enforcement of this Bill is not to be done by the Police. We must have qualified people to enforce it, and pharmacists are the only people who can see to it that the true meaning of this Bill is carried out.

The suggestion I would make to the Government is to employ inspecting pharmacists. They are the only people who can ensure that the law is carried out. They are the only people who know that a particular drug is a dangerous one or otherwise. For example, a person is sometimes found to be in possession of a penicillin drug which costs only 2s-3d and is charged for possessing a dangerous drug, but, as a rule, when the person is sent to a court of law he is discharged and acquitted because he has been wrongly charged.

So, we require inspecting pharmacists in this country. I looked through the Estimates for this year, but I discovered that there is only one inspecting pharmacist for the Federal territory of Lagos. If we have not got sufficient pharmacists in this country the Government should make efforts to train as many pharmacists as possible.

All the accusations that pharmacists and chemists are responsible for illegal sales of dangerous drugs cannot be proved or substantiated. What we require is to get inspecting pharmacists, because they are the only people who can know if a particular drug is dangerous or not.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh: I really want to say this for the edification of some new hon. Members (not for the old hon. Members) who, I think, are deliberately wasting the time of this House.

I think hon. Members should speak to a Bill and not walk miles away from the subject at issue. This is a simple Bill conferring jurisdiction on Magistrates in consequence of what is happening throughout the Federation. It does not deal on what people do in Onitsha market by giving injections day and night.

It is just right that people should always read well any Bill they handle. Let them read the Explanatory Memorandum. If one reads the Explanatory Memorandum it would give one the idea of what the Bill is talking about, and it is only on that that one should speak.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West): On a point of order, while I agree with the Leader of this House that he has a right to direct this House, and while I feel that hon. Members should be relevant when speaking on a Bill, I think he is not right in saying that this Bill which deals with enforcement of law by the Magistrate Courts should not deal with matters which tend to militate against this enforcement itself. When people talk about illegal applications of injections they are pertinent. It is not right for him to frown on such a contribution.

Mr V. A. Emenogha (Onitsha North): In making my contribution in support of this Bill, I wish to make a point. This Government, which makes this law to save the lives of the people, which is very welcome, should make an effort not to give room for the importation of dangerous drugs.

From experience, I do know that in very many hospitals patients do not receive treatment when they require it. They are told by doctors to go home and get their prescription privately. I should like the Government to take note of this.

[MR EMENOGHA]

If the Government must make a law to prevent the importation and sales of dangerous drugs, then that very Government should take steps to ensure that the citizens get the right treatment in Government hospitals.

As I know it, and as I said before, many patients are told by doctors in Government hospitals to go about looking for drugs with which to be treated. This is one of the causes giving rise to the importation of dangerous drugs.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban): On a point of order, quite a number of hon. Members are confusing the Dangerous Drugs Act with the Pharmacists Act. They confuse both of them as if they are one and the same law. The Dangerous Drugs Act deals with opium and all the rest of it, whereas the Pharmacists Act deals with people who are not pharmacists or registered chemists who handle drugs.

Mr Emenogha: The Member for Enugu Urban (*Mr Nnaemeka-Agu*) should note that though he is a lawyer my knowledge as a teacher covers many fields. He has mentioned opium as one of the dangerous drugs. What about penicillin? Are people permitted to carry it about? Such a thing will spread diseases.

The Government should provide sufficient drugs in all hospitals, and patients should not be asked to look for medicines on their own.

Again, I am sorry to say this, but it is a fact. When Government hospitals are supplied with medicines the doctors there use them for their private practice. They ask patients to see them at home and charge them exorbitantly for medicines supplied to hospitals by Government.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West): On a point of order, the Member for Onitsha North (*Mr Emenogha*) is making a very damaging remark on a very well respected profession. In addition, what he is saying is false. He is not entitled to say such things. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order. We are concerned with dangerous drugs, and not with medical practice.

Mr Emenogha: What I am saying is that we should not give occasion to the infringement of the laws which we enact. The doctors

work in hospitals which are Government institutions and they as Government servants should not put any difficulty in the way of implementing the laws made by this House. They should be concerned with saving the lives of people.

I support the Bill.

Chief M. A. Majekodunmi: I feel that I should say a few words at this stage of the debate. I did not expect that the debate would degenerate into criticisms of the medical services generally, although I would be perfectly happy to defend the medical profession at any time.

I expect that there will be quite a lot to be said for the medical services of this country when we come to debate the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and, therefore, I would like to appeal to Members to be restrained in the criticism of those of our personnel who man our medical services.

If hon. Members have no proof of some of the allegations which they are making, I think it is better that they should not make these allegations in this House. Nobody can claim that the personnel working in our hospitals or indeed in any of our establishments—whether in the hospitals, in the Posts and Telegraphs or in the Ministry of Works—are perfect and any comment on their standard of morality is a reflection on the standard of morality in Nigeria as a whole.

These doctors are doing their best and if there are any of them who are corrupt, they are corrupt in collaboration with members of the public. We are doing our best to maintain a very high standard and I do not think that it is right that Members should recklessly malign a very hard-working and conscientious profession in this House.

Mr A. F. Opigo (Brass South): The Member who made some remarks about the medical profession did not actually say that the doctors were corrupt. What he actually said and what is actually happening is that the doctors, many of them, do refer the patients who have gone to see them in the hospitals to their private clinics. This we think the medical profession allows them to do because almost all of them have their private clinics.

When the patients go to the private clinics of our Government doctors, they are charged

fees which are normally too high and because they cannot pay these fees, they resort to the markets and have cheap injections from the quacks.

Mr Speaker : There have been very many speeches made on this Bill which have been quite out of order. This Bill I think I should remind Members is concerned only with the transfer of powers to the magistrates, and that is all. Thus, I cannot see the cause for so much controversy.

I would like to call on the Minister of Justice to speak.

Dr T. O. Elias : There are two points that have been made on the Bill to which I think I need reply. The first was the suggestion of the Members for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), later taken up by one other Member, that the Bill should confer something in the nature of an automatic jurisdiction upon unspecified officers. I suppose that he was suggesting that the Police officers should be allowed to deal with people who traffic in drugs on the spot. I would say briefly that this would be against the whole spirit and tradition of our legal system.

We do not confer automatic powers on people to arrest suspected offenders and fine them on the spot, as this would lead to all sorts of abuses.

The second point which was made is that the jurisdiction should be conferred on customary courts and others. Again, when Members look at the provision of the Dangerous Drugs Act, they will find that it would be dangerous to confer powers upon customary courts of imposing fines of up to £1,000 or imprisonment for ten years or both. I think this will be against the spirit of justice in this country.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT, CAP. 48).

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : It has been said that this Bill is non-controversial, and I agree that it is a very progressive Bill. It is

gratifying that the Minister has cleared one point which has been worrying my mind, and that is the point on jurisdiction. The immediate aim of this Bill is the transfer of jurisdiction and this jurisdiction in the regions is not extending to the customary courts.

Some customary court judges ranging from Grades A, B, to C indulge in politics and if the jurisdiction should be extended to the customary court judges, convictions under this law would certainly be made by Grade C customary court judge. The victims might even be imprisoned without a fair trial. Therefore, I am asking the Minister to see that this jurisdiction is not to be extended to the customary courts.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East) : A point on this Bill seems to suggest that magistrates in the Eastern Region have no jurisdictions to try offences under this Act, but that is not compatible with Section 304 of our Criminal Procedure Ordinance. The magistrates I think do have jurisdictions to try people under this legislation and have tried very many such cases. What I think they have not originally is power to exceed the maximum punishment.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will read Section 22 (b) (i) of our Magistrates Courts which says as follows :—

Where any person is charged with committing an offence or with doing any act or omitting to do any act required by law, the commission or omission of which is stated by the enactment declaring such to be both an offence and to be one punishable or triable or liable to be dealt with on summary conviction or summarily or in a summary manner ; power to award the maximum sentence of imprisonment and to order the payment of the maximum fine or penalty or forfeiture provided by such enactment or both such imprisonment and such fine or penalty or forfeiture where by law both may be imposed”.

There will be a provision in our law to do both if the Bill itself says that this offence can be tried summarily, and this makes the second part of the Bill which reads as follows unnecessary :

Every magistrate whether in Lagos or in any Region shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any enactment, have jurisdiction for the summary trial of any offence against this Act and may impose the punishment provided by this section for that offence.

[MR MBEGBU]

The only word I am quarrelling with here is, 'and'. If Members look at the Bill, they will see the explanatory note which says :

The present Bill will confer jurisdiction on all Magistrates throughout the Federation for the summary trial.

This means that magistrates who have exercised their jurisdiction under Section 304 of the General Procedure Ordinance, who have only the limitation of punishment but who have convicted many people as it happened during the last election, will now be ruled out by the High Court as acting without jurisdiction. To all intents and purposes what Parliament wants to do here is to give them the power to punish because there is nothing to stop any magistrate in the Eastern Region from trying anybody who committed any of these offences and imposing a penalty of £200 or two years imprisonment or £500 or five years.

I am therefore, suggesting, subject to what the learned Attorney-General will say, that as far as the East is concerned, the only Amendment this section needs is to say that cases on dangerous acts can be tried summarily, and that will import Section 22 (b) (i) of our Magistrate Courts law.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : I wish to say that I associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Mbegbu*) except that I am of the view that the law as it stands now confers jurisdiction on magistrates for summary trial of the offences subject to rights of election. But it does not give to the magistrates the power to impose a fine of up to £1,000 or imprisonment for up to ten years. So, the Bill as it stands now gives the impression that the magistrates have no jurisdiction to try such an offence, which is not the case.

In my view, the magistrates as the law stands, have full jurisdiction to try such cases, but they have no power to impose penalty as stated in the enactment. I am of the view that it would be a very difficult situation if all the cases tried by the magistrates, assuming that they have power, subject to election, to try such offences, were left alone, because this Amendment pre-supposes that they have no such power even with election.

I think, therefore, that the whole Bill needs to be re-drafted in order to give the magistrates the power to impose penalties of up to £1,000 or imprisonment for up to ten years, rather than the former power to impose a penalty of £200 or two years imprisonment.

I beg to support.

Dr T. O. Elias : It is a pity that the last two Members who have just spoken have taken up a point which they have not taken sufficient care to investigate. We went thoroughly into this matter with all the Regional Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice and, of course, if the Members will look at the Criminal Procedure Northern Nigeria Act 1960 they will find that only the High Court of the Northern Region can handle this particular type of case, and the same is true of two other regions.

The only thing is that Eastern Nigeria has taken over the provision in our Federal Legislation, and that makes it easier. But it is not right for Members to look at that or one other thing and come here to say that the Bill should be narrowed down to correct only the difficulties in one or two regions.

What we are aiming at in this Bill is to make it general throughout the Federation, so that magistrate's courts, those that had no jurisdiction before, as well as those that have, should be able to exercise uniform jurisdiction both as to trial and as to sentence. This is the whole purpose of the Bill.

Mr Mbegbu : We only spoke about the law in the Eastern Nigeria, and it is not fair to say that we did not make sufficient research before making our speeches. If the Attorney-General has said that the Eastern Region has adopted what is happening in Lagos it would have been better. We are not speaking for the Northern Region.

Dr Elias : It is very clear that, unless that point was explained, the points Members really stressed were that this Bill was drafted in ignorance of the fact that magistrate's courts in one region already had jurisdiction, only they could not impose sentence.

The hon. Members made that point and it was necessary for us to tell them that, if they had looked at that particular regional law, they would have known that this Bill covers the whole Federation, and they should look now

for the justification for this law by examining a similar provision in the other region to see whether there is a case for remedying the situation such as we are doing now. The Bill is for the whole Federation.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : The clarification one would like to have from the learned Attorney-General is whether this section does not give even Magistrates, Grade III the power, because the wording is 'every magistrate'.

Dr Elias : I should have expected from a legal practitioner of such standing as that of the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) to know that Magistrates, Grade III are outside this business because they are not lawyers.

Chief Akinyede : But the Bill says "every magistrate". It does not say "every lawyer magistrate". I will say, with due respect to the learned Attorney-General, that when one is referring in law to every magistrate, irrespective of grade, that is general. Unless the Minister wants to say that Magistrates, Grade III are not magistrates.

Mr M. Unurhorho (Urhobo West) : In speaking on this Bill, I would say that the Magistrate Courts in Mid-Western Nigeria have jurisdiction, and I agree with the Attorney-General that it is good to bring this Bill in order to achieve uniformity throughout the Federation.

The intention of this Bill is that of speedy dispensation of justice. But from my practical experience in the past, I would say that the delay in having these cases is due to the delay in the issue of the analysis report from the Federal Territory. There is only one Federal Chemist and he is in Lagos. Cases happening in Warri or Sapele have to be transmitted by the Police to Lagos and then we have to wait indefinitely for the analysis report.

I would suggest that for the security of the ordinary citizen, there ought to be a clause in the Bill, an additional provision, that suspects, at least, should not be charged to court until the analysis report is ready because Police are not actually experts on what are dangerous drugs or on what are not. Practitioners will agree with me that in most cases, majority of these things are not dangerous drugs in the final analysis.

So, when somebody is taken to court, we invariably ask for adjournments because the analysis report has not come from Lagos. In this case, I would also suggest that there should be a provision in the Bill to the effect that Regional Headquarters ought to have Chemists who can issue these reports for the speedy treatment of these matters; this will enhance a speedy administration of justice.

This is my only contribution.

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE).

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : During the debate on this Bill, a very important point was made and that is that there are some people in Nigeria who plant some of these dangerous drugs. I had thought that when the Minister was replying he would say something about this. The Bill we are now passing seeks punishment for those who import; what about those who plant these dangerous drugs?

Dr Elias : That would mean dealing with an entirely different issue. Someone passed a note to me and must have passed the point on to the Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr Ahamefula*). He wanted me to look at the explanatory memorandum, paragraph 2 and to insert in that paragraph, section 22 of the Dangerous Drugs Act "regulates the importation, exportation, plantation, manufacture, sales and use of opium and other dangerous drugs".

Surely, that will be when I bring a Bill to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, Section 20; then we will consider whether the enumeration of details there is complete or incomplete. But a Bill dealing purely with the procedural points about summary jurisdiction cannot surely take that into account. It is a different matter altogether.

Mr John Edomwonyi (Benin West) : In support of this Bill, I would like to mention that the Police should be very vigilant in the detection of crimes connected with dangerous

[MR EDMOWONYI]

drugs, especially in this respect that many deaths have occurred from abortion where school girls go to these chemists to obtain dangerous drugs in order to procure abortion. This is very dangerous indeed. So, it will be very necessary for the Police to conduct searches from time to time into the establishment of drugs stores.

Also, the Medical Department should appoint people to supervise Chemists and Druggists in each Region to help the Police in checking them on these drugs.

I think that when we talk of taking these cases to court, I would like to say that it is until they are detected that Magistrates can have jurisdiction. But many things undergo several processes which endanger the lives of the public without detection. I think if more vigilance is paid to the checking of sales of these drugs, I think the better it will be for the public of Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) raised the question that this Bill seeks to offer the power of jurisdiction on third grade Magistrates, and the Minister of Justice made some explanations which I think are not clear.

This Bill says :

“ every Magistrate, whether in Lagos or in any Region,” and this is very important, “ notwithstanding anything contained in any enactment”.

That point will necessarily affect the Magistrate's Courts, Lagos, which confer power on the third grade Magistrate or all Magistrates in Lagos.

In the circumstances, this will mean that third grade Magistrates, like the ones we have in Lagos will have power to fine somebody £1,000 or to send somebody to ten years imprisonment. I think we need clarification on this matter.

Dr Elias : I am sorry that in the heat of the argument I forgot to reply briefly to that point. I think it is clear really from the provision here that it is intended that all grades of Magistrates under the Magistrate's Courts Act must be able to exercise this jurisdiction,

That is one of the reasons why I excluded Customary Courts, and I said that it would be dangerous to give it to Customary Courts. But it is intended here, and it is the agreement of all the Governments in the Federation, that all types of Magistrates that come under the Magistrate's Courts Act should be able to exercise the jurisdiction.

Mr Bashua : Including Grade III Magistrate Courts ?

Dr Elias : Including them, but it is a matter of administrative convenience to arrange business in such a way that this sort of wide jurisdiction that is given may be confined administratively to Grade I Magistrates.

Chief Akinyede : So that the Minister of Justice will agree that I was right when I did raise the point that it included Grade III Magistrates, and I would like him to withdraw the statement that—

Mr Speaker : Order ! Mr Ede.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : The purpose of this Bill is to confer summary jurisdiction on Magistrates in respect of dangerous drugs. The presentation of this Bill is timely and also appropriate. Dangerous drugs are rampant in in all parts of the Federation and there are quack doctors who go from house to house injecting “deaths” into people who ought to have such injections from medical officers.

The omnipresent deaths in the urban and rural areas owe their cause or origin to these quack doctors. I would not say that the punishment for the offence for the use of dangerous drugs as laid down is not a suitable deterrent, but may I suggest that the best punishment which will serve to check the offenders in this crime should be that every first offence committed will cause the offender a loss of an arm and so on until he finds that he has no means to commit fatality on innocent people. This method will practically expose to the general public the sort of dishonest citizens whose stock-in-trade is to live at the expense of others.

With these few remarks, I take my seat.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Health (Dr M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to alter the composition of the University College Hospital Board of Management, be read a Second time.

This is a very short Bill and it is quite straightforward and non-controversial. It has been necessitated by the constitutional changes which recently took place in Nigeria. We are enlarging the membership of the Board of Management in order to make provision for representatives of the Mid-West Region to be able to be Members of the Board of Management of the University College Hospital, Ibadan. We are also making provision to have one more representative from Lagos.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : The University Teaching Hospital is a "baby" which all of us love and cherish in this country ; so also are other institutions of higher learning.

I personally abhor dragging them into politics. I want to make one plea to the hon. Minister of Health and that is that one thousand registered doctors for Nigeria are very small. The number is appalling. We quite agree that quality should be adhered to. What is good quality for Italy, Puerto Rico, and the Phillippines should be good quality for Nigeria as far as health is concerned. Let us expand our facilities and train more doctors.

The Communist China has made certain experiments in the training of doctors by shortening the period of training.

Why should Nigeria not aim at quadrupling the number of doctors in the next 6 to 7 years ?

The rate of growth is terribly very slow. I appeal to the Minister to do something about this. We know that something is being done here in Lagos. The rate of growth is still very slow. Something should be done to expedite the rate of growth. Many people are dying away and we cannot wait indefinitely.

Those are the only points I want to make.

Dr Majekodunmi : I am very grateful to my hon. Friend for drawing the attention of the House to this, for it gives me an opportunity of reminding the House of what we are doing to increase the number of doctors being trained in Nigeria. The future is even much gloomier than the hon. Gentleman has painted it, and we are well aware of it.

I would like this honourable House to know that the University of Ibadan was originally designed to produce 50 doctors every year, and for quite a long time the University was not producing anything more than about 12 to 25 doctors. But now the last admission to Ibadan was about 60 and we have plans which have been approved by the First Parliament to expand the facilities in Ibadan to enable the University to produce one hundred doctors every year.

As Members know, the University of Lagos Medical School has already been admitting for the past 3 years 30 medical students every year. The foundation stone for the expanding of the Institution was laid by the Prime Minister last year and our plan is to be able to admit one hundred and fifty medical students and 50 dentists. Of course, I have already said on the Floor of this House that the Federal Government is willing to help the Regional Governments to establish University Teaching Hospitals in their Regional universities to enable them to produce more doctors. I think the Government should be commended rather than criticised on this point.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

INCOME TAX (RENTS) BILL, 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, a Bill for an Act to be known as "The Income Tax (Rents) Act, 1965" be read a Second time.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

In 1963, the former House passed an Act known as the "Income Tax (Rents) Act, 1963" for the purpose of giving accelerated capital allowances to certain taxpayers liable to Federal income tax in respect of rental income derived by them from eligible property situated in the Federal territory of Lagos.

In the practical application of the 1963 Act there were brought to light many defects which needed amendments if the purpose of the Act was not to be defeated. The aim of the Bill before you therefore is principally to remove the defects in the 1963 Act, without materially changing the purport of the Act.

Moreover the wording of the 1963 Act was found in practice to be so involved that taxpayers and their professional representatives found great difficulty in understanding its provisions.

In removing the defects in the old Act, therefore, advantage has been taken to recouch the new law in a language which will be understood by those whom it is intended to benefit.

The Bill is non-controversial and there is no doubt that with the re-enactment of it in plainer language many taxpayers who otherwise have failed to take advantage of its provisions would now be encouraged to go ahead with the development of the land in Lagos, knowing fully well that income tax relief will be given to them in respect of the rents accruing therefrom.

I beg to move.

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

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): There is a provision in the income tax regulations for people with large families or some reasonable commitment to secure some relief when assessing their earnings for the purpose of income tax. I do not know if this provision is only there for decoration, in that it does not appear that many people do get this relief. I am a case in point in this regard. For many years I have been paying income tax, but I am yet to enjoy this relief provided for in the income tax regulations.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: On a point of order, I do not understand what the Member for Idoma North (Mr Ede) is talking about. I am

told he is a supervisor of schools, and he ought to know that this Bill is in relation to people who have landed property in Lagos. He comes from Idoma in Northern Nigeria, yet he is talking about tax relief for himself in Lagos!

Mr Ede: Surely, what is applicable to Lagos should equally be applicable to Idoma. I should like the Government to take my point into consideration when putting the Bill into effect.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): While the Government is making desperate attempt to assist those who are investing their money in buildings in Lagos, I think this is overdoing it. In fact, if people are allowed to be lavishing the savings which they have in erecting buildings, then this country is not really developing in a good way. This is because if you give this type of concession, you are really inducing people to invest their money in buildings, and there is a lot wrong with it.

Buildings are not productive in the real sense of it, and only those who really want to make fabulous profit by way of high rents are to be induced by this Bill. This type of inducement should have been given to industrialists more than to people to invest their money in buildings. Industrialists who will create avenues for employment are much better qualified for this type of inducement than those putting their money in ordinary buildings. I wish this type of inducement to be reduced. That is my objection.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central): I think the Government has done something good by introducing this Bill, but I am concerned with the attendant fraudulent aspect of it when the affected people will start submitting their bills for materials bought. All receipts of payments made must be properly checked so that any fictitious receipt can be detected. If this is not done, there is a likelihood of people with fraudulent intent duping the Government and getting away with it.

It is possible for a house which has cost about £20,000 to build to be said to have cost twice that amount in completing it. This is the only point I should like to stress, that the Government should take proper care in going through all receipts sent to it, or else the Government will be duped in this way.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : There are only two points I would like to reply to, those are on the remarks made by the last two speakers.

All I can reply to the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe's*) point is that this is not the age where people live in caves. If he wants us to go back to the cave-living age, he might as well leave Nigeria and go to somewhere else. Nigerians want to own and live in good houses—that is the result of the improved standard of living and their sophistication.

The hon. Gentleman, I understand, is not living in a cave, but in a well-built house that I know in Aba. I hear an hon. Member whisper that he is paying rent in that house at Aba; well, whether he pays rent or not, surely he is not living in a cave or in a hut. So I do not see the force of his argument.

The point made by the Member for Aba Central (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is well taken care of. As he knows, the Government has valuation officers and when a person builds a house for £1,000 or £2,000 and comes to claim £10,000, surely my officials are not so daft as to accept such fictitious declaration. And even false declaration is punishable in law.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : My observation on this Bill is that whilst it is a good thing to give money to people to build their own houses and live in them, Government should make sure that the recipients of such loans are honest and upright.

May I ask, in passing, that this kind of facility of enabling people to build their own houses should be extended to all the regions of the Federation.

I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : I would like to say, with due respect, that this is a Bill which is not in the interest of the common man. I suspect that this is an attempt to continue to put more money in the hands of those who have, and to reduce the money in the hands of those who have not : in that this Bill will provide for tax relief for people who have money to build houses themselves.

What you find is this, if I have money or an expatriate comes out here with a lot of money,

either of us has more chances of getting a land on which to build than the common man in this country. In consequence, it is the very people who have money and who can build their own houses unaided that will benefit from this Bill.

The next point is that this Bill does not specify whether the relief applies to dwelling houses or to buildings intended to be offices. Let us take, for example, the case of dwelling houses. A landlord builds a house for £2,000, lets the house to people earning some £180 *per annum*, and collects many months advance rent from them. Who then is the person desirous of a relief benefit—the landlord or the working-class tenants ?

We should be very careful when we come into this House to bear in mind that it behoves us to look after the interest of the common man, and I hope the Minister of Finance will make sure that the common man in Lagos is not punished because somebody wants a tax relief.

One thing, as I indicated earlier on, is not clear about this Bill. It does not specify that this Bill applies to dwelling houses or offices. If it is offices, then, I suspect that this will benefit expatriates more than anybody else, because if you have a look round Lagos you will find more buildings being built by the expatriates than by Nigerians. I think the time has come in this country when we should do more to help the indigenes than the foreigners.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I understand that the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) is a lawyer, and I wonder if he argues against himself in court in the way he is doing now whether he will ever win a case. This is exactly intended to prevent what my hon. Friend is talking about. A landlord who collects rent in advance from a tenant does so because he is in debt and we are now trying to give a relief taxation to the landlord, because he borrows money to build his house, in order to extricate him from his debt liabilities. Otherwise, he will either sell the house or collect rent in advance. That is why I say that my hon. Friend is going against himself. If a man is not in debt he has no reason to collect rents in advance, but if he is in debt he must naturally collect rents in advance in order to liquidate his debt.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central): The Minister of Finance does not understand exactly what is going on in Lagos. The hon. Gentleman, the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) was telling us the practice that was going on in Lagos and some other places in this country, that before a worker rents a newly completed building, or even an old one, he must pay something in advance. This situation is not only applicable to new buildings but also to old ones.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; *immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1965

Order for Second Reading Read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to regulate the exercise by the High Court of Lagos of its admiralty jurisdiction; be read a Second time.

This Bill is intended to complete the exercise which we made last year when we transferred the admiralty jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to the Lagos High Court and also to Regional High Courts.

The Rules of Court applied by the Supreme Court are now found unsuitable for application by the Lagos High Court and the Chief Justice of that Court has made a request for Parliament to enable the Lagos High Court to make new rules and apply the rules that at the moment are applied in probate, divorce and matrimonial proceedings.

The Bill is, therefore, non-controversial and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; *immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

POLICE (NORTHERN NIGERIA APPLICATION)
BILL 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to exclude the operation in Northern Nigeria of sundry references to assemblies and processions in the Police Act, be read a Second time.

The object of the Bill is to amend the Police Act to provide that Sections 27 to 30 of the Act shall cease to have effect in Northern Nigeria. Those sections relate to the control of assemblies and processions, matters which are now dealt with there by the Public Order (Amendment) Law, 1964 of Northern Nigeria.

The proposed amendment is in line with the provisions of the Police (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1957 which was enacted by Parliament in respect of Western Nigeria following the passing by the Legislature of that Region of the Public Order Law, 1957 of Western Region.

Hon. Members are aware that the control of assemblies and processions relates to "the maintaining and securing of public safety and public order", a subject which is on the concurrent Legislative List.

Sir, I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq):

I beg to second.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central): Although the Western House of Assembly passed a Bill similar to this in 1957, and although the Federal Parliament gave that Bill its blessing, I am of the opinion that this type of Bill that tends to divide Nigeria more should not be introduced in this House. If we really want to maintain one Nigeria, police all over Nigeria should follow the same system.

If this Bill is passed into law, we shall be giving Native Authority Police, instead of the Nigeria Police, power to control assemblies and meetings. We shall be giving power to the Native Authority Police to control the Nigeria Police. This is what this Bill is intended for, and if we really want to maintain the unity of this country, we should give power to the Nigeria Police to exercise control over all assemblies and to be in charge of issuing

House of Representatives Debates

403

[*Police (Northern Nigeria*

1 APRIL 1965

Application) Bill, 1965]

404

permits for holding political meetings. If we allow these powers to be given to Native Authority Police, we shall be giving certain political and tribal organisations power to annihilate their political opponents. If this law is passed in the Northern Region, it means that the Native Authority Police will take control of political meetings and other sorts of assemblies and if any opposing political party goes to the North to campaign during elections, such a political party will not be allowed to do so. It will therefore be seen that this is a dangerous Bill.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): On point of order, there are Customary Courts in all the Regions of Nigeria. As long as we have these Customary Courts there must be police on that local level. There is no reason why we should allow the Nigeria Police to operate in the areas of jurisdiction of Customary Courts.

Mr Okoronkwo: What I was trying to make this honourable House understand is that if we really want to preserve the unity of this country, and if we want to maintain law and order in all the Regions, the Federal Government should not allow its powers to be given to the Regional Governments through the Native Authority Police.

This Bill that we are being asked to pass into law will not be applicable to either the Eastern or the Mid-Western Regions; it will only be applicable to the Northern Region. We have a similar law in the Western Region.

During the electioneering campaigns for the last Federal Elections in this country, the Premier of Eastern Nigeria went to campaign in the Western Region, but he was not allowed to campaign there. This is simply because a law similar to the one now before us operates in that Region.

Therefore, why should we allow this situation to continue? I would like the Prime Minister of this Federation to save the unity of the country and not to allow the powers vested in the Nigeria Police to pass to the Native Authority Police because this will be dangerous and detrimental to the safety of this country.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): It is surprising to hear the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, speak in the language he

spoke. In America people are fighting against discrimination. In Nigeria the hon. Member is saying that one section of the Government is serving one section of the community, while one section of the people of the same country are denied the rights due to them because of political considerations. This is prejudging the issues involved, and we should not prejudge an issue like this.

The Local Authority Police is as good as any other Police. Incidentally the Local Authority Police anywhere in the Federation is advised by the Nigeria Police. It does not just go and act independently. The Local Authority Police works hand in hand with the Nigeria Police, and the Nigeria Police are their superintendents.

So, the fears of the hon. Member are imaginary. He is either afraid of his own shadow or he is a disappointed man.

Mr Okoronkwo: On a point of order, I am not guilty of anything, but what I have rightly pointed out is exactly what will hamper the unity and progress of this country.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: This unity, unity, saying it in one sense, defining it in another and yet practising it in another way, is very difficult to understand. We say one Nigeria and for heaven's sake why do we seek to divide one section into two?

If I can rely on my memory—and my memory is as good as any—Chief Obafemi Awolowo, where he is now you all know, passed this law in 1955 in the Western House of Assembly. We read the *Hansards* from the West, East and now Mid-West, and I do not need to be reminded of this fact.

I am saying that the hon. Gentleman's fears are imaginary. They are likely to create disunity. The Local Authority Police are doing their work without fear or favour, and what matters is to check confusionists. If the hon. Member is a confusionist, then they will take care of him.

I beg to support.

Mr N. Asanbe (Owo Central): In contributing to the debate on this Bill, I wish to say that the Bill is really obnoxious. It is seeking to give power to the Native Authority Police to

[MR ASANBE]

have to dole out and control the grants of permits for meetings and processions to political parties. This is dangerous and it will be infringing the fundamental human rights entrenched in our constitution. Members can take a lead from what happened in Western Nigeria during the last Federal elections.

There was no freedom any where. People could not go out and campaign as they liked. If one asked for permission to hold meetings the Local Authority Police refused. There was no freedom of association. I think this is very bad. The councils imposed curfews here and there and gave authority to the Native Authority Police to arrest people. But these very law makers went about breaking their own laws by moving about at night campaigning.

If this Bill is passed here and power is given to the Native Authority Police in the North, they are going to do the same thing and this will be very bad and dangerous. I am advocating that the Bill be shelved. I suggest that the Native Authority Police and the Local Government Police be scrapped and abolished and integrated with the Nigeria Police. So that those of the policemen who are good could be recruited into the Nigeria Police and we have just one Nigeria Police Force, while the law remains as it is now.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order, I think that there is some misunderstanding somewhere about this particular Bill, and it is necessary that I should clear this misunderstanding. It seems the arguments of hon. Members tend to show that this Bill is giving powers to the regional Native Authority Police. But this is not the case. The Bill seeks a sort of devolution of power by the Inspector General of Police to the Commissioner of Police in Northern Nigeria, and of course it is applicable to Western Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria.

As a matter of fact, the question that my hon. Friend is posing should be properly addressed to the Regional Government in Eastern Nigeria and not to me. I do not know why it is not in operation there. It is essential in order to give proper supervision of what Members are complaining about, to hand over to the man on the spot, and that is the Commissioner of

Police in the North. It can be seen clearly in Clause 2 of the Bill that it is stated that—

This Act may be cited as the Police (Northern Nigeria Application) Act, 1965, and not Native Authority Police, and shall apply throughout the Federation.

This is the Bill we are talking about and we know it is the prerogative of each Regional Government, in our constitution, to maintain law and order within its sphere of influence. I am saying that the power to control such a remote place as Northern Nigeria, to maintain law and order there, should devolve on the Northern Government and the Commissioner of Police—Nigeria Police—and not the Native Authority Police; and if, in the application of such order, the Commissioner of Police in any particular place has to act contrary to the wishes and desires of some Members, it is not a justification to condemn the whole institution wholesale.

When people talk about unity, unity and unity—everything now is unity—let us practise it instead of talking about it; let us practise unity. If we want unity it is no use talking about it too many times, lest it becomes meaningless; but it is essential that we should all practise it. I have always said that it is not the man who shouts unity that is practising it; and it is not the man that is shouting that there is tribalism that is practising it. The root of the whole thing is the practice of it.

Nobody should come here like a preacher and say: "I am preaching about unity" and in his very action he is practising disunity. That is the essence of the whole thing. Let us all go out and practise unity—in our many ways of life, in our day-to-day life, in our work, in everything that we do. Let us all practise unity and if we do so there will be true unity in the country. (*Applause*).

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East): On a point of order, it appears that the Minister of Finance is misleading this House. The Government Chief Whip somewhat said that a similar Bill has been passed in regard to Western Nigeria. That cannot be true. This is a Federal legislation; the maintenance of law and order is a concurrent subject. The regional police, that is, the Native Authority Police, can maintain law and order, but the Federal Police is paramount. This law seeks

to exclude the Federal Police in the Northern Region; that is what this Bill is trying to say, and if the Minister of Finance—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think it is clear that this Bill refers to the Federal Police and not to the Native Authority Police; and if hon. Members have nothing to say but to discuss the Native Authority Police which is not contained in this Bill, I shall insist that I be guided by the votes.

Question put.

Several hon. Members : No, no, no.

Mr Speaker : I will give some more time for further discussion, but I will certainly insist on relevance.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, I think that before we do anything we must know what sections 27 and 30 of the parent Bill provide, and that is what precisely the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) wanted to do.

Mr Speaker : He is entitled to much discussion on it when he has the opportunity to speak, but certainly not in the guise of a point of order.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : I thought this Bill was non-controversial, but our hon. Friends from the East are trying to make a point of debate in order to look down on an institution which has been as old as the chieftaincy institution in Northern Nigeria. We must try to give them back; they are not acquainted with the history of Northern Nigeria in regard to the Local Government Police. I think that our Friends from the Eastern Region have already copied a lot of our valuable institutions both in the Northern and Western Regions. For example—

Mr M. N. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : On a point of order, we from the East never copied anything. The word Obi is a title which covers the whole of West Africa.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, Sir, may I appeal, respectfully, to hon. Members to please stop this kind of debate in this House; it will not help us. We do not come here to abuse our tribes and ourselves. After all this is one country. Hon. Members should please try and address themselves to this particular Bill.

Mr A. F. Opigo (Brass South) : On a point of order, the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) was disregarding your ruling when you said that hon. Members should desist from speaking on the Local Government Police. He still—

Mr Speaker : I think hon. Members should depart from discussion on Native Authority Police which is not contained in this Bill.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : I just want to refer to the point made by the Minister of Finance. I am convinced that this particular section, Section 1, is intended to exclude the powers of the police in the Northern Region while it is not intended to exclude the powers of the police in the other Regions. Unless the Minister of Finance explains to us why this is necessary—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This is not a point of order. It is a point of debate which I think is belated.

Mr Enefola : The Police do some job of maintaining peace. I do not see anything that is controversial in this Bill. It merely seeks to confer powers on the Regional Commissioner of Police to see to public processions and assemblies; that is all. And if anybody has any grudge against the institution of Local Government Police, let him bring a substantive Motion here and then we can have a full dress debate on whether or not the institution should be abolished.

Otherwise, this is a straightforward Bill, and I think that if this power is given them any kind of police can control public assemblies and processions and the aim is to maintain law and order in this country.

I beg to support.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : In my contribution to this Bill, I would first of all refer the House to the Explanatory Memorandum which says, *inter alia*, "This Bill provides that sections 27 to 30 of the Police Act (Chapter 154 of the Laws of the Federation and Lagos 1958) shall not apply to Northern Nigeria." Those sections relate to the control of assemblies and processions, matters which are now dealt with there by sections 6 to 8 of the Public Order (Amendment) Law 1964 of Northern Nigeria. In other words, you have

[MR ANAH]

two provisions of the law operating at the same time—the Police Act operating concurrently with the Public Order (Amendment) Law 1964 of Northern Nigeria.

In my humble opinion, it all means that this Bill is to remedy this sort of situation whereby it wants to exclude the operation of the Police Act in Northern Nigeria and then replaces it with the Public Order (Amendment) Law of 1964 of Northern Nigeria. It is my humble opinion also that that is the intention of this Bill. If this is not the intention of the Bill, then it is superfluous. But if it is the intention, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I would quote section 27 subsection (1) of the Police Act, which says—

Any superior police officer may—

(a) *regulate the extent to which music or drumming may be used in the public roads and places of public resort on the occasions of festivals or ceremonies,*

(b) *direct the conduct of all assemblies and processions on the public roads or places of public resort and prescribe the route by which and the times at which any procession may pass.*

Then Subsection 2 says—

Any person who is desirous of convening or collecting any assembly or forming any procession in any public road or place of public resort shall, unless such assembly or procession is permitted by a general licence granted under Subsection 3, first make application for a licence to a superior police officer and if such superior police officer is satisfied that the assembly or procession is not likely to cause a breach of the peace, he shall issue a licence specifying the name of the licensee and defining the conditions on which assembly or procession is permitted to take place.

Subsection 6 (1) of the Public Order (Amendment) Law of Northern Nigeria, 1964, which is now going to supersede section 27 of the Police Act, confers the power which was previously in police hands on the Minister in Northern Nigeria. Subsection 6 (2) of the Public Order (Amendment) Law of Northern Nigeria, 1964, says that application for a licence should be made to a licensing authority and what is worse, it does not define who is a licensing authority. Then it goes on to say in

Subsection 6 (4) of the Public Order (Amendment) Law of Northern Nigeria, that the Minister can delegate his power to any person; in fact, he can delegate it to the leader of a political party in that region.

The most obnoxious part of this Public Order (Amendment) Law is that section 7 of it says that anybody who does not obtain a licence or anybody who participates in the assembly is guilty of an offence without prescribing the punishment. As a matter of fact, when that person is brought before a court of law, he can be sentenced to one year or even ten years.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq): The general section of the Public Order (Amendment) Law, 1964, of Northern Nigeria provides general punishment for offences contrary to the provisions of the Law.

Mr Anah: I would refer the Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) to a careful reading of that Amendment Law. It provides for punishment in Section 9.

In my humble opinion, if the House allows the Public Order (Amendment) Law, 1964, of Northern Nigeria, to supersede the Police Act, then this is an indirect way of regionalising the Police Force. I would again submit that it is going to limit the practice of democracy in Nigeria; it does not matter who is at the head of affairs at the moment because government is not supposed to be static. If it is because "X" is controlling the government of a certain region at the moment, what of if it is "Y" who controls the government to-morrow?

I would humbly associate my view with those expressed by some of the previous speakers that, not only that it will limit the practice of democracy, which in fact His Excellency in his Speech has very much emphasised, but also it is going to remove the power of the Police which is a Federal matter and confer it on a Regional Minister. If this is done, the Police, politicians and political parties will be subjected to the whims and caprices of the Minister who can delegate his powers to anybody.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of order, as the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House has said, we must try to think and talk constructively. In Nigeria, we must admit

that we have three stages of civilisation—first of all, we have in the Eastern Region, a republican society, which does not have bigger organisations, then you come to the Western Region, where they have reached a stage which is known as the city state as in ancient Greece, that is, they are, at least, two thousand years above those in the other Regions—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West): On a point of order, I think this is not the place to insult anybody. The Minister of Transport is insulting, to a very high degree, people who have known civilisation before his people ever saw the light. I am saying that not only his gradation of the political system is wrong and completely unfounded, but that it is tendentious and that he should be asked to sit down and not to insult anybody.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: And then from the city state, people evolve and reach what is known as the feudal stage which you now abuse so much. The feudal stage must come when the city stage emerges into something bigger and when you have reached the feudal stage, then you come to the modern stage. It is unfortunate that a man like the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) cannot understand how societies are run or organised. He automatically thinks that anything which is beyond him is incomprehensible and therefore, it must be condemned.

We feel that the best way to create a united Nigeria is to be sympathetic—

Mr Speaker: Order! It is now one o'clock and under Standing Orders, sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: The purpose of my speech this morning was to educate my compatriots that the essential thing about unity is tolerance, understanding and trying to see the other man's point of view. You cannot win friends by being derisive against them or by abusing them.

The Local Authority policemen in the North are Nigerians like ourselves entitled to administer their country just as we here are entitled to. They are trained with the same materials as the Nigeria Police. If their training is defective, it is our duty here to see

to it that they get the proper training. As it is, their training is as good as—

Chief N. A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South): On a point of order, the Minister of Transport, in his earlier speech was irrelevant, and now he is still irrelevant. In the morning, he was telling us about the three stages of civilization, history, and all what not. That was not what we were after. This afternoon, he is talking about Local Government Police.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Brass South (*Mr Frank-Opigo*) has had his own opportunity to speak, and he spoke.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: Civilization does not exist in creeks.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West): But in what?

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: On solid land.

Mr Briggs: To enlighten my hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, who has been talking a lot of irrelevancies in the morning, I would tell him that civilization started from the Banks of the *Tigris* and *Euphrates*.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: And from the Nile basin.

Mr Briggs: But it never started from the hinterland like the civilization in Northern Nigeria which the Minister is talking about.

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima: All I am saying is that this Local Authority police are trained in the same colleges that the Nigeria Police are being trained in. Their officers are men of equal integrity to those in the Nigeria Police.

The laws are made in order that citizens might be guarded properly. In spite of all the activities of our Attorney-General and the judges, criminally minded people like my hon. Friend somewhere, will still commit the mistake of going contrary to the law, and go to prison. We have to jail such people because we know that when one individual goes to prison that does not mean that the whole of Nigerians are criminally minded. We have to pick out the criminally minded ones and isolate them so that they do not become a parasite on the community. That is all.

In view of this, and in view of the fact that the North is an integral part of the Federation, and because we want law and order and peace

[ZANNA BUKAR DIPCHARIMA]

to rule throughout the whole country, it is only right that we should give the law officers the right that they are entitled to, and help them to carry out their work without any ill-will or malice.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker called the Minister of Justice to take the Floor—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : This Bill has sparked off a lot of controversy and argument. We indicated in the morning that we were going to have a full dress debate. I do not know whether the Speaker would give us time to do so.

Mr Speaker : Is the Member for Degema West anticipating the Speaker's direction of the House ?

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I think it is necessary in the charged atmosphere that prevailed in the morning and that is likely to prevail again this afternoon, for us to get our bearings correct on the legal position. We are intending by this Bill to disapply sections 27 to 30 of the Police Act of the Laws of the Federation Cap. 154 to the Northern Region.

I think there are three points that we ought to bear in mind. The first one is for all those who are lawyers and who care to look at the text of what we are amending to see at the bottom the footnote to section 27 which read as follows :

"Section 27 to 30 inclusive have ceased to have effect in relation to Lagos since the 2nd day of June, 1955."

This was effected by section 8 of Ordinance No. 16 of 1955 which is now Cap. 169, to which I shall make a brief reference presently.

Then the footnote continues :

"Sections 27 to 30 do not apply to the Western Region since the 31st day of October, 1957."

This was effected by section 2 of Ordinance No. 29 of 1957.

Now what is there in the law that we want to change ? If hon. Members will look at the text of the law which we cited in the memorandum to the Act, they will discover that we say there that the reason for wanting to disapply

sections 27 to 30 of this Federal Act in their application to Northern Nigeria, is that adequate provisions have been made in the Northern Nigeria Public Order (Amendment) Law, 1964. When they come to study the provisions of that law, Members will find that power to regulate meetings and processions are in sections 6 and 8 of this Law, and in the other sections, they will find that this is an attempt to reproduce part of sections 27 and 29 and also the provisions of the Public Order (Lagos) Act, the text of which is there for anyone to read, because it would be too long to read out to hon. Members, being about seven to eight pages.

But a careful comparison will show that what has in fact been done in the Northern Region Public Order (Amendment) Law of 1964, is no more and no less than what obtains in the Federal territory now. I hope that it would not be invidious to say that the same has been done for the Western Region and the Mid-Western Region.

Then, when one turns to the laws of Eastern Nigeria, what does one find ? It is this. In the Public Order Law of Eastern Nigeria, No. 17 of 1959, precisely the same provisions as are to be found in the Northern Region Law and in the Public Order (Lagos) Act, have been embodied there. As in the case of Northern Nigeria, in Eastern Nigeria the Minister responsible for law and order has been given the power to delegate some of his powers either to a public officer or to a local Government Council.

I do not think I need elaborate further on this, and anyone who feels that these are not precisely what we have been debating may perhaps wish to take me up on any point. However, I think that hon. Members will find that these are precisely what we have in all the Regions of the Federation to-day.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, before we go over to the Third Reading of the Bill, I feel I should point out something which in my opinion is very serious.

Here is a Bill which sparked off, as I said, a great deal of heat and we on this side of the House were determined not only to argue the essence of the Bill but also to shed light on certain things, certain fallacies and insults which were emitted to us by a Member of the Ministerial Bench. To cut a debate as short as this is, in my opinion, to suppress some of the heat which would spark off.

I can sympathise with the N.N.D.P. people who have mortgaged themselves to the N.P.C. An N.P.C. Minister said here that their pre-British system of Society was far superior to even that of the Yorubas in Western Region but no N.N.D.P. Member could get up to defend his people.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member is correct in saying that it is my duty to suppress too much heat on a debate although, of course, not to suppress the debate itself and that is the essence of rulings from the Chair. The Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) has nothing in his point of order.

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

VALIDATION OF MARRIAGES (NORTHERN
NIGERIA) (1965) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I beg to move—

That a Bill entitled Validation of Marriages (Northern Nigeria) Bill be read a Second time.

The short purpose of this Bill is to validate those marriages that may have been contracted in Northern Nigeria when the Office of Resident was abolished and that of Provincial Commissioner was established. It was not quite clear, not only in Northern Nigeria but also in Western Nigeria in respect of which we passed a similar law last year, whether the Provincial Commissioners could be regarded as having been fully substituted for the Residents in respect of marriages; and it is to clear that doubt that this validation Bill has been brought forward.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported without Amendment: read the Third time and passed.

EXTERNAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move —

That a Bill for an Act to amend the External Loans Act, 1962, be now read a Second time.

At the inception of the first Six-Year National Development Plan in 1962, Parliament enacted the External Loans Act, 1962. The Act empowered me as the Federal Minister of Finance to borrow outside Nigeria up to three hundred million pounds to assist in financing projects in the current Six-Year Economic Development Programme of the Federal Government, and for on-lending to the Regional Governments for financing their own programmes approved by their Regional Legislatures. The Act provides that such loans may be raised in any manner authorised by the General Loans and Stock Act, or the Government Promissory Notes Act, 1960.

The General Loans and Stock Act was enacted as long ago as 1916, and it restricts the raising of loans by the issue of debentures or of stock to issues in the United Kingdom. In practice, therefore, loans can be raised under the authority of the External Loans Act, 1962, only by the issue of debentures or stock in the United Kingdom, or by the issue of Government Promissory Notes.

Thus, there is no authority to raise loans outside the United Kingdom where the issue of Promissory Notes is not appropriate.

It has been found in practice that this provision of the External Loans Act, is too restrictive. For example, it excludes loans from such sources as the World Bank and the International Development Association, and from the Governments of countries other than the United Kingdom, unless the arrangements for the loan provided for the issue of Promissory Notes.

As hon. Members will realise, we seek External assistance wherever it can be found on satisfactory and acceptable terms, and we particularly look to the International Financial Institutions for further loans to assist in the

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

execution of the Development Programme. It is therefore most necessary that statutory provision should be made for raising loans, within the general authority of the External Loans Act, from such sources.

This, then, is the object of the Bill now before the House. It seeks to remove the present restriction on the sources from which, and the manner in which, external loans can be raised. I wish to emphasize, however, that it does not entail any increase in the overall limit of external borrowing which Parliament has already prescribed in the External Loans Act of 1962.

This is a small Bill, but an important one, for it will give greatly increased flexibility in raising the external loans which are so necessary for many of the Development Plan Projects.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

EXTERNAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1.—(AMENDMENT OF EXTERNAL LOANS ACT, 1962).

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I do not think we need to quarrel over this Bill, but I only want to make one or two observations. One of my observations is that the Minister of Finance, from time to time, is being accused of being fond of borrowing. Nobody is really going to oppose the idea of a developing country like ours trying to borrow, but the main thing is how we use these loans when we borrow them. How do we make use of them ?

One thing I want to implore him to do is that if the Minister of Finance wants to borrow money he should go all out in a big way and get money and not to borrow half-penny or a few million pounds. We are all aware of the fact that these international loans are never paid. We know that Britain is owing America millions of pounds and will never pay it.

The Chairman : I think we ought to give the Member for Owerri North a security.

Mr Mbah : What I want to say is that Nigeria is credit-worthy, we have been told, and as long as this country is credit-worthy we can go out and raise as many millions of pounds as possible. To go to the World Bank and borrow £10 million to construct a railway line to Bornu and stop, and then go back again to borrow—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : For the purpose of record, when a Member wants to speak on the Floor of this House, whatever he has to say must be quoted. The *Hansard* is read everywhere and whatever we say here is counted against us. Nigeria is not a country that owes a lot. We do not owe anything.

The Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Mr Mbah : When we want to pursue our Six-Year Development Plan by going out to ask for loans, I think we have a lot to do. Taking all our development projects into consideration, I would suggest that the Minister of Finance should not be afraid of other sources of loans and pay attention to one source of external loans. When I raised this matter last time he was accusing me of making friends with the socialist world. If we have to go by the policy laid down by the President in his speech I think time has come when the Minister should be told in plain language that he should try to broaden his outlook on international matters and not concentrate so much on the Western Bloc.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But that is what the Bill seeks.

Mr Mbah : We do not want paper policy. What I am saying is that he should go all out to all parts of the world—to the Eastern side, to the Western side as well—and seek for loans, substantial loans, because we know we are credit worthy. We can afford to pay back. He should not concentrate so much on one side. That is what we are saying.

When these loans are obtained we would expect—

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : The hon. Member speaking should tell us what he actually means. He is a staunch member of the United Labour Congress which is I.C.F.T.U. financed and is aligned to the West. As such I believe he himself does not like going to the East.

The Chairman : That is not a point of Order.

Mr Mbah : I do not think the hon. Gentleman who interjected is all that serious. He has got his facts twisted. All I want to say is that when these loans are eventually obtained those of us in the rural areas would like to see them extended to us by way of development. We should not ask for loans for putting up sky scrappers in Lagos alone or for paying personal emoluments. The ordinary man in the rural area would like to feel that he is part of the Government.

For instance, this morning the Minister of Health raised the question of Government building specialist hospitals in the Regions, or something like that. Now what prevents the Minister of Health or the Minister of Finance when he gets these loans from mapping out some plans which will enable the man in the rural area to benefit by way of siting Federal Government institutions or industries to run side by side with those of the Regional Governments? We hear constantly of loans and we are going to approve this now and perhaps before the next sitting of Parliament another one will come up.

I am not saying that this money is not being used. It is being used but its use is being concentrated, I think, within certain areas. I am saying that the man in the rural area does not feel the impulse of the Federal Government by way of development. That is what I am saying and it is a challenge I am throwing to the Minister of Finance. The purse of the Regional Government is so lean that they cannot accomplish all these projects.

We talk of unemployment and what not; but if we have industries like the Sugar industry which we have at Ilorin, that will be something which we will be happy about. We want to see something like that in the Eastern, Western and Mid-Western Regions. When this is done then if we talk of external loans one can understand the essence of borrowing. This is the point I am trying to make, which is, that the Minister of Finance should try to spread out to other parts of the world and not to concentrate in the Western Bloc; and that when eventually these loans are obtained the man in the rural area should

be able to benefit from them and feel that he is part of this Government. These are the points I am making.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Quite frankly, I do not know what the hon. Member is talking about. For the first time I see him arguing out of his heart.

The purpose of this Bill is to disentangle our connection with the United Kingdom. During the colonial days, since 1916, the power for this country to borrow had been tied to the apron-strings of the United Kingdom and we have come now with this Bill, to say that now we are a free country and we do not want to be tied to the United Kingdom. We want to be free to go anywhere in the world to borrow money if we want to borrow. Is this not a welcome Bill?

Several hon. Members : It is.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On paper!

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Furthermore, the hon. Member, in other words, was arguing against himself. What we are trying to do is exactly what he wants us to do. He talked about going to the Eastern countries. He should not forget that I was trained in an Eastern country—Czechoslovakia.

Mr Mbah : As a shoe-maker.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Yes. He talked about socialism. He should know that I have been to the socialist state and was trained in the socialist state but he has not been there. He has been staying in Owerri and has come here to talk all sorts of things.

Mr Mbah : On a point of order, we know the Minister of Finance went to the Eastern countries when he was connected with the Bata Shoe Company, and nothing more.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Thank you, but this is not a point of order. I wish the hon. Member had got the privilege of working for Bata Shoe Company and had gone to Czechoslovakia. That was the opportunity that I had when, perhaps, he was not known.

He also made a statement here which, as a responsible front bencher in this House he should not have made. He should make a

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

statement that he can defend here and outside this House. He said he did not want money to be borrowed to pay emoluments. I challenge him to name—

Mr Mbah : That is not what I said.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : That is what you said. You said "wages". The *Hansard* is there. If you deny it, then you should withdraw. We have not spent a penny of any loan to pay wages to anybody in Nigeria. We have not.

The hon. Member also says that he wants the impact of our loans to be felt in the rural areas. The fact of it is that he does not know that there are two things, even in this Bill.

In my introduction, I told the House that it is to borrow for both the Federal Government and the Regional Governments, as by our Constitution, no Regional Government has power to borrow money outside Nigeria. Members should not think that all the borrowings that we have been making and I have been signing for are for the Federal Government alone. They are used by all the Governments of the country and the hon. Member should know that. If he does not know, I tell him now.

Further than that, all these industries that he sees scattered around the country are established with the loans. The promissory notes cannot be signed by any Regional Minister and accepted for discounting purposes outside Nigeria. Maybe this is too advanced for him to understand.

Mr Mbah : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance has referred the House to the explanatory note. I read it with your permission :

"The purpose of this Bill is to widen the scope of the External Loans Act 1962, by enabling the Minister to raise loans outside Nigeria without giving securities in the form of promissory notes as required by the Government Promissory Notes Act 1960".

There is nothing here said about the Regions but he has made a statement that in the explanatory note he included the Regions.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I said that the point was mentioned in my introductory speech. That is what I said.

I can hear the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) asking me why I did not make that clear, there was no point in spelling the whole thing out. He is a lawyer and I wish to ask him if such things are usually spelled out in the Preamble of a Bill, or if in an explanatory note everything is said. That is why he is a bad lawyer.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, I want to say that the Leader of the House is insulting everybody and pouring out venom on Members. As the Leader of the House I think he should have to be more genial than he is at present.

The Chairman : I do not think that the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) should be too particular about this comment. After all, I would have intervened had he not said "maybe this is too advanced for him".

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What I really want to say is this, all the industries going around the country have the Federal Government's hands in them. Maybe the hon. Gentleman does not know. That is what I am telling him now. I would like to cite an example. Let him take my own Region, the Mid-West. We hear of projects coming up there.

Mr Briggs (Degema West) : John Holt !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have nothing to do with John Holt.

The loans for such industries are guaranteed by the Federal Government. In other words, if the Regional Government is not able to pay, the Federal Government at the first instance will pay. The Cement Factory going on in Calabar is another instance. The hon. Member knows that I went and signed a loan in Western Germany. I did not see the money but it is being used now to establish industries. He should not think that these industries which are dotted round the whole country are exclusively for the Regional Governments alone.

All the Governments of this Federation are working complementarily. That is what I want to assure the House. For the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) to say that he, of all persons, (he is a trade union leader having trade union obligations all over the country) cannot see these industries that have been established is amazing. He says he is rural. I tell him he does not look rural with his dress.

Mr J. Edomwonyi (Benin West): I seize this opportunity to pay a glowing tribute to the Minister of Finance for his business acumen and for the way he has been handling the finances of the Federation.

The Bill which is before the House actually depicts his awareness of the difficulties of the Federation by way of loans because the use of promissory notes, debentures and other things, will actually delay the granting of loans by these overseas Governments. Removing all these things and allowing him a free hand to raise loans outside Nigeria, from whatever country, is, I think, a very good gesture and as such I support the Bill.

Mr A. F. Opigo (Brass South): The Minister of Finance explained in his introduction that this Bill is seeking to enable him to borrow money from outside the United Kingdom, and that hitherto we were bound by an old colonial law of 1916.

I would like the Minister to explain to us how we have been getting our loans from outside the United Kingdom, because I understand that before now we have been borrowing from other countries. So, before we finally pass the Bill I simply want to know what method we have been using in borrowing from the World Bank and from other sources.

I beg to support.

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF EXTERNAL LOANS ACT 1962)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1965

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias): I rise to move that a Bill entitled Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) Bill 1965 be read a Second time.

We have set out to achieve two things in this Bill. The first is to give power to the Police to be able to retain finger prints and similar documents taken of persons suspected of having committed Customs offences whilst in custody. At the moment, the principal Act, the Police Act, does not give that power. Wherever a person like that has been discharged or acquitted the records cannot be retained.

The second thing that we seek to achieve by this Bill is to enable the prosecutor to appeal against decisions of courts of summary jurisdiction in proceedings for offences under the Customs and Excise Law.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1965: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(POWER TO RETAIN MEASUREMENTS ETC. TAKEN DURING DETENTION IN CERTAIN CASES. NO. 55 OF 1958. CAP. 154.)

Dr Elias: I wish to point out a printing error that has been discovered in this Bill.

In Clause 1, page C285, line 18, delete the word "section" and substitute the word "subsection".

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

Question that the word proposed to be inserted, be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 1—(POWER TO RETAIN MEASUREMENTS ETC. TAKEN DURING DETENTION IN CERTAIN CASES. NO. 55 OF 1958. CAP. 154.)—as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, with Amendment: read the Third time and passed.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Children and Young Persons Act to make further provisions for the custody of children whose welfare is endangered by disputes; to provide for the continuation of contribution towards the maintenance of a Young Person where the original contributor dies; to remove doubt as to the amount of contribution that may be required in respect of children and Young Persons in

[MR OBANDE]

pursuance of the Children and Young Persons Act; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be given a Second Reading.

The object of this Bill is to clear some of the difficulties now being experienced in the application of certain provisions of the Act. The content of the Bill is too clear to need much elaboration by me.

Under Section 26 of the Children and Young Persons Act, a juvenile court may commit a child or young person brought before it to the care of any fit person whether a relative or not, who is willing to take care of the child. There is, however, no provision to ensure the proper custody of a child or young person whose welfare has been endangered by quarrels between parents.

Many cases of this type have come to notice and the children involved have suffered from lack of care because the juvenile court is powerless in protecting them. It is, therefore, proposed to make adequate provision to cover such cases.

The juvenile court has power under Section 28 of the Act to make an order binding any person named to make a contribution towards the maintenance of a child or young person committed to an approved institution or to the care of an individual. But the law has not provided for the continuance of this payment on the death of the person liable.

The proposed Amendment will empower the juvenile court to order a fit person against whom the original order could have been made to continue this contribution.

The final object of this Amendment is to make it clear that the amount (not exceeding four pounds) payable under Section 28 is in respect of each child under custody.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): I would like the Minister of Establishments to clarify one issue. This Bill seeks to make a law whereby a child could be removed compulsorily from the parents.

What I want to be clarified is this. Will this Bill also apply to marriages contracted under the native law and custom? This might be a travesty of native law in some areas. It is a thing unheard of that by law one's child can be removed from one and be cared for by somebody else even though one may be quarrelling with one's wife.

It could do under the laws of England and America, but I am sure that it would be a wonderful thing to see it operated under the native law and custom.

Mr John Edomwonyi (Benin West): I think this law is very appropriate, and I would have liked it to be extended to the Regions because in most cases children and young persons often suffer at the hands of step-fathers and step-mothers in cases of divorce.

When a woman divorces her husband there are times when the woman carries her children away, and in case where such a woman is very quarrelsome and of a fighting spirit she would like to fight the husband when she wants to take custody of the children. But if she takes those children to the home of her new husband the new husband may not like them and they may be illtreated.

So, the best thing the father of such children can do under this circumstance is to sue the woman to court in order to take custody of the children. In this way, if the woman is able to present a very strong case against such a man taking custody of the children then the court would be at liberty to give them to somebody who will take a better care of them.

The same process may apply if the father has the custody of the children and the step-mother fails to take proper care of them.

This law is very appropriate, and I would like to implore the Federal Government to extend this law to the Regions. Recently, we heard about the East Regional Government trying to pass a Bill on the adoption of children. Of course, I think, adoption of children is even worse than taking away children from improper hands to proper hands. Adoption of children is a sort of slavery.

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Edomwonyi: Adoption of children is a sort of slavery in this country. What I am saying is that this Children and Young Persons

House of Representatives Debates

427

[Children and Young

1 APRIL 1965

Persons (Amendment) Bill]

428

Bill is more suitable and far better than adoption of children.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East): I support this Bill but I would like to say something on that part of the Bill imposing a fine of four pounds on the parents of any child committed to restriction or to the care of another person.

What I have to say on this point is that the sum of money to be paid should be left to the discretion of the Welfare Officer or the Probation Officer in charge, because when the sum of four pounds is mentioned, the person who is affected may not be able to pay the sum.

That is all I have to say, and I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): This is a welcome Bill, but I want to say that the sum of four pounds, in some homes, is a big sum which may be very difficult to pay by some families.

We must realise that some of the troubles that we have in this country to-day are caused by poverty. There are times when children will become unruly because the parents cannot maintain them.

I feel that what the Government should have done is to say that when parents cannot afford to pay this money the State will pay it.

Mr Obande: The Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) I think, has got a reply from all sides of the House when Members say 'no', 'no', to his comments, but I may add that this law at present refers to Lagos only. There is no harm done, however, if any region would like to enact such a law.

The Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr Ahamefula*) said something about a sum of money being imposed. If he reads the Bill properly he will see that the court is to determine what amount any affected person is liable will pay. All we have said is that four pounds should be the maximum. The penalty may be four shillings, it may be five

shillings, but it should not exceed four pounds. That is all I wish to say.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(CUSTODY OF CHILDREN WHOSE WELFARE IS ENDANGERED BY DISPUTES)

Mr Obande: I rise to move an Amendment to this clause—

Clause 1, Page C 289, line 10, insert the word "is" before the word "endangered".

I beg to move.

Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(CONTINUATION OF CONTRIBUTION UNDER CAP. 32, SECTION 28)

Mr Obande: I rise to move an Amendment to this clause—

Clause 2, page 290, line 11, delete from the beginning to end of line 12.

I beg to move.

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

Clause 2, as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(EXPLANATION OF CAP. 32, SECTION 28)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—(SHORT TITLE, EXTENT AND CONSTRUCTION).

Mr Obande: I rise to move an Amendment to this clause—

in line 29, delete "1964" and insert "1965".

I beg to move.

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

Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, with Amendments ; read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn Adjourned accordingly at four o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 2nd April, 1965
The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that Alhaji Abdul Razaq reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the *Order Paper* for Tuesday, 6th April, in the order as follows:—

- (1) Rural Development, No. 17 in the Order Book ;
- (2) Hire Purchase System (Legislation), No. 26 in the Order Book ;
- (3) Coal-Tar Industry, No. 10 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Establishment of National Health Council, No. 14 in the Order Book ;
- (5) International Road between Nigeria and Dahomey, No. 25 in the Order Book ;
- (6) Prosecution of Criminal Cases, No. 23 in the Order Book.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

POOL BETTING TAX BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to move—

That a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to extend the Pool Betting Tax Act, 1962 to Northern and Eastern Nigeria ; to provide for the cancellation of Pool Betting Licences of persons convicted of certain offences ; and to amend section 2 (2) of the Pool Betting Act, 1962", be read a Second time.

The Pool Betting Tax Act is a Lagos Act ; that is to say, it applies only to the Federal territory. Agreement has, however, been reached with the Governments of Northern and Eastern Nigeria for the Federal Government's jurisdiction in this matter to be exercised in the two Regions in addition to the Federal territory. Both Regions have accordingly

passed enabling laws in accordance with the provisions of section 72 of the Constitution, the Northern Region enacting the Pool Betting (Parliamentary Authority) Law, No. 8 of 1963, and the Eastern Region, the Pool Betting Control (Enabling) (Amendment) Law, 1963.

The present Bill is the final stage which will formally extend the Pool Betting Tax Act to the two Regions. This is the object of Clause 1 of the Bill. Parliament, as hon. Members are aware, last week appropriated in the Second Supplementary Estimates, sums necessary to credit the two Regions with their due share of the revenue derived from the tax for the period from 1st June, 1963 to 31st March, 1965.

As the Law stands at present, a Pool Betting Proprietor is taxed under the Pool Betting Tax Act, but is licensed under the Pool Betting Act. There is no provision for a Proprietor's licence to be cancelled for an offence under the Pool Betting Tax Act. I do not regard this as very satisfactory, and I believe that it would be an encouragement to Pool Betting Proprietors to comply with the requirements of the Pool Betting Tax Act if they knew that they were liable to have their licences cancelled on conviction for an offence under the Pool Betting Tax Act. Accordingly, Clause 2 of the Bill provides that in the event of conviction for an offence under the Pool Betting Tax Act, the court may, in addition to or in place of any other penalty, cancel the convicted persons' licence.

These, then, are the two principal objects of this Bill. However, the opportunity is being taken to make two small amendments which have been seen to be necessary. When the Pool Betting Tax Act was passed, it was intended that the Act should empower this House to amend the rate of tax by resolution to an amount not exceeding twenty *per cent*. As hon. Members have learnt from my Budget Speech, it is the Government's intention to ask the House to increase the rate of tax to twenty *per cent* at the present meeting. However, it has been discovered that in its present form subsection 2 of section 1 of the Pool Betting Tax Act only empowers the House to pass a resolution fixing the tax at a rate lower than twenty *per cent*. The object of Clause 3 of the Bill now before the House is therefore

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

to amend the Act to provide that the tax can be fixed at a rate not greater than twenty *per cent*.

Finally, Clause 3 (2) corrects subsection 2 of section 2 of the Pool Betting Act, 1963, the effect of which was to repeal section 4 of the Pool Betting (Control) Act, 1961, whereas the intention was to negative its operation in Northern and Eastern Nigeria only.

This is a small Bill, whose main purpose is to extend the application of the existing Act to Northern and Eastern Nigeria, and to enable a court if it sees fit to cancel a Pool Proprietor's licence.

I hope hon. Members will support it, and I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye): I beg to second.

Chief J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): When the original Act was passed in 1961, it was intended mainly and solely for the Federal territory of Lagos. But later on it became evident that Pool Betting was a nation-wide affair. Therefore, in 1963, the principal Act was extended, as the Minister of Finance has just said, to Northern and Eastern Nigeria. I do not know why the Western Region has not taken the same step, but one can surmise that having a lottery business of their own, they may not wish to take in another betting business.

However, this is not the case with the Mid-Western Region. I submit that the people of the Mid-Western Region require also the protective umbrella of this Act. In this regard, I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to bring its provisions to the notice of the Government of the Mid-Western Region, so that they too might pass an enabling Act allowing this Bill to operate in the Mid-Western Region.

I beg to support.

Mr D. D. U Okay (Port Harcourt): I welcome this Bill because there are many unscrupulous pool promoters in the country who collect money from members of the public but do not pay adequate dividends to winners neither do they pay adequate taxes to the Government of this country. Some of these pool promoters have no licences to operate. I am, therefore, happy that as this Bill will be passed in this

honourable House now, the Police will have the power of checking these unscrupulous pool promoters.

I beg to support.

Mr B. Okeke (Awka North East): In rising to support this Bill, I have one paramount thing to say and that is in regard to the amount of tax that will be imposed. We have here 20 *per cent* or less; but I would like the Government to make it from 25 *per cent* to 30 *per cent* in order to discourage pool betting in Nigeria.

Pool betting is one of the media through which prominent men take delight in robbing the masses of this country. So far, there is no profit being made by the indigenous people of this country. So, I would like the Government to consider increasing the tax to 25 *per cent* or more in future.

I beg to support.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West): I want to open the question of gambling in this country.

I think that it must be said on the Floor of this House that some hon. Members feel that gambling is an immoral practice, and that the Federal Government should not indirectly encourage this by seeking to get revenue from gambling. We should try to curb this disease—it is a form of disease. It corrupts or affects the minds of the youths and creates an impression that things can be got just for nothing or by chance.

I think that it is necessary to bring this aspect of gambling to the notice of the Government and also to say that it should not be encouraged. If, as has been suggested, it is a necessary evil and the Federal Government has to extend these laws to the Eastern and Northern Regions, I am sure that it is doing so with a weak reluctance.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igala South): I would like to register the opinion in this House that there are times when Bills are presented here for us to approve and some of us support them at times against our conscience. One of the Bills which some of us support against our conscience is this Pool Betting Bill.

We all know that in the modern world people tend to indulge in business which rests purely on luck. People, for instance, find pleasure in gambling and other games of

chance. I would like to say that to some of us this practice is unchristian and unmuslim; it is against our code of conduct.

I know that the Government has brought this Bill with a view to raising revenue for the development of the country. Nevertheless, it is unfortunate that modern living justifies something that is morally bad.

I know that it is very difficult now to convince the Government to introduce legislation to prohibit pool betting in Nigeria. In any case, I would like to have it registered that pool betting is something that corrupts the mind. It is an opportunity for some boys to dupe people. Actually a good Christian or a good Muslim never indulges in this kind of trade.

I would like just to say once again that some of us are supporting this Bill against our conscience. I want the Government to take note of this.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, if a Christian or a Muslim wins money on a football pool on a Saturday and on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday he is paid; he goes to the Church on Sunday with say two pounds out of say fifty pounds which he won. I would like to ask of the hon. Gentleman if the priest will take it or refuse it.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : I very much detest this type of jokes with religious matters. The priest is not going to question a Christian as to where he got his money from. But I am sure that if one tells the priest that one has stolen money from Ijebu to give him he will refuse it!

Mr Enefola : I know that what I am saying may not mean a thing to a circular minded person. I also know that a majority of people in this country take pride in winning sweepstakes or any other game of chance. But this is something that touches the spiritual side of mankind.

I am not here to preach to the House, but I still feel that the Government should legislate against this type of gambling.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, this is a non-contentious Bill and I do not really see why my Friend the teacher from a Mission school in Igala should continue to preach to us here.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : It is bad.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) may say that it is bad.

Mr Mbah : I have never done it.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not know whether the hon. Member has done it or not. But the truth of it is that the business is going on and the majority of the people are doing it. If people are doing it and we cannot legislate against it it is only necessary that Government should have its share. That is what we are doing. So, if anybody wants to sermonise against gambling I can only say that he should go and turn his collar round and not to come here and tell us stories which he himself does not believe. Ten chances to one, Mr Speaker, these two hon. Members are gamblers!

Mr Enefola : On a point of order, I would like to remind the Minister of Finance that all my life I have never entered into any gambling house.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : On a point of information, the two hon. Members during the election gambled with their money against opposing candidates; so they are gamblers.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*), I know spends most of his time in the Island Club. I am not imputing any motive to the Island Club because I am a member also. But I know what he does there with his snookers, billiards and *chacha*.

Mr Odulana : On a point of information, snookers and billiards are played, but *chacha* is not played at the Island Club. *Chacha* is played in Sapele!

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : I rise to contribute my quota—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have not finished my speech, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Order! I think that the Minister indicated that he had completed his speech and that gave the hon. Gentleman and myself the impression that he had finished. In any case, I would like to hear the Member for Wukari (*M. Umaru*) now and then the Minister later.

M. Ali Umaru : I rise to contribute my quota of the debate on this Bill.

If my memory can serve me well, the first Pool Betting Act was introduced and passed into law in this honourable House in 1961 and one of the provisions of the Act was to prevent the sending of huge sums of money overseas so that the money can remain in the country for the services of the nation. This Act was welcomed all over the country. But when pool betting business was introduced into the country, some unscrupulous agents started to take the opportunity to cheat the public. The pool betting business has a very large following in the country but many people are complaining bitterly about the activities of the pool organisers. The organisers of the pool betting business are not as truthful as they ought to be.

On this pool betting business, I would like to deviate a bit in calling the attention of the House to a very serious matter. This business is doing this country a lot of harm. It is very disgraceful to note that if one visits our offices, civil servants, right from the Head of Department up to the most junior clerk can be seen filling football coupons during office hours. I feel the sooner this is checked, the better for the country. If this is done, it will help both our manpower and in other respects.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : In replying to the point made by my hon. Friend, the Member for Afenmai (*Chief Udochi*), at the moment, both the Western Nigeria Government and the Mid-Western Nigeria Government already impose a 20 per cent tax on pool betting in their Regions, so there is no need for them to pass an enabling Act because they are already doing what we are asking hon. Members to approve this morning.

The other point made by hon. Members is the question of stopping gambling. As my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende West (*Dr Mgbaronye*) told hon. Members, it is something which one cannot just stop, no matter the amount of preachment. Hon. Members will be surprised to know that "high-ups" indulge in pool betting. There is the human propensity for acquisition of any kind, even the Professors grab. So, it is something which I feel we really should appeal

to the churches that they should assist us in preaching it, no matter how ineffective it may be at the beginning. It seems to me that in the long run, it will help.

In winding up the debate, I want to make an announcement, with your permission, Mr Speaker, to hon. Members. I have given authority to the Clerk of the Parliaments to pay hon. Members their consolidated travelling allowance.

Mr Speaker : That is not relevant.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

POOL BETTING TAX BILL : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 4—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : The only point I would like to make on this Bill is to appeal to the Minister of Finance with the assistance of the Regional Governments to appoint inspectors who will go from one township to another to inspect the licences granted to these pool betting houses and their accounts in order to reduce fraudulent practices.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : This Bill has been explained as a necessary evil just as the drinking of alcohol in most parts of the world.

I would like to appeal to the Minister of Finance and to the Government that a juvenile provision be added to the Bill so that young people below the age of twenty-one or eighteen are not allowed to participate in pool betting. It is true that this is difficult to enforce but I think this should go into the Act just as many other provisions for future use, so that when the conscience of the nation grows up we may be able to appreciate questions of this nature.

Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu (Aboh) : I would like to draw the attention of the House to one of the points made by one of the previous

speakers on the question of members of the Public Service of this country using duty hours for filling football coupons. I have observed that the Minister of Finance has made no comments on that point and I should like to say right on the Floor of this House that the Minister should do something about this.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): We would like to be assured by the Minister that the consolidated allowance the payment of which has just been approved by the Minister is not going to be spent on gambling, but in the best way possible.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: There are two points made now to which I should reply very briefly. Let me take the last one by the Member for Aboh (*Chief Oputa-Otutu*) on the question of officials using their time to play pools.

I think this is a very serious charge and I think that the matter should be passed on to the Heads of Departments so that they can check the officials. Of course, if the Head of Department is a pool player too, then it would be difficult to do anything about it. In any case, I think the Public Service Commission should look into this as well.

The other point was made by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*). He knows too well that in Nigeria people's ages shift from day to day according to circumstances. When a person wants to do anything and his age is to be reduced, he will get his uncle to swear on affidavit that his age has been reduced by so many number of years.

Dr Nzeribe: But I understand that the Federal Government no longer acknowledges sworn declaration of age.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: No. That is a wrong information. A sworn declaration of age ought to be accepted. Members can ask their lawyers. A Member is asking how many times a declaration of age can be made, and I think only God knows!

The point is that, as the country is, if a Member swears one in Lagos this year and next year he wants to increase or decrease his age, he can go to the Eastern Region or the Mid-West and swear another. If the following year he wants to swear another, he can go to

Kano and swear another, before he goes to the Mid-West. Then he can swear it at Warri too, but it will be the last resort because Warri is too remote.

Now, it will be very difficult under the circumstances to make a law and say that people under 18 years should not play pools.

Mr B. Okon (Calabar): If any thought is to be given to this matter of age, I think it should be one of the duties of the inspectors to check this. It should be the decision of the inspectors that should be binding.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I do not know what is the profession of my hon. Friend. I can hear a Member saying that the Member for Calabar (*Mr Okon*) is a lawyer, and if a lawyer on the Floor of this honourable House can say that an inspector will determine the age of a person and his determination must be final, I wonder what sort of a lawyer he is!

Mr Okon: On a point of information, I should like to let the Minister know that I am a school-master as the Minister himself was, and not a lawyer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I am very grateful to my hon. Friend. As a school-master, I can understand, but he is a clever new Member. He is not a fool. The fact of it is that I do not know whether he can cite any section of the school method that empowers the headmaster or an inspector to determine the age of a boy by merely looking at him.

Mr Okon: On a point of information, the education code has grown and has changed quite a lot since the hon. Minister left the teaching profession.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I am very grateful to my hon. Friend. If the education code has changed, teachers too have changed.

Now, in all seriousness, I think it will be wrong for us to put this question of age in our pool betting ordinance or law. It is not going to help anybody. The fact of the case is that people who like to gamble will always gamble no matter what we do and no matter what people say. Our duty and the duty of parents of young people is to imprint it upon the children that the act of gambling is a very bad one.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East): I just want to ask the hon. Minister whether there is

[MR INYANG]

any way of checking the revenue derived by the pools betting houses so as to ensure that the correct tax is imposed.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : As the Inland Revenue Department also has no real water-tight machinery for checking the accounts of pools companies, this is really difficult. We have the machinery for checking it, but I think Members know that those who are supporting gamblers must be very clever people.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

ARMED FORCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima) : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend certain provisions of the Nigerian Army Act, 1960, the Navy Act, 1964, and the Air Force Act, 1964, expressed in terms inappropriate to monthly rates of pay, be read a Second time.

At present, emoluments of other ranks in the armed forces are still described in terms of daily rates. This is a relic of the colonial era which arose when troops were not in regular employment. As the salaries of all ranks of the armed forces are now expressed in annual rates and are paid monthly, there is an anomaly in continuing to describe forfeitures and reductions of pay on daily-rated basis.

It has, therefore, become necessary to amend the law to reflect the present position of enabling commanding officers to levy fines and dues to be deducted from emoluments of Service personnel as a fractional part or percentage of their monthly salaries.

The Bill seeks to amend the relevant sections of the Army, Navy and Air Force Act to enable forfeitures, fines and deductions to be expressed as fractional parts or percentages of monthly salaries.

This Bill is non-controversial and it should be supported by all sides of the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : I beg to second.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : This is, in fact, a welcome Bill and one normally would not pick any bones with it.

I would, however, like to make one commentary and that is, that with the emoluments of our Servicemen now being paid monthly or on a monthly basis, I would like to suggest to the appropriate quarters that the comfortable pay which now goes to these branches of our armed forces should be extended to other areas and to embrace other people who would like to join the army.

I am of the opinion that the armed forces could be a weapon of easing up the growing unemployment that we have now in the country in the sense that school-leavers, particularly university graduates should not be denied entry into the armed forces of this country.

Hitherto, this has not been the case and there has been no justifiable reason given for it. I understand that even lawyers have been denied entry into the armed forces. One would think that with this increased emoluments or the very attractive pay which, of course, is taking place in the armed forces, our graduates and school-leavers could be very well accommodated. Moreover, the armed forces could be used not only for war time purposes, but to fulfil peace-time needs.

The armed forces could be used to help out in public works and the provision of other social services. The Minister knows this. This is not turning them into labourers, but utilising their energies to the benefit of the country.

The main point, however, is that I would like to appeal to the Minister to give encouragement to all our youths who are anxious to serve their country in the Armed Forces including parliamentarians like the Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq).

I beg to support.

Mr David Dimka (Pankshin West) : One would not have much to say here because this Bill only seeks to amend certain provisions of the Nigerian Army Act 1960, the Navy Act 1964 and the Air Force Act 1964 expressed in terms appropriate to monthly rates of pay.

There is no doubt that the Armed Forces' efficiency has been commended in this country and also outside the country. We know that our Armed Forces have been doing very good work for this nation, but this Bill seeks to amend the relevant Acts relating to punishment, forfeiture and deduction of pay, so as to

make their terms appropriate to monthly rates of pay. One would only hope that with the training the members of our Armed Forces are having, they will be of good conduct and these punishments will not fall on them.

I beg to support.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari): This Bill which seeks to amend certain provisions relating to the penalties in the Armed Forces from daily rate to monthly basis is a good gesture and it will certainly ease the work of administration in the payment of salaries and other wages of the members of our Armed Forces.

In the course of his explanation, the Minister in charge informed us that this Bill is intended to change the practice which was introduced during the colonial era and the fact that we are going to change it to suit a Republican Nigeria, I think, is actually commendable.

But there is another aspect of our Armed Forces which we should also change. For an example, if a civil servant commits an offence or misbehaves, he is given a letter of warning or termination of appointment. Why should a similar line of action not be followed in our Armed Forces? I am saying that the idea of reducing the salary of a soldier is not good. We should give them some other form of punishment.

If any member of the Armed Forces, whether in the Army, Navy or the Air-Force commits an offence, he should be advised to change. He might even be warned or reprimanded, but idea of reducing their salaries is not good. It brings hardship.

Mr Speaker, I stop at that. Thank you.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East): Nobody would quarrel, in other words, everybody would be delighted to see the new change being brought about by converting the daily rate of pay to monthly rate.

One of the points expressed that would be an advantage is that it will make it easy for taxing their emoluments and salaries. On this point I would like to state that the Armed Forces' wages should be free of any tax. At the moment it is free, but with this conversion to monthly wages, then the idea of taxing them might come into operation and it will hit them very hard.

Now, one reason why it is suggested that the wages and salaries of the Armed Forces should be free of tax is that it will serve as a sort of compensation to them because the members of the Armed Forces have no time of their own. Both day and night they are supposed to be on the alert for any emergency. They are supposed to be on the alert every moment. If they have anywhere to go, it is a guillotined time. They are probably given one hour or two, unlike the civil servants who have almost all the time to themselves after office hours. The Armed Forces, the Army, the Navy and even the Police have no time of their own.

I am suggesting that all the Armed Forces, including the Police be given such an advantage of paying no tax as a sort of compensation.

I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): I only wish to raise one important point to support what other hon. Members have stated. I know that in the Army and in other branches of the Force, there is a type of punishment for members of the Force who do not keep to discipline. But this new introduction of either taxing members of the Force or reducing their pay as a means of punishment is not to the best interest of the families of these people.

In fact, a soldier enters the Force mainly to safeguard his family, not because of his own life because he has already sacrificed his life for the nation.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): I do not know whether the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has been in the Army before, but I think the main purpose of entering the Army is to defend the nation.

Mr Ememe: To defend the nation? When you are enjoying, somebody is dying in order to defend you, and you do not understand what it means to that person who is dying to defend you.

His main interest is to protect his family; not to protect you as such, and these families must be provided for by the salaries paid to these military men.

If we start deducting their pay, we are more or less discouraging these soldiers. That is the only thing they have to make this type of daily sacrifice to the nation, and when we start deducting their pay, making the lives of

[MR EMEME]

their families unbearable, many of them will have to abscond from the Army, and this is not fair.

We want our men in the Armed Forces to be disciplined and to be alive to their duties by encouraging their families to have the benefits that they deserve. But I do not think that the Minister has thought very seriously of the effect of these deductions, otherwise he would not have introduced the system.

There are many ways of punishing soldiers. One of them is to lock the soldiers up and make it difficult for them to have freedom of movement for about two weeks. This is enough punishment for a soldier. That is what they call *gbale gbale*, and I do not see why the Minister should introduce this new idea of deducting the pay on which their families depend.

I think the Minister will see to it that there is a change of heart in the Ministry to see to it that most of these people who depend on these soldiers do not suffer. Thank you very much.

M. Abdullahi Inde, Madawakin Musawa (Musawa-Kankara): We Northerners, especially those from Katsina Province, would like our Senior Primary school leavers to be encouraged to join the Army. I am appealing to the honourable Minister of Defence that, if possible, an army school should be opened in Katsina Province. We would also like the Army Headquarters to be in Katsina Province.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I do not intend to speak a lot on this rather short Bill but I want to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to a rather embarrassing publication in the "West Africa".

I am not quite sure of the date of the publication but I think it is either last month or the month before it, that the strength of the Nigerian Army, whether true or false, was quoted at ten thousand. Not only that; the article went further to say that the Nigerian Army is incapable of handling the affairs of the country should the country be assailed by outside forces. The article said a lot of other rather—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order, order! The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is out of order. He is basing his argument on newspaper report which may not be correct.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has confirmed that in spite of the fact that he is a doctor, he can be called a "Mallam" by Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: "Dr" Ede knows that this is not a point of order.

Dr Nzeribe: The relevant thing to do in this case is that the Minister of Defence should take note of this publication and try to correct it.

Now, the other thing I want to say is that the trained technicians and artisans as well as craftsmen in the Army are not happy. I shall reserve details until when we come to debate the Appropriation Bill when I shall be able to speak on this.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-North-East): This is not a contentious Bill. What I know about the Armed Forces is that encouragement has been given to them in the past, and when we talk of the Armed Forces, the policemen are armed, the naval officers and the people working with them are armed. The Army too are armed. I want to know on what basis the policemen and the naval officers are paid and if it is the intention of the Minister of Defence to bring them in line with their counterparts in the Army.

I do not see why Members should raise any hue and cry about it. We must be very careful about how we talk in this House. We cannot use Parliamentary immunity to arouse the feelings of people unjustly.

A Member said a few minutes ago that the salaries of the Armed Forces should be free from taxation. Where is that done in any part of the world? Is this a means of wooing the Armed Forces to their side? This will appear on newspaper headline tomorrow that U.P.G.A. Members of Parliament—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Is the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Mbegbu*) raising a point of order? If the hon. Member is not raising a point of order, it will be better if he does not waste our time.

Mr Mbegbu (Owerri North East): I think the Member for Ijebu-North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has no right to reply to the debates

in this House. It is only the Minister of Defence who can reply to any points raised by hon. Members.

Mr Speaker : Order ! It seems that Parliamentary procedure is new to the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Mbegbu*).

Mr Odulana : Unfortunately I was not making a reply. I was just making a casual comment on what has been said. I think it will not be out of place if I let hon. Members know that while casting jokes, Mr Speaker did not pay attention to what the Member for Egba East (*Chief Odebunmi*) said that the salaries of the Armed Forces should be free from taxation. This is a bad way of using our freedom of—(*Interruptions*).

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East) : It is one of our freedoms that any Member here is free to air his views, and the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*) therefore may not ask any Member who wants to air his views to sit down.

Mr Odulana : I am of the opinion that the position of our Armed Forces should be brought in line with their counterparts all over the world. Now that the Armed Forces have been Nigerianised, I have no doubt that the Nigerian head of the Forces will think in terms of doing what is best for them.

I do not think that we can come to the Floor of this House to arouse ill feelings among our Armed Forces. They will be building a castle in the air by believing that next year certain Members of Parliament will go to the House and say—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : I think Members should be courteous to one another when it comes to points of explanation. The hon. Member speaking wants to explain a little bit further what he had said.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : I protest against what the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has said. It has not been proclaimed that he is a minister, therefore he has no right to deputise for the irresponsible Minister who, himself, is present to reply to the various comments. What I advocate is something I feel, and I still maintain is reasonable—that the Armed Forces personnel

should be exempt from paying Tax. No doubt, everybody is entitled to his own view, and if considered—

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of information, if I heard the hon. Gentleman from Egba East correctly, may I tell him that his remarks should relate to what the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) said, and not to mention the name of the new Minister of State (*Mr Lana*).

Chief Odebunmi : Indeed, I do not think that this is a welcome maiden speech from the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*).

I still maintain, that everybody is entitled to his own view, and what I have suggested, if carefully considered, will be found to be quite reasonable, and will certainly enable us to get the best from the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr Odulana : I still maintain that the officers and men of our Armed Forces should be well paid, but they should be taxed. I do not mind if a *coup d'état* is organised by the army and they come to my house and cut off my head, if they feel concerned by what I have said. But one thing I know is that there are certain individuals in this House who, because of some disappointment about which they are unable to find a way out, resort to noisy rantings for the purpose of getting other people to their own side. I think such people should be ashamed of themselves—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : The Gentleman, as can be observed from what he is saying, is trying to quarrel at some of the points raised in the course of this debate. I think he should go straight to the point at issue rather than beat about the bush.

Mr Odulana : I am a peaceful man, and to fight is not my hobby. I laugh every time ; work and play hard ; but I do not fight. What I say is that hon. Members, especially those on the other side, should bridle their tongue when speaking in this House on delicate matters like the one we have on hand now. They should desist from giving the impression that they are inciting the members of the Armed Forces.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) at first was making a good point when he was opposing those who wanted the Armed Forces not to be taxed; but it seems he has stepped out of bounds and is trying to impute motives on hon. Members who were making honest contributions. The Floor of Parliament is not the place to incite the Army, or to charge others with inciting the Army; and I feel that the hon. Gentleman should be stopped from speaking further on this line.

Mr Odulana: In all honesty, I think this is a welcome Bill, and the Minister introducing it is just right in bringing the Bill before us. If hon. Members have no contribution to make on it, they should accept the Bill in good faith rather than talk against it in a way that appears detrimental to the purpose for which the Bill is intended to serve.

Mr Vincent Shisha (Iharev Masev): I would like to ask hon. Members to join me in thanking the members of the Armed Forces, particularly the Army, as well as the Federal and Northern Governments for the prompt action taken in curbing the trouble in Tiv Division.

Some suggestions have been made to enlist our young school-leavers in the Armed Forces as a means of easing unemployment. This suggestion is a reasonable one and I hope that the Government will give it due consideration.

I want to add a point to what I said in the beginning about the good work done in Tiv Division to suppress the renewed violence in that part of the North. I appeal strongly to the Federal Government to post a detachment of the Army to that disturbed area, so that they can be on ready call whenever disturbances open up again.

I beg to support.

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central): It is said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We are grateful to the Government that the quality of our Army is high. But the Minister of Defence should take note of our demands that the strength of the Army should be increased from year to year.

I want to stress the need for giving our young school-leavers some compulsory military training. There is great wisdom in discipline, and military service is one place where one can

acquire self-discipline; and by recruiting our young boys into the Army we shall in addition be preparing them for any emergency.

When a government considers it necessary to establish an army, it does so in anticipation of any possible conflict. If that is so, then it is necessary that a large number of our people in Nigeria should be trained in the tactics of the Armed Forces. It is in this vein that we suggest that our school-leavers should be given compulsory military service, if for no other reason, to equip them for any emergency.

I beg to support.

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East): In commending the efforts of the Minister of Defence in seeing that the conditions of service of the Army in this country are improved, I wish to advise that the Army should be provided with adequate facilities which are enjoyed by their counterparts in other parts of the world.

This proposed new measure by which the Army will be paid monthly instead of on daily rate basis is commendable. However, it is my wish that this measure be a permanent feature in the Army.

If we take into account the good services rendered by our Army in the Congo and elsewhere they happened to have served, I see no reason why enlistment in the Army should not be made compulsory for fresh school-leavers to serve, at least, for two years before joining any other employer. There are a lot of our boys roaming the streets (some are from Modern Schools, while some have been unfortunate to have their school certificate) without jobs. This set of people can be absorbed in the Armed Forces—in the Army or in the Navy—and in this way the incidence of unemployment can be considerably reduced. I would also like to say that some technicians, like nurses and the people in charge of communications, in our Armed Forces should be further encouraged, especially those members of the Armed Forces who are in the signal section of the Army. These people do a very good job for this country and they have also done a lot in promoting the progress and maintaining the stability of the Armed Forces.

The Minister of State (Army) rose—

Mr Speaker : I agree that we have had quite a lot of Debate on this Bill, but I think that the Minister of State (Army) will not mind listening to one or two more speakers.

Mr Nicolas Asanbe (Owo Central) : I rise to support the Bill. The Minister of Defence deserves our congratulations and commendations, in fact, for bringing up this Bill. The Bill, as it is presented, enhances the position of our Armed Forces. The members of our Armed Forces were formerly on daily wage basis, but now, with the approval of this Bill, they will have to be paid monthly. What is more, formerly, when any member of the Armed Forces was found guilty of any offence, he was punished by having some days' wages deducted from what he would normally earn, but by the introduction of this new Bill any member of the Armed Forces found guilty of any offence will only pay a small amount or a certain percentage of his salary as punishment for the offence he committed.

I would also like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) in connection with giving ample opportunities to all those who may like to join the Armed Forces. There is no reason why some sections of the community should be prevented from taking up such jobs as they would like to have. Lawyers and other university graduates, for instance, should also be given ample chances, if they so desire, of joining our Armed Forces. Anybody with the requisite qualifications, who has the energy and the good character that would qualify him for the Army, should be allowed to join the Force.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) : I would like to thank the Minister of Defence for bringing this Bill at this time. Formally, our soldiers used to receive their wages daily, but now they will be receiving their salaries monthly. This is gratifying indeed.

My second point is that while we are advocating for opportunities to be given to our boys to join the Army, I shall also appeal to the hon. Minister to make it possible for girls and women who may want to join the Army as their life career, to be able to do so.

Dr P. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : In supporting this Bill, I would like to mention that there are many school-leavers in the country,

especially in the Northern Region, who want to join the Army, but the fact is that these school-leavers are always impeded.

Last month, I went to the recruitment centre at Zaria and there were over three thousand applicants standing in the sun while the recruitment authorities said that they wanted to take only one hundred. In the end, only fifty people were taken. The authorities said that the others did not pass the intelligence questions. I do not even know whether those in charge of the intelligence questions are capable of carrying out this exercise.

I therefore suggest that if the recruitment centre in Zaria and some other places are not sufficient to cope with the number of people who want to join the Army, I advocate that this House makes it possible for another recruitment centre to be established in the Northern Region, south of the River Niger, in Ilorin, particularly in Igbomina land.

With these few comments, I support this Bill.

M. Adamu Yola (Tangale Waja) : In rising to support this Bill, every Member here will agree with me, I believe, that of all the pillars holding up this country, the Army is the greatest one.

In addition to what the Member for Ilorin East (*Mr Dada*) has just said, because I was an eye-witness, I think that in a large area like Northern Nigeria, one recruitment centre for the Army is not enough to cater for the interests of the whole population of people who may like to join the Force. We have hundreds of school-leavers who travel from Bornu, Adamawa and Bauchi Provinces to Zaria to be recruited into the Army. These people find it difficult to find their way to Zaria to be recruited. May I therefore suggest that a Division like Gombe, which is one of the biggest Divisions in Nigeria, should have a recruitment centre set up there to shorten the distance that people have to travel from Adamawa and Bauchi Provinces. There is no doubt that if set up, that centre will have the strongest, brightest and most capable of people to recruit from as far as the Army is concerned.

I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Muku (Bida West) : In supporting the Bill now before this House, I would like to congratulate the Minister of

[M. IBRAHIM MUKU]

Defence for his foresight. I know it is normal for any Member of this House to air his views on a Bill, however good that Bill may be. For my part, I think this Bill is timely, comprehensive, straightforward and non-controversial. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support it.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I would like to thank the Members who have contributed to the Debate on this Bill and who have made suggestions which they require my Ministry to consider and implement. Unfortunately, some of the Members spoke outside the scope of the Bill. Some of the points which some Members raised could have been reserved until we come to the actual Defence Head. This Bill seeks just an amendment.

However, I would like to reply to some of the important points raised one of which came from my hon. Friend the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*), who is the champion of the cause of university graduates. We do not shut our doors against university graduates at all. What we do in the Army is to enlist the services of specialists. If a graduate is a specialist, say an engineer or a doctor, we open the door for him to come in.

Several hon. Members: What about Lawyers?

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima: We have a legal adviser in the Ministry and this lawyer will not like to be an army officer. He wants to sit in the office and guide us in the law. Since we have this legal adviser, I think he is able to cope with the legal work we have to do in the Ministry.

I can hear some Members saying in undertone that we have not judge advocates. My reply to this is that we have got judge advocates, and if those hon. Members would like to be judge advocates in the Army, we would give them offers.

The graduates are invited from time to time to come and fill specialist vacancies in the Ministry. We have not got vacancies for them and we cannot create these spaces until we expand the Army, and though we can expand the Army we are governed by the availability of funds and accommodation. When we consider expansion, we must consider other things along with it.

The second point raised by the Member for Egba East (*Chief Odebumi*) is on the question of tax. I have to say that the members of the armed forces pay tax like everyone else in this country. It is only citizens or troops earning not more than £180 *per annum* who are exempt from the payment of tax.

On the question of fine, somebody advocated that we should not fine soldiers. Numerous punishments are awarded to members of the Army; it all depends on the type of offence committed. For example, there are such offences as treachery, cowardice and other offences arising from military service. As I said, it depends on the type of offence and its gravity. We do not just confine ourselves always to fining soldiers, unless we find this very necessary.

There are other types of punishment which Members will be happy to know. These range from reduction in rank, severe reprimand, admonition, imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty-eight days, a fine, dismissal, to even death sentence. Those are the punishments which the court martial can award to a member of the army.

So when I asked Members to amend this section of the law, I asked them to amend the Act in order to provide for a percentage of fractional fine, instead of a number of days. That was the simple thing I asked Members to do.

The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) was a bit scared of fines. I think to have an efficient army, we must have to maintain discipline, and if all kinds of punishments are exhausted we will find soldiers moving from one offence to another. It is not only the levy or fine that is given. As I have shown, there are other forms of punishment which are awarded to soldiers.

When a soldier is fined, he knows he is responsible for the maintenance of his family and he knows the sufferings which his family will have as a result of the fine, and so this puts him on his guard at all times. He thus will do everything he can to prevent his family from suffering. That is why we put this provision for fines to be imposed.

The Member for Ilorin East (*Mr Dada*) complained of congestion at the Zaria recruitment centre. The number of people coming

forward for recruitment into the Army is much more than the demand, so we cannot help having congestion in the centre. It does not serve any useful purpose either to have more centres, because we already have one centre at Ibadan, one at Enugu and one each at Zaria and Kaduna. If there are about three thousand candidates or applicants wishing to be recruited at Zaria, they should remember that we cannot absorb more than fifty every six weeks.

We have not expanded our Army. We have to expand according to the policy of the Ministry. There are accommodation problems, the money to be spent and also the social problems involved.

As regards school-leavers, I think the Ministry is to be congratulated on the efforts it is making in opening up Cadet Units in many parts of the country. Members are not aware of what the Ministry is doing in secondary schools. Instead of criticising the Ministry, I think they should commend it.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): I congratulate the hon. Minister of Defence for bringing this Bill. I welcome the prescribed form of punishment which is forfeiture of pay because there must be discipline in the Army.

I want to appeal to the Minister to increase the strength of the Army.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(MINISTER OF STATE—(ARMY)).

Mr J. Kagho-Omomadia (Isoko): While congratulating the Minister for introducing this Bill, I would like to mention that during the course of his explanation he did mention that there are recruitment centres in Enugu, Ibadan, Zaria and Kaduna. Perhaps at the time these centres were established Mid-Western Nigeria was not in existence. But now that the Mid-West is no longer part of Western Nigeria, the Minister should take steps to see that recruitment centres are established in the Region.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima: I am happy to reply to the Member for Isoko (*Mr Omomadia*) and to tell him that the Mid-West, of course, is a new Region and the quota for the Mid-West at the present time is four. So, we feel that adequate provision has, at the present time, been made to cover the Mid-West because of the population; but in future, we are taking into consideration the necessity for making it a centre if it is desirable.

M. Jibrim Girema (Numan): I would like to contribute to the debate on this particular subject. I would like to appeal to the Minister to recruit more Northerners into the Army. There is no doubt that we have many Northerners in the lower ranks but we would like to have many more in the higher ranks. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister to see personally to this.

I would also like to appeal to the Minister to see to it that Members of the Army do not pay tax. These people are always on the alert to protect our lives, and for this reason we should give them due consideration so that they could feel happy at all times.

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister is that more Northerners should also be recruited into the Air Force.

I strongly appeal to the Minister to see to the recruitment of the Army in Zaria. The way these people are being recruited in Zaria is very disappointing. On this particular point, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Ilorin East (*Dr Dada*) that those responsible for recruiting these people do their work in a disappointing manner. After they had lined up for several hours, somebody would just come out of the office to tell them: "You are not fit; come back at another time." I want the Minister personally to check on these points.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefule (Okigwi South-West): Generally speaking, I support the Bill wholeheartedly, but I would like to say that due regard should be given to academic qualifications when recruitments and promotions are being made in the Army. Not only that, I would also like to advocate that due regard should be given to physique and intelligence. I am saying this because in the

[MR AHAMEFULE]

Police Force to-day there is discontent everywhere. People who have been in the Force for long and who have experience are complaining that as soon as boys from secondary schools join the Force, they who have been there for a long time are relegated to the background because they have not got the necessary educational qualifications.

All over the country the Nigerian Army has been commended for its fitness and alertness. If hon. Members look into the composition of the present Army in Nigeria, it will be seen that the Army is made up of illiterates and semi-literates. Only a handful of them are literate. I am saying therefore that if we promote only those who are literate, there will be general dissatisfaction and discontent in the rank and file of the efficient soldiers.

I beg to support.

Mr I. I. Akpabio (Opobo North): This is a nice Bill. What we really expect from the Minister is that a sub-centre should be created in the Eastern Region, particularly in Calabar because, during the last recruitment at Enugu there was a big congestion. For this reason, the Minister should be kind enough to create a sub-centre in the East.

Apart from that, this Ministry is a noble one and I want the Minister to check nepotism which is a cankerworm in this Ministry. It is a—

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West): On a point of order, much as we want every Member to say something, I think the Member for Opobo North (*Mr Akpabio*) is out of the scope of the Bill and he should be ruled out of order. I think all this should come during debate on the appropriate Head of the Estimates.

Mr Speaker: Order. Quite a lot of speeches are out of the scope of the Bill. I think the Member for Opobo North (*Mr Akpabio*) should speak within its scope.

Mr Akpabio: I was saying that this is a nice Bill and I feel that promotions in the Army should be on merit and nothing else.

I support the Bill.

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima: If the Member for Opobo North (*Mr Akpabio*) has any friends in the Army who feel they are not being promoted, there must be some reasons for their being left behind; otherwise promotion in the Army is based on merit and nothing else. This is justified by the promotion of a Nigerian to the post of General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army. (*Applause*).

I think there are some disgruntled officers who may be the friends of the Member for Opobo North (*Mr Akpabio*) and who may tell him why they were not promoted at the proper time. Otherwise, we exercise great caution in promoting Army officers.

We have the quota system only when we recruit, but after recruitment everything is based on merit.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 3rd April, 1965

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that a Report has been received from the Business Committee on the allocation of time for the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates of Capital Expenditure. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members and will be considered under the relevant item in to-day's Order Paper.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to make the Business Statement for the week-ending on Saturday, 10th April.

The debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill will be resumed on Monday, and will occupy the whole week, except on Tuesday, when Private Members' business will be taken as usual. The Government proposes that the debate should be concluded on Saturday when the House will adjourn for the Id el Kabir and Easter Recess.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): I am quite aware of the fact that a Business Statement is not open to debate. But in the interest of justice and fairplay and in the interests of Members of this House, I think the House should adjourn on Friday instead of Saturday in order to allow sufficient time for Members to reach their homes well in time for Sallah and Easter.

I am sure that the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House himself is spending the Easter at Sapele. Unless he wants us to spend our Sallah on the way or at a catering house, I think it is only fair if he will reconsider this, in consultation with the Members of the Business Committee, to see that this House adjourns at twelve o'clock on Friday.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am very grateful to my hon. Friend. Is that the wish of the House ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Here we are. Hitherto, Members used to accuse the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House of rushing the House, but now it is the Members that are rushing the House !

Mr Speaker, I accept the view of the House.

REPORT FROM BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—

That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(31ST MARCH)

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

Alhaji Zakari Isa (Kaduna): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was ably moved by the Federal Minister of Finance.

In doing so, I wish to make a few comments. First of all, I have to congratulate the Prime Minister, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for forming his broadly-based government.

The unity of this country is in the hands of all of us. If we want unity in the real sense of it, our leaders must come together and also stop making utterances which will cause disunity in this country.

I would like to appeal to the Federal Government through the Minister of Works to see that the Kaduna-Kachia Road is tarred at once. I would also like to appeal to the new Minister of Industries to see to it that at least two industries are established in Kaduna Capital Territory.

My last appeal goes to the Minister of Communications to the effect that the Kaduna Capital Territory should have more postal agencies in order to meet the great demand of the people of my constituency.

[ALHAJI ZAKARI ISA]

It is my hope that all the Ministers concerned will take quick action on all my requests.

I beg to support.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West): I rise to support the budget proposals of the Minister of Finance. In doing so in my maiden speech, I crave the indulgence of the House to hear me through with patience.

I congratulate the Minister on his marathon performance, his brilliant delivery and on the clear elucidation of the Federal Government's financial policies.

Mr Speaker, the Minister's choice of name for his Budget—the Rededication Budget—was masterly. However, one cannot fail to make a few comments on his polemics on socialism.

Doctrinaire socialism, the type the Minister has in mind, is rarely practised anywhere in the world. True, the practice of any political system which denies personal freedom is very alien to our tradition; particularly true is this in Eastern Nigeria. Equally so is the massive accumulation of wealth and the concentration of the means of production in the hands of a few.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Is that the concentration in the East?

Several hon. Members: In the Mid-West (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Dr Mgbaronye: Socialism has been modified in almost every country of the world to meet the peculiar requirements of the people concerned. In Africa we should happily embrace pragmatic African socialism which only entails equality of opportunity, fair and equitable distribution of wealth—malice for none and charity for all.

As the Minister rightly mentioned, the economic prospect of this country depends largely on her stability. This in turn depends on the unity of the Federation. Forces of disunity—utterances which are purely partisan, uncompromising stands in a very large community with varying customs and traditions—militate against national unity and against our economy.

It is in this connection that I deplore the opinion expressed in this House that there is no need for the review of our Constitution. Such statements are mischievous and tend to jeopardise the outlook for a stable country. There is no doubt that a wide constitutional review is being eagerly awaited by the whole country.

Turning to the Development Programme, there can be no doubt that its impact on the rural community is practically nil. In this connection, I wish to congratulate the Minister of Finance on proposing to assist the Regional Governments in financing farm settlements. These settlements, as the Minister rightly observed, will provide employment for thousands of school leavers and, if properly managed, will revolutionise farming in this country.

More projects of this nature, for example, fisheries, should be undertaken so that the average man in the village will have the visible sign of the momentous progress this country is making in the era of self-government. Some of the people in the rural areas who see the growing disparity between the "haves" in the large urban communities and the "havenots" in the villages are becoming very sceptical of the advantages of independence.

The Morgan awards have come and the benefits have gone to organised labour. I want, however, to sound a note of warning to our labour leaders. The vast majority of people in this country are farmers and casual labourers. People with regular employment are in fact a privileged class. In asking for more and more for them, labour leaders should exhibit a sense of responsibility. Strike action should be the very last resort and when taken should be conducted with discipline and be devoid of hooliganism.

Our last experience in Port Harcourt where pickets menacingly roamed in the streets, damaging property and other things, was very deplorable. So menacing were they that gas was shut off from the furnaces of the Nigerian Glass Factory in Port Harcourt by Shell Company, resulting in thousands of pounds worth of damage, the necessity of the Factory being closed down for months, and the lay-off of workers before necessary repairs could be effected.

There is need to alter the loans arrangement as it affects the Regional Governments. By having the Federal Government underwrite these loans, the system becomes far too rigid, tying a progressive Region to the apron strings of the slowest part of the Federation. Greater latitude could be given to the Regions as regards overseas borrowing and other transactions, provided that the lending nations are satisfied with the Regions' overall ability to pay.

This is a very important matter. It is not the intention, I hope, of the Federal Government to act as a deterrent to Regional development. I am, however, aware that this is a subject for a constitutional amendment.

The siting of industries is another subject I wish to comment upon. It is important that industries and other Federal institutions should be sited all over the country and should not be concentrated in Lagos. The East has been particularly neglected. I am aware that the Federal Government underwrites, as it were, the various financial arrangements about industries established by the Regional Governments. But that is a merely routine constitutional provision. We in the East practically have no Federal industry sited in the Region. The only one, which is the iron and steel industry proposed for Onitsha, is still a matter for controversy. But for the dynamism of the Premier of Eastern Nigeria who, by undertaking innumerable oversea tours and by negotiating very many deals with foreign companies with the resources of the Region, there would have been no industry in the Region.

There is, therefore, a need for the Federal Government to establish large industries in the East, and no better site can be found for a start than at Umuahia.

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, should we understand from the hon. Gentleman's speech that East means Umuahia?

Dr Mgbaronye : Umuahia is a fast growing town and it is the half-way house between Enugu the Regional capital and Port Harcourt the sea port. It is ideally suited for rapid industrialisation.

I would suggest the siting of a chemical industry at Umuahia; something like the industry of I.C.I. or I.G. Faban. Now that we have made a start in industrialisation, chemicals of various kinds have to be imported.

A chemical industry is certainly very necessary and urgent, and the best site for it is Umuahia.

This also applies to an airport. The siting of an airport at Umuahia is long overdue. There are already two bustling industries there, and an airport in Umuahia will serve the need of the community, and increase Federal revenue.

In conclusion, may I appeal for duty relief for some of our industries. The Nigerian Glass Company has a pioneer status, but is still paying duty on imported raw materials. This is paradoxical and it is a heavy burden on the industry. Several representations have been made to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with no result.

The Independence Brewery at Umuahia operates with a very prohibitive tariff duty. The duty is so heavy as to amount to £1,200 per day. This is a prohibitive, intolerable burden on a new industry, and it is completely out of sympathy with the Federal Government's policy of encouraging local new industries.

The E.C.N. also must be told to lower their charges to industries. In their mad desire to make fantastic profits, they are endangering the very existence of our new industries. They should be made to realise that, stripped of their monopoly of power supply, which can be easily done by legislation, they might not feel so smug and dictatorial.

I trust that these simple and few requests will delight the sympathetic ears and melt the willing heart of the Minister of Finance.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Idi Maska, Katukan Katsina (Maska): I rise to express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Finance for his budget speech. The speech is timely, most welcome and self-explanatory.

I would like to suggest to the Minister that out of the amounts estimated to be spent on the various projects of development, Katsina should get its own share. It is surprising that Katsina, which is the second largest Province in Northern Nigeria has not enjoyed a single industry. Not even a sack-making industry exists in Katsina.

Katsina, especially the Southern part of it produces an enormous amount of cotton

[ALHAJI IDI MASKA]

All the textile factories in the Northern Region are being fed by the cotton grown in the Southern part of Katsina. Some of the cotton is also sold to the outside world. Why, therefore, should such area, which abounds in enormous quantities of cotton, not be rewarded with at least one textile factory? This factory if established, will solve the problem of unemployment, improve the condition of the lower income group, and aid the farmers in general.

I, therefore, pray the Minister of Finance to keep Katsina in mind when it comes to the distribution of industries.

My second request is the tarring of Birnin-Gwari-Funtua Road, which is the shortest route linking Lagos and Katsina. We are very anxious to see this road tarred.

The Funtua-Yashe Road should also be expanded and retarred, just like the Zaria-Kano Road. I make this appeal to the Minister concerned, to see to it that this road is improved as its present position is bad. The road becomes unmotorable or totally impassable during the rainy season. It is also dangerous for lorries to give way to one another when coming from opposite directions; this sometimes results in loss of lives and property.

Finally, I would like to suggest to the Federal Government to increase the official working hours at the Funtua telecommunications office. At present this office closes by 9 p.m., but we would like it to operate on a 24-hour basis.

With these observations, I beg to support.

Mr Sanu Sobowale (Epe): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, which has been so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

In the first place, the Minister referred to wages and salaries increases which were made recently. It was a good thing that the Morgan award was limited to incomes not more than £600 *per annum*.

In this country in the past years, it was usual, when Commissions were appointed on increases in salaries and wages, to have such increases made on certain percentages. Usually, a person on £200 *per annum*, for instance, was given an award of, say, 20 *per cent*, while a better paid man on, say, £2,000 *per annum* was allowed, say, a 10 *per cent* increase. In

real terms, 20 *per cent* of £200 amounts to only £40, while 10 *per cent* of £2,000 amounts to £200, with the result that instead of bridging the gap between the under-paid and the over-paid, the gap is, in fact, widened.

We should like to see, with the years to come, a definite effort to actually bridge the gap between those who do not earn a living wage and those who earn more for their services than the nation can afford. We know that when people go to market to buy things, they do not go with percentages, they go with real cash. When increased awards are made on percentage basis, they hit the lower income group a lot more than the well-paid group.

I would also like the Minister to consider the payment of wages and salaries on a weekly basis. In the past, payment of salaries and wages has been on a monthly basis. Since a few months ago, in some parts of this country, people now receive their wages and salaries twice a month, and that has had a salutary effect on the economy.

If people now start receiving their wages and salaries weekly, then the unit of payment in terms of time can be the week, and not the month, with the result that rents will be paid weekly and all bills will be settled weekly, so that the little quantity of money in the country can move a lot faster.

It is gratifying to see that the Government is going to assist the Regional Governments about farm settlements. Quite often, one hears a Minister going round and appealing to school leavers to go back to the land, and not hang around the capital cities looking for white collar jobs. It is very difficult to ask a boy, an 18-year old boy for that matter, who has just left school with secondary school education to go back to the land just like that.

He has been in school for the past twelve years. His parents probably own no farm. He has never spent a whole month on the farm, and you ask such a boy to go back to the land. If the Government will encourage the establishment of these farm settlements, and ask the boys to go back to them, then the claim of 'go back to the land' can begin to have some meaning.

It is also noteworthy that the Government intends to set up an agricultural scheme with some capital of £3 million. This is praise-

worthy but the point I would like to make is that when these loans are being given out, efforts should be made to see that the loans are very fairly distributed among the various regions of this country.

Steps should also be taken to see that somebody does not have to give proof that he belongs to a particular political party or a particular alliance before he is regarded as a farmer who requires a loan.

The Federal Minister of Finance has, on the capital of this country, referred to the development loan and the small response it is receiving from the public. Everybody knows that money is very scarce these days and if only £3 million out of the £14 million issued in February has been taken up by the public, it is not surprising at all.

Usually when one reads the advertisements calling for these loans, one sees that they are called for in units of ten pounds, hundred pounds or a thousand pounds. Well, these amounts are quite out of the reach of the ordinary poor Nigerian so that for the raising of internal capital, we have to look more to the small investors than to people with hefty incomes.

In the case of the small investors, the national savings certificates and premium bonds are reasonably attractive but there is one aspect of private investment which appears not to be getting quite the publicity it should get or the amount of assistance one would expect it to get from the Government and that is, investment in private limited liability companies.

As a result of the shocking experience people received a few years ago when a row of banks went into liquidation in this country, the average Nigerian is not quite willing to put his hard-earned money in business because he is not really sure that the business is going to be worth it or that his investment is going to be safe.

It is true that the Industrial Development Bank is doing its best to invest in new companies but I think that the small investor, the ordinary member of the public, will welcome an opportunity to go into business with the Government. By this I mean that the Government itself should invest in private limited liability companies and when the small investors actually see that the Government itself is financial interested in a particular company,

it will give them confidence that the little money they may have to put in that company is going to be reasonably safe.

This does not mean that the Government should control these companies. What it should do is to have a few shares in them as an encouragement to the public to come up and invest their money in these companies.

All over the country, one sees very many insurance agents running all around the place asking people to insure their lives, their cars, *et cetera*, but the experience of many people in the country is that it is a lot easier for a person to pay his premiums than for him to have his claims settled when he has any.

Many of the insurance companies are operated from abroad. They collect regular premiums from people and ship the money out of the country and yet still we say that we have no capital.

I think the time has come for the Government to look very carefully into the positions of the insurance companies operating in this country and to make sure if possible, that an insurance company operated by the Government is made to take over from these foreign insurance companies so that our money can remain with us.

I suppose it was last year that the hon. Minister of Finance made reference to the question of artificial injection of money into our economy. He told us then that it was dangerous, because, he argued, if we were to inject money artificially into the economy, the tendency would be for these monies to be used in the purchase of consumer goods like television sets and radios and the money will get out of the country again.

With due respect, I do not entirely agree with him because it depends on where exactly the money is injected. If with such chronic unemployment in the country the money is not given to those who have more than enough, those who will spend it on luxuries but is spent in creating employment for the poor people on the farms, for making roads and so on, then the effect would be that those people who have benefited from the money, will spend the little money they have earned not on luxuries but on necessities and this will stimulate the economy of the country.

[MR SOBOWALE]

On the Balance of Payment, we have heard the explanation given by the Minister of Finance about the unfortunate cocoa crisis. If I may say, with respect, the crisis was not something that happened all of a sudden. It was something that with proper economic analysis could have been forecast in advance.

The Alliance knew very well that there was a bumper crop the previous season and that consumers were well stocked with cocoa. They also knew that by allowing some members of the alliance to sell while Nigeria and others withheld their stocks, the position of the consumer would be unaltered as he would not particularly need our cocoa. It so happened, and the result was that the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the Western Nigeria Government and this country as a whole had to suffer.

May I say that in matters of this kind, one would expect that before the alliance of which Nigeria is a member takes such a decision, Nigeria's representatives on the alliance should hold consultations with the Federal Ministry responsible so that the consequence of such a withdrawal of cocoa from the market can be well analysed with some accuracy.

The Minister of Finance himself mentioned our trade position with Japan. I am not concerned entirely just with Japan but I think that on the long run international trade is trade by barter. It does not follow that our trade with any single country must exactly balance. That is neither practicable nor desirable. But I am saying that if there is any country that does not sufficiently want to buy our products, then that country should sell her products elsewhere.

If a country is prepared to sell to us goods worth over £3 million but does not want to buy from us goods worth over £1,000, then we should tell that country to sell her products elsewhere so that those countries who buy our products can have a first chance of selling to us. I would say, therefore, that any country wishing to sell to us should buy at least a third of the value of goods that we import from such a country.

It is sad to notice, as the Minister of Finance has pointed out, that some foreign companies operating in this country have decided to take the bulk of their profits out of the country.

Nobody says that a foreign company which invests its capital in this country should not take something out of the country, but we should like to see them investing some of the bulk of their profits in this country. The Minister of Finance might consider laying down a minimum percentage of such profits to be invested in this country.

I would also like to ask the Minister of Finance, when looking into the accounts of companies, to see that companies do not build up secret reserves to defraud the revenue. This happens when heavy percentage of depreciation on plants, buildings and so on are allowed before arriving at the figures of profit with the result that figures that could have been taxed are allowed as depreciation with a consequent loss of revenue.

Finally, I would like to speak on the siting of industries under the Development Scheme. It is praise-worthy to note what the Federal Government has been doing by way of industrialisation schemes springing up here and there. I would only like to implore the Government to remember that there are four regions in this Federation and not just two and that in siting industries the Western Region and one other region that has just been cut off from it should be well remembered.

The Minister himself, giving as an example, said that the man living at Birnin-Kebbi might not know of developments going on at Calabar but that the overall effect is beneficial to everybody. I think, speaking as Minister of Finance, this might be so but the man at Birnin-Kebbi would like to see something also going on around him.

I urge the Government that in siting these development projects in the years to come they should make sure that the national cake is passed round a little bit more equitably.

Mr I. E. Nyong (Eket North East) : I rise to support the Second reading of this Bill and to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he introduced the Bill. The Minister of Finance is to be praised for this inspiring voluminous copy of his speech which reveals efficiency in that aspect.

There are about two or three points to which I want to draw his attention. The first point is about the Bornu Railway extension which

according to the Minister, cost the Government something like £20 million, and that as a result of this extension of the railway to Bornu, employment is being provided for citizens of Nigeria, particularly in the Northern Region. It was indeed a very good project.

But I would like to say that in 1964 the Government sent a railway extension survey team to trace the possibility of extending the railway line through the least expensive one of the following routes, considering the topographical, natural and economic resources of the places over which the route would pass. The railway line is to pass either through Odo-Oba, Ile-Ife, Ilesha, Akure, Benin City, Onitsha, Aba, Oron, and from thence through Ikot Ekpene to Uyo, or alternatively through Odo-Oba, Ondo, Akure, Benin, Onitsha, Owerri Arochuku, to Calabar.

I think the survey team has completed its work on these routes and its recommendations submitted to the appropriate quarters. I hope that the Minister will make it possible for Members to know which of the two routes has been recommended. In fact, this would give many unemployed people in the South something to do.

Another point I want to talk about is smuggling particularly in Calabar area. No one can deny the fact that smuggling is going on there. In the past the people of Calabar had trade connections with the Cameroun. Now, there are great difficulties in their way of trade with the Cameroun and owing to the fact that no industries have been established in the area, many people risk their lives to smuggle goods from the Spanish territory in order to earn their living. As soon as the Government considers establishing big industries in the area the tendency towards smuggling would be greatly diminished.

Even though the capital expenditure estimates have not yet been laid before the House, I hope that the advance proposals should be made known. I hope that the Minister will take serious view of what has been mentioned here.

Speaking on the extension of airways or airports, I wish to point out that in the Old Calabar Province the only airport we have there is at Calabar. I suggest that another airport be cited at Uyo so as to be able to serve the people in the mainland.

Another point of importance is that I would like the Minister to consider the widening of Uya-Oron bridge. This bridge is claiming lives and has caused untold harm to the people in the area as well as to people from other places. As soon as the bridge is widened I hope most of the difficulties will be solved.

On electricity supply I would like to say that Oron stands in a place where there should be electricity supply to the people in the urban area. I believe the Minister himself once visited us in Oron and he saw the great number of people who received him. It was then suggested to him that such an area should be considered for the supply of electricity.

The Eastern Nigeria Government is doing its utmost to supply water to this area and it will not be long before the people in the urban area will begin to enjoy water supply as a result of the consideration being given to it by the Eastern Nigeria Government.

Indeed the Rededication Budget is also a sort of budget for the reconstruction of the lives of the individual citizens of this country and the country itself. But I would say that only security, love and unity can reflect a true democracy.

Alhaji Inusa Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North): I rise to associate myself with the Members who spoke before me in supporting this Motion. In doing so I feel that it is now time for me to say how much I appreciate the manner in which the Minister of Finance always names his Budget Speeches. We had the "People's Budget" sometime ago. We also had the "Sovereignty Budget" and the "Mobilisation Budget". In the year before last we passed the "Modernisation Budget" and last year the "National Budget", and now we are debating the "Rededication Budget".

I would like to say, however, that it is not these titles that matter but the subsequent activity that follows and the way the decisions we take in this Parliament are implemented.

Nigeria is, of course, one of the largest countries on the continent of Africa. As such, there is no doubt that Nigeria has established itself as a great nation in Africa. Of course, no man can stop our march to prosperity.

I would like to say that the work of nation-building, that is, of making this country a great nation, is not as easy as it looks. It is a

[ALHAJI INUSA]
 remarkable task because our aim is not only to create a united Nigeria but a democratic Nigeria.

If that is our aim, then we must have people who are mentally and morally disciplined and law-abiding. Without that it is difficult to create a great nation. Nigeria to-day is acclaimed as a great nation. It is not necessary for us to be copying either the Western or Eastern World's idea of democracy. We have to evolve our own system whereby our people and those of other nationalities living among us may have satisfaction.

After that the march to democracy is still not complete. To complete our democracy, the people must have adequate living conditions: food, education, good health, capacity to rule in accordance with the rule of law, and so on. The question of one-party or two-party system of government is not necessarily a guarantee or the essence of democracy. There is more in the temper of society; the ease and the smoothness of transition and change, the ability to tolerate our differences, and so on; these are the ingredients necessary for the evolution of a democratic country, which I feel can only be achieved by Sir Abubakar's broad-based Republican Government.

There is no doubt that the Federal Government has done a lot. It has laid the foundation of the Money Market and there is a growing confidence in our currency all over the world. The entry of Nigeria into the European Economic Community is a great achievement because we are the only English-speaking country in Africa that has entered the Community of this Council.

The establishment of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company is also a great step in making this nation one and great, not to talk of the different factories that have sprung up in the country with a view sooner or later to satisfying our internal demands and also to exporting some of the commodities which we manufacture.

I now come to a matter which has been agitating our minds, those of us who come from Kano Province. As I am too impatient, I would like hon. Members to know that there are now six and a half million people in Kano according to the census figures. There is no doubt about this.

Also, this province produces more than half the tonnage of groundnuts in Northern Nigeria; it has the biggest freight for the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the highest annual figure of railway passengers in the country.

Bearing all this in mind, it is unfortunate that there is not a single Federal Government industrial project in Kano, and the Kano Airport which is regarded as a great asset to the people, providing labour and means of livelihood for the people in Kano, is deteriorating daily. No aeroplanes are allowed to land except the V.C. 10 Jet Airliner, and the airport premises are nothing more than a public house for Sabon Gari people.

Although a lot has been done in the widening of roads and the construction of bridges in Nigeria as a whole, I do hope that some roads in Kano Province will be tarred immediately. It does not matter whether it is the duty of the Regional Government or the Federal Government.

I am only hoping that whoever is responsible will tar the following roads immediately: the road from Wudil to Gaya, the constituency which I come from, and Gaya to Jahun road. I want them tarred before the end of this season.

The Iran Kunya-Babura Garkin road should also receive the same treatment. Without this I cannot understand how the tax-payers in the rural areas can benefit from the Federal Government.

Nigeria is basically an agricultural country, engaging about 80 per cent of the total male working population in the country. It provides also 56.7 per cent of the country's national income through agriculture which also accounts for 85 per cent of her export. In this line, the farmers in the rural areas are suffering from uneconomical price on what they produce yearly.

Labour and cost of living, *et cetera*, have risen to such a high extent that the present price of our cocoa and groundnuts must be increased. I know very well that the price of our material depends upon the world market.

If in November, for example, the price of groundnuts is declared at £30 for farmers in Nigeria and the cost of it in England is £50, it

usually happens that the price in England rises from £50 to £60 whereas the farmers in Nigeria to whom the price had been declared at £30 will not feel the change.

If the Marketing Board wants that profit to be kept for the next season or something like that, it used to happen that for six consecutive years that increase which occurred in other countries is not extended to farmers in Nigeria. The Government should bear with me and give serious consideration to this fact.

The Government had done a lot of work in the past and is facing some important ones again. One must congratulate the Government on the establishment of the Bacita Sugar Factory in Ilorin. So many applicants have been employed. Also the sugar cane that we produce is now used to produce sugar and I do hope that we shall soon meet our internal demands and begin to export to other countries.

The Niger Dam is another remarkable project, because when the Niger Dam goes into operation, much of our difficulties will be non-existent. Apart from that, it would help to bring the whole country together, although it is sited in Northern Nigeria. The Dam is going to serve the whole country, as it is bound to supply electricity to the other Regions. I know very well that the Northern Region is going to benefit from it a great deal.

The unity of this country is the most important thing. If that is the case, I am now going to refer to the people of Nigeria as a whole and to some of the minority politicians in my region. I would like to state before this honourable House that all the people of Nigeria want unity, with the exception of a very very few people who are not after the unity of the country but only after something which they are going to put into their pockets.

Some minority politicians from the Northern Region continue to say that they are popular, although everybody knows very well that they are not popular. They have been rejected as far back as the 1959 Federal elections but still they continue to mislead their friends in the Eastern Region by informing them that they have a lot of supporters in the Northern Region, whereas they have no supporters. One would have thought that—

Mr J. Edomwonyi (Benin West): On a point of order, I would like the Member for Gaya North (*Alhaji Inusa*) to let us know

whether a poor man should not exist where a rich man exists. He is preaching democracy in one breath and also talking of autocracy in the same breath. Is the hon. Member saying that where a majority party exists, a minority party should not exist? There must be co-existence of all political parties in Nigeria.

Alhaji Inusa: Whatever the Member for Benin West may say, I am addressing the Chair. I was saying that if that party had not misled its friends in the Eastern Region, this country would have been working smoothly without any trouble. The party won only eight seats during the 1959 elections and when the House met, four of their Members crossed home to the N.P.C.

Last year again, they got a lot of money from their friends in the Eastern Region and found it difficult to explain how they spent the money. The best way for this party is to stop misleading the people.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East): On a point of order, Order 29—irrelevancy. The hon. Member is not contributing to the debate on the Appropriation Bill; he is deviating from the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker: Really, the debate on the Appropriation Bill must be confined to the fiscal policy, and I would insist that such attacks on the various parties should not be carried to the Floor of this House.

Alhaji Inusa: I was only trying to explain the real position so that our friends in the Eastern Region will have confidence in members of the N.P.C. without hearing what those irresponsible people are telling them. If one does not explain such a thing the people will not know what is happening. After all, even from the Eastern Region we have the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*)—

Mr Speaker: Order, will the hon. Member please confine himself to the fiscal policy of the Federal Government.

Alhaji Inusa: We are not backward in this country because we have got God-fearing leaders and our country will continue to grow in prosperity. I say so because during the last constitutional crisis, which we thought would divide this country, our leaders were able to solve the problem. We the members of the N.N.A. are the people who are working for this country to develop peacefully.

[ALHAJI INUSA]

God save the leader of the N.N.A., Sir Ahmadu Bello and may he live long.

Sir, I beg to support.

M. Yakubu Allana (Akwanga) : There is no doubt that Nigeria is a rapidly developing country in Africa, and I would urge the Federal Government to try and stamp out unemployment by establishing more industries in the country. There should be more industries to make use of our cotton and other raw materials. We have enough rivers to make us establish more boat-building and fishing industries.

Also, in trying to establish more industries, the Federal Government should not lose sight of our agriculture which is the backbone of our economy. It is high time we introduced mechanical farming into this country so that our primary school-leavers can have something to do.

May I appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to see to it that the mineral resources in our country are exploited and more money paid for our mineral products, so that we can have more money for further development.

In the field of External Affairs, the role played by Nigeria in the O.A.U. should be commended. By such activities, Nigeria can expect to lead the whole of Africa.

I would like to say something about the "little" election held in Eastern Nigeria where people were forced to vote for the U.P.G.A.—

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, you had previously ruled that Members should confine their speeches to the fiscal policy of the Government. The Member for Akwanga (*M. Yakubu*) has deviated; he is now talking of U.P.G.A. or no U.P.G.A.

Mr Speaker : I have not heard as much to rule him out.

M. Yakubu Allanana : We want to state the fact that how the U.P.G.A. won the last election in the Eastern Region is not fair at all.

Mr Speaker : I cannot allow attacks on political parties.

M. Yakubu Allanana : I want to say something in this House, that the members of the N.N.A. are the only people who are working for the unity of this country. For instance,

the people of the Northern Region are peaceful; the same can be said of the Western Region. But this cannot be said of the Eastern Region where only Ibos and a few Efiks are in power.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East) : On a point of order. It is just a prayer. Please, Mr Speaker, forgive some of them for they do not know what they are talking about.

M. Yakubu Allanana : There is not a single Hausa or Yoruba man working in the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Akwanga (*M. Yakubu Allanana*) please desist from attacking political parties and personalities.

M. Yakubu Allanana : We shall ask our able and respected Premier of the Northern Region to give the Eastern Premier one hundred people from the North to employ. If this is done, it will go a long way to promoting the much talked about unity.

Now, I come to the question of communications. May I respectfully tell the Minister of Communications that Akwanga Division has not got adequate means of communication. It appears Akwanga Division has been left out in the Six-Year Development Plan.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, when we talk of disunity in Nigeria, there must be somebody responsible for it. That is why several hon. Members speaking on the Floor of this House, are making references to those people causing disunity in this country. Therefore, we should allow such speakers to talk about those people that are bringing about the disunity in this country. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

M. Yakubu Allanana : I would like the Minister of Communications to convert the existing sub-post offices in Akwanga Division into full post offices. A sub-post office or a full post office should be built at Nassarawa Eggon because the population of Nassarawa Eggon is the largest in Akwanga Division.

Furthermore, I would like the Minister of Communications to establish postal agencies in all parts of the Northern Region, especially where none exists at the moment. For instance, all rural areas in the Northern Region should be supplied with postal agencies.

May I also appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to try and see to it that Akwanga Division is supplied with electricity. I would also like to appeal to the Federal Government to site industries in Akwanga Division, especially industries like cotton, textile, *et cetera*.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): On a point of order, I would like to refer hon. Members to Standing Order 2, which says —

The proceedings and debates of the House shall be in English language, . . .

I do not know the brand of English language the hon. Gentleman is speaking. What I understand from Standing Order 2 is that the proceedings and debates of the House shall not only be in English, but should be in Queen's English.

Mr Speaker: This is really a case of the kettle calling the pot black.

M. Yakubu Allanana: I would like to assure the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Mbegbu*) that I wrote this speech myself.

I would like the Minister of Works to see to it that the trunk 'A' road from Makurdi to Jos is tarred.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East): On a point of order, it appears Queen's English is what the hon. Gentleman from the East is requesting this House to speak. But if the hon. Gentleman can bring an example of Queen's English spoken in the Eastern Region here, we shall be glad to learn. I am saying this because it is only in the Eastern Region where it is said that "timbers are dragging caterpillars" and "when the come comes to the come"!

M. Yakubu Allanana: The trunk 'A' road from Makurdi to Jos is so bad that during the rainy season, people cannot travel on it with their cars. This road should be tarred in time.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Akor (Ahoada North East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have some observations to make. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his excellent Budget Speech and on the efficient way he has handled the affairs of this Ministry since his tenure of office as the country's Minister of Finance.

I would like, also, to congratulate the Federal Government as a whole on its financial policy as outlined in the Budget Speech. The Government's achievements for the past five years deserve our special praise.

I would like to begin by thanking the Government for its decision to improve agriculture and to encourage farm settlement schemes and institutions in the Federation. This is a very commendable and progressive plan. I hope the Government will be serious about the implementation of its projects because it will solve three things. Firstly, it will boost up the country's economy. Secondly, it will lessen unemployment problems and, thirdly, it will stop the migration of people from the villages to the townships.

Hon. Members will agree with me that many people have deserted their villages to go to big towns where many industries and factories have been established, in order to earn their living and to enjoy modern amenities.

It is not only the modernising of our agriculture that is necessary, the farmers should be provided with ready markets for the sale of their crops. When this is done, our young school-leavers will gladly be able to settle in the villages to take up farming as a profession.

The question of rural development appears to be the present need of the people of this country, because seventy-five *per cent* of our population is made up of people from the rural areas. Hon. Members will also agree with me that there is over-concentration of industries in the urban areas, thus neglecting entirely the rural areas because of lack of electricity and many other modern amenities. Rural area depopulation would surely be checked if the Government would ensure that better water supply, better roads, better medical and health facilities, and cheaper electricity supply could be made available to our villages.

I would like to say something about postal facilities. It appears that the Ministry of Communications has not had any keen interest in upgrading most of the matured Postal Agencies and Sub-post Offices in the rural areas. I say this with particular reference to two Postal Agencies in my constituency, Ahoada North East, which have become overdue for upgrading to Sub-post Offices. They are Okomoko Postal Agency in Echie County

[MR AKOR]

Council area and Elele Postal Agency in Ikwere County Council area which are both in Ahoada Division.

Throughout the period of the last Parliament promises were made by the former Minister of Communications in respect of upgrading all these Postal Agencies to Sub-post Offices, but nothing has been done about them up till now.

I would seize this opportunity, therefore, to appeal to the present Minister of Communications to upgrade these Postal Agencies. I would also ask that telephone and telegraphic facilities be extended to each of these Postal Agencies.

May I now seize this opportunity to express my appreciation for the standard of efficiency shown by our Police Force nowadays. We are really impressed by the improvements shown in our Nigeria Police Force. Their efforts to preserve the internal security of this country and the maintenance of law and order are praiseworthy. In this respect, I appeal to the Federal Government to provide better amenities for our Police Officers, so that they can always give of their best to the nation.

I would also appeal to the Minister in charge of Police Affairs to see that police posts are established in Echie and Elele towns which are both in Ahoada Division. The delay by the Federal Government in opening these police posts is deplored, and I want something to be done about them now. The community has provided quarters for the Police Officers and Offices. What delays the establishment of these police posts is the provision of personnel by the Federal Government.

I would like to congratulate the Government on the progress made so far in the implementation of the Six-Year Development Plan, and I would also thank the Government of the United States for providing a sum of £80 million as loans and grants for the services of this country.

I want to thank the Federal Government also for allocating a sum of £2.7 million out of which the Port Harcourt-Umuezeala road will be developed. This road, I believe, passes through my constituency, and I would like the Minister of Works to do all that lies in his power to see that work is speeded up on this road.

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central) : On a point of order, the democratic way of life of the people of Eastern Nigeria, as well as that of the Eastern Nigeria Government, has made it possible for the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) to win his seat to this House as an independent candidate, but he is now embarrassing the Federal Government by sitting on the Government Bench. He should leave the Government Bench.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has not yet been allocated a seat.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South East) : On a point of order, it then means that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should not speak on the Floor of this House, because it would be contrary to the Standing Orders for an hon. Member to stand and speak from a seat other than the one allocated to him (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Surely, that does not mean that he will not be allocated a seat.

Mr Akor : I understand that this road, when completed, will be an international road, so the people of my constituency owe the Federal Government their gratitude.

May I now say something about the unity of this country. I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by those hon. Members who spoke in favour of the unity of this country.

I would like, in the first place, to congratulate the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, on their efforts to promote the unity and solidarity of this country.

I would also appeal to other leaders of this country to follow the examples of those great leaders by promoting and preserving the unity of the Federation.

Also, I would like, in the interest of—

Alhaji Mahmud Dantata (Kano East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ahoada North East (*Mr Akor*) is advising the regional leaders to emulate the examples of the President and the Prime Minister of this Republic. But I would humbly say that the solidarity and the unity of this country have been made possible now due to the co-operation of the Regional leaders.

House of Representatives Debates

483

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

3 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

484

Without the co-operation of the Regional leaders, that is to say, without the co-operation of the heads of the Regional Governments, I do not think there will be unity in the Centre, more so, especially without the strong co-operation of the Northern Premier, Sir Ahmadu Bello. (*Interruptions*) I would say that the Member for Ahoada North East (*Mr Akor*) is rather going astray and misleading this House.

I hear an hon. Member asking whether I am now opposing the unity of this country. May I say that the possibility of the unity and the solidarity of this country has now been made effective by the co-operation of the Northern Premier.

Mr Akor : I think that the hon. Gentleman did not understand me because I did not mention the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, in my speech. I will say that Regional Premiers also contribute to the unity and solidarity of this country. I am appealing to everyone of us to contribute also to the unity and solidarity of this country.

I would like to suggest that in the interest of unity and solidarity of Nigeria, the country should be split into Provincial States. I will also suggest that the Regional Governments should be abolished, so that we might have a very strong legislature at the Centre and a central Legislature.

Several hon. Members : We want a unitary Government.

Mr Akor : We should elect a President with executive powers. Anything, in my own opinion, which is short of this cannot promote the unity and solidarity of this country. I will, therefore, suggest that this point should be seriously considered during the forth-coming Constitutional review.

I do not agree with those Members who say that the Constitution should not be reviewed. The Constitution was made by the people and if we find that it is not working well and that it is not working to ensure the unity of the country, we will have to revise it and make it a better one. So, I support the idea that the Constitution should be reviewed.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : It is with very mixed feelings that I rise to make a humble

contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill presented by the fabulous Minister of Finance.

In the lengthy preamble to the Budget Speech, this House was treated to a new anti-socialist doctrine based on political and economic heresies. If I may borrow his words, the Minister said among other things that socialism means a complete subordination of individual freedom to the supposed interest of the State. May I say that individuals make up the State and power actually resides in them. The interest of the people is supreme and the State relies on the joint and co-operative activities of individuals for the essential material ingredients of living.

Furthermore, the basic principle of any society is the subordination of individual freedom to the interest of the State. May I ask, if Socialism is un-Nigerian and a violation of the Constitution. Why must it, therefore, constitute an anathema to some people ?

Surely, the freedom that is being advocated is not the freedom by a Minister to run a privileged and protected industry just because our own brand of capitalism knows no code of conduct.

Talking of nationalisation, why are some people scared stiff of the word nationalisation ? In his speech, the Minister of Finance said that since we value our personal freedom very highly nationalisation must be completely unacceptable to all true and honest Nigerians.

May I again ask, what is wrong with the nationalisation of, say, the tin mining industry, petroleum industry, banking and insurance businesses ? These institutions constitute the pride of the nation which must not be left in the hands of foreign monopolistic capitalists. Their nationalisation must, therefore, be acceptable to all true and honest Nigerians who cherish the economic freedom of the nation.

The Minister in his Speech calls for sacrifice by asking everyone of us to set aside part of the fruits of to-day's labour for that investment without which there can be no increase of prosperity tomorrow. This is an excellent idea, but may I ask, what sacrifice does the Minister expect the common people to make ?

[MR FASANMI]

The Government should have shown a better example if, instead of creating about eighty ministerial posts, they created about thirty ministerial posts and, instead of paying fabulous allowances to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, they should have given an example of austerity.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information, the grapes are sour !

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of information, the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) is a member of the U.P.G.A. and he should tell the U.P.G.A. Ministers to withdraw if the Ministers are too many.

Mr Fasanmi : I think that the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) is a disappointed man.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of information, no group of people in this Federation could be more disappointed than the members of the Action Group in the U.P.G.A., in that not a single ministerial appointment was made to a member of the Action Group.

Mr Fasanmi : I would like to assure the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) that those of us on this side of the House are men of principle.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : I am very sorry to hear that the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) is asking that the Ministers should resign. If he were fortunate to have been given an appointment, he would not have come here to talk nonsense.

Mr Speaker : These ministerial clashes must stop.

Mr Fasanmi : The Minister regrets that the Nigerian public has not shown ready response to previous calls for national savings. What does the Minister expect the people to do—people who have not got enough to eat, people who only live from hand to mouth? And, in any case, we have not lived a life of rededication which the Minister was preaching, which will serve as a shining example to the people who look forward to us for succour and guidance.

As I said, how would the Minister go out and tell people to come and make sacrifices

when in this House out of every five Members of the House, one is a Minister of State ! What exactly would the Minister want from the people ?

Another aspect of the Minister's ideological heresies is the contention of what he regards as dangerous doctrines. The Minister says in his speech that these dangerous doctrines will deter genuine investors, leaving only speculators who are not interested in genuine productive investment but in making quick profit to the detriment of our economy. But this is not true. What will actually deter investors from coming into this country is corruption.

One of the junior Ministers of State in the old Government, Mr D. C. Ugwu, said that a businessman was coming into this country and he was to have established a housing industry but the man ran away because some high-ranking people in the Government demanded ten to twenty *per cent* commission from him.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I do not want this new-comer to mislead this House. This matter was raised in the previous Parliament and I remember that the Prime Minister caused this matter to be investigated by the Police. At the end of the investigation, it was proved that the man was not a member of the Federal Government at all. So, the hon. Gentleman should go and preach it elsewhere.

Mr Fasanmi : Perhaps the Minister of Finance would like to give us more information about this particular matter, because the gentleman who made the allegation I am referring to has now been promoted a Minister of State, which means that he is a responsible man.

Now, leaving the political heresy of the Minister, I want to refer to a few things in the Budget Speech and, first of all, I would like to talk about agriculture.

In his Budget Speech, the Minister said, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote :—

Increased productivity in the farm must go hand in hand with industrialisation, and I think that the most fruitful approach to the problem lies in the encouragement of farm settlement.

May I say that farm settlement is more of an experimental venture than anything else. I would like to suggest to the Minister that what we should direct our attention to is something in form of co-operative farming and state farming.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But I said so in my speech. Did the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) not read it ?

Mr Fasanmi : I know that the Minister is now very touchy because of his capitalism.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am sure that the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) will be a poor man for ever.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, what we refer to as African pragmatic socialism does not indicate that a particular group of people should be poor for ever. So, the Minister of Finance is un-African since he wants an African to be poor for ever.

Mr Fasanmi : I thank the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) for his remark. I was almost tempted to ask the Minister to tell this House whether he believes in pragmatic socialism.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I would like to tell my ignorant new-comer Friend, the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) that I shall be replying to all the speeches made by Members on this Bill, and I shall devote a particular portion to his speech.

Mr Fasanmi : I know I have upset the digestive system of the Minister of Finance.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, really, going into the tendencies of this controversy, I begin to wonder whether a wealthy man should be the Minister of Finance in a country like Nigeria where 99 per cent of the people are not wealthy. I think the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) should be the Minister of Finance.

Mr Speaker : I think it is proper for the Minister of Finance to put some of his wealth into some poor pockets.

Mr Fasanmi : Talking further on agriculture, I am very happy that the new Minister of Natural Resources and Research is a very nice

farmer. I would like to invite him to Ekiti where we have very good places where he can carry out farming projects on a very large scale.

I would also like to say that if a proper research is carried out in Ekiti, hon. Members of this House will appreciate the fact that Ekiti can feed the whole populace of Nigeria.

Some hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Fasanmi : I just like to say a word or two on the question of petroleum industry in this country. In his Budget Speech, the Minister painted a very bright and rosy picture of our export earnings on petroleum. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I want to quote the Minister's speech which says :

Hitherto, the Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited has been the only exporter of oil, but I am happy to say that already a second company, the Nigerian Gulf Oil Company, is producing and exporting oil commercially. There is every indication that these two companies will soon be joined by others in contributing to the industry's export earnings, which by conservative estimates are expected to reach a level of not less than £100 million by 1967—

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, it is against the Standing Orders of this House for any hon. Member to stand and read his speech.

Mr Fasanmi : I think that the Member for Wukari (*M. Ali Umaru*) is sleeping. I am referring to the speech of the Minister of Finance.

If I may finish my quotation, Mr Speaker, the Minister continued :

—The balance of payments situation will thus be transformed almost overnight.

May I say that petroleum industry is a very tricky business and I would like to make this humble suggestion that a parliamentary committee should be set up to investigate the revenue accruing from the oil industry and to know how much of this profit is coming to the coffers of the Government.

Again, I would like to touch that aspect of the speech dealing with trade. The Minister in his speech about trade with Eastern countries, and he explained that what we get from the East still accounts for a very relatively insignificant proportion of the total we should get.

[MR FASANMI]

But, may I say that the Government should take a more positive step to see that trade is increased with the Eastern countries, and also that loans, on very generous terms, are taken from them. I know that the Minister of Finance is capable when it comes to handling loan agreements.

Talking further on industry, I am very happy that the Government is becoming conscious of the need for increased industrialisation of the country. As some Members have said, these industries should be sited in the rural areas. May I suggest that more of the industries should be sited in Western Nigeria.

I would also like to say one or two words about the second bridge. In his speech, the Minister said that the Government of Western Germany promised as far back as 1960 to give this country a loan, and that for one reason or the other, there was a delay in granting this loan.

He also said that the loan agreement was eventually signed last September. But may I ask, what are the conditions under which this loan has been granted to Nigeria? Why has there been so much delay in getting the loan and finally, how much has the nation suffered in terms of economic freedom in getting the loan?

Continuing on this subject, I would like to quote the Minister who said as follows:—

I hasten to add that by setting these examples, I do not intend any sort of criticism on our German friends.

I want to say that I too do not intend any sort of criticism on our friends in Germany, but this House would like to know something about this particular loan.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What is wrong with it?

Mr Fasanmi : If the Minister tells us what is wrong with it, we will all know.

Finally, I would like to say something about unemployment. I think one of the social maladies that now afflict this nation is unemployment, and I would like our Government to take a more progressive measure in tackling this problem.

I am sure that if the Minister is prepared to accept a socialist way of life—either progressive, pragmatic or democratic—the question of unemployment will be solved.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : May I know, Sir, how many people are employed in the chemist industry of the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*)?

Mr Fasanmi : I have two Sapele men in my employment!

I would like to conclude my speech by re-emphasising that this country, and indeed, those of us who are Members of this honourable House, should be prepared really to rededicate ourselves to the services of this nation. It is not only a rededication, but a rebirth of some people who do not believe in socialism.

I pray that God should give us men whom the lust of office will not buy, men of honour, men of integrity, men who will not sell this nation for a mess of pottage, men who are truly dedicated to the ideals of pragmatic and democratic socialism.

Mr Speaker : Order! Applause in the Gallery is out of order.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, it is interesting to note that the hon. Gentleman's leader and colleague in the bearded world of socialism lost his deposit in the last election.

Mr Fasanmi : Where?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Dr Otegbeye lost his deposit here in Lagos.

Alhaji Ahmadu Ribadu (Adamawa East) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Budget Speech is interesting and also good. One cannot but give the Government credit for the improvements proposed in the Speech. I appreciate the Government's proposal to develop both the Lagos and Kano international airports.

Also, I would like to pay special tribute to the Minister of Aviation for the deduction made in fares throughout the Northern Region. But, Sir, may I remind the Minister that our landing ground in Yola which was built since 1941 for military purposes needs to be improved. It is fast deteriorating and becoming dangerous for air landing. I hope the Minister will do something now to improve the landing ground.

The other point which I would like to comment upon is connected with the influx of people into the big towns. I am sure that

what has brought people from the rural areas to the big towns is nothing more than the quest for employment. But they are usually disillusioned. I hope the Government will help us to solve this problem of mass unemployment in the rural areas.

The people in the rural areas produce the foodstuffs which people in the towns consume. But unfortunately, there is nothing to reflect the independence of this country in the rural areas. Nobody is suggesting that the villages should look like Lagos, Kaduna or Ibadan, but the rural areas should be provided with the minimum amenities which I think will help to make life worthwhile in those places, and we should stop people from flocking into places like Kaduna, Lagos and the other big towns.

In the President's Speech a few days ago, mention was made of a special recruitment campaign throughout the Federation for prospective candidates in secondary schools for the medical profession. This is very welcome, and I am sure that it will go a long way to help our secondary schools to develop a national outlook.

It is true that the Regional Governments have been doing their best to develop their secondary school education. The Federal Government also must not content itself with the offering of assistance by way of grants and loans to the Regional Governments to develop their educational system. It must set out to make itself known and its activities felt by young men and women throughout the Federation.

I want to say something about transport. This is more or less an appeal to the Minister of Transport, urging him to replace our old ferry boat at Yola with a new one. I am emphasising this point because the replacement of this ferry boat is long overdue.

The point I am making is that this ferry boat conveys not only vehicles but also passengers. There is no doubt that all our people feel quite unhappy whenever the ferry boat is unable to operate I hope something will be done now to stop this disturbing situation happening again.

My final point is connected with the transit trade. The northern part of the Cameroun Republic depends on transit business through Nigerian ports, but unfortunately, there is at present only one legal transit through, and that

is River Benue. But the uncertainty of that River makes the transit trade very difficult.

In addition, there is always some difficulty in obtaining permission for an alternative transit route in good time. Such a delay, Sir, causes a lot of damage and inconvenience. I hope that the Minister of Finance will find an alternative transit route, apart from River Benue, between Yola in Nigeria and Garua in the Cameroun Republic.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Adeniji (Oshogbo North) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the Minister of Finance. The Budget is comprehensive, elucidating and thoughtful, but I have a few remarks to make.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government for the promise made to commence the building of the Flying School at Oshogbo. I hope this promise will surely be fulfilled as soon as possible. And when the scheme is completed, I appeal to the Government to consider the surrounding District Councils, such as Oshogbo, Ede and Irepodun District Councils, so that these people may be given the chance to enter into the School.

Referring to the part of my constituency which consists of three towns—Ilobu, Ifon and Erin—with a population of about 140,000 people, it is sad to see that there is no sub-Post Office there. I think the population of this area justifies a sub-Post Office and the units of business transacted at the Postal Agency also justify it. So, I appeal to the Government to consider this during the current year.

This area, known as Irepodun District Council is just a few miles from the electricity power station at Oshogbo. But it is not enjoying electricity supply at all and I appeal to this House to consider it for electricity supply. I know the Government has made provision for this amenity and I think that this area should be considered for it too.

I want to speak also on pipe borne water supply. I know that it is even though directly the concern of the Federal Government, but the Federal Government has promised to help the Regional Governments by way of grants to meet this demand and I therefore appeal to the Government to do this in time so that the work of the Regional Governments may be hastened. In fact the Regional Government

[MR ADENIJI]

is making necessary arrangements to supply this area with water, and if the Federal Government helps in time, I think this will quicken the action.

The last and not the least is a word on economy. We should not allow wastage in any form, either in money or in energy. Moreover, if a boy is doing something bad and one tries to pet him, that boy may try to do something worse. I therefore call on the Government on the Floor of this House to deal accordingly with a certain political party, the Members of which are time, money and energy wasters, by reducing the number of ministerial posts given to them to serve as a lesson to them. The money allocated to these ministerial posts should be used for the development of the country. The Party which I am referring to is the U.P.G.A. The Government should reduce the number of ministerial posts given to them. This will serve as a lesson to them so that next time they will try to abide by the rules and will not waste Government's money.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Yusufu Ilesha (Borgu): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like, for the first time, if it will not be out of place, to thank Federal Minister of Finance for the way and manner he controls the finances of the Federal Government. I would also like to praise our God-fearing Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for his broad-based Government. Really, the unity of Nigeria is uppermost in his mind.

I congratulate the Government for establishing the Kainji Dam which is in my own constituency. I hope, however, that the Government will also establish a motor and bicycle factory in the area.

I appeal to the Government to intensify its activities in carrying out geological surveys in order to determine the extent of the economic potentialities of Nigeria. This should be done in such places as Yawuri, Kano and New Bussa along the River Niger where work on the Kainji Dam is in progress. I am appealing to the Government to carry out these geological surveys because Kuwait, an Arab country and the biggest oil producer in the world, derives its importance from oil.

Northern Nigeria is near the Sahara Desert and looks like a country in the Sahara. I want the Minister to survey these places intensively for the economic benefit of the country.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the appalling condition of Ilorin to Kaiama road. This road at present connects Lagos with the Kainji Dam site. As a result of much pressure on the road, it has now become bad, and unless early repairs are done, this will deter the progress of work on the construction of the Kainji Dam. This will have a bad effect on the economic growth of the country. The road between Ilesha and Kosubousu should also be tarred. Although this road is a trunk D road, it should now be taken over by the Federal Government.

I must congratulate the Federal Electoral Commission on the way it handled the last Federal elections. But there is one thing which I would like to say, and that is about the composition of the membership of the Commission. I believe that the North was not well represented on the Federal Electoral Commission. Northern Nigeria is the largest Region of Nigeria with a population of about thirty million inhabitants. It should be entitled to have at least about 3 Members on the Commission. I hope the Prime Minister would look into this matter.

Although I do not know the name of the hon. Member who spoke last from the other side of the Chamber, I mean the man with "bear, bear" —(Interruptions).

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central): I object to the language used by the Member for Borgu (*Alhaji Yusufu Ilesha*). He referred to the beard of my Friend on this side of the Chamber as "bear, bear". That is un-Parliamentary and un-English. There is no word like "bear, bear". I think the hon. Member should better learn if he does not know what it is called.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): It is the new Queen's English!

Alhaji Ilesha: I am only sorry that I do not know the name of the hon. Member.

An hon. Member: His name is Mr Ayo Fasanmi.

Alhaji Ilesha: I know now that his name is Mr Fasanmi. We of the N.N.A. Party do

House of Representatives Debates

495

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

3 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

496

not like to criticise anybody, unless there is any act of hooliganism. An hon. Member who spoke a few moments ago has already told Members of the U.P.G.A. that if they did not like to join the Tafawa Balewa Government, they should remain in this House as Members of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker : Surely, this is not a fiscal policy.

Alhaji Ilesha : With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Nwankwu (Onitsha Urban) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to praise the Minister of Finance for the way he planned the **Rededication Budget**. Indeed, the Budget is a masterpiece.

I would like to comment on the Morgan Award for workers. There is a move to ensure that workers enjoy the award. I would appeal to the Ministers of Finance and Labour to see that all the recommendations are implemented. The recommendations are rent control and the pegging of the prices of food-stuffs. Further more, I urge the government to implement, without much delay, all the accepted recommendations of the Morgan Report.

My appreciation goes to the members of the Nigeria Police Force for the way and manner they carry out their arduous assignments. They deserve every praise showered on them.

On the question of the Nigerian Ports Authority, may I ask that the Minister in charge of Ports should make an effort to improve the Onitsha to Asaba ferry service. There is always congestion at both the Onitsha end and the Asaba end, and I appeal to the Government to provide one or two more launches so that the congestion can be eased.

Turning to Fisheries, I only want to appeal to the Government to explore the possibility of setting up a fishing industry at Ogaru in Eastern Nigeria. There abound a large number of fishes in this area, and it is evident that a lot will be derived by setting up a fishing industry in that part of the East.

The Onitsha-Owerri-Port Harcourt road is overdue for widening. There is frequent occurrence of accidents on this road, and unless something is done as a matter of urgency to

widen it, we are sure to lose more lives. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Works to ensure that the work on the widening of this road is carried out expeditiously.

The provision of aerodrome is a matter which touches the minds of many an hon. Member of this House. We have repeatedly been informed that an aerodrome would be provided for Onitsha, but it does not look to me that anything is being done in this regard. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister of Aviation to see to it that this programme is implemented as promised.

The Niger Bridge, we have been told by the Minister of Finance, is nearing completion. May I ask the Minister to augment the money already voted for this project so that some danger-proof railings can be fitted on either side of the bridge.

I observe that no provision is made for rail tracks on the Niger bridge to link the Mid-West and the East. I appeal to the Government to reconsider its stand on this matter.

On the Iron and Steel industry, I understand that an area of land has been acquired by the Government in Fegge, near Onitsha, in Eastern Nigeria for this purpose. The setting up of this industry is long overdue ; it has been on paper ever since it was first mooted, and we would welcome an early implementation of the project.

I would like to seize this chance to congratulate the Shell BP Company for the good conditions of service it created for its employees, notable among which are the free quarters provided for the low-income workers at Eleme, near Port Harcourt, in Eastern Nigeria. This is a clear indication of the company's interest in the well-being of its staff.

In the matter of the Ministry of Information, may I ask the Minister in charge of this arm of the Government to improve the provincial stations of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. I have in mind particularly the Onitsha Provincial Broadcasting Station whose programmes cannot be received by listeners beyond twenty-mile radius of the station.

The delay caused in the Onitsha Post Office is a matter for concern for the people of the town. Onitsha has an abundance of traders, and their precious time is always wasted whenever they have occasion to go to the Post Office

[MR NWANKWU]

to transact any business. Time means money to the traders of Onitsha, and I have to appeal to the Minister of Communications to consider providing the town with a sub-post office (since the population of Onitsha has increased in recent years) or to employ more hands in the Post Office to cope with the ever-increasing volume of work.

The inland town and the Fegge area of Onitsha should now be provided with a sub-post office each in that besides having a population approximating 50,000 people, it has a textile mill, and the proposed Iron and Steel industry is to be sited there. I strongly ask the Minister of Communications to think of putting up a sub-post office in Fegge.

It is observed that the Government is aiding those Moslems going on pilgrimage to Mecca. I want to appeal to the Government to extend this facility to the many Christians who yearn, but have not enough money, to go on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem.

I beg to support.

M. Muhammadu Bello Tili (Gwandu West): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which, in itself, is welcome and satisfying. The Minister of Finance, in his usual scrupulous manner, frankly explained in his speech the things that contribute to our economic ills, among which, he said, was the crisis arising from the last General Election.

I want to appeal to the people of this country, especially to hon. Members, to consider first and foremost the unity of Nigeria. Unity is the foundation stone to any progress achievable by every developing nation, and it should not be treated lightly.

We must forget all political, tribal and religious bitterness. If we do this, we shall be able to bind ourselves together and thwart anything that tends to cause disunity among us, or that tends to retard our progress in the economic, political and other spheres in our nation-building.

If we are to overcome our difficulties, we have to be men and women of conviction, and we have always to bear in mind the eternal saying that truth and love must prevail at all times. Without conviction, truth and love among the people of this country, we shall be unable to forestall any crisis of the nature of that which we experienced late last year.

I would now like to talk about the economic development of this country. The most important factor in the economic development of this country, especially in the Northern Region, which is predominantly a very vast farming area, is agriculture. There are many acres of aluvial soil in this country, especially in Gwandu area where we have over 150,000 acres of arable land. The great majority of the people of this country depend on farming as their means of livelihood and they are always toiling with the little hoe up to the time of reaping their crops. These poor farmers are always disturbed and they always have their progress retarded by the annual over-flooding of their farms.

I should therefore appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to modernise the system of agriculture in this country and to see that this annual over-flooding of our arable land is conquered in order to allow farming to play its full part in the economic development of our country.

A considerable part of the population of this country lives on fishing. These people depend on local and unimproved methods for catching fish and there is no doubt that we cannot have much through this method. I appeal therefore to the Minister of Economic Development to see that methods of catching fish in this country are improved and modernised.

I should also like to say something about roads in this country. This is the concern of the Ministry of Works. There is a road in my area, Gwandu West, known as Trunk Road A15. Let me bring it to the notice of the Minister of Works that this road is now very bad. The bridges are old and narrow, making this road very dangerous for commercial lorries as well as saloon cars owned by civil servants in that area. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Works to consider very seriously a way of improving this road and to take immediate action on what is to be done.

Let me now say a few things about the air strip at Birnin-Kebbi. There is no doubt that Birnin-Kebbi is one of the most important towns in Nigeria to-day. This town is the headquarters of the World Organisation for the Eradication of Malaria. There are many experiments being carried out on this scheme, all in Birnin-Kebbi. I therefore appeal to the Federal Government to convert this air strip at Birnin-Kebbi to an aerodrome.

There are also some important matters concerning our internal affairs that are being carried out in Birnin-Kebbi, and I am sure that the conversion of the air strip in this town to an aerodrome will help in quickening the pace of progress being made in connection with problems of our internal affairs.

I beg to support.

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East): In thanking the hon. Minister of Finance and Leader of this honourable House, I would like to express vividly how much I appreciate the way and manner in which he had presented this year's **Rededication Budget**.

In fact, I have been hearing of series of Budgets being presented by this hon. Minister in this same Parliament for years past. We had the **Sovereignty Budget**, then the **Mobilisation Budget**, followed by the **Moder-nisation Budget** and later the **National Budget**.

The christening of his annual Budgets seems to be very inspiring. But the actual thing that the man in the street thinks daily is that by Nigeria being blessed in meeting with the favours of foreign countries in the field of borrowing money, has she been spending this money budgeted annually wisely?

There is little or no doubt that Nigeria is well established as the most democratic country in Africa, but how far are we surging ahead in the field of building this nation to the grade that would please our children and grand-children, the grade that would make them come and say to us, "Well done good fathers"?

I am sure we have laid the foundation of seeing that we not only create a united Nigeria, but also a democratic Nigeria that will last for long.

Progress and efficiency work hand in hand. Our civil servants, I mean those in the junior segments, need to have a very close gap in their salaries in comparison with their counterparts in the senior segments. After all, a junior clerk on a salary of £15 per month would buy bread, yams, gari and any other edible food at the same price as his senior counterpart on a monthly salary of £100. This does not mean that the Government need to increase wages now, but the only way out is to see that these senior civil servants have about 5-10 per cent

of their annual salaries sacrificed to augment the salaries of the people in the low income group.

Furthermore, all unnecessary allowances, like children's allowance, inducement allowance and so on, should be stopped and the money that should have been spent in paying such allowances should be spent to augment the salaries of the people in the low income group—the junior civil servants. After all, I was a civil servant for complete nine years after my secondary school education and I can rightly say here, Sir, that over 80 per cent of the work being done in the Ministries and in the commercial houses are being carried out by the junior clerks.

We have been blowing our bugles for the past donkey years yearning for true democracy. I have to say, Sir, that democracy as it is commonly known or defined is a system of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people". It enables the people to elect their accredited representatives periodically, and entrust in their care their total destiny, including progress, concord, stability and all other possible means of enhancing the good name of the country and its people.

I wish to point out that this democracy cannot be regarded as complete without the governed being provided with adequate amenities such as good health, good education, good food, adequate living, freedom of expression, freedom of worship, freedom of movement and leisure at work. Nonetheless, the magnanimity of these people must, at all cost, be protected and defended.

I have thought it within me on several occasions that it is high time we said good-bye to our inherited system of government—the multi-party system. In fact, this system of government is not African. Our fathers—the Emirs in the North, the Obas in the West and the Obis in the East—were managing their local areas comprehensively well before the arrival of the British administrators in Nigeria, and yet these rulers attained a standard as near to perfection as is humanly possible.

Our present day politicians are not tolerant and painstaking. To-day, the East will rise against the West, tomorrow it will be the West against the North, and the day after the North against the East. If we will, at this stage of

[PRINCE OLANIRAN]

our progress, reason together and sink our differences, both political and tribal, there is no doubt that Nigeria will stay for aye.

Our neighbouring African states, such as the Republic of Cameroun, the United Arab Republic, Algeria and Ghana, all have the one-party system of government. Let us all come into the open. If Dr the hon. Michael Okpara is the Leader that appears most pleasing to us all, please let us adore him; if it is Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, let us all with one voice follow him; and if it is Chief Obafemi Awolowo, please let us release him and follow him. We have witnessed a lot of bloodshed in this country—son against his father, wife against her husband, brother against his sister—mainly because of political differences.

The Nigerian Government should be proud to have some of her needs produced here in Nigeria and also labelled "Made in Nigeria". May I advise also that these "Made in Nigeria" articles should not necessarily be wholly made here in Nigeria, but that some articles could be imported into Nigeria and then remoulded, not necessarily by a hundred *per cent* Nigerian technicians, but with the attendant supervision of expatriate technicians.

It is high time we started to embark on a wide scope of sending our intellectuals to all parts of the world, East or West, for adequate training. The present rate of our social growth should be met with an equal growth industrially.

Let us improve provisionally on our geological survey system and train more Nigerians further on the possibility of exhuming some of our natural resources lost and yet undiscovered. This, when done, will give our country the necessary sound footing and we will be able to stand firm on our own production, and eventually our blessed Nigeria will be proud of not depending solely on foreign countries for the provision of the articles and materials needed for her industrial use.

There are series of improvements that the Government need embark upon. I will not fail to mention the provision of adequate health and education facilities especially for rural areas. Electricity and communications also should not be left out. Substantial sums of money should be allocated to the Heads of the Estimates dealing with these improvements.

The Ministers of Mines and Power, Education and Health should always be reminded of their duties to the people.

A majority of the people of this country live in the rural areas. How then will they get their own share of the proposed amenities as planned by our Government during this current financial year? How will they help the unfortunate children who have the brains to learn but no finance to go to school? How will the Government help those in the distant rural areas to enjoy adequate health facilities and save them from the hands of medicine hawkers who go about prescribing injections where simple things like APC would have been adequate? How is electricity going to be supplied to these towns so as to make it possible for cottage industries to be established there for the enhancement of the industrial prestige of our beloved country?

I really praise the Government for the way it has been handling the destiny of the people of this country which has been entrusted to it. However, I would like to state categorically that for the past years, my constituency Oshun South-East comprising of big towns like Ikire, Apomu, Ikoyi, Orile-Owu, Gbongan and Ode-Omu has been neglected in the field of education. Electricity has also been denied them as well as good post office and telephone link.

I do hope I am not misquoting the hon. Minister of Communications. In an answer to a question put by an hon. Member from the North as to the qualifications for a postal agency to be converted to a Sub-Post Office, he said that until such a postal agency makes a turn over of up to 18,000 units annually, it cannot be converted. I have to inform the Minister that the Postal Agency in my home town Ikire has got much more than this number of units. It has over 27,000 units. I do sincerely hope the Minister will take immediate steps to convert this to an up-to-date Sub-Post Office.

Our most pressing need now is electricity, and I do appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to put the population of my constituency, which was quoted at 271,000 during the last census, into consideration in the allocation of funds for electricity supply. My constituency is one of the most populous constituencies in this Federation.

We need telephone services. Some officials of the Ministry of Communications visited Ikire some time last year to inspect the site of the proposed post office and telephone exchange, and up till to-day nothing has been done. My people are suffering and it is generally believed that in a community where there is no adequate communication facility life is always very difficult for the inhabitants.

I would now like to speak about our officers of the law. Much as I would commend the efforts of the Nigeria Police during and after the last federal elections in my constituency, I also have a lot of praises for the Judiciary. By this I mean the Magistrates' Courts in my area and not the N.N.D.P. made Customary Courts in the West.

As far as the Nigeria Police are concerned, they have proved beyond any reasonable doubt that they are worthy of their name. Many innocent lives would have been lost, but for thier timely, vigilant and unbiased action.

In this connection, I would like specially to commend the Mobile Police Force. They really did what Napoleon could not have done. As a matter of fact, I would not have been in a position to stand here and address this Parliament to-day but for the Mobile Police Force. On December 7th, 1964, I was attacked by N.N.D.P. hooligans in my own house. That day, my cousin was killed by those thugs, but the timely arrival of the Mobile Police Force saved my own life.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South West) : On a point of order, it is not fair for the hon. Gentleman to be attacking the N.N.D.P. when they are not here to reply.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, I would like to point out that all the hooliganism in the West was brought from the Eastern Region. I was a member of the N.C.N.C. for eleven years and I know all their tactics.

Prince Olaniran : The Member for Ede (*Mr A. A. Raji*), "Dr Sloan" was an N.C.N.C. senior thug when he was in the N.C.N.C. camp.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, I understand the Member for Ede is a native doctor. Is he a herbalist or a registered doctor? This House would like to know.

Prince Olaniran : The Nigeria Police is of the first class order in the world at large and in Africa in particular. The Congo issue is proof of this. If the Nigeria Police is adequately improved, I am sure many of our young boys and girls on leaving school will find pleasure in making the Police Force their career.

I would now like to go over to agriculture. I do appreciate the efforts of our Ministers of Agriculture here in Nigeria. Nevertheless, I would like to implore them to do more on research so as to improve the out-put of our farms and then find profitable markets for the products, all over the world.

The 1964 cocoa episode should by now serve us as a very great lesson. We should therefore find some other friends in the trading world who will be in dire need of our agricultural products. If we have a ready market for our commodities we will be improving the standard of living of a vast majority of the population of this country who are farmers.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Abdul Salami (Ilorin North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. In doing so, I have a few comments to make.

A lot has been said on the Floor of this House about the negligence of the rural areas on the part of the Federal Government. I take this opportunity to refer to my constituency which is Ilorin North. It appears to me that this part of the country has been completely neglected by the Federal Government.

Ilorin North constituency consists of Onire, Paiye, Maleté, Elemere, Ejidogari, Igponrin and Bode Sadu. The most important town is Jebba South which is on the bank of River Niger. This town has not been provided with adequate modern amenities by the Federal Government. It is true, though, that there are a few electric lights dotted about the town.

Another point is that though the town is on the bank of a big river, yet there is inadequate water supply.

Much has been said on the Floor of this House that Trunk 'B' Roads should be taken over by the Federal Government. If this is to be done I appeal to the Minister concerned to

[ALHAJI ABDUL SALAMI]

take into consideration the construction of a road, the distance of which is about fifty-eight miles, through which lorries and cars may ply when the Trunk 'A' road is under repairs. This road branches off from Alapa on Ilorin-Karama road and joins Ilorin-Jebba Road at Bode Sadu.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Tafida (Kazaure): I rise to make some comments on the Budget Speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. In his speech the Minister said:

Let us not forget the farmer in our anxiety to give a fair deal to the wage earner.

I am sure that the above is quite acceptable to all hon. Members of this House because everybody here knows that farmers are not only the backbone but also the heart of any nation. Without farmers, no group of people, whether professionals or otherwise, can exist or survive. In improving farming, therefore, I am appealing to the Minister concerned to give due consideration to irrigation schemes, especially in the North. If this is done in all the Regions of the Federation I am sure that the economy of the country will be much improved and unemployment will be considerably reduced.

I am also appealing to the Minister of Mines and Power to consider favourably the supply of electricity to Kazaure town. About six months ago an electrical engineer came to Kazaure to look round the town. After going round, he told us that he was doing so with a view to supplying electricity to the town. He even went to the extent of showing us a map which contained the layout of the whole place. Later on, he returned to his headquarters to check on certain things and since then we have not heard from or seen him.

I appeal strongly to the Minister of Mines and Power to see that electricity is supplied to us

I beg to support.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed—upon Monday, 5th April.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMY).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 5th April, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

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

Daniel Onwurah Ibekwe

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

White South Africans

O.55. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many white South Africans are still in this country and what are their occupations.

Parliamentary Secretary (M. Salihu Abdul): There are at present 28 white South Africans resident in Nigeria—twenty-three are serving as teachers and medical practitioners in various Missions, three are employed in mercantile houses by private firms, one is a medical practitioner and university lecturer, one is a housewife of a black South African employed as an Education Officer.

The General Elections

O.139. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how much was spent on the December 1964 and March 1965 General Elections respectively.

M. Salihu Abdul: The amount spent in respect of the General Elections in 1964-65 including delimitation, registration, preparation and printing of Registers and construction of pooling booths is roughly £3.1m.

INDUSTRIES

Cottage Industries

O.85. Prince Ademola Olaniran asked the Minister of Industries what plans he has for establishing cottage industries in rural areas.

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye): The establishment of Cottage industries is the responsibility of the Regional

Governments. The Federal Government, however, continues to assist them by providing necessary staff in some cases, and by giving loans.

WORKS

Mararraba-Pambeguwa Road

O.56. Malam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Works when the Mararraba to Pambeguwa Trunk Road "A" will be tarred.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Bala Dutsinma): There is no provision for the tarring of the Mararraba-Pambeguwa Trunk Road "A" because of limited funds.

Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed: I would like the Minister to consider making such provision.

Zaria-Pambeguwa Road

O.57. Mallam Yushau A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Works what is the total cost of the improvements to the Zaria-Pambeguwa Road.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma: The Zaria-Pambeguwa road is a Trunk Road "B" which is the responsibility of the Government of Northern Nigeria.

Mechanical Stores Inquiry

O.58. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Works if the Federal Public Service Commission has taken any action as a result of his recommendations on the Investigations and Recommendations made by the Board of Inquiry appointed to investigate the irregularities resulting in an expenditure of £4,416-7s-8d in his Ministry for Local Purchase of Mechanical Stores and what was the action taken.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma: The Federal Public Service Commission decided that the probationary appointment of one of the three officers involved should be terminated; that another should be severely reprimanded and should, in addition, lose his increment for one year, and that a third be also severely reprimanded.

The decision of the Commission has been implemented in each case.

Agege Motor Road

O.59. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Works if he proposes to expand the Trunk Road known as Agege Motor Road and when work will start.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : Yes Sir. It is proposed to expand the road to dual carriage-way standards from the Idi-Oro round-about to C.F.C. factory. The work on this project will start as soon as funds are available.

Western Avenue

O.60. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Works if he will give the reasons why he has not started to construct the second lane of the major road along Western Avenue from the round-about near Iganmu to the round-about at Surulere despite his statement on the Floor of the House in 1963 that the work would soon commence.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : Work has not started because of lack of funds. When the statement referred to by my hon. Friend was made in 1963 there were indications that external finance would be forthcoming. This has, however, not materialised. In any case, negotiations are now going on for the financing of this project.

East-North Trunk A Road

O.86. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Minister of Works if he will improve the condition of the Aliade-Makurdi Trunk Road "A" and re-tar the Obolo-Aliade Trunk Road "A".

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : The reconstruction of the Aliade-Makurdi Trunk Road "A" will be done during the present economic programme when funds are available. Consideration is now being given to carrying out some rehabilitation work on the Obolo-Aliade Trunk Road "A".

Onitsha-Port Harcourt Road

O.87. Mr G. A. Eze asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware of the fact that the narrow bridge at mile 23 along Onitsha-Port Harcourt trunk 'A' road constitutes a great danger to the life of a driver; and if he will state what plans he has to arrest this situation.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : The replacement or widening of the bridge at mile 23 on the

Onitsha-Port Harcourt road will be done when funds are available for the reconstruction of the Onitsha-Owerri road.

Onitsha-Nnewi-Aba Road

O.88. Mr J. O. Nwankwu asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the narrow bridges on Trunk 'A' Road running from Onitsha via Nnewi to Aba, particularly the Idemili bridge, are causing a lot of accidents; and if he will state when he hopes to have these narrow bridges replaced with wider ones.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : It is proposed to reconstruct the Onitsha-Owerri road as soon as funds are available during the present economic programme. The replacement or widening of the bridges on the road will be done during the reconstruction.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that the Shagamu-Benin-Asaba road is meaningless economically unless and until the Onitsha-Owerri road has been modernised?

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : I am not aware.

Guardrails for Niger Bridge Head

O.89. Mr J. O. Nwankwu asked the Minister of Works, whether there is any plan to make a fence round the Niger Bridge Head in order to give adequate protection to the users of the Bridge.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : There is provision for the erection of guardrails on high embankments on the Niger Bridge Head to give adequate protection to users of the bridge.

O.93. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Works, how much was spent on the reconstruction of Ikorodu Road which was damaged by floods in 1963.

Alhaji Bala Dutsinma : £123,213-16s-10d was spent for the reconstruction of the flooded stretches of Lagos-Ikorodu Road in 1963.

Mr Speaker : Questions numbers O.61, O.62, O.94, O.95 and O.96 stand postponed.

AVIATION**Proposed Onitsha Aerodrome**

O.97. Mr J. O. Nwankwu asked the Minister of Aviation, when he hopes to start work at the proposed Onitsha Aerodrome as the land for the site has been provided.

The Minister of Aviation (Dr Jaja Wachuku) : The Onitsha Aerodrome Project is constantly engaging the attention of my Ministry. However, as the Member for Onitsha, Urban (*Mr Nwankwo*) is aware, a considerable amount of planning and investigation is necessary before actual work on a project of this nature could begin.

Local Flight Fares

O.98. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Aviation, what proposals he has for reducing fares on all local flights in order to attract more customers for the Nigeria Airways.

Dr Wachuku : Arrangements have already been made to reduce fares on some of the internal routes. I shall examine the possibility of reducing fares on other internal routes as soon as it is expedient.

"WAAC" Nigeria Airways

O.99. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Aviation, why the name 'WAAC' is still associated with the Nigeria Airways even though "Nigeria Airways" is used in all publicity works, aircraft markings and decorations.

Dr Wachuku : The old name represented by the letters "WAAC" is still retained in certain documents and used in some cases so that Nigeria Airways may benefit from the goodwill which the old West African Airways Corporation had built up over the years.

Co-ordination with African Airways

O.100. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Aviation, what efforts he is making to co-ordinate the activities of the Nigeria Airways with those of other national Airways in Africa ; and whether he is aware that this is the quickest way of effecting African Unity.

Dr Wachuku : A joint report on Air Transport in Africa prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Civil Aviation Organisation recommended very strongly the formation of sub-regional airlines in Africa. These two bodies jointly organised the All African Air Transport Conference held in Addis Ababa in November 1964. The Conference at which Nigeria was represented

endorsed the idea of forming sub-regional airlines in Africa and recommended that all the sections concerned should consult and try a grouping acceptable to the member countries.

Before the Conference, however, my Ministry had sent delegations to the member countries of the proposed West and Equatorial sub-region. The response is excellent and a conference on this subject is being convened in Lagos shortly.

I am aware that this is one of the ways of effecting African unity.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : I want to say welcome to the Minister and to ask what he intends to do in regard to the Shofola-affair.

Ibadan Aerodrome

O.101. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Aviation, when work on the extension of Ibadan Aerodrome will commence.

Dr Wachuku : The existing aerodrome is capable of accepting the type of aircraft calling at the aerodrome now and in the foreseeable future. If the need for larger runways arises in the future, it will be necessary to look for another area to develop since the present site of the aerodrome does not lend itself to further extension.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House may sit at the following times :—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.;

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. and

From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

Hon. Members realise that in accordance with our practice there are a number of hours that should be allocated for the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Since the House had been unanimous in saying that we should adjourn for the recess on Friday, and Friday being half a day, it is essential that we must have some time to make up the number of hours. This is the reason I have asked the House to sit till midnight to-day so that Members who want to speak might have the opportunity of speaking on the Appropriation Bill.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House may sit at the following times:—

From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. ;
From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

**ORDER OF THE DAY
APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL**

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(31ST MARCH)

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr I. E. Nyong (Eket North East): On a point of order, my name is put down in Saturday's *Hansard* as E. N. Inyang instead of I. E. Nyong.

Mr Speaker: This is a matter which the hon. Gentleman should settle with the Editor of *Hansard*.

Mr V. A. Nwaleji (Nsukka West): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which asks for £78,221,510 for the services of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for 1965 to 1966. In doing so, I have these observations to make.

This year's Budget entitled "Rededication Budget" is historical in that it is the first Budget to be presented to the newly elected Parliament. I congratulate the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. Those hon. Members who were in the last House will bear witness that this was typical of him.

Members on all sides of the House will agree with me that it is difficult for one to describe in full the noble qualities of the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. Those hon. Members who were in the last House will bear witness that this was typical of him.

In paying tribute to the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for reappointing Chief Okotie-Eboh to this very important Ministry, I have to say, very emphatically, that Chief Okotie-Eboh, long before his re-appointment, had proved to the parliamentary world that he is very capable of holding the portfolio.

His energetic and tireless nature cannot be praised too much. His diligence, patience, carefulness and high sense of duty are a glaring proof that he is a match for the post. The long hours for which the Minister of Finance stood to deliver his Budget Speech with commendable precision, defying fatigue, is another proof of his great strength and skill. Indeed, Chief Okotie-Eboh, is a credit to Nigeria, and we the Members of this honourable House and the entire people of Nigeria that we represent here, are very proud of him.

Much was said by hon. Members here about the unity of this country during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Speech from the Throne. I stand now to associate myself, most unequivocally, with the views expressed by Members, that nothing is as important to us as the unity of our dearly beloved Nigeria.

In this regard, I pay a glowing tribute to the President and the Prime Minister for the able, wise and amicable solution which they effected to the constitutional crisis which arose in the country after the 30th December, 1964 Federal elections. If the crisis were left to grow, it would have turned Nigeria into another Congo, and the world would have made a mockery of our independence. God would not allow that. We owe a world of gratitude to the President and the Prime Minister for their wisdom and statesmanship, and we wish them God's guidance.

I appeal to all Nigerians, especially the leaders, to put the unity of our Republic at the fore-front, exert all efforts and make sacrifices in order to maintain it. On unity rests the progress of Nigeria and the happiness of Nigerians. Tribal sentiments which go with prejudice, rancour, hatred, favouritism and nepotism, should have no abode in our minds.

It is humiliating and provocative that some very important personalities in Nigeria and certain tribal or political organisations indulge, from time to time, in attacking the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and his sacred and high office. This is an insult to the country and to us all. I have never heard of any country in the world where such obtains. I call on all those people and such organisations involved in this scandal to desist from making utterances disrespectful to the Nigerian Head

of State and his high office, in the interest of peace, unity and tranquillity of the country.

If our Government is the Government of the people, by the people and for the people of Nigeria, every effort should be made to make it felt by the people everywhere in the country. In very many provinces in Nigeria, people do not see or understand what the Federal Government has done, or is doing. They do not even know, in persons, many of their Ministers, who run their Government. They want to see them and tell or show them their needs.

By seeing the conditions under which our people live, the Government will hasten to their rescue by providing them with all possible and necessary amenities. At this juncture, I will appeal to the Ministers to find time for getting in touch with the people in the provinces and I want the Prime Minister to take the initiative.

The greatest social malady in our country to-day is unemployment. This is now lending a helping hand to all the evils now rampant in the country. The sooner a solution is found to it, the better.

The solution to the problem of unemployment is the establishment of industries all over the country. I want the Federal Government to have a Ministry of Agriculture. This will provide farm settlements in the country where school leavers will be absorbed. Let the Federal Government take their example of this from the Eastern Nigeria Government, which has established a good number of farm settlements. Now, farming alone is the sure foundation of lasting solvency.

The Government should also examine the possibility of establishing fishing industries. I want one to be established at the Anambra River between Onitsha North and Nsukka West. The Government can encourage intensive agriculture by giving loans to deserving farmers, and by organising special local courses for them. Indigenous businessmen should also be encouraged by giving them loans and by according them preference where they qualify in the award of contracts.

Another very important requirement of the people in the provinces is means of transport. I hope, in this respect, I am speaking for all hon. Members from the provinces and for their constituencies. We want many roads tarred.

Let the Federal Government take over many roads from the Regional Governments, and have these roads properly maintained.

In my Division, I want the Government to take over the Nsukka-Idah Road and have it tarred. I want the Government also to construct a solidly permanent bridge across the Ezu River, which separates my own section of Nsukka Division from Onitsha Division.

Speaking on communications, I should say that there should be at least one post office in every Federal constituency with adequate telephone services. This will enable Members to get their meeting summons in time and to communicate Parliament in time of necessity or urgency.

The post office at Nsukka—the only one for that large Division—needs expansion and sufficient and suitable staffing. This will ease the congestion which is becoming alarming there. It is disappointing that to buy stamps or register letters at this post office becomes a full day's job. Something must be done forthwith to improve the situation.

The Nigeria Police have, for a long time now, been doing very excellent work. They need encouragement in the way of emoluments and amenities. These include decent, furnished and equipped quarters for them.

At Nsukka, the senior Police officers like D.S.P., A.S.P. and inspectors have no quarters. The Government should provide them with quarters so that they will believe, like others, that the same fair treatment is meted to all senior police officers everywhere in the country; consequently, some of them may not take their transfers to some places in the Republic as punishment.

In thanking the Federal Government for establishing a police post at Obollo Afor in Nsukka Division, I will ask the Government to establish one more at Umulokpa and another in Enugu Ezike in the same Division.

It is deplorable to note that cases of highway robbery are becoming too many in the country this time. The Nigeria Police must be more vigorous in their efforts to track them down. It is my suggestion that when these robbers are caught, they should be given life imprisonment by the courts of justice. Unless this becomes the case, their inhuman acts cannot be stopped.

[MR NWALIEJI]

Another notorious act in this country is slavery. This evil practice was abolished a long time ago. It is disgraceful that, even at present, one hears of it from time to time. It is a fact that the Police have often caught people who intend to sell some children. This is a disgrace to the nation. I suggest again, that legislation be introduced by the Federal Government so that if and when a case of slavery is established against anybody in Nigeria, that person should be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Two other vicious practices in this country worthy of mention are smuggling and the question of Indian hemp. Smuggling does the economy of the country a great harm. Indian hemp is dangerous and illegal article of trade.

People indulge in them not because of lack of employment but because they are dishonest and bad citizens, who are clever enough to have the undue advantage of cheating the Government through smuggling. By growing and selling Indian hemp, these bad citizens endanger and reduce the lives of other people; worst still, those who indulge in these evil practices, more often than not, escape unpunished by the law.

These two evils should be legislated against in such a way that punishment for each offence should be heavier than ever before.

What stops the Minister of Mines and Power from conducting a comprehensive survey of the country in order to find out where mineral deposits exist? By finding out where these mineral deposits exist and by tapping them, the economy of the country will be raised. The sooner this survey is done the better and I want it to start immediately at Nsukka where it has been discovered that there are some mineral deposits.

It is said that there is coal at Ezimo in Nsukka East, coal at Uvuru, gold at Ukpata and Obimo in Nsukka West.

On the question of education, I would like the Federal Government to make the standard of primary education the same throughout the Federation. If the standard of secondary education is made uniform all over the Federation, I do not see why the standard of primary education should not be made uniform. After all, it is the children from the primary schools who go to the secondary schools.

I also crave the Federal Government to raise the salaries of teachers and to make these salaries uniform throughout the Federation. Nigeria is one. Therefore, salaries of teachers of the same grade should not differ with different Regions of the Republic.

I beg to support.

M. Abubakar A. Ibrahim (Muri South-West): I support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill that has been so ably moved by the able Minister of Finance. I congratulate him for such a brilliant Budget Speech. It is indeed a masterpiece of budgetary eloquence.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister for two reasons. Firstly, he should be congratulated for peacefully resolving the recent constitutional crisis evoked by the December 1964 elections; and secondly, for the formation of the recently announced well-balanced and most promising broadly based Federal Government. I assure him of my fullest personal support and loyalty on all the tasks that lie ahead.

I now propose to reiterate most emphatically some of the points raised on the Floor of this honourable House and on the Floors of almost all the Regional Houses of Assembly. These points are on Nigeria's Foreign Relations and on our national unity.

In and around these focal points lie the entire nation's hope. This country must unite to ensure a stable Government upon which our very existence as a prosperous nation lies. Recent speeches and statements made in and outside the nation's Legislatures indicate clearly a wholesome desire to unite. The tormenting question, therefore, is how to unite and keep a lasting unity for ourselves and generations to come.

This subject of unity has already been spoken on at length. So I intend to touch only the side issues and make very brief suggestions. I am convinced, more than ever before, that the greatest calamity facing us to-day is the country's inability to unite. I share the views of the Minister of Finance here that this formidable situation has been created mainly by the birth, after independence, of what he correctly described as a cankerworm—the induced and self-styled socialists.

This House as well as the whole nation has been warned of the dangers of this cankerworm

by the Minister of Finance, when he said in his speech, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to quote:—

"I must draw the attention of this honourable House to a cankerworm which, if we allow it to grow fat and multiply, will surely destroy the economic fabric of the Nation."

The Minister has fully described and told us that that cankerworm is the new socialism. He went further to tell us how this worm destroys our economic fabric. He said:—

"If people misusing the freedom of which I have already spoken, continue to make irresponsible calls for nationalisation, rabid socialism and the like, an impression of confusion and uncertainty is created which does immense harm to Nigeria's economic prosperity."

The impression of confusion and uncertainty that the Minister is referring to, is, I am sure, no more than those created during the three major national crises the severest of which was the historic constitutional deadlock. We all now know where the blame for the precipitation of these crises lies.

May God bless and forgive these sinners, but by Jove, He cannot bless and forgive the Federal Government for failing the Nigerian masses with whose consent and mandate, we are all honoured to be present in this House. We, the honoured representatives of the Nigerian people to-day, are expected to do nothing short of building a solid base upon which to lay a stable and democratic Government for a united and prosperous Nigeria of tomorrow.

It is at this juncture that I intend to draw the attention of the Federal Government especially that of the Prime Minister, whom we all know and honour as one who is unshakeable in the cause of justice and fairness, to the fact that Nigeria cannot afford by any means, to house intriguers and shelter political confusionists.

Nigeria has no room for "cankerwormism." Nigeria needs, above all other things, I repeat, above all other things, peace, stability and solidarity. We need to be original and unique, not only in Africa but in the whole world, rather than become copy-cats.

Is it not better to inherit the property of a dying brother and own it forever than borrow property from a "Shylock" only to repay it at a

later date in flesh and blood? Is it not better to eat our improved *gari*, *moinmoin*, *foofoo*, *tuwo*, *et cetera*, in peace rather than resort to the eating of Irish potatoes, steaks and ice creams, knowing fully well that thousands of us would at the end perish through starvation because we can no longer afford to buy and eat these things?

Is it not better to preserve and wear the unique *riga*, especially in these tropical climates where temperatures are most of the time peaked up to 90°F., rather than wear the tightfitting English worsted woollen coats?

Should we jealously and proudly protect Nigeria's uniqueness in Africa or liquidate it and disintegrate her to throw away her half-living limbs to dogs to devour?

Should we now be wise to face immediate realities and boldly accept challenges thrown to us by independence and federalism, knowing fully well that only when we do that shall Nigeria be saved from disintegration and subsequent doom or should we still continue to provide meals for vultures?

I do not intend to waste the time of the House by asking series of lengthy questions but rather, I am trying to bring home to the minds of hon. Members and the entire Nation, in the best ironical manner I can, answers to one or two questions I would now beg leave to ask.

These questions are:—Is Parliamentary democracy by irony of destiny, Nigeria's *bona fide* heritage? That democracy coupled with an enviable brand of British respect for justice and fair play, love for peace, freedom and liberty—the price of which the Britons paid with sweat and blood over the centuries—was given to us and by God's will and entrusted into the hands of the Prime Minister, a man of great courage, wisdom, foresight and the fear of God?

Has not Nigeria's ship of destiny, captained by the Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, been steered carefully, steadily but surely through the rough oceans of the modern age?

Has Nigeria at any given time lamented and regretted for lacking the required leadership as an emergent nation whose economic development lies entirely on external aid and support, be it from a socialist or democratic republic?

[M. ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM]

Why then should Nigeria disown and disinherit parliamentary democracy and shamelessly borrow socialist horrors and confusions such as are rampant in the so-called socialist republics?

I submit that our most urgent needs to-day are, to borrow the words of the President :

"...strengthening of our national unity, the preservation of cherished liberties under the law and the furtherance of progress, peace and stability throughout the country."

To do this positive steps must be taken. Let us all swim in the same ocean and under the single banner which we honourably inherited.

I urge, therefore, and with malice towards none, but with affectionate love and hope for the unity and solidarity of Nigeria, that legislation be introduced to outlaw socialism, be it scientific or pragmatic in nature. That is the only way by which an uninterrupted atmosphere of calm which is conducive to progress, peace and stability can be attained. We shall all support it because it is no more than a fulfilment of a long overdue promise by the Prime Minister. He promised, when he was lifting the ban on communist publications in 1960, to restore the ban whenever need be. There has never been and there would never be a more appropriate time than now for him to fulfil this promise.

The United States had done it and Britain virtually did it. Nigeria could not be more democratic than these states. Let it not be too late for us to do so.

May I now stress the need for us to exercise more realism in our approach to external issues which are designed to provoke us in particular and the dignity of man in general. I have in mind the intention to urge the Government to take a more positive step in her attitude towards Southern Rhodesia, the United States Policy in Vietnam and the actions of Ghana, our cantankerous sister-state.

Surely, a unilateral declaration of independence by the white-minority Government of Southern Rhodesia will be an infringement of the universal liberties of man. I pray that the Federal Government will regard this act as a rebellious one and refuse to recognise any such white minority government, if formed.

The supply of gas by the United States for use in the Vietnamese war is highly deplorable and Nigeria should join hands with the other states to protest to the United States Government against the supply of gas to South Vietnam.

Such an act grossly infringes international convention and decency and deals a deadly blow to free democracy. We should protest and advise the government of the United States about this and I am sure that as a reliable friend she will listen.

I have now come to realise that Ghana needs a bit of coaching in the art of good manners and modesty by Nigeria, just as an elder sister coaches and brings up her naughty and reckless younger sister to acquire decent manners. For this reason, I would agree that Nigeria should not be too hard on Ghana at the moment for she knows not what she does. But provocations and acts of subversion should not, nonetheless, be taken too much for granted.

I suggest the formation of a strongly manned Nigerian delegation, to be headed by our High Commissioner in Ghana, to handle the issue of Ghana's constant hostile attitude towards Nigeria. The delegation should sit at a round-table conference with Ghanaian authorities, to resolve the past and present differences between the two sister states.

We have always left Ghana alone peacefully and we deserve to be paid back in our own coins. Nigeria needs peace and unity, and we shall have it because in unity lies strength and faith. Long live a united Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Abbas Rahah (Gwoza) : I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill for 1965-66. In doing so I would like to associate myself with the Members who have already spoken and congratulated our able Minister of Finance on the able way in which he presented his Budget Speech.

I very well know that whether I support the Appropriation Bill or not it will surely be passed by this House. Because of this I would not hesitate to air my views and the views of my constituents on the matters which affect us.

The Minister of Finance is seeking the authority of this honourable House to spend the sum of more than £78 million for the services of the Federation for the year ending on the 31st of March, 1966. But during the

1963 Budget Meeting of this House I made it clear that I come from the rural area of Gwoza in Sardauna Province of the Northern Region of Nigeria. I then strongly appealed to the Government to give due consideration to the rural area in the sharing of amenities.

I called the attention of the Government to the demand of my constituency that the road from Pulka to Kirawa should be extended to reach the boundary of the Cameroun Republic. This road is very important for the transportation of cotton. About 50,000 tons of cotton are transported through this road each year. An immediate improvement of this road will no doubt help to bring about a rapid economic growth to this country.

To my surprise no attempt was made during that year. Consequently I repeated my appeal to the Government during the Budget Meeting of 1964 and nothing was done also. This time I am repeating my appeal for the third time, hoping perhaps that a change of mind will take place. I do not like to cause any confusion by making a repeated appeal to this honourable House. My sole aim is to achieve that very objective.

May I here appeal to the Government on the inter-tribal unrest being caused by the settlers along the Nigerian and Cameroun Republic border. There is still much looting, confiscation and thieving of our property and animals, especially cattle, in this area. Unless some preventive measure is taken on international level this unrest will continue to grow worse.

I also appealed to the Government some-time ago to see to the completion of the Bama to Soye road which is only eleven miles long. It is part of the work left over during the construction which was done in 1959 by the Federal Ministry of Works. Nothing however has been done by the Government to complete the work. I do not know where we should direct our appeal to. Should we appeal to the government of Mr Ahidjo of the Cameroun Republic? This is what I cannot tell.

The people of my constituency will not be happy to hear that I gave my wholehearted support to this Bill without having assured the inclusion of the Pulka-Kirawa road as one of those to be completed this year. I want something positive to be done about it in this financial year.

It is very interesting to note that the Government already has in view the development of postal services, particularly in the rural areas where it is hoped the present policy governing the establishment of postal agencies and post offices will be revised. To be frank, a revision of the policy is one thing and the implementation of the revised policy is another thing.

I would like all the Members of this honourable House to know that the Gwoza Postal Agency in the Northern Division of Sardauna Province in the Northern Region attained the 18,000 units since 1962, yet the Government has not found it possible to convert it into a Sub-Post Office.

I hope that all the Members of this House will agree with me that it will be advisable to call the Minister of Communications to make a categorical statement on the Floor of this House that immediately any Postal Agency attains the required units there will be no further delay in converting such a Postal Agency into a Sub-Post Office.

It has been noted that the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will extend its generating capacity to meet the growing demand for electricity. If that is so, all the Members from the rural areas will agree with me that such a programme is a welcome one. But who can tell for certain that the expansion of the generating capacity will cover the rural areas? However, I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Government to provide the following towns Mubi, Bama and Gwoza, with electricity.

I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which, as usual, was ably presented to this Legislature by the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. His speech reviewed the country's financial gains and losses of the past year, 1964 and presents new financial policies for the present financial year, 1965-66. It also calls for sacrifice.

The Minister has once more called for more sacrifice on the part of Nigerians by way of local savings which would help to step up the pace of development in Nigeria. This is all right and I hope Nigerians will be equal to the occasion, but I want to appeal to the

[MR ELEKE]

Minister of Finance to remember every section of the Federation whenever development plans are made and amenities shared.

As I say this, I want to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the plight of those of us who live outside Lagos and other capital towns of the Federation.

Industries should be established in rural areas for the benefit of all unemployed school leavers who are on the increase every year. Unemployment must be arrested at all costs. It is a threat to the peace and prestige of this nation.

The supply of electricity to every part of this Federation is essential. Apart from the fact that it attracts industries, electricity is necessary for the well-being of the people who use it. There is no need for some sections of the country to have light and others are allowed to grope in darkness.

Many hon. Members have repeatedly asked that postal facilities be extended to the rural areas. I share their views, but I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications through you, Mr Speaker, to a new type of Post Office put up by community efforts at Ekiti County Headquarters in Okigwi Division. The building has been completed.

We are eagerly waiting for the Minister of Communications to come and inspect it or cause it to be inspected in accordance with the policy already formulated by the Federal Government. The establishment of a full departmental Post Office in the area, which is one of the most thickly populated parts of the country, is overdue.

On free primary and secondary education, I do not know how justifiable it is for the Federal Government to cater for only the school children in Lagos, leaving the rest of the children in other parts of the Federation to their fate. I think that in order to be fair there should be free primary and secondary education for all children throughout the Federation. The Federal Government should foot the bill. This can be done by annual grants to the Regional Governments. After all, the Federal Government is supposed to be the father of every child born in Nigeria and a good father caters for the education of all his children without discrimination.

There is much need for exploitation of our mineral deposits scattered all over the country.

It is important that all prospectors in the country should intensify their activities in order to find out more oil deposits that have not yet been discovered. Apart from oil there are other mineral deposits in the hinterlands such as lead and zinc, awaiting to be exploited.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Shell B.P. for their generosity in offering secondary and university scholarships to Nigerian children. This is worthy of emulation by other companies.

I would now like to speak on markets for our cash crops. Our cash crops are our sources of wealth. When the price goes down as it has been of late, the producers suffer terrible financial set-back. We appreciate the Federal Government's efforts to negotiate for higher and better prices for our products. If more markets are found elsewhere overseas, the goods will have a wider scope for their sales and their prices will accordingly rise.

I wish to make a very brief remark on the much-talked-of unity of Nigeria. Every Member who stands up here comments on the unity of Nigeria. All the political parties and their leaders have faith in the unity of Nigeria. Everyone of us is agreed on it. The unity of Nigeria is already in existence. It is here with us. But the unity of this country is sick, very sick indeed.

It is our duty to find out the cause of this illness and then prescribe the right treatment for it. This is the only way by which we can help to preserve the unity of this country. It is the concern of every Nigerian, especially our leaders.

If we want to preserve the unity of Nigeria, we must learn to check and weigh all what we say and what we publish in the daily newspapers. There is no need for any person or section of this country to make wild, malicious and provocative statements and publications against another section and believe that the other section would keep quiet in order to preserve the unity of the country.

Fair and equitable distribution of federal amenities to every part of the Federation is very important, if we really want unity. Let the leaders be fair in everything and avoid cheating. There should be no domination, nepotism, selfishness and avarice. Equal opportunities should be given to everybody in the country.

We must avoid distrust and suspicion of one another. There must be mutual respect for every section of the Federation. We must kill tribalism, tribal hatred, tribal jealousy and tribal prejudice. They must be killed properly, if necessary, by legislation. Our leaders must learn to be tolerant, patient, accommodating and forbearing. There must be respect for the leaders irrespective of their political leaning, tribe or Region.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, I thought the Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Eleke*) said that tribalism killed the U.P.G.A.

Mr Eleke : That is not a point of order. The Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) wants me to know that he no longer sits on the Ministerial Bench.

I feel that this country should be split into small and manageable states ; if possible, the present provinces should become states with a strong Federal Government based in Lagos. If these things are done, the unity of this country will be preserved.

I beg to support.

M. Muhammadu Kumo (Ako) : I rise to support the **Rededication Budget**, the largest Budget in the history of Nigeria, ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

In the speech of the hon. Minister, he placed before the nation the recurrent and capital expenditure estimates of the Federal Government for the year 1965-66 and he told this honourable House the progress so far made with the country's Six-Year Development Plan. The Minister explained that the Six-Year Development Plan, which is the corner-stone of our development, is making good progress. I hope all the projects in the Plan will be completed before the expiration of the six-year period.

The hon. Minister told Parliament in his speech that we had a trade gap of £41 million in 1964 as against £18 million in 1963. I hope every effort will be made to narrow the gap in 1965. If we want to narrow this gap quickly we should establish more industries which will make use of our cocoa, cotton, groundnut and other raw materials. The prices of these goods have fallen in the world market and we should do everything possible to see that we get more money for our products.

This country is rich in mineral deposits, especially limestone. There are three known large deposits in Northern Nigeria and one of them is in Ashaka in Bauchi Province on the new Bornu railway extension, 150 miles from Maiduguri. It would be very good if a cement industry can be established in Ashaka since it is on the railway line and very near to the neighbouring countries of Chad and Cameroun. This industry, if established, will serve these countries and the north-eastern provinces of Northern Nigeria and help Nigeria's balance of payments.

It is a well-known fact that Nigeria is an agricultural country and there is a call by our leaders for our young men to go back to the land. Agriculture is very important and I would appeal to this Government to establish a Ministry of Agriculture which will cater for the modernisation of our agriculture. This should be done in co-operation with the Regional Ministries of Agriculture, and the Federal Minister appointed should carry out an extensive tour of the country to familiarise himself with the needs of the country.

In the case of Northern Nigeria, what we want is the introduction of tractor farming. Taking Gombe Division as an example, the Division produces the largest quantity of cotton annually. There are, at the moment, three cotton ginneries in the area, and if these are developed to modern standards, I am sure Gombe Division will produce all the cotton we need for all the textile mills we have in this country. The Government should also think of establishing a textile mill in Gombe.

The Federal Government should also do something to help our indigenous traders and transport magnates. These people are at the mercy of big foreign combines from Europe and the Middle East. Our transporters suffer in the hands of these foreign combines because of the hire-purchase system we have in this country at present. We have appealed to the Government many times to review this hire purchase system, and I hope something will be done to help the indigenous traders.

It is gratifying to note the progress being made on the improvement of our roads, but I feel that something urgent should be done to the Jos-Kaduna road. This is a major road joining Jos and Zaria also and up till now, this road has not been tarred. I hope the tarring of this road is included in the 1965-66 Estimates.

[M. MUHAMMADU KUMO]

I wish to place on record my thanks to the Federal Government for starting work on tarring the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road, but regret to note that nothing has been done on the construction of a modern bridge over the Gongola River at Dindima. The present bridge was constructed in 1930—it is narrow and cannot carry the present heavy traffic on that road. I hope that arrangements will be made to include the building of a new bridge at Dindima in the contract for the construction of the new road.

I beg to support.

Mr J. Udo-Affia (Uyo North) : It is a great pleasure to be given this opportunity to speak in support of the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in which he outlined the Government's fiscal policy for the next twelve months.

In supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, I am speaking with the combined voices of well over 28,000 voters from Uyo North constituency who elected me to this honourable House, and by whose support my three political opponents lost not only the election but also their election deposits. (*Hear, hear.*) That is proof that my supporters have implicit confidence in the Federal Government and are prepared to support any measures taken by the Government to further the progress of Nigeria.

The fiscal policies outlined in the Budget Speech are policies which my supporters will welcome and support for the general good of all the sections of the Republic of Nigeria. The Budget Speech is comprehensive and far-sighted. It is a result of thought which deserves all the praise that has been given to it by all previous speakers.

But there is one aspect of the Speech which does not appear to have received sufficient emphasis. I feel that it is my duty to dwell on that aspect : that is that a digest of the Speech reveals that from the beginning to the end of it, the fiscal policy outlined therein presupposes the unity of the Republic of Nigeria.

The unity of Nigeria forms the basis and the foundation upon which any superstructure of fiscal policy can be erected. Without that unity as the foundation, the policy so well outlined by the Minister of Finance, and so

laudably applauded by this honourable House, can never be successfully carried out.

Looked at from that angle and from the angle of His Excellency, the President's Speech, it becomes clear, firstly, that the Government cannot continue to pursue her policy of non-alignment in the field of foreign relations unless there is unity, cohesion and alignment at home among the component parts of this Republic.

Secondly, the Government cannot pretend to maintain friendly relations with other African States unless we maintain friendly relations with each other among the various sections and component parts of this great Republic.

Thirdly, the Government cannot pretend to co-operate with other African States so as to ensure that the Organisation of African Unity evolves in an orderly and constitutional manner, unless the Government of this Republic first of all takes steps to ensure that this great country of ours evolves as a united country in an orderly and constitutional manner.

Fourthly, the Government cannot pretend to carry out a programme for the eradication of body diseases without first eradicating the most dangerous political disease threatening the foundation of this Republic. I refer to the threat of disunity—the threat of disintegration of this Republic which has been voiced by a number of hon. Members on the Floor of this House.

And Fifthly, the Government cannot carry out the huge financial policy outlined in the Budget Speech, unless all the Regions unite and co-operate with the Federal Government in all the aspects outlined in the Budget Speech.

The Federal Election is over and we should now forget about it. Hon. Members should refrain from opening up in their speeches old election wounds so that we may be better able to face the task before us together as a united team.

In this connection, the Budget Speech has set a problem for this honourable House to solve. That problem is a challenge to our competence. An analysis of the problem shows that the Speech calls upon all hon. Members of this House to sink and to compose their election differences, and their tribal differences, so that they may set to work together as a team—united in spirit and ambition—to carry out the fiscal policy launched by the Federal Government for the benefit of our great Republic.

House of Representatives Debates

531

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

5 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

532

The Speech is calling upon this honourable House as the highest Legislative authority of the land to set its House in order as a basis for carrying out the fiscal policy outlined and enumerated in the Budget Speech.

Furthermore, the Speech has set some homework for all of us and has at the same time imposed a duty on all of us to devise ways and means of helping to accomplish the task of successfully carrying out the programmes outlined in the fiscal policy of the Federal Government.

M. Ibrahim Muku (Bida West) : On a point of order, I think that if the hon. Gentleman speaking is honest, then he should advise his U.P.G.A. leaders to withdraw all the election petitions pending in the courts.

Mr Udo-Affia : This honourable House cannot flinch from the duty thus imposed on it. We must accept the challenge so as to justify our presence here to-day. We must at once address ourselves to the homework, to the task and to the duty before us. This we cannot do with platitudes or Sixth Form speeches. Mere oratory and flowery language will avail us nothing unless they contain practical suggestions for dealing with and solving the problems confronting this country.

The Prime Minister of this country, has advised that our speeches on the Floor of this House should be constructive and that the business of the House should be taken seriously.

Also the Minister of State (*Mr Amechi*) suggested that the leaders of our four Regions should come to the Centre in order to take an active part in all the deliberations of the Central Government. When they come to the Central, they will enter into the climate of the widened political horizon of the Republic and this will enable them to assist in widening the Regional political horizon which at present tends to be parochial and tribal. This suggestion is fair, especially as the problem of threat to the unity of this country should be discussed in its proper context and not in isolation.

Nigeria is a ship of destiny and our destination for the next twelve months is the accomplishment of the programmes outlined in our Budget Speech. We must reach that destination. Any individual who proves to be a Jonah in the ship should be thrown overboard so that the rest of the whole of the Republic may get safely to their destination.

I am entirely in agreement with the advice given by the Prime Minister and also the suggestion made by the Minister of State (*Mr Amechi*).

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, what is before the House now is the debate on the Appropriation Bill, but it appears the hon. Gentleman speaking is moving a Motion on the Nigerian Unity.

Mr Speaker : Order ; order. The Member for Uyo North (*Mr Udo-Affia*) is making nice comments, but I think he is dwelling too long on that. Perhaps, the hon. Gentleman would better return to the fiscal policy.

Mr Udo-Affia : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Without being tribal or sectional, and without any feeling of grudge against any other section of this Republic, I would like to say that Uyo Province, so long neglected because of the political stand it took hitherto has again been left out in the Federal Government's Six-Year Development Plan, even though there has been a change of heart in the area as evidenced by the last election.

Water supply in Uyo rural areas is grossly inadequate, and the roads in Uruan and Ikono in my constituency are amongst the worst I have ever seen.

I am suggesting very strongly that an agricultural industry, such as is envisaged in the Budget Speech, be sited in Uyo Province to absorb some of the teeming population of school-leavers in the area. If this is done, it will help reduce discontent among the people in this area.

With regard to the question of farmers, I would say that the Budget Speech was clear on this issue. But I would like to suggest that the Government should consider the desirability of introducing the policy of subsidising accredited farmers under a system of strict supervision.

At the moment, loans are made to farmers for farming purposes ; but we all know that much of the money lent to them goes for the payment of dowries or the building of houses rather than for the purpose of proper farming for which the loan was given.

[MR UDO-AFFIA]

If farmers were given subsidies based on work actually done on the farms under instruction and inspection, much more progress in agriculture will be made. This should be done in conjunction with the system of farm settlements already adopted. Farmers who make the grade would be assured of an income from their farms, and farming would thus become attractive and the volume of our export output would also be increased.

In this connection we endorse the hon. Minister's efforts in his negotiations with the European Economic Community and other countries which import our primary products.

We fail to see why this country should continue to trade with Japan if trade with her is a one-way traffic, in favour of Japan. Unless there is reasonable reciprocity in the exchange of commodities between this country and Japan, directly and indirectly, we feel that our trade with Japan should be diverted to countries that are prepared to reciprocate with us.

We welcome the work done on the four berths at Apapa which will reduce the present congestion there. But I feel that the Government should also make use of Calabar and Opobo ports to reduce the congestion at Apapa and Port Harcourt. This would as well provide employment for the local people at Calabar and Opobo, and thus prevent them coming to seek employment in Lagos.

I feel very strongly that the Federal Government should endeavour to site one industry, at least, in each of the provinces forming this great Federal Republic. If all industries are concentrated in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Kano, Kaduna, *et cetera*, the rest of the people in the other provinces would lose their sense of belonging to this great Federal Republic. They would feel that nothing has been done for them even when they pay equal taxes with the people in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Kano, Kaduna, *et cetera*. The Federal Government should devise ways and means of making all the people of this Federation to cultivate a sense of belonging, so that they might learn to accept Nigeria's liabilities as their own.

I beg to support the Bill.

M. Jibrim Girema (Numan) : I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his able speech which was second to none in the whole of the Commonwealth.

I would also like to appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to instal electricity immediately in Numan town and to give it more priority than any other undertaking for any area in the whole of the Federation. I say this because—

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the Member for Numan (*M. Jibrim Girema*) wants to fight with the Minister of Mines and Power.

M. Jibrim Girema : The population of Numan Division in 1952 was 121,000. At the last count the population rose to 282,665. It is, therefore, the largest populated constituency in the Federal Republic.

Minister of State (Chief C. O. Akinfosile) : On a point of information, the population of my constituency is 285,800 !

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of information, in my own constituency the population is 300,000. So, the Member for Numan (*M. Jibrim Girema*) cannot claim that his constituency is the largest populated constituency in this Federation.

M. Jibrim Girema : The information given has nothing to do with my request.

May I also congratulate the Minister of Works on the progress made on the new Bauchi-Gombe-Numan-Yola road. I would like the Minister to consider building a bridge over River Benue on this road at Numan in order to discard the present Ferry Service now in operation there.

I wish to dissociate myself from an hon. Member who suggested that future nomination papers should be filed in Lagos. That is un-called for. It is inappropriate, and, in fact, it is immaterial. Every Region in the Federation is autonomous.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Numan (*M. Jibrim Girema*) is becoming irrelevant. We are discussing the fiscal policy for this financial year, and he is talking about people registering in one place or the other. I think that is very irrelevant.

M. Jibrim Girema : I think the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) should not disturb me unnecessarily.

House of Representatives Debates

535

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

5 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

536

May I also bring a suggestion in respect of our Constitution. Any time this House considers it fit to amend our Constitution in future, it must be included that when a part of a Region or a whole Region boycotts a parliamentary election in this Federation it should be regarded as sabotage, and a state of emergency should be declared there. (*Interruptions*).

Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, the Member for Numan (*M. Jibirim Girema*) is quarrelling with Mr Speaker, and we think we may be invited to intervene.

Mr Speaker : I am afraid the Member for Numan (*M. Jibirim Girema*) does not seem to be quarrelling with me. He is quarrelling with his argument.

M. Jibirim Girema : I am not quarrelling with anybody. I am only pointing out to this House that I am speaking with such courage so that hon. Members in this House would take me seriously.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, this House would like to know whether the Member for Numan (*M. Jibirim Girema*) who, I believe, is a new Member, is drunk or just speaking out of incentive !

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of order, I would like the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) to withdraw that statement, because it is an insult to accuse an hon. Member of being drunk. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) has only asked a question, and I am the only one qualified to give a reply.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : On a point of order, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) was putting it to this House that an hon. Member was drunk. He should, therefore, withdraw that statement. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! When comments are made on the Floor of this House, I do really watch the mood. If they are serious comments, and if the mood is such that the comments arouse only humour, which is the essence of such a long debate, I do not think we should pay too much attention to them.

M. Jibirim Girema : May I just say that those Members who are worried and who are disturbing me unnecessarily are those who actually lost the last Federal elections, but through the broad-mindedness of our Prime Minister, they have been brought into the broadly-based Government. Yet, they are not ashamed to organise body-guards and thugs in front of this honourable House to shout U.P.G.A., U.P.G.A. What is the real benefit of this to these people? Shame on them !

Mr T. O. Umekeje (Awka South) : On a point of order, the House is being distracted by the whining of the Member for Numan (*M. Jibirim Girema*) and I appeal to him to speak in such a tone that Members can follow his arguments. The whining cannot help him to make his points.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! There is quite a lot of whining in this House you know.

M. Jibirim Girema : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Though I am a new Member in this honourable House, no interruption will prevent me from making my speech.

Now, if we want real unity in this our young Federation, we should avoid all things that will make the Government to go into unnecessary expenditure. In this connection, I would like to go back to the point I made about the boycott of the last Federal elections and the duplication of the census count. These caused the Federal Government to spend a lot of money and some people in this honourable House should be made responsible for this.

Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, the Member for Numan (*M. Jibirim Girema*) who represents *pito* in this House is getting very disheartening.

M. Jibirim Girema : What I would like to say is that I am a Moslem and I do not have to represent *burukutu* in this House.

May I also repeat my appeal to the Minister of Works, that I would like him to provide a good ferry crossing for Numan river. The one we have at present is very disappointing and usually it causes inconveniences to travellers from Jos to Yola or from Yola to Jos. I

[M. JIBRIM GIREMA]

would like him to take note of this and provide us with a ferry crossing, if possible, equivalent to the one in Onitsha.

We always preach unity in this honourable House and I know that it is our duty to promote unity in this country. It is also our duty to support the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to promote unity. Yet some Members of this House usually make utterances which may bring disunity, especially in respect of the Northerners and if they continue to do so, we will follow them too.

I would like the Minister of Communications to install a telephone in Numan town.

With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

Mr E. A. Essien (Abak South East): In rising to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I wish to associate myself with the hon. Members who have praised the Minister of Finance for his realistic Budget Speech which I consider to be a highly rhetorical speech.

With the permission of Mr Speaker, I should like to refer Members to page 2 of the Budget Speech, paragraph 5, where the Minister of Finance said, *inter alia* :

"The electors are not interested in party strife and bickering. They want to better their position in life, to be sure of a full stomach each day, to have a sound roof over their heads, schools for their children, and medical care available when needed."

I want to seize this opportunity to say something which will help the Minister of Finance. I would like to give him a few suggestions on how he will be able to carry out these tasks that are set out in the Budget Speech.

One of these tasks is to site Post Offices in what I regard as the District Council headquarters. For example, in my constituency we have only one Post Office and if the Minister of Communications will be good enough to provide additional two Post Offices in Abak Division, this will go a long way to make the electors there satisfied.

We also need electricity. It is not only in the big towns that people want electricity. We know that we cannot have industries in some of the areas in this country without having electricity and Abak in particular which

had been neglected ever since this country attained independence want electricity in order to develop industries.

If a place has industries, it will be able to provide jobs for the teeming millions of school leavers. So, I implore the Minister of Mines and Power to try to provide electricity for my constituency.

I am sure hon. Members also know that in the Old Calabar Province we have a very rich palm belt, but producers are unable to take their products to the trading stations because of the very deplorable condition of the roads. So, I am appealing to the Ministry of Transport to see that some of the roads in my constituency are tarred.

The Regional Government is already doing very much and if the Federal Government can increase the number of Trunk 'A' Roads that it has to cater for, then the Regional Government will be left with the possibility of being able to provide more roads in the Region.

I have to appeal also to the Federal Government to see to the possibility of opening up the Opobo wharf. At the moment, people in my area find it very difficult to transport their products all the way to Port Harcourt. Thus, if the Opobo wharf is opened again to traffic, that will no doubt facilitate the transportation of the produce to the wharf for export purposes.

The Minister of Finance also talked about providing roads and good houses for the electors. I do not know why at the moment the cost of locally produced cement should be higher than what we used to pay for imported cement from overseas countries.

I am sure that industrialisation will cheapen some of these consumer goods, and I therefore want the Government to take some action in this respect so that the electorates of this country will be able to get cement and other building materials at a much cheaper rate than they get them at present.

I now want to come to my own field—teaching. Several hon. Members of this House have already appealed to the Federal Government to do something to improve the plight of teachers in this country. It is very regrettable that teachers have been the most neglected set of workers in this country.

The irony of it all is that most of us here in this House to-day have, at one time or the other, been teachers. It beats me hollow that we are

unable to do something to improve the lot of teachers. I think it is high time the Government was asked to pay more attention to teachers in this country.

At the moment, we all cry that the standard of education in this country has fallen. The only way to improve our standard of education is to allow education to be federalised. If this is done, I am sure that the standard of our education will be raised, there will be a unified code of education and the salary scales of our teachers throughout the country will be uniform. At present, there are different scales of salary for teachers in different parts of the country.

The next point I would like to discuss is medical facilities for the people of this country. All the Regional Governments are doing their best to ensure that our people have medical care. I am sure that if the Federal Government too can pay more attention to this subject, the Regional Governments will provide more medical facilities to our people.

I have already spoken about our roads. In any case, I want to seize this opportunity again to congratulate the Ministry of Transport for the good job they have done on the Idiroko road. I think the engineers working on this road are doing a nice job indeed.

We often refer to Nigeria as an independent country. I want to tell the hon. Members here to-day that our people in the villages do not seem to know that we are independent because they do not enjoy the fruits of independence. What they seem to see of independence appears to me to be the long cars in which some of us, the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries, ride.

This is one of the reasons why some of us have to spend quite a lot of money to win parliamentary elections. If the Regional and the Federal Governments will provide more amenities for all the people of this country, I am sure, it will cost us much less than it is costing us now to win elections.

I now want to talk about the unity of the country. I agree entirely with the Minister of Finance who said that we should not only talk of unity in this country, we should also practise it. I therefore, respectfully appeal, through you, Mr Speaker, to all the Members of this House, including myself, that in everything we do in this country, national unity should be

uppermost in our minds. If we are really anxious to have national unity, there are one or two things to which we have to pay attention.

Tribalism is too rampant in this country now. I hope the arch-tribalists in this House will not take me to task on this subject. It seems to me that too much premium is paid to tribe in the distribution of amenities. We always have the Ibos complaining that the Yorubas are having a greater share of the amenities, the Yorubas are accusing the Hausas of the same offence.

But I want to ask: what do we want the minorities to do? What do we want the Efiks, the Itshekiris and others to do? If we really want national unity in this country, it is high time we paid more attention to the minority elements of this country.

I want to seize this opportunity too to thank our much respected Prime Minister for the large, almost unwieldy Cabinet he has presented to us. But if we give a closer attention to the examination of this subject, we will all see that an area like the old Calabar Province which has over seventeen Members in this House has been given only a Parliamentary Secretary and of course, a Minister of no Cabinet rank—

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): On a point of order, the Member for Abak South East (*Mr Essien*) does not seem to realise that it is U.P.G.A. which appointed those Ministers in his area. He should, therefore, not blame the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker: Discussions on Ministerial appointments are out of order.

Mr Essien: Furthermore, the Minister of Finance—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, I want to say, with all respect, that it is not U.P.G.A. which appointed the Ministers. The Prime Minister appointed them.

Mr Speaker: Order! Discussion on Ministerial appointments is out of order.

Mr Essien: Our Minister of Finance is a highly respected Minister, but I respectfully want to say that his condemnation of socialism, be it pragmatic or democratic, has not been sufficiently objective. It is a common knowledge that our Minister of Finance is a most shrewd, astute and, of course, potential capitalist. His condemnation of socialism is not sufficiently empirical, it is subjective.

[MR ESSIEN]

I believe that if we have to condemn these people who talk about socialism, we have to allow them a position in the Cabinet so that we may be able to watch whether they are able to practise some of these things they talk about.

I now want to talk about the political stability of Nigeria. I want stability in this country, but I have since discovered that we only talk of political stability in this country without doing anything that can bring it about. I now want, with due respect, to put forward to this House, a number of points which if adhered to will quicken the attainment of political stability in this country.

The first of these points is the creation of more states. There can never be any political unity or stability in the country unless more states are created so that the minority elements in our midst may be able to acquire self-determination.

As I have said earlier, we have over four million people in the old Calabar Province. The Mid-Western Region has a little over two million people. But if we compare the old Calabar Province with the Mid-Western Region in terms of amenities, we will all see that the people of the old Calabar Province have been neglected.

Anybody who has passed through the new Region within this short space of its creation ought to have seen the amount of development that has taken place there, but there is absolutely nothing in the form of development in the old Calabar Province.

Therefore, if we want national and political stability, more states must be created; and the first of those to be created should be the Calabar State.

My second point on this issue of political stability is the inequitable distribution of amenities. It is not enough to provide amenities only for Lagos, Enugu, Zaria, Kaduna and so on. What about the small places like Abak, my constituency, Uyo, Ikot Ekpene and so on? These places should also be catered for.

Another thing we have to do in order to have political unity—and I am mentioning this with due respect—is to consider the possibility of

releasing Chief Awolowo. Chief Awolowo should be granted amnesty now if we want political stability.

The Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech, talked of not increasing the remuneration of workers whose salaries are above £600 per annum and his reason is that the Government is trying to bridge the gap between the "have-nots" and the "haves". That is quite true; I like it. But I think that if he wants to be more realistic he should go a step further.

I am going to make one comment, and a very warm comment at that, in connection with the idea of bridging the gap between the "have-nots" and the "haves". We know that charity begins at home and if Members of this House will examine themselves and think of effecting a reduction in their salaries, I think the gap will be bridged all the more. The money that will accrue from this curtailment or reduction of salaries of Members and Ministers will be ploughed back into some development projects.

I want to put forward the suggestion that despite the fact that some of us spent a lot of money before coming into this House, a Member's salary should not be more than £720 per annum; Parliamentary Secretaries should be content with £960 per annum and Ministers—

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): On a point of order, I am not very satisfied with the speech of the Member for Abak South East (*Mr Essien*). There is no objection if he can give his salary to the Federal Government instead of coming to the Floor of this House to talk rot.

Mr Essien: I am sure the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) who is a native doctor does not understand what I am talking about. I am prepared to allow the Federal Government to take my pay if the hon. Gentleman will do likewise.

Mr John Edomwonyi (Benin West): On a point of order, these western rogues should allow us to say something on the Floor of this House and not continue to bully hon. Members who are talking sense and bringing humour into the debate. These people signed vouchers

with their toes under Chief Awolowo and they now come here to get money through other means.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Mr Essien.

Mr Essien : As I was saying—

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : On a point of order, the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) has addressed a section of this House as rogues, and I am saying with respect that that is unparliamentary.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Chief Akinloye : He did. That is what he said. He should withdraw it.

Several hon. Members : Sit down.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! There was so much noise that I did not hear the remark. But if he did, of course, it is a breach of privilege.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : I think there is a more serious allegation which the Minister of Industries ought to have replied to and that is that people signed vouchers with their toes in the Western Region. That is what somebody said.

Mr Speaker : Surely, this is out of order.

Chief Akinloye : Mr Speaker, I have to say that the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) was the lawyer appointed by those who completed documents with their toes.

Mr Speaker : Order ! For the next few minutes I shall be the judge of breaches.

Mr Essien : Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, I think Members should be satisfied with £720 per annum ; Parliamentary Secretaries, because they are on full time job more or less, should be content with £960 per annum ; and the Ministers, in consideration of the huge allowances which they collect, should be satisfied, while serving this country, with £1,500 per annum.

Mr Speaker : There is quite a lot of interruptions in the guise of points of order. I assure those who raise unnecessary points of order that they are less likely to catch my eye if they wish to speak.

Mr Essien : Towards the achievement of political unity, we should do something to stop tribalism and also to discourage these regional

political parties. All political parties in this country, if they have to operate effectively, ought to be nationalistic in their outlook.

I want to congratulate the former Minister of Aviation for the good work he did in that Ministry. I hope that the new Minister who took over from him will continue the good work started in that Ministry.

Also, some hon. Members and even the Minister of Finance condemned smuggling in the old Calabar Province, and I want this to be stopped as soon as possible. The only effective and realistic way of stopping it is to provide alternative work for the people in the area.

Again, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that even the Custom Agents themselves, and the Police help in the smuggling activities that are going on in Calabar Province.

Finally, on page 2 of the Rededication Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance said that :

There are plenty of ill-intentioned people in the world, not the least, I am sorry to say, one of our close neighbours in West Africa, who will be delighted to see Nigeria disintegrate in chaos.

I do not hold any brief for any neighbour of Nigeria's, but what I want to say as an advice is to quote the first stanza of "If" by Rudyard Kipling.

Rudyard Kipling says—

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you ;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too ;
If you can wait and not be tired of waiting ;
Or being lied about don't deal in lies ;
Or being hated don't give way to hating
And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise*

I agree that Shakespeare's Kingdom of the honey bees is patterned upon a well-ordered and industrious society. But in admiring Shakespeare's lurid picture of the mechanical monarchy, we must guard against bringing all the "boot" to the few selfish pot-bellied type of emperors. What I am saying is that in bringing these boots we must avoid bringing them to the "tents-royal" of the few selfish pot-bellied emperors in this country. The boots must diffuse in 20th century Republican Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Umaru Maitumbi (Muri North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Going through the Budget Speech, I observe that Nigeria is capable of overcoming all her difficult problems, more especially her financial difficulties.

I must praise the able manner in which our Minister of Finance is handling the finances of this country. The financial stability of this country will attract foreign investors who wish to establish business in this developing young nation. We are proud of the **Rededication Budget**, which outlined many proposals for the development of this country. The Government must be praised for the encouragement which it is giving to agricultural development and the establishment of industries in this country.

It is praiseworthy to note the effort our Government has made in her negotiation with the European Economic Community for the protection of our exports to the countries which form the Economic Community. This will boost the morale of our farmers and will also raise the standard of living of our people. Nigeria's economic strength lies mainly in her agricultural products. I would appeal to the Government to encourage farmers in this country by providing them with modern farming equipments such as machineries and other essential facilities. As many farm centres as possible should be set up all over the country in order to increase our food production and stamp out starvation.

In his Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance mentioned something about our transport system. The Government should do something to improve our roads and ensure the safety of our road users. There is no doubt that good roads will help us to carry our produce from our farms to ports at much cheaper rates than now. Motor accidents too will be reduced to the barest minimum if we improve our roads, and our commodities will always reach our markets faster than now.

It is interesting to note from His Excellency the President's Speech delivered to this House some days ago that the Government will make every effort to encourage the exploitation of our mineral resources. I appeal to the Government to carry our geological surveys in Adamawa Province, more especially in Dakka, Batandi

and old Muri which are towns in Muri Division. There are possibilities of discovering tin, coal salt and antimony in these areas.

Another interesting point is the Government's intention to eradicate diseases in the whole Federation. Rural areas should be given important amenities such as hospitals and other medical facilities. Schools and many other educational institutions should be opened up in the rural areas. Most of us here come from rural areas. Rural areas supply food to the urban areas and should not be neglected when it comes to the supply of modern amenities.

Industries too should be sited in the rural areas, as these will provide work for the people of the rural areas and curb the immigration of people from the rural areas to the big cities in search of employment. Many of us who come from rural areas are representing the interests of our own people, and we appeal to the Government to develop these areas by providing them with essential amenities. My constituency is suffering most for lack of essential modern amenities. No industry of any kind is established in my constituency.

Lastly, I appeal to the Ministry of Mines and Power to provide the people of my constituency with electricity. Jalingo town has for a long time now been promised the supply of electricity, but up to the present time this promise has not yet been fulfilled. Lack of electricity supply has prevented many investors who wanted to establish industries in Adamawa Province from doing so. I hope the Federal Government will take note of this and do something to develop Adamawa Province.

Many hon. Members have spoken about the need for unity in this country. Our leaders do sit together, discuss together and eat together, but we Members of this House are the people who cause disunity in this country by preaching tribalism. We are the representatives of our people and these people look up to us for guidance. We must be careful about our utterances in this House. The unity of this country can be brought about through inter-tribal marriages—an Ibo can marry a Hausa girl and a Hausa man can marry a Yoruba girl. If we cannot do this, there is no need coming here to talk about unity. What we want is unity in practice.

If we refer to the history of Nigeria, we will see that Northern Nigeria is not having a fair share of the country's amenities, as our Southern brothers are having. In the field of education, Northern Nigeria is advanced both in the Islamic and Western Education. This has been so right from the time of our colonial masters.

Mr T. O. Umekeje (Awka South): On a point of order, the Member for Muri North (*M. Umaru Maitumbi*) is misinforming the House. I do not think he knows the history of the composition of society in the East nor in the West. It may be that the governmental set-up in the North is quite different from that of the South—in the West or in the East—but the fact remains that there is an organised and properly-constituted government in the East, whose nature might be said to be republican.

Mr Speaker : This is not a point of order.

M. Umaru Maitumbi : Finally, I want to deal with the salaries of civil servants, with particular bias to those paid to the civil servants of Northern Nigeria origin. Some years back, the maximum salary paid to any Northerner in the Federal Civil Service was only £5 *per annum*; but now we have a few chaps from the North (though the number is not fair enough) in the salary range of £2,000 *per annum* or so. This state of affairs seems agonizing to our Southern brothers, and they feel that that amount is a drain on the government's revenue.

Until very recently, we did not have Northern lawyers, but now we can count on many qualified lawyers. In consequence of this seemingly rapid progress by the people of the North, our Southern brothers are feeling somehow uneasy because of the limited scope they now have to work in the Northern Civil Service. They now take to talking about unity.

Unity, to my mind, exists everywhere in this country: our school-children mingle freely with one another; and I myself have many friends among the Southerners, like the Okafors, the Njokus, *et cetera*. Surely, if unity is non-existent in this Federation, people like myself will not have friends among these from the East or the West.

I beg to support.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I take this opportunity to make my contribution to the

Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I want to say that for the past six years we have been treated in this House to the most memorable budget speeches which I think the world can be proud to have—and this is to the credit of the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh.

Very frankly, we have on several occasions stated that our beloved Federal Minister of Finance is almost one of the ablest Ministers in the Commonwealth. I think there is no doubt that he can very well rank as one of the ablest Ministers of Finance that the Western world has produced.

But in this year's Budget Address one cannot help but feel a sense of disappointment in the preliminary or the preamble aspects of the Budget Speech. Here, I have in mind the Minister's uncompromising attacks on socialism, and on academics or academic theorists. I do not feel myself competent to hold brief for socialists, after all there are many types and shades of socialists even in the Government Benches, including our friend the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*)—

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : On a point of information, I am not a pragmatic socialist like my hon. Friend, *Professor Ezera*.

Professor Kalu Ezera : I do not pretend to hold brief for socialists as such, but I think the Minister of Finance over-stepped his bounds when he attributed the ills of this country to what he called "the new socialism." He said, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote

"...I must draw the attention of this honourable House to a cankerworm which, if we allow it to grow fat and multiply, will surely destroy the economic fabric of the nation. That cankerworm is the new socialism..."

I want to submit that it may well be true that the various brands, types and strands of socialism may yet be coming, but I think the House will agree that the economic problem besetting us in this country is not either blue socialism, or red socialism, or green socialism, or what have you. What in fact we have espoused to-day in this country is what we on this side have called "Pragmatic Socialism"; what our Friends on the other side have called "African Socialism"; and we are proud of these various socialisms as having their root

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

in African soil. The tenets of these various shades of socialism are that we believe in the brotherhood of man.

The Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria, has all his own people to look after: he does not keep his money to himself; he makes money and he sees that his subordinates are well-fed daily. Similarly in the West, Chief S. L. Akintola has a lot of his subordinates he feeds out of his own pocket. Similarly in the East—

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West): On a point of order, will the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) please tell us on what shade of socialism the Ijora Land Deal was based.

Mr Speaker: That is irrelevant.

Professor Kalu Ezera: Similarly in the East, those who have share it out with their fellows. This is the essence of what we regard as "African Socialism", or "Pragmatic Socialism" in our context. We do not—

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): I would like the hon. Gentleman speaking (who is a doctor) to tell us whether, by his own socialism, he means that the people do not want justice, because I think the ideal is that what the people want is not charity but social justice.

Professor Kalu Ezera: I entirely agree with the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*). When I was making suggestions I did not lay down the definition of socialism as such. There is no doubt that we are aspiring to build a society in which there should be equal opportunity to all. When you have equal opportunity—that is justice to all—those who are able will reach the top. And indeed many here have reached the top out of their own sweat, not the least our Minister of Finance who is a self-made man. Even though he had been to Czechoslovakia, he came home to build up himself and has reached the top, of which we are proud.

But I want to say that in spite of that, we still look up to him that he not only has this financial ability in the practical way, he also has it in the theoretical way. We regard him as an "LL.B. Sapele", which means a "doctor of laws" from Sapele.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu): I think we are discussing the fiscal policy of the Government and not the person of the Federal Minister of Finance. It looks to me that the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor is engaging in a personal attack of the Minister of Finance.

Mr Speaker: One cannot separate political ideologies, as such, from economics. I think I shall like to hear more of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*).

Professor Ezera: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I like to correct the views of my hon. Friend the Member for Biu (*M. Sule Abba Biu*). I do not intend, nor am I in fact doing so, to attack anybody, not the least our hon. Minister of Finance. On the contrary, I have given the Minister of Finance the tribute which he deserves. But I think that if we have honest disagreements, we should honestly say so. My disagreement with the Minister of Finance is a gentleman's disagreement—that his own brand of capitalism is not compatible with my own brand of socialism—and this is no attack.

If I may continue, the hon. Minister made a very pertinent point when he said, and here I entirely agree with him, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:

The electors are not interested in party strife and bickering. They want to better their position in life, to be sure of a full stomach each day, to have a sound roof over their heads, schools for their children, and medical care available when needed.

These, in fact, are what we are preaching for. These are the elementary tenets of socialism. We want to build a welfare state for all, in which all and sundry will have equal opportunities. What we are against is the exploitation of the riches of the country for the few while the masses at the bottom will be in squalor.

History teaches that this has been the cause of the down-fall of many ancient empires and nations in the past, and I think, Sir, that we in this country are struggling to learn a lesson from the past so as to make it possible for wealth to be equally distributed to all and sundry. We do not say that everybody should be equal; what we want is equal opportunities for all so that the gap between the haves and the have-nots will be narrowed down. I think that this, in fact, is what the Government of this country, headed by Alhaji Sir Abubakar

in his own sound judgment, is out to achieve—a society in which there would be justice for all, in which there would be equal opportunities for all, in which the very wealthy would not be allowed to grab everything at the expense of the very poor. On the contrary, the Government's policy, as we understand it and as we want it to be, is to narrow the gap between the extremely rich and the extremely poor in order to make the resources of the land available to all and sundry.

Having said this, I want to correct the view that dogmas, as such, are responsible for our ills. This country does not have, in fact, the makings or the ingredients of that type of dangerous socialism which, I think, the Minister of Finance is afraid of. In other words, communism or any of its allied agents, has no roots and will have no roots in this country. We have no exclusive landed property for the few. Land is owned communally in the East, West, North and in the Mid-West, and I am sure Chief Onyia, Minister of State, will bear me out on this point. There is therefore equal opportunity for all.

Agriculture, as the bedrock of our economy, should be encouraged, as I believe it is being encouraged. The Minister of Finance himself mentioned something about encouraging agriculture and to this extent we urge the Government to continue in its subsidies to our farmers in order to help them out.

Turning to the problem of unity which has been discussed at length, I do not intend to add much to what has already been said, but I would like to say this, that we are friends as we come to this House and we should continue to be friends. As I understand it, the problem of this country is the crisis of leadership. By crisis of leadership I mean that the misunderstanding existing in this country is not between you and me, it is not between Okafor and Ganiyu, it is not between Ibrahim and Ezera; on the contrary it is between those at the very top. Otherwise, we are all friends. The Efik man lives side by side with the Ibo man; the Ibo man is very friendly with the Hausa man; the Hausa man is friendly with the Itsekiri man; the Benin man and the Yoruba man are both friendly.

We are all friends, and to promote this friendship here, Sir, I suggest that all Member of this Parliament should belong to the Island

Club. The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) invited me to the Club the other day and I went and saw a clear manifestation of brotherhood. I saw the Yorubas, the Hausas and the Ibos all sitting side by side and chatting and laughing it off. And yet at the top we find this tension. What are we fighting for? This country must be one and we should urge it on our leaders that they should come together.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): On a point of order, when the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) was speaking he said that the men at the top must contribute to peace when in fact he knows that this struggle going on in this country is the struggle for the survival of the fittest. Some people want to kick the Prime Minister out by force, and they are his men.

Mr Speaker: Surely, it is not as much the survival of the fittest that is important as the greatest number that is fit to survive.

Professor Ezera: Mr Speaker, I want to say that the heritage which we got from Britain, namely parliamentary democracy, is here to stay and the tenets of parliamentary democracy are, amongst other things, respect for other people's views, tolerance and, of course, rule by the majority.

When the Labour Party won the last elections in Britain, even by two seats, with peace and harmony the Conservatives cleared and gave way to the Labour Party. As far as the Conservatives are concerned, what matters is not the individual or the Party, but the nation, and I think, Sir, that we should borrow a leaf from—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On a point of order, I do not think that the comparison the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) is trying to draw will bear any fruit here. There is no comparison at all between the Labour Government of Great Britain and the Conservative Party on the one hand and the N.N.A. and the U.P.G.A. on the other hand. When the Labour Party won the last British general elections, the Conservative Party cleared away for them, but not so the U.P.G.A. When the N.N.A. won the last federal elections the U.P.G.A. started making trouble.

Professor Ezera: Mr Speaker, Sir, I had wanted very much and I still intend to avoid controversy and polemics. I refuse to be dragged into this controversy here.

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

The point I was making was that we should learn to imbibe the spirit of parliamentarism, and the spirit of parliamentarism, as I said, is tolerance, mutual respect for each other's views, and of course the spirit of parliamentary democracy connotes that when one is aware that he does not enjoy the confidence of the masses, when he is aware that he has a blemish on his character, he should seek for a fresh mandate right away. This has happened everywhere both in the United States and in Britain. But as I said, it is not my intention here to enter into controversies.

We need to build up this country, and for this country to be the great country that it should be both in Africa and in the world as a whole, we must always stand united and not allow our petty bickerings to affect the unity of this country.

Having said this, I would like to make a very solemn appeal. The appeal is solemn because I do not expect it by any means to be construed as partisan. There are some of us who feel we are above this extreme partisanship. We believe very honestly and implicitly in the unity of this country.

For a whole month now, we have been witnessing a rumpus affecting the destiny of one of our most revered Federal institutions of higher learning. When I make this appeal I make it from my heart. I am not saying here that I am for Mr X or Mr Y. I am not saying here that this is right or that is wrong. But we are appropriating here an amount to the tune of £4.2 million for our universities. It is a large sum of money.

The stage has come when as we know and see it, the newest university of our land which has reached the stage where the students are about to graduate in June of this year, is suffering tremendously. There is now a deadlock between the Senate and the Staff of the university on the one hand, and the Provisional Council on the other. The deadlock has reached its highest proportion. There is need for a third party to intervene.

We do not want to bring this out as a partisan affair. I am making an honest appeal. I myself belong to the academic world and we know we are very sensitive to what we consider as academic freedom in our own very queer way of thinking. Members will surely think

of it differently. But I am making an honest appeal that the stage has been reached whereby this baby of ours, yours and mine, is being put to unwanted death.

The students who are likely to graduate in June, will no longer do so. Somebody has to come into it and my very humble suggestion is that the Prime Minister of the Federation who is an academist himself in his own rights, and whose sound leadership alone has contributed largely to the maintenance of the unity of this country should come into the picture. My suggestion is that being an academic institution, we are not competent here to discuss it. I would humbly suggest that a high powered impartial commission of inquiry should be set up comprising of people from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, the United Arab Republic and Pakistan. These independent men of learning from these neutral countries should sit together and look into the malady which is wrecking and plaguing the institution. That is my simple suggestion. I pleaded very sincerely to my friends and I still plead with hon. Members that the stage has been reached when somebody, a third party, has to intervene, and that third party—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East) : On a point of order, I think it will be wrong for the Professor to ask the Prime Minister to institute a commission of inquiry either from Great Britain or any where else, whereas Professors from the United Kingdom are among the people who caused the trouble in the university. These people should leave Nigeria alone.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Professor Ezera : I appeal once again to—

Dr T. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I think the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) knows very well that in the academic world the Provisional Council or the Council of a University is always supreme. We do not need any commission of inquiry to settle the dispute in this institution. He should pray his brothers to stop disturbing the peace of the university.

Professor Ezera : My friends know me very well and know that I do not belong to the *jeun jeun* club in this country. I belong to the Island Club of my friend the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr A. F. Odulana*).

In my appeal it is clearly stated that I am not giving any impression of partisanship. All I am saying is that we are appropriating the sum of £4.2 million and we cannot afford to stand by and keep quiet while this huge sum goes down the drains. Therefore a stalemate has been reached between the Senate and the Staff on the one hand and the Provisional Council on the other, and it is only common-sense, it is only logical that a third party must step in and that third party is our respected and magnanimous Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. Let him take any steps he wants to take and we will be satisfied. But surely silence and delay will be most dangerous. Any further delay would be dangerous because under our very noses we find damage being done to the good name of this institution and I shudder to think that we all, including my friend, the Member for Ilorin East (*Dr T. O. A. Dada*) will agree that students who have spent three years and are scheduled to receive their certificates and degrees are bound to suffer because they no longer will be able to do so.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of order, I think the hon. Gentleman has been going too much into this university affair. I see no reason why the students should be defended here. I was a student in Kings College, London, and I never behaved in the manner the students in this country are behaving. If the students here cannot complete their courses, then it is their fault and their fault only.

Professor Ezera : I was afraid I did not want to be provoked into polemics. But let me say this. I am shocked as to the lack of understanding of my colleague who has just spoken. When the students suffer, the nation suffers. We have spent so much money to build up the institution, and we have provided about £4.2 million, and my hon. Friend says let the students suffer because he suffered in his own days. What arrant nonsense ! It is the nation that suffers and I am very sorry that this simple reasoning does not occur to my hon. Friend.

In any case, I am not holding brief for the students or the staff. All I am saying is that the Prime Minister of the Federation whom we all trust should now solemnly step in. Either he steps in directly or he steps in through the

appointment of a commission of inquiry to resolve the deadlock. That is my appeal.

M. Adamu Yola (Tangale Waja) : I think the Professor is entirely wrong. When they cause trouble, they should not call on the Prime Minister to go and resolve it.

Mr Speaker : There is really no ground for imputing these motives.

Professor Kalu Ezera : Having said all these, I am done on that subject.

The other point on which I would like to make an appeal is in respect of Federal institutions in this country. I would like to appeal to the Federal Government, whenever the funds become available, to build Federal institutions in the North. There is a crying need for a teaching hospital in the North ; there is also a crying need for a teaching hospital in the East, as well as in the Mid-West. (*Hear, hear.*)

I think that this country is too vast and, as the hon. Minister of Finance said, most of our people in the rural areas do not feel the impact of the Federal Government's onerous duties, and I think one way of bringing it nearer home to them is when they see in their various Regions virile Federal institutions. The type of such institutions we can achieve or afford to achieve, I think, could be a teaching hospital. We already have one in Lagos ; there is one in Ibadan. We need one in the vast North where millions of our people live. We need also one in the East at Enugu ; we should build a teaching hospital in Kaduna and another one at Benin. When we do this, and talk of unity, then it becomes meaningful.

Hitherto, with all the goodwill in the world, when we concentrate Federal institutions in one area, the people in the others are bound to grumble and they are bound to feel that they do not see anything which the Federal Government is doing. So, Sir, I think Government should do all it can to increase the number of federal institutions, particularly teaching hospitals, in all the Regions in the country.

Before I wind up I would like to give credit to the Federal Minister of Economic Development for his boldness and courage in condemning the West African Conference Lines. This country had been exploited so much in the past, and we had thought that when we had independence, when we had political power,

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

we would be able to keep them at bay. It does appear that after our political independence, they are now feeding fat more and more. For although they do not directly interfere in our politics, yet they are struggling here and there to control economic power and I think the Nigerian Government, as indicated by the Minister of Economic Development, should take steps to bring the West African Conference Lines to book for these very high charges of ten *per cent* which they have imposed on our freights.

This is, in fact, all the more abominable because we have our own Shipping Line which should be encouraged. Similarly, we have our own Airways which should also be encouraged. On the contrary, we find nothing but sabotage by the other rival Shipping Lines and the other Airways; competing with our own indigenous Airways and Shipping Lines. Every effort must be made to see that our own indigenous institutions are given every economic sway and not stifled by the other combines.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Saidu Zango, Iyan Gari (Zaria Central): In supporting the Second Reading of the Rededication Budget which was ably presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, may I seize this opportunity to make a few comments.

I have to say a few words of thanks to the Federal Government. I am not just saying this for the sake of formality; the thanks are real and from the bottom of my heart.

However, I wish to ask the Minister responsible for pilgrims affairs to try and see that the welfare of our pilgrims is looked after more than before. I am not saying that nothing has been done to better the welfare of these people; not at all. All I am saying and all I am asking for on behalf of these people is an assurance from the Minister responsible that they should be informed about the exact time of their departure from Nigeria and the exact time of their arrival. If this is done, the inconveniences to thousands of our people both at home and abroad—will be greatly reduced.

When I mention inconvenience, I do not mean scarcity of accommodation; no. Suppose a pilgrim goes to Kano to join a plane bound for Jeddah; what happens is that he may

be hanging around for days and days without knowing exactly when he will get a plane, and what we find is that his people start going to the airport everyday without knowing the exact date of their going back home. I sincerely hope that the Minister responsible for pilgrims will see to the present situation.

Turning to the Minister of Transport, may I suggest to him something which will be beneficial to the whole country. As the Ministry is contemplating to extend railway lines to the newly created Region of the Mid-West, I hope the lines will also be modernised. By this, I mean they should be a two-way traffic. The advantages of having a two-way traffic are known all over the world as accidents and train delays are thereby reduced to the minimum. In other countries, especially in Europe, all railway lines are two-way traffic and as a result, the services rendered by their trains cannot be compared with any of our railways in any part of West Africa. So, I hope the Minister will take steps to modernise the existing ones and see that the new ones to be constructed are also up to date.

I am always grateful to the Federal Government for heeding all the suggestions which I bring to the House. For example, I asked for a railway Halt to be established in my constituency at Samaru near Zaria and that has been provided. But I feel I am in duty bound to draw the attention of the Railway Authorities to the present situation at this Halt, to keep watch on what is happening now. I do not want to commit myself but I would like the Minister to ask for the number of tickets sold to passengers at the Samaru Halt. This is because quite recently people have started to grumble that neither tickets nor receipts were issued to them whenever they board trains. If I may ask, does it mean that the money paid for these tickets by passengers goes into pockets that are not supposed to hold it? There is that tendency, Sir, since neither tickets nor receipts are issued to passengers at this particular station.

There were passengers who travelled from Samaru Halt and who paid train fares to places like Dan Amarya and Funtua but they were not issued with any tickets or even receipts for the money they paid. I think this practice is becoming rampant along the stations and, as such, an investigation should be ordered to stamp out this practice. I would like to urge

the new Minister of Transport to take steps and see that this bad practice is stopped at once. If that is not done in time, one day the Halt can be described as useless ; whereas it is not the Halt that is useless but the hands that operate it.

I would like to repeat my constant request about having a magnificent building for the Nigeria Police at Zaria. I spoke about this on many occasions before and I have to repeat it to-day because nothing has been done as yet. The office of the Nigeria Police at Zaria should be replaced or enlarged. I understand that the old buildings of the Posts and Telegraphs at Zaria are to be converted into a Nigeria Police Office. If this is correct, that will be a step in the right direction. But if the story is not correct, I hope the Minister responsible for Police Affairs will try and see that the Nigeria Police Office at Zaria is re-built.

I would like to remind the Minister responsible for the Nigerian Army to see that better houses are provided for the junior Army personnel who are married. The life of a married man is different from that of an unmarried person. I need not go into detail as regards the differences as they are known to all hon. Members. I would also like the Minister to pay a visit to the Army quarters at Zaria to see the type of inconveniences these married people are experiencing.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for forming his broadly-based government as well as the new Federal Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The Prime Minister has shown wisdom in taking such a step and this action has openly shown the entire people of this Republic that the Government is for all and for a small group of people who claim and who always plan to put themselves on top of others. In welcoming the new Ministers, I would like to say that we of the N.P.C., headed by our God-fearing leaders—Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello and Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa—are always open-minded and ready to co-operate with everybody in Nigeria in order to cement our solidarity as a nation. Thereby, we shall continue to nurse and bring up our young country, Nigeria, to a full nationhood.

By joining hands with an equally God-fearing and honest politician in the person of Chief S. L. Akintola and his supporters, the result

will be for the benefit of the whole of Nigeria. Sound judgment and common sense are the two essential elements needed in taking decisions, and by applying these, the N.P.C. and its allies have clearly shown to the whole world that the Federal Government is not limited to one or two Nigerian tribes only but is for the entire people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Speaking politically about the appointment of these Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries, one can only doff one's hat in appreciation of the intelligence shown by the leaders of the parties that formed the Nigerian National Alliance.

Once more, I congratulate the new Ministers and I say more grease to their elbows. God save the N.N.A., God save the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : It is unfortunate that after a long dithering, the cabinet reshuffle came on the same day as the Budget—both struggling for the headlines, both confusing the people—the one cheerless and the other unduly optimistic. I wonder whether this was done by design. Was it intended to confuse the people and make it difficult for them to examine the two acts ?

The hon. Prime Minister has not done justice to his Minister of Finance, both as to the timing of the announcement of the reshuffle and the contents of the reshuffle itself.

While the Minister was exhorting the nation to sacrifice and more work, the Prime Minister was telling the nation and the world at large that he was pursuing a policy of less work and more bite from the national cake for less work. We now have more than a whole village Council as a cabinet and twenty-two Ministers without portfolios and of non-Cabinet rank. Doing what ? Getting salaries for little or no work, free houses, free electricity, drivers' allowances, transport allowances, police orderlies and private secretaries.

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) should not come to this House to deceive the nation. Before the election, the Action Group was warned against allying itself with the N.C.N.C.

[M. IBRAHIM MUKU]

The members of the Action Group have found that they have been duped and they now come to this House to beg.

Mr Speaker : This is not a point of order.

Chief Onabanjo : The Minister of Finance spoke in disparaging terms of those making quick money. He is right. But that, with respect, is not an admonition to be directed to the hard-working but ill-fed Nigerian workers and ill-fed peasants. He should have directed this to the Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues. Those of them who will have no work to do except to show the size of their gowns and collect allowances have only increased the number of the get-rich-quick-brigade.

It is one thing to set down policies and principles in writing, but it is another thing to practise these things. Get-rich-quick is a policy frowned at by the Government but, in practice, the Government grabs it with both hands!

The other day, there was a furor over the Ijora land scandal. How was it settled? Was the quick money returned? The Press which unearthed the stench could not follow it up to its logical conclusion. I am not one of those who will accuse the Nigerian Press of wholesale corruption. There may be a black sheep but so have we among those of us called honourable men. If the Nigerian Press is guilty of anything, it is not corruption, it is cowardice by submitting to blackmail.

We have been *Mickey-mousing* along Ijora and Apapa in the U.P.G.A. field. Can we not *Mickey-mouse* along Awolowo Road or Victoria Island and tell the public and the Prime Minister how clean the N.N.A. field is? Of course, power is with the N.N.A. and it must not be offended. Is the Ijora land scandal worse than the Lion Building deal? Is it worse than the Ikeja Military Barracks contract?

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : The hon. Gentleman speaking was the one who asked all the defeated U.P.G.A. candidates to file petitions against successful N.N.A. candidates. The election petition is against him and he is now talking nonsense on the Floor of this House.

Chief Onabanjo : As I was saying, is the Ijora land scandal worse than the Lion Building deal? Is it worse than the Ikeja Military

Barracks contract which sent the firm of John Bech into liquidation? Is it worse than how a Minister owns a village on the Awolowo Road?

Mr Speaker : It is one o'clock. Sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 3 p.m.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : As I was saying before the suspension of sitting this morning, is the Ijora land scandal worse than the Lion Building deal? Is it worse than the Ikeja Military Barracks contract which sent the firm of John Bech into liquidation? Is it worse than how a Minister owns what can be described as a whole village on the Awolowo road?

It is not the importation of theories from overseas, which is scaring genuine investors away from the country.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the Speaker can rule upon Ministers being absent in the afternoon like this. The Ministerial Bench is empty, and we want all of them to be there. They are being discussed here, and I think it is not right for them to be away.

Mr Speaker : Some of the Ministers are here. For example Chief J. I. G. Onyia and others are here.

Chief Onabanjo : The investors themselves are living; in fact, they sleep with these doctrines in their own countries. Our trouble is the corruption and sharp practices which are going on, but which no one seems capable of arresting.

If a firm has to put down as much as £10,000 to £15,000 before it could secure factory site or offices, how much has it got left to carry out its legitimate business? If, at every stage, the firms must grease people's palms, will not the investors find the whole affairs sickening and revolting?

But this is not all. When the President and the N.P.C. engaged themselves in public controversy over an issue regarded as fundamental, outsiders rightly saw this as a sign of instability in the country. When the Sardauna of Sokoto promised a showdown with the

South, overseas capitalists must think twice before taking any risk. These are some of the things scaring away investors.

It is not my intention to open old wounds, but it is useful to remind the Minister of Finance, what he as Leader of the House in the last Parliament did about what I would call the Adedoyin *Hansard* Scandal, when the Western Legislature gave itself a fictitious two-thirds majority to amend the Region's Constitution, and this was ratified by Parliament. That *Hansard* must be property of Parliament. Can it be laid on the Table of this House?

This dishonesty or sharp practice in the conduct of our public affairs is what is scaring away capitalists.

I want to assure hon. Members that it is far from my intention to generate any bitterness or ill-feelings, but if the past must be forgotten, those at the head must give the public a guarantee that they are determined to lay down acceptable civilised standards.

In two previous Speeches from the Throne since 1959, and by Governments headed by the hon. Prime Minister, the country was promised legislation to deal with the problem of corruption among our public men. This is 1965, and there is still no hope of such legislation. It is this feet-dragging that has cast doubts in the minds of Nigerians and our friends, as to the stand of the Prime Minister on this all important issue. It is not too late. Let the Prime Minister come forward with the projected legislation, and this will re-assure the public and investors.

There is an urgent need for the Prime Minister to revise the code of conduct of members of the Government and of public corporations. The country and our economic circumstances of to-day, do not favour the Minister *cum* Company Director personality—a heresy propounded with much glee about two years ago.

Only the other day, a newspaper published that the Chairman of the Railway Corporation was being queried for being a director of a transport company. Yesterday, this was officially acceptable, but to-day, it is not.

Is the Prime Minister ready to carry out a total clean-up? This is the important point, and it is a point of principle. You cannot say

that Okechukwu is doing what Innua is doing, and you will deal with only Okechukwu and leave Innua alone. The injustice done leads on to other problems. This is why I ask if the Prime Minister is prepared for a clean-up.

There is another matter to which I ask Parliament to direct its mind. It is the elusive thing called unity. I subscribe wholeheartedly to the six-point programme put forward about two weeks ago by my hon. Friend, the Member for Onitsha Central (*Hon. Mbazulike Amechi*).

There is too much hypocrisy and double-talking about unity and what will bring about stability. Nigerians are no longer interested in sermons; they want action, and this is where the leaders have proved disappointing. If the Federation must stay together, there is an urgent need to revise the Constitution and bring it into line with the aspirations of the people.

The original sin of the Republican Constitution is that it was conceived in sin—in a conspiracy by the Premiers' Club. Thank God, the Club is at sixes now and may God never allow it to function again in such a way as to bring about misery to our people.

Until we are able to check the abuses relating to electoral practices in the light of our experiences, the talk of unity and stability will remain a sham.

Now, there is virtue in standing by a friend even if he is a villain. But where this virtue is taken to the extreme and to the detriment of a whole nation, it becomes a vice.

The Prime Minister has much more responsibility than any other individual for keeping this country together. He should now stop doing the wrong thing by inventing alibis. The country is tired of hearing that Alhaji Sir Abubakar wanted to do a different thing, but that it was that other man who pressured him into doing the wrong thing.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): On a point of order, I think if the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is sincere in his speech, it will be very decent for him to invite the Prime Minister to be present here before making his attack.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): On a point of order, as I said before, instead of warning

[MR EDE]

his seat, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is merely misleading this House.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo : When I was a boy, my mother used to apply a kind of liniment to my ailments, on the package of which was the photograph of a Dr Sloan. The hon. Member opposite the Member for Ede, reminds me of this Dr Sloan.

As I was saying, we cannot get on by inventing alibis, neither can we by blackmail. They want to instil docility in the people by dangling a piece of sugar before them. Let me say that not many will submit to this type of blackmail.

We want peace and unity in the country but it must be peace and unity generated by honesty and love, not by deceit and downright lying.

The Action Group with its allies have publicly said that the accord between the President and the Prime Minister will be given a fair trial. In the Action Group our word is always our bond. We have never been known to go back on our public declarations. We offer co-operation but it is going to be critical co-operation.

The unity ball is at the feet of the Prime Minister. He can play foul with it ; but he can also play it like a sportsman. He can continue to feed us with pious words or feed us with actions which will bring lasting peace and unity. History is there to record his own contribution.

I will now deal with the picture of the finances of the Federation as painted by the Minister and as revealed by the figures which the Minister has given in his speech. The two pictures are very different, and I shall only be too happy if the Minister will in his reply prove me wrong.

On page 6 of the Budget Speech, the Minister grudgingly admitted that we were engaged in deficit financing to the tune of £26 million, through the agency of the Central Bank. I will at a later stage deal with the question of internal loan stocks. For the moment, I think that the picture is much more serious than the matter of deficit financing and its attendant evils.

Without saying so, the Minister on the same page 6 indicated another hidden deficit financing in the matter of Treasury Bills. On the figures for 1964, the average monthly issue

was £10.9 million, meaning £130.8 million a year and the average amount outstanding¹ was £31.4 million. To this amount, we had deficit financing. This is alarming when we take into consideration that the revised estimates of revenue for 1964-65 was £86.3 million. I think the country is entitled to be told how much of the Treasury Bills were still outstanding at the end of the Financial Year 1964-65.

On the present figures, one will be right to say that the outstanding Bills of £31.4 million was a reflection of a shortfall in revenue and therefore we must have ended the year with a deficit of about £20 million. The Revised Revenue Estimate was £86.4 million and the Revised Expenditure Estimates was £75 million giving a revenue surplus of £11.4. If we bring in the outstanding Treasury Bills of £31.4 million, the revenue deficit will be £20 million.

Reading through the Minister's speech, there was no where we were reassured that the outstanding Treasury Bills had been reduced ; rather, the outlook seems to be that it is on the increase. We cannot continue at this rate and talk of a sound financial policy. We may find ourselves in deep waters sooner than we had expected with the world money market shaky and the general forecast of a trade recession.

The Minister no longer believes in socialism. He has opted for capitalism. He must, therefore, have confidence in the *Economist* which is published in Great Britain. I commend to him the leading article in the issue of March 13. I am sure that after reading it he will be less optimistic and try another acrobatic feat of pulling us by our boots' straps.

It is my submission that this deficit financing is affecting the execution of the Development Programme. I hope the Minister will not be too offended if I say that he had been less than frank with Parliament in his exposition on the financing of the Plan. I do not myself think that the Minister has given us all the reasons which had slowed down actual drawings from committed external loans. One point, and a major one, is our inability to put down our own share of the costs of the projects. This is a matter to which we must now direct our energies. The Minister had indicated his disappointment over our inability to buy up the £15 million loan stock. But this is not enough.

It is a matter for regret—and I am supported in this view by events of the last few days—that the Government is minimising the problems we are faced with and therefore it has not created the necessary psychological atmosphere which will make the people accept sacrifice and economic stringency as a way of life from now on.

The Minister has told us that as at March 1965, the Development Fund had a debit balance of £25 million, an increase of about £18 million within a year. As usual, the Minister has found an alibi in the needs for security and defence. Somehow, I have a feeling that we are not getting the full story. I refer to the published Report of the Accountant-General for the year ended March 1964, when the capital fund deficit stood at £6.8 million.

Page 7 of the Report shows that the actual expenditure on Police and Defence was £5.5 million as against an estimate of £12.4 million. Security and Defence could not therefore have been responsible for the deficit. Rather, the same page of the Report shows that of the estimated £56.3 million from external loans, we only received £879,830. We ourselves planned to contribute £8 million from our revenue; we were only able to give £3 million. Were the facts different in the 1964-65 financial year? I think that Parliament is entitled to be told what the facts were.

On page 27 of his speech, the Minister told us that both the internal and external sources would provide £41.5 million for the current year, even though the Ministries had submitted proposals for £90 million. First, if the £25 million deficit is to be cleared, we will then have only £16.5 million.

The Minister has set himself a formidable task of bridging the gap between £90 million and £16.5 million. No doubt, he is a genius at doing this sort of financial acrobatic dance. But we would like him to put the House into confidence as to the priorities he proposed to set down, project by project.

On the question of balance of payments, one can only hope that the optimism of the Minister will be realised in 1967. But what is to happen before 1967?

The deficit in regard to merchandise trade in 1964 was £41 million and the overall deficit was £66.4 million, thus meaning that services

accounted for £25.2 million. In the process we have had a run down of over £17 million on our reserves. No doubt this is better than the figure of £30 million the previous year.

I must say that, I admire the way the Minister of Finance referred to our prodigious power of borrowing money in order to live well. It reminds one of the expense accounts of company directors.

The Minister said, and here I beg to quote :—

The difference between the current account deficit (i.e. £66.4 million) and the actual run down of reserves—some £49 million—was offset by an inflow of funds.

In simpler terms, we were borrowing more money.

At the end of 1964, our reserves stood at £77 million whereas our quarterly imports cost £84.1 million so that we were £7.1 million lower than the safe level laid down by the Minister himself. We can only hope that this position will be rectified when the full impact of the August 1965 tariffs is felt, although I wonder whether they were introduced in order to solve the balance of payments problems or to find money to meet the Morgan Awards.

I now turn to the cocoa crisis. Having read the Minister's statement, one is prompted to ask the question: Were we solving the cocoa crisis or propping up a Government that was, and still is, on the brink of financial collapse?

Firstly, if hon. Members go through page 9 of the Minister's speech, it is only by deductions that they will come to discover that it was the Western Marketing Board and not the Federal Produce Company that was owing about £20 million. Why this reticence?

My guess is that the Board is being used as a cover by the Western Government.

The Minister of Finance has failed to tell Parliament the factors responsible for turning a loan of £20 million on short term into a long term one. The loan was issued on Promissory Notes maturing after ninety days. What were the securities? And is the Minister aware that even after the loan had been received, there was a period when cocoa buying agents could not get money for eight weeks purchases?

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North): On a point of order, I would like the hon. Member speaking to tell the House how he managed

[MR KAMSON]

to build his house when he was an Editor. Was it not part of the cocoa money from the Western Region ?

Chief Onabanjo : I can assure the hon. Member opposite that if he had wanted to know how I got the money, I could have gladly told him. In any case, I got it from the Merchants' Bank !

Parliament is entitled to know whether the Minister can vouch that the whole of the £20 million was required to buy 280,000 tons of cocoa in one go.

Here, I would like to say that I can well appreciate this Government's determination to help a Region which is almost financially crippled. It is only when the fact is being hidden that the intention becomes questionable. I understand that one of the conditions given before the loan was granted was that the Federal Government, or the Central Bank, would have a say in fixing the cocoa price for the next season. But, Sir, while appreciating that this was necessary in order to put sanity into the bedlam in Ibadan, it is a serious commitment for the next new Government that is bound to take over in the Region sooner than later.

Several hon. Members : U.P.G.A. on top ! (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Surely the behaviour of some hon. Members is a breach of the privilege of the House and I can only allow it for once.

Chief Onabanjo : To me, the Federal Government is encouraging financial irresponsibility in the Western Region just because there are certain elements in this Government, who are committed to supporting Chief Akintola to the last, even if it will mean the ultimate disintegration of the Federation. Loyalty to a friend is indeed laudable, but it becomes a mortal sin if it takes precedence over justice and fairplay, and is sustained by bringing misery to millions of people.

Whatever may be the other financial commitments the Minister intends to enter into with the Akintola Government, I think it is only moral that due cognizance is taken of the fact that, sooner than later, a Government of the people choice will be elected, and it will be grossly unfair and indeed immoral to hand

over this new Government, the financial bankruptcy of a Government that has never regarded caution as a virtue.

Several hon. Members : Tell them ; tell them !

Chief Onabanjo : Turning to exchange control, the Minister gave the impression that he was helpless. I hope, I am wrong. However, I think, this matter requires urgent investigation in order to find an answer to a problem which the Minister himself raised at pages 6 and 8 of his speech.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) has addressed the House for more than thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Ijebu South-West, please wind up.

Chief Onabanjo : The Minister of Finance spoke of the rapid monetary expansion and referred to credit facilities from banks which rose from £134.4 million in 1963 to £158.8 million at the end of 1964—an increase of £24.4 million.

With all due respect, Sir, I find it difficult to swallow the suggestion that this increase had contributed to the substantial rise in imports. I want to say that the consumers were not the people who could have borrowed £24.4 million from the banks. My guess, and it is only a guess, Sir, is that the borrowers in the main were the big firms. Could not a better and more acceptable reason be found in the fact that 1964 was a turbulent year and there might have been a flight of capital ? The firms prefer to run on overdraft rather than risk their assets. This is why I am suggesting that the Ministry, through the Central Bank, should tackle the problem of exchange.

There can be no doubt that the Minister made a correct appraisal of the problems of development in relation to its impact on the people. The point cannot be better put.

I would, however, like to make the other point that a way of meeting the people's grumblings is to have a judicious dispersal of industries. Why must everything be concentrated in Lagos, Ikeja, Enugu, Onitsha, Aba, Kano, Jos or Kaduna ?

While on this subject, an industrialist once told me that he would rather be in the Lagos area and pay 1½d per unit for electricity instead of going to Ibadan to pay 5d.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, I would have thought that the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*), being such a very good debater, would have lifted up his eyes at least once even though he is winding up.

Chief Onabanjo : As I was saying, one can well understand the anxiety of the E.C.N. to pay its way and to get each station to pay its way. Lagos has a lower rate because, the E.C.N. argued, the operational cost is lower. Should the position not change now that Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ijebu and Oshogbo are all supplied power from Lagos? These towns should now enjoy lower tariffs as this is one of the ways they also can feel the impact of the loan given to the E.C.N. for the installation of transmitting lines.

Sir, I hope I will have the opportunity later on to deal with the policy of the Government in regard to protective duties and Pioneer certificates.

I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

M. Yusha'u Mohammed (Kubau-Soba) : I rise to congratulate our one and only able Minister of Finance for his courageous Budget Speech. Each time we have a Budget Meeting such as this, the Minister always searches for a good title with which to nickname his Budget Speech. As usual this year the Minister has named his Budget the "Rededication Budget" for reasons best known to him.

At this point, I should like to thank the Minister for the psychological sense which made him to call this Budget the "Rededication Budget", bearing in mind that during the last two years this young and prosperous Republic had been involved in various crises and counter-crises both technically, economically, politically and otherwise.

The Budget Speech has covered all the necessary aspects of our needs in this country by bearing the name "Rededication". To my understanding, the Speech has drawn our hearts and minds towards serving this country immensely and in a way that will bring prosperity.

It has also called on us to rededicate our lives to the preservation of the fundamental unity of this country and to try to find out by all means a solution towards the eradication of the existing ill-feeling, tribalism and sectionalism

in our country. It also calls on us to find a way through which we could redouble our efforts in developing this country both in the field of agriculture, industry and trade.

I would like to suggest a few things for the good government of our country. In his Budget Speech the Minister of Finance said that efforts will be made by the Federal Government to help farmers with modern system of farming with a view to increasing the output of farm products.

The farmers of this country are very anxious to see the Federal Government step into farming. This is a fundamental issue and I would suggest that the Federal Government should appoint a Federal Minister of Agriculture whose responsibility will be to work hand in hand with his regional counterparts. This is necessary so that where the Regional Government fails to give the farmers adequate support, the Federal Government should step in to help either by way of supply of materials or grants in the form of money. This will help the farmers in the rural areas to have modern farming equipments for modern system of farming.

I also welcome the Federal Government's idea of encouraging farm settlements. At this juncture I would like to suggest that these settlements should be established in each and every rural area so that each area could develop its products in the way it likes. The more the new systems of farming that are introduced to the Nigerian farmers the more we shall be helping him to increase his productivity.

Turning to other aspects of the "Rededication Budget", I would like to talk about the lack of good roads in this country. The Minister has already pointed out that work will soon begin on the Tegna-Daura Gusau-Sokoto-Yelwa, Bauchi-Gombe-Yola Roads.

I am appealing to the Minister of Works that whoever is awarded the contract for these roads should see to it that the roads are properly widened and that culverts and small bridges are also made wider in order to enable big transport lorries to pass each other without difficulty.

The Minister is aware of the fact that at present the road through Mokwa, Kontagora, Birnin Gwarri to Kaduna still has those old narrow culverts and bridges which existed

[M. YUSHA'U MOHAMMED]
before independence. Apart from those mentioned above I would like the Minister of Works to expand all Trunk 'A' Roads to carry two-way traffic. If this is done, it will surely reduce the present daily accidents which occur on these roads.

I intend to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to speed up work on the Iron and Steel industry at Idah so as to enable Nigeria to have its own iron and steel industry as soon as possible. The Minister is aware that the prices of cars and lorries now being imported into this country are too high. If this iron and steel industry can start operation soon it will enable us to build our own cars, lorries and bicycles instead of assembling already manufactured vehicles here as is the practice at present with certain motor agents.

Turning to the Minister of Mines and Power, I would like to appeal to him to include in his next estimate a provision for supplying electricity to Kafanchan. Kafanchan is a railway junction between Port Harcourt and Kaduna, Kaduna and Jos as well as to the new extension to Bornu. The population is well over 230,000.

Turning to Nigerian products, I think that it is high time that the prices of all important Nigerian products were increased. I quite well know that the world market has been disappointing us for some time now. If this cannot be done, the best way to preserve our products at home is to establish more factories which can use our local products as their raw materials.

I would also like the Federal Government Marketing Board to take over the responsibility of buying tobacco leaves from our farmers instead of allowing the Nigerian Tobacco Company, who are at present dominating the market, to do so. They are the sole graders and buyers of tobacco leaves with the result that the farmers are not happy to sell under this kind of system which amount to cheating.

This in my opinion is really bad. Since the Regional Marketing Boards cannot help the farmers, I am appealing to the Federal Marketing Board to take up the responsibility of grading and buying the tobacco leaves from our farmers. If the Federal Marketing Board buys them, the Tobacco Company may in turn buy from it.

Nigerian tobacco is one of the best types of tobacco in the world and Zaria, Sokoto, Kano

and Katsina Provinces produce more tobacco than the quantity obtainable from some foreign countries. I want the Government to take up this matter seriously because the Nigerian Tobacco Company is one of the companies that make an annual profit of over one million pounds.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so well and ably moved by the Minister of Finance, who is sometimes referred to as "the timber of timbers".

The Bill itself is a masterpiece and very comprehensive. It gave this House a message of hope and faith in the unity and indivisibility of the Republic of Nigeria. The Minister of Finance deserves praise for the able way he has handled the finances of the nation in the past year. Here, all of us agree with him that it is unrealistic to talk of secession or of the breaking up of the Federation. We have a lot to gain by sticking together and so, in the interest of unity, we must stop reopening old wounds.

The Minister's castigation of socialism betrays his utter misunderstanding of the difference between doctrinaire socialism and the practical and pragmatic socialism which is that advocated for Nigeria and other emergent states. Definitely, Marxist/Lenist philosophical textbook Socialism is not only unsuitable for Nigeria but is also completely alien to our ways of life, whether we are Christians, Moslems or the so-called Pagans.

Surely, the brand of socialism which we advocate is planned economy which implies increased state participation in industry and control of capital and other means of production; equitable, fair and just distribution of wealth; and discouragement of high concentration of wealth and capital and other means of production in the hands of a few. Undiluted capitalism is extreme greediness, oppression and injustice. It is very un-African and even criminal.

The picture in this country is such that a handful of persons who have stumbled on wealth in not a very fair and praiseworthy way control a larger portion of the national cake. This causes revulsion in the minds of

the youths of this country and lays the seeds of an eventual—and I hope—unbloody revolution in future.

This omen is bleak for this country unless the pattern is reversed. A change is necessary to create confidence in our working masses which is necessary for the maximisation of output in our envisaged Development Programme as outlined and detailed in the Budget Speech.

Man-power must be properly allocated. The position, in which a holder of B.Sc. (Geology) or P.h.D. (Maths.) is employed as a District Officer requires re-examination and reorientation. Wrong allocation of manpower leads to minimisation of output.

Rural electrification cannot be over-emphasised. It must be given top priority in our Development Programme. Light and cottage industries cannot be developed in rural areas in order to provide jobs for the unemployed and the young school leavers if there is no power in the locality.

Electricity supply in the rural areas will help in the mechanisation of agriculture and in this way will ultimately help in checking rural exodus to the towns and cities, that is, check the depopulation of the villages while our towns are bursting and spilling over with job-seekers and potential delinquents.

The Cross River Basin should be surveyed and included in any future Development Commission. My constituency, Afikpo South, requires electricity very urgently. Many potential industries such as the Ishiagu Afikpo Pottery cannot be developed without the presence of power. Afikpo has many educational institutions whose expansion and further development depend on electricity supply.

The local people who live in compact Communities need electricity supply in order to live a modern life and make the villages better and happier places to live in. They are prepared to pay for the cost of this amenity, if allowed.

Afikpo requires a modern and up-to-date post office. The present one is completely inadequate. Eda, which is a large section of my constituency, requires a sub-post office. Its general turnover is well above the 18,000 units of transaction which is stated by the Government of the Federation.

Turning to health, the Dangerous Drugs Act which has just become law deals with the punishment of culprits who practise quackery and peddle such dangerous drugs as heroin, marijuana and opium. We know that these quacks and morphin peddlers constitute serious dangers to the lives of our people.

Many lives have been lost and many limbs and brains have been maimed by these anti-social citizens, but the legislation itself does not get to the root of the matter. My suggestion for fighting these peddlers and preventing them from continuing this crime, and ruining their trade in the country is the improvement of health services at government general hospitals. The way our general hospitals are run leaves much to be desired. They are liabilities rather than assets in the communities in which they exist.

I must not fail to give praise to the few efficient and humanitarian government doctors who are still devoted to the people's health in an intolerable system. This brings me to the noble and praiseworthy role being played by the voluntary agency hospitals in our communities.

The Saint Luke's Hospital in Anua, Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Afikpo, Saint Charles Boromeo Hospital in Onitsha and many more of their kind are praiseworthy institutions which require government support.

As a matter of fact, I would like to suggest that government general hospitals should be handed over to voluntary agencies if the Government is not prepared to improve them. One only needs to go to Lagos or any of the provincial general hospitals to see the misery of the people.

I am suggesting that the health system envisaged for Lagos be extended to the various Regions, and in this connection, the Federal Government should extend grants to the various Regional Governments to enable them amplify and supplement their health programme. The establishment of such specialist hospitals as the Boromeo Hospital, or University Teaching Hospitals in the Regions has been suggested and should be encouraged.

Turning to education, I venture to suggest that education should be made a Federal subject, so as to have a uniform standard and an even progress. I am happy about the laudable

[MR ABANI]

recognition in the Speech from the Throne to the voluntary agency in this field. But voluntary agencies should not be left alone to control education without help from the Government.

The teachers who teach in the voluntary agency schools are discriminated against. Government school teachers have different standards and different service conditions from those of the voluntary agencies. A graduate—be he a Ph.D. or an M.A. or what have you—in the voluntary agencies are treated as if he is inferior to a graduate or a less qualified teacher in a government institution. This must be stopped.

The result, of course, is that there is what I may call exodus from the teaching field of the best brains, all going to the Civil Service and leaving only the mediocre people in the teaching field. It will be a height of folly and also bleak for the country if the best brains leave the teaching field because the service conditions of teachers are not looked into.

I can hear a Member asking me if I am a teacher, I say I am. I would like to call upon the voluntary agencies to address themselves to the need of mass and adult education of our people. This is the only way by which this nation can create an articulate public opinion, which is bulwark of democracy. We lack articulate public opinion in this country.

We condone evil because the people are uneducated and uninformed. Our democratic way of life can only function properly if the masses understand the work of their government and their leaders and they can only understand this by information. We can only inform people effectively by education.

Our national daily papers have a great responsibility in this field. They must try to uphold truth with courage and try to avoid unnecessary sensationalism.

This brings me at once to the case of teachers. Their salaries should be reviewed. The Joint Council set up to examine the service conditions of teachers should hurry up and publish its Report.

Teachers are tired of waiting. A hungry man is an angry man. A discontented teacher is worse than poison. A hungry and ill-used man, be he a teacher, civil servant, a nurse or a farmer, cannot help but be discontented if he

is under-rated. So, I am advocating strongly that the teachers' case must be looked into and the deficiencies ameliorated.

Federal Scholarships should be awarded more or less on divisional or provincial basis while not sacrificing merit. This will give the under-developed areas of our Republic a chance to break through and try to catch up with the more fortunate and more developed sections of the country.

The teaching of languages in our schools is very essential. We should try and encourage the teaching of Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba, Efik and other Nigerian languages first before French, German or Spanish. Right here in this honourable House, I cannot converse in Hausa because I was not given the opportunity to learn the language in school. My Yoruba friends speak Yoruba whenever I stay with them and I feel uncomfortable because I was not taught Yoruba in school. I am suggesting that the teaching of these major Nigerian languages should be encouraged in our schools.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye): Is the hon. Member an Ibo man?

Mr Abani: I am a Nigerian. In this connection I would like to point out that the N.B.C., through the Ministry of Information, should try and instal a better and larger transmitter because the reception on the educational programme and services to the Regions are very poor. It makes the school broadcast ineffective.

It is encouraging to note that the Government is trying its best by building low cost houses for workers. The proposed Surulere extension is very important but I must say that Government should increase the number of houses to be built. Workers must be protected from the wolfish and inconsiderate landlords who catapult rents in the towns so high that the average worker can hardly afford three square meals a day after paying these fantastic rents.

Unfortunately, many "timbers" in this House who are capitalists always try to criticise the people who are advocating rent control but I am hoping that if these "timbers" could imbibe a few socialist sentiments, they might be able to see the plight of the working class.

House of Representatives Debates

579

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

5 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

580

I am suggesting that the activities of these Shylocks of our industrial towns and cities should be controlled. I am advocating that the Federal Government should make some grants available to the Regional Governments to support and enlarge their Housing Programmes. In this connection, I would like to commend the work being done by the Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation and the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation. (*Hear, hear*)

Our foreign policy is very laudable on paper. We are supposed to be non-aligned in world bloc power politics but from what I have observed, we appear to be heavily pro-West. Our voice in world politics appears to be too weak compared with our size.

It is true that the role of our policemen in the Congo has carved for us an enviable position in the eyes of the outside world but this cannot take the place of a well-reorientated dynamic foreign policy. We must be realistic in this country; we must champion the cause of the Africans who are struggling for independence in other parts of this continent.

The case of Southern Rhodesia is a point. We must not succumb to a position where a few white minority would impose their will on the African-majority. If the white minority Government in Southern Rhodesia declare unilateral independence, we in this country must react in such a way that the dignity of the African would be respected.

We welcome the Government's policy of non-interference in the foreign affairs of other African states and other countries of the world. At the same time, we must not be neutral in such matters as the recognition of the People's Republic of China and we must press for its admission into the United Nations. It is very unrealistic for us to feel that such a large country like China does not exist. If we do this, we shall be acting like the proverbial ostrich.

I am still not quite sure whether we were right in the attitude we adopted and still continue to adopt towards Portugal in her policy towards her so-called African territories or oversea provinces; but I shall leave this to historians to judge.

Turning to internal security, we welcome the establishment of the flying school and the manufacture of arms and ammunition in this

country. This is only preparing for protection against foreign attack. There is one great danger facing our internal security and that is our capacity for free and loose tongue.

Civil Servants, highly placed politicians and public personalities in this country talk too much. I do not know why. This may be due to either not appreciating the need for what I may call internal security of the state, or the fact that some people like to feel important or to impress others that they are important in the community. This must be stopped at once.

Any Civil Servant in a position of trust who spreads or broadcasts our official secret to the world must be dealt with. In this connection, we should also think of the newly established Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company. Unless proper security measures are taken, we may find that the money and valuable documents we are printing will go into the pockets of a few. And, when smuggling comes to security printing, we are done for.

On the development of the Law School, I hope that our lawyers will give more attention to research leading to more understanding of our laws and constitution. I am not trying to attack lawyers but the performance of our lawyers in giving advice and legal interpretation to certain clauses of our constitution during the last constitutional crisis in the country was very poor and very disheartening, to say the least. This, of course, is not to say that our lawyers are not learned. We depend on them to uphold and protect our rights and liberties under the law for without law and order no state can progress. Our aim is to build a nation where no man is oppressed.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On a point of order, the Member for Afikpo South (*Mr Abani*) is talking of a country where no man is oppressed. If the hon. Member did not oppress Dr Chike Obi he would not have been here.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Ijebu North-East means to say that the Member for Afikpo South is anti-dynamic.

Mr Abani: The democratic way of life which we have opted for can only be realised in practice if and when we develop the spirit of give and take, live and let live and a true spirit of sportsmanship; the ability and capacity of winning with honour and losing

[MR ABANI]

galantly. In an election, people who win must not parade their victory as if it is a new-found thing.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr S. D. Lar) : On a point of order, hon. Members would have expected the Member for Afikpo South (*Mr Abani*) to discuss the financial policy of the Federal Government rather than to talk of politics.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please concentrate on financial and economic policies.

Mr Abani : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, but I feel that these are the basis on which our economic stability will stand. If we have no unity in the country, I do not think any fiscal policy can be realised.

Turning now to the unity of our country, many speakers before me have tried to emphasise many things that tend to divide the Republic. In my own opinion, I think it is only fair that we should try to re-emphasise those things that disunite us. In doing so, we should stop reopening old wounds.

The only way of restoring faith and unity in this country is by our leaders hastening up the review of our Constitution coupled with the revision of our Electoral Laws.

I would also like to point out that tribalism is causing a lot of disruption in this country. Everybody is trying to protect his or her own tribe. It is true, as the Minister of Finance said that diversity can be a form of strength, but I think we should try to harness what unites us. We must borrow a leaf from the Eastern Region. In the Housing Corporation, where I was a member before coming to this honourable House, we did not discriminate in the employment of workers. I had the pleasure of employing Yorubas, Hausas, Ibo *et cetera*. This is really unity in practice.

I endorse what may be called the Northernisation policy, if only it means giving more Northerners a chance in their civil service and corporations. But at the same time I deplore that aspect of the Northernisation policy where a Pakistani or an Arabian, who sometimes may be a mediocre compared to his Southern counterpart, is preferred to a Southerner.

For instance, until the last Regional election in the Mid-Western Region, a Mid-Westerner

was holding a ministerial office in the Eastern Nigeria Legislature. Similarly, a couple of years ago, a worthy son of the North, an Hausa youngman, was elected as the accredited Mayor of Enugu Municipal Council. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Gentleman has dwelt too much on the question of tribalism and is thus going a long way from discussing the fiscal policy.

Mr Abani : Turning to our fiscal policy, I would say that the policy as outlined in the Budget Speech is very laudable on the whole.

In this connection, I would like to speak on the balance of payments position. Many hon. Members who spoke before me have suggested that having an adverse balance of payments means that our financial position is not good. However, I would like to submit that when our balance of payments is adverse, it does not mean that our country is in a weak financial position. In a developing nation such as ours, an adverse balance of payments may even point to progress, if only we are importing capital goods instead of luxurious goods.

Furthermore, we should look into the need for increasing the salaries of workers. Some hon. Members have suggested that workers' salaries should not be increased again, simply because of the recent Morgan salary increases. But I would like to submit that a contented civil servant or a contented worker generally, would certainly maximise his or her output. When this happens, therefore, we shall improve on our national income. I would also, like to point out that cheap labour does not necessarily mean economic labour.

I feel that if civil servants and workers generally are well paid, the farmers would also benefit through rising prices. This means that the greater part of the workers' income passes on to the farmers in the rural areas, and with the amount the farmers derive from the sale of their crops, which, of course, will be reasonable, because of the increase of pay, they can purchase machineries, fertilisers, *et cetera*, with which to improve further their standard of farming. And when the standard of farming is improved, it will result also in improved and maximised output. Therefore, higher pay for workers generally will serve as a stimulus in improving the standard of agriculture.

Now, I come to the question of hire purchase. Hire purchase in this country is very hard on the man in the street. In Nigeria the ordinary man is charged an interest of fifteen and a half *per cent* on anything he or she buys. Members of Parliament, who are in the privileged class, are charged about six and a half *per cent*. But in the United Kingdom the ordinary citizen is charged eight *per cent* interest. In this connection, hon. Members can compare for themselves the difference between the eight *per cent* charged in United Kingdom and the fifteen and a half *per cent* charged here.

I know that the bank rate is going up with a view to arresting our economic system from running riot. Nevertheless, our people are suffering because of increased rate of interest charged by firms operating the hire purchase system. I think that the Government should look into it. The Government should do something about it in order to reassure the man in the street. In fact, the rate of interest should be reduced drastically.

On the question of nationalisation, the Minister of Finance asked us not to talk about it. This is true. As a matter of fact, what are we going to nationalise? When one looks at the few industries and factories centred around Lagos, one is inclined to think that Lagos is the whole of Nigeria. But when one goes to the rural areas, one finds forests spreading all over the place. If we begin to talk about nationalisation of industries now, certainly we shall drive away would-be investors. If they are driven away, from where are we going to get the money with which to develop the rural areas? I think we should be patient enough to see our rural areas developed and completely industrialised before we can then talk of nationalising whatever we think is good for the nation. However, it has not been proved anywhere that state control of industries is more profitable than those organised by private people.

On the question of roads, I would like the Minister of Works to construct without delay the road passing through my constituency from Enugu via Ikom to Calabar. The Cross River Bridge should be built at Ndibe beach so that the road, when constructed, will pass through Afikpo, which is the centre of development in that area. But if the present

place where the bridge is being contemplated to be built is more economical, then work should start on it without any further delay.

With regard to agriculture, I would like to say that more money should be allocated to agricultural development in this country. This will enable more grants to be made to farm settlements like that sited in my constituency. With more grants, farmers and already established farm settlement schemes, will be in a position to improve their standard of farming.

I would also like to suggest that the geological survey contemplated for some parts of this country should be extended to my place, because there are mineral resources on our soil.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-North-East) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking has exhausted his time, there is no doubt about that.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Gentleman speaking has some three minutes more left.

Mr Abani : Thank you, Mr Speaker. The next problem which we must tackle is the problem of unemployment and delinquency in the country. We must bring measures aimed at rehabilitating our less fortunate brothers.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order. Standing Order 28 (4) says—

During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has been abusing this Standing Order times without number.

Mr Speaker : Really, hon. Members should avoid persistent interruptions which are aimed at wasting our time.

Mr Abani : I would like at this juncture to call upon our Trade Unions to show more responsibility. We have heard from our Budget Speech that a lot of money was lost because of the nation-wide strike which took place last year. I would advise the Trade Unions to resort to strike action only as the very last resort—when settlement is impossible.

I would like to correct the impression created by some previous speakers who suggested that the Railway Corporation hindered the progress

[MR ABANI]

of the Northern Nigeria's economy deliberately because of the strike. This is wrong. The cause of the slow economic progress in Northern Nigeria at that particular time could be seen in the Budget Speech. In the Budget Speech we found that there was a trade dispute between The Stevedoring Company Ltd. and its staff. Furthermore, the West African Shipping Conference Lines increased their charges by ten *per cent*.

I cannot conclude my speech without turning to the question of corruption in all its forms. Corruption in all its forms must be stopped. Peoples' attitude towards ill-gotten wealth and position in this country must be corrected. Reorientation must start from the top. This includes all of us politicians. We all know that if the fountain of water is polluted the stream cannot be expected to be clean. Any case of corrupt practices detected should be thoroughly investigated and firmly and effectively treated.

Finally, we need men of honour, purged of greed, men whom the lust for the spoils of office cannot deviate in the course of our national struggle, knowing as we do that we have not here an everlasting city. We must render accounts of our stewardship not only to our constituencies and our nation, but ultimately to God.

I beg to support.

M. Shehu Ambursa (Gwandu North): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I strongly support the splendid and straight-forward Budget Speech delivered by the Minister of Finance.

I would also congratulate the political leaders of this Federation on their efforts to restore peace and order after the last December election.

Turning to the question of unemployment in the whole of this Federal Republic, I have to appeal to the Federal Government to do everything possible to arrest the situation, more so, especially in the rural areas where the situation is worse. If the situation is arrested now throughout the Federation prosperity will, of course, increase all over the country.

I would now refer to the speech of the Minister of Finance in respect to the criticism of the Federal Government to the effect that

it is not spreading development sufficiently widely in the Federation. It is being said that a man from a remote part of the country does not feel the impact of the development which is going on all over the country.

May I say, for example, that a man from my constituency, Birnin Kebbi, may not know of any development which may, if fact, be going on in certain parts of this country. It is even true to say that if such a man has never travelled in his life from Birnin Kebbi to as far as Kabba he will not know of any development. But as I have the privilege of travelling all along from Birnin Kebbi down to Lagos, I have seen development going on.

A man at Birnin Kebbi should therefore be assured that development is in progress. So, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to show signs of development particularly to the people of my constituency, Birnin Kebbi.

I would here point out to the Minister of Finance that the people of Birnin Kebbi have not up till now been provided with any amenity such as electricity. All hon. Members here would agree with me that a town like Birnin Kebbi ought to have electricity. Birnin Kebbi is one of the biggest Divisional headquarters in Northern Region. There is no sign of Birnin Kebbi being supplied with electricity up till now. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to put Birnin Kebbi in his first list of priority for electricity supply.

Co-operative Societies are entirely weak in this country. They are useful to the low income groups like farmers. If such societies are encouraged, I am sure our farmers will understand that the Government is making efforts to improve their lot.

On international roads, may I stress the importance of ensuring that all the roads linking our Federal Republic with neighbouring countries should be taken over by the Federal Government. All roads, for example, linking Nigeria with Niger Republic should be taken over by the Federal Government.

In my constituency there is one important and busy road which is very useful to the farmers and the traders of this Federation. That road is called Kalgo-Bunza-Kamba Road, and it links Nigeria with Niamey in Niger Republic. The road crosses the famous River Rima at Bunza, and if one travels on the road during the rainy season—

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South East): On a point of order, I cannot understand the Member for Gwandu North (*M. Shehu Ambursa*). Is he speaking Arabic? I just cannot understand his language. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

M. Shehu Ambursa : If this road is taken over by the Federal Government the people of my constituency will benefit from it.

I should like to say something about farm settlement schemes in this country. These schemes are of no benefit yet to our people, especially the farmers. Our farmers are still continuing with their primitive ways of farming. They do not know of any other method except the method inherited from their grand-fathers. If farmers are encouraged to adopt the modern system of farming I am sure that they shall prosper more than they do now. I must stress here that people cannot survive for long if our method of farming is not improved. I, therefore, advise the Federal Government to encourage the modern system of farming in this country, so that the primitive method can yield place to the modern method.

Lastly, may I say that unity in Nigeria is soundly established. I note that everybody is speaking about unity. Unity has not ceased and it will never cease to exist in Nigeria.

I appeal to hon. Members to forget everything about lack of unity. We shall never lack unity. It will ever exist. May God assist our political leaders in their honest and peaceful efforts to unite all the different sections of this country.

I beg to support.

Mr S. E. Ogunyimika (Ondo North): I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his brilliant Budget Speech, which he nicknamed the *Rededication Budget*. He had so ably presented the Budget that every well-meaning Member of this House should praise him, and the Prime Minister for giving him the opportunity of presenting this Rededication Budget.

The Minister of Finance made a remark in his speech and, Mr Speaker, with your permission, I quote—

The cost of the strike to the country in economic terms was heavy, and the repercussions of the increased costs which are the

inevitable result of the wage increases agreed upon will be felt for a long time to come.

This remark should not scare the Members of this House from pressing for still better conditions of service for our civil servants. The workers should be encouraged to have more interest in their work and thus we should ensure better living conditions for them and their families. The civil servants are the hands of the Government who work out the Acts passed in this honourable House. Therefore, these people should be well paid.

The question of unemployment is one of the troubles that are facing the nation, and the Federal Government should do something to ease the position in good time, or else the end will not be fair to the people on top. More industries should be established throughout the Federation to enable young school-leavers from the Provinces to have employment in their parts of the Federation, rather than coming to Lagos where all the industries are concentrated.

I have to thank the Minister of Finance for telling the nation about the last cocoa crisis. In his speech, the Minister made it clear that the Marketing Board of Western Nigeria is owing the Federal Government and the Central Bank the sum of £19.3 million in short-term loans on cocoa and that this money has not been paid back.

The Minister of Finance said further that the position of the Western Government is difficult because it relies very largely each year on a large contribution from Marketing Board profits. Why should the Federal Government allow this type of Government to exist in the West when it has nothing to offer to the farmers? That Government went to borrow from the Federal Government to pay the farmers, but some people spent the money. The Western Government should be dissolved now and the trusted friends of the farmer should be allowed to run the affairs of the Region.

This honourable House should empower the Ministry of Finance to order an enquiry into the use made of the money loaned to the West and the findings of such a commission of enquiry reported to this House. In this way, hon. Members will find out what I have said here.

[MR OGUNYIMIKA]

The Shagamu-Benin Road is a death-trap. The bridges on this road are very narrow and have caused many accidents through which the nation has lost many lives and property. I suggest that the Federal Government should close this road until such time as the narrow bridges are replaced with wider ones.

The Federal Government should construct a road to connect Idanre with this Shagamu-Benin Road in order to facilitate the transportation of cocoa from Idanre to Lagos or Sapele.

I hope that after the Niger Dam project, electricity will be supplied to Ile-Oluji and Oke Igbo. I hope also that this project when completed will enable the unit rates to be uniform throughout the Federation.

I hope that the Federal Government will be kind to Ondo Province this time by siting an industry in the area and also provide an aerodrome in this part of the Federation. There are many places in this area which can be of interest to foreign visitors to Nigeria. I assure the Government that Idanre people will provide land for any industry which can be established in the area and also land for an aerodrome.

The Minister of Finance also made mention of industries which had been established by private enterprise since 1962, and such industries include those established by Nigerian investors in conjunction with foreign investors. But these Nigerian investors are the wives, brothers, sisters or the favourites of the men on top. This class of people who say they do not like what they call the canker-worm of socialism to grow fat and multiply are building financial empires for themselves and their children, while the other classes in our society are becoming poorer and poorer than before.

I think it is time that all the political parties in Nigeria should give room for the radicals in their fold to come into the Government to show how the Democratic and Pragmatic Socialism should be put into practice. The political parties in the country should not allow only those on top now to build a society where their children will dominate the whole nation with the financial empires built for them by their parents.

I beg to support.

Mr A. S. Abasi (Ibadan South) : In supporting this Appropriation Bill presented by the

Minister of Finance, I am praying that this big amount may be evenly distributed and properly used.

In the Budget Speech, the Minister referred to the improvement to Lagos and Kano airports. During the year, we want the Minister of Aviation or any Minister concerned to please take into consideration the position of Ibadan airport because it is very shameful.

Ibadan is the headquarters of Western Nigeria and thus it will be a disgrace to the Western Regional Government when a visitor who comes from abroad visits Ibadan airport and finds it in the position in which it is to-day. We would, therefore, like the Federal Government to see to this condition of Ibadan airport and have it considered with the rest of the airports to be improved.

I should like to present a suggestion to the Speaker for I have observed that the sitting arrangement of this House is not properly done. Though we in the N.N.A. form the same Government with the U.P.G.A.—as we did in the last Federal Government—but the N.C.N.C. which now forms an alliance with the Action Group should have their own separate seats soon.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, you have previously made a ruling in this House, Mr Speaker, that hon. Members speaking should confine their speeches to the fiscal policy of the Government, and not to indulge in making irrelevant remarks.

Mr Speaker : I do hope that Members will confine their speeches to the Budget.

Alhaji Mohammed Munir, Mutawallin Kano (Rano) : The N.N.A. has formed the Government with the N.C.N.C. and not with the U.P.G.A. The country as well as the House should know this.

Mr Abasi : So, it is advisable to arrange all the members of the U.P.G.A. to one side and not to mix them up with members of the N.N.A. As the distribution of the former seats used to be, how were the Federal Government scholarships distributed, because as far as my knowledge goes, the scholarships mostly used to go to the Ibos. But we thank God now that the time has changed. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : I do not know why some people like to be unruly. There is no reason for it, you know. This is a peaceful place where people should be gently and meek.

Mr Abas; The time has changed and I am sure that the weather must change too. I also thank the Prime Minister for his ability to watch the development of events in this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief B. L. W. Mabinton (Brass North) : In contributing to the debate on the "Rededication" Budget, I have some observations to make.

Members will agree with me that the talk of this country to-day is unity. But how can we achieve unity when the minority groups of this country continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water for the arch-tribalists who dominate the whole of the country's civil service? People should have a change of heart. We should appeal to the tribalists among our Ministers and Heads of Departments to please allow the minority groups to have a share of the blessings coming out of independence.

Creation of more states in this country is essential. If more states are created, the fears of the minority will be allayed. It will also help a great deal if we follow the pattern of the Senate by having equal regional representation in this House.

I am yet to be told why those of us from the special areas should not have a special treatment in the so-called Abubakar's broadly based Government. I wonder also what type of unity Members are anticipating when in a certain region some people were denied of their fundamental human rights when they were asked to close down their hotels, bars and so on, which they had been running for over ten years—

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West) : On a point of order, I am surprised that the U.P.G.A. Members of this House can come here to fill the ears of hon. Members with such provocative statements. As I am speaking now, I know of an U.P.G.A. Minister who has a large quantity of sewing machines in his official quarters.

Chief Mabinton : We have been told in this House that legislation will be introduced to convert the Posts and Telegraphs Department

into a *quasi*-commercial organisation. When the Federal Government was responsible for the special area, the Niger Delta Development recommended that a post office and telephone installations should be built at Yenagoa, but up till the present moment nothing has been done.

This recommendation was made about three years ago and up to the moment, there are no communication facilities in that area. I am therefore, asking the Federal Government to please build a post office and a good police post at Yenagoa now, and not to wait until the Posts and Telegraphs becomes a *quasi*-commercial undertaking.

I also want to appeal to the Federal Government to implement the recommendations of the Niger Delta Development Board. This Board was set up to help bring this area in line with the other parts of the Federation. I would be very happy if the Government could give the Board wider powers to enable it to do its work more efficiently. I would even suggest that a special Ministry should be created to look into the affairs of this area.

I now want to speak about the transportation of our goods in this area. Members who have visited the creek areas know that most of our towns and villages are on the creeks. The only means of transport in these places are canoes and engine powered-boats. The Government is at present having two creek mail running from Warri to Agbere in the Mid-Western Nigeria and from Port Harcourt to Odi in the Eastern Nigeria.

What we actually want is that the Government should allow a station like Odi, which is more central to the Ijaws in the Mid-West to serve as a meeting place for both the creek mails and the passengers wishing to continue their journey. We also need better and faster launches than those old types now in use.

I now want to say that I am very grateful to the electorates of the Brass North constituency who voted me into this honourable House. I am a tin-miner by occupation, and it is a long time since Nigerians in the tin mining industry have been looking forward to the day when the Federal Government will allow them a say on the Floor of this House. I do not see anything wrong in the Government appointing tin-miners as special Members of this House.

[CHIEF MABINTON]

I am very happy to note that the Northern Government has now appointed one Mallam D. B. Zang, a miner from Plateau as a special Member of the Northern House of Assembly. I have also noted that this same Government appoints people of different political views into high offices. I have decided to come into this honourable House through the ballot box to see that Nigerian miners have a hand in the running of the affairs of their country.

I am happy that the Government is to encourage the exploitation of our mineral resources. I do hope that this will not be done at the expense of the African miners whose survival depends largely on the assistance to be given in the form of loans by the Federal Government. Another assistance that can be given to these miners is to allow them to join in partnership with investors who have come to invest in Nigeria.

I would however like to ask the Federal Government to be very careful in scrutinising the accounts of these tin-mining, oil and smelting companies, so that there will be no room left for any doubt. We are told that royalty from oil in 1970 may be up to £100 million. I wish to advise the Government to learn a lesson from what happened in the Suez and other oil prospecting countries in Asia and America.

I also want to ask the Government to ensure that Nigerians in the tin-mining, oil and smelting industries should not be made a nominal heads. They should be allowed to have hands in the day to day running of the business.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Muhammadu Ningi (Bauchi North West): In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I want to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the fact that the economy of this country largely depends on agriculture. Although efforts are being made to introduce a new system of farming, I still feel that more efforts should be put into the introduction of the system.

The Federal Government should find ways and means of introducing modern farming to help the farmers in the rural areas.

Most of our products come from the rural areas. Moreover, it seems to me that the rural areas have been neglected by not pro-

viding them with amenities. The Federal Government should not concentrate its efforts in establishing so many industrial projects in the urban areas alone. These should be established in every corner of the Federation.

The question of unemployment is getting worse because every year there are so many young school leavers all over the Federation. May I suggest to the Federal Government that it would be in the best interest of the country to establish craft schools throughout the Federation through which these young school leavers could be trained to be good citizens of this country instead of roaming about seeking for jobs.

I would also like to point out that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is losing a lot of money by unnecessary delays in transporting goods from the Northern Region to Lagos. I am strongly appealing to the Minister of Transport to see that something is done to prevent such delays.

With regard to the Lagos University students, really, the attitude of these students showed bad behaviour to the nation. One would have expected them to respect at least the word of the Prime Minister. May I know from the Minister of Education if the students have got anything to do with the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor? I strongly condemn the actions of the students on this matter.

Coming to the Nigeria Police and the Army, I feel that they did very well during the last federal elections, especially those who brought to an end the crisis in the Tiv Division. Without their good work, several lives could have been lost.

With regard to the unity of this country, although several hon. Members have spoken on this, I would still like to add a little to what they have said. We should seriously appeal to some ambitious leaders of certain political parties who want to rule this country through the back door, to stop making unnecessary utterances through press and radio. Their utterances may bring another "Congo" into Nigeria.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way he has presented his Budget Speech and hope

that the Minister will include, under electricity projects, the supply of electricity to Ningi, my constituency.

I would like also to appeal to the Minister of Works that the road from Bunga should be taken over and tarred by the Federal Government.

I beg to support.

Mr Jackson Edomwonyi (Benin West) : Mr Speaker, "I am proud of my colour for he who is not proud of his colour is not fit to live," so says Dr Aggrey. With western and eastern civilisation we should not cast overboard our heritage. There should be no ridicule of our custom which is predominantly African, but rather, we should seek to improve on it so as to make it reflect our taste for mixture.

Dr Aggrey, again, once said: "We must play the black and the white keys to produce harmony". Custom is one thing and tradition is another thing. Custom means habit or usage, and tradition is practice or opinion handed down to posterity.

I wish to stress here the dire need for the guidance of our tradition which is a sacred institution, and the preservation of our custom except nudity which is a custom among certain hill-tribes of this country. All over Nigeria, the use of loin cloth or wrapper, thrown over the shoulder or tied round the waist is a custom not a tradition of a particular tribe. It may be that the custom was imbibed from the Edos during the spread of civilisation of the Benin Empire.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : On a point of order, the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) is not concerning himself with the financial policy of the Government. Surely, the throwing of wrapper over the shoulder has nothing to do with the fiscal policy of this country.

Mr Edomwonyi : In close association with this aspect of our customary dress, I would like to appeal to our Obas, Obis and Emirs about the disparaging use to which the conferment of chieftaincy titles in this country, is being subjected especially in the Western Region where every Tom, Dick and Harry is a chief. The use of beaded crown or cap has been abused and makes mockery of chieftaincy.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman should speak about the Mid-West and not the West. If we have a number of chiefs in the Western Region, certainly, they have more in the Mid-West and the hon. Gentleman cannot actually impute any motive about the Western Region because the Mid-West and the West are the same in custom and in everything.

Mr Speaker : We are not discussing chiefs and "mid-chiefs"

Mr Edomwonyi : The Minister who has just spoken should realise that the Edos and the Yorubas are kith and kin who descended from a common origin in Egypt.

As I have already said, it is not the tradition in our land that one person should hold chieftaincy titles of two, three or four villages or towns. It is a mockery of our custom and I am calling upon the leaders of this country—

Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba East) : Mr Speaker, I am not a chief, but I rise to defend the cause of the chiefs in the Western Region. Anybody who is awarded a chieftaincy title is considered to be a really highly respectable person in the Western Region and it is not given to every Dick, Tom and Harry. People who are awarded chieftaincy titles are numerically insignificant to the percentage of the whole populace.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, Sir, I would seriously ask my brother from the Mid-West to desist from talking about chiefs. He should talk about "mischiefs" and not chiefs !

Mr Speaker : That is not the "chief" topic !

Mr Edomwonyi : I have only cited this as an instance, and I am calling on the Governments of the Federation to save our tradition and guard it zealously as it was handed down to us by our ancestors.

Now, turning to the fiscal aspect of this country, I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his Rededication Budget Speech. Permit me here, Mr Speaker, to refer to the Minister's speech as it appears on page 3 of the speech, the last paragraph of which reads thus :

Nigeria's need to-day is not for doctrinaire theorists importing foreign dogmas that have

[MR EDMONYI]

little relevance to Nigeria, but for men of initiative, men with new ideas, planners and thinkers, the kind of men whose pioneering vision, allied to faith and plain hard work, built the United States, the Great Britain, Canada that we know to-day.

It should not be difficult for us to have this type of men, if we have the right type of teachers in our Schools and communities. How can we get good type of teachers? Ministers will not go to schools to teach people. They do not go into the streets to gather people and say "you Nigerians must have good conduct, you must show good examples". Most of us who are here to-day were taught by teachers. But why is it that teachers have now been relegated to the background? Teachers are considered the underdogs of our society.

I am happy to know that our respected Prime Minister was once a teacher. The outstanding qualities which he possesses to-day were developed right from the time he was a teacher and not when he was a transport owner or a trader. I am sure that about 85 per cent of hon. Members of this House were once teachers, if they are not still teachers.

I seize this opportunity to appeal to the Government of the Federation to come to the aid of teachers. There should be no trafficking with teachers. There are no prospects for teachers. I have been a teacher for the past 30 years. Yet, there are some teachers who have served up to 40 years and are still earning a very low salaries.

I know of a Senator in the constituency of the Minister of State (*Mr Lana*) who has been teaching for the past 50 years. There are teachers who have been teaching since 1923 are still being paid very low salaries—they are still earning less than six hundred pounds per annum, whereas their own children are to-day big men in the community. There are people with only standard six pass certificates who are directors of companies in this country, to-day.

There are many standard six certificate holders who occupy high positions in this country. As soon as these people get to these positions of power they look down upon and shun teachers. Some of them even hate to see teachers in their societies.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to consider the fate of teachers so that they may be placed on equal footing with their brothers in the civil service. People in the civil service with Senior Cambridge Certificates can attain any position by promotion and we say that they do so on merit. Such civil servants are not required to pass examinations year in and year out before they can attain high positions in the Civil Service.

But anybody who enters the teaching field either with a standard six certificates or as a grade three or a grade two teacher is expected to pass one kind of examination or the other if he wants to advance in life at all. Grade One teachers are the equivalents of graduates. (*Interruptions.*)

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have seen teachers passing examinations in pool playing.

Mr Speaker : Those are cheaters and not teachers.

Mr Edomwonyi : At the opening of this Parliament, His Excellency the President, in his Speech, mentioned that the curricula of our schools are still to be revised. The curricula of our schools are not going to be taught by the Ministers, they are not going to be taught by the directors of corporations or by the chairman of corporations but they are going to be taught by teachers. A hungry teacher cannot do his work efficiently.

Teachers are not paid regularly. I learnt this morning that some schools have not paid their teachers for the month of March whereas civil servants have got their salaries as far back as the 21st of this month. So, I am calling on the Federal Government to take up the case of teachers. The Federal Government should have a uniform system for the grading of teachers and for the payment of their salaries.

On the question of education, I would also appeal to the Government, like many hon. Members who have spoken on this issue, to introduce a uniform system for primary schools in this country. I understand that in Northern Nigeria primary school education ends with standard seven. In Lagos and in the Eastern Region primary school education ends with standard six but in the Western and the Mid-Western Regions primary education ends with primary six which is standard four.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : There is nothing like standard six in the North. What we have is primary seven.

Mr Edomwonyi : I should be happy if the Member for Wukari (*Mallam Umaru*) would listen attentively. If he had listened, he would have known that we are both saying one and the same thing. The point I am trying to press home is that the unevenness of our primary education system is doing an untold harm to our civil service. This is so because people with primary six or modern school certificates from both the Western and the Mid-Western Regions cannot secure employment in Lagos or in the East or in the North be he a Northerner, an Easterner or a Westerner. This is because his educational qualification is not—(*Interruptions*).

M. Jibirim Girema (Numan) : Our people with Class Three certificates can get employment in Northern Nigeria.

Mr Edomwonyi : Class Three in the North is obtained from the Middle School. I was in the North. After passing standard six one goes into a Middle School from where one gets a middle three certificate which is the equivalent of class four.

I am calling on the Federal Government to adopt a uniform system of school leaving certificate examination for all primary schools in the Federation. It is only through this that the Regional Ministries of Education can raise their school curricula to conform with the standard examination for all primary schools.

At present, all Government Colleges in the Federation conduct the same entrance examinations. Children from the West and the Mid-West often find it difficult to pass these examinations.

The Minister of Finance said in his Speech, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

Let us not forget the farmer in our anxiety to give a fair deal to the wage earner. It is sometimes said that the farmer is the backbone of a nation, and I believe this to be true.

It is not difficult to surmise from the foregoing that the Minister had in mind the farmer from the North, the East, the Mid-West, the West, and perhaps Lagos. But it looks from the negotiation going on in Brussels, that the Government is catering for only a portion of the farmers. Our negotiation with the European Economic Community is to secure free

entry or favourable entry of our products to the Common Market countries, which products are cocoa, palm oil, groundnut oil and plywood. I understand that rubber—the predominant product of the Mid-West is not included in the list of products.

Rubber which is an important product of the Mid-West should be made to find its way into the Community, and a fair and stable price negotiated for it. Farmers in the Mid-West, particularly those from Benin Division, are suffering. I therefore pray fervently, on their behalf, that the Government should include rubber in its list of negotiable products, as in the case of the North groundnut; the East palm oil; the West cocoa. The Mid-West has no other marketable product, and it should not be neglected on this score.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I protest on behalf of Lagos. I would say as in the case of other Regions, Lagos industry.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am very grateful to the Minister of Finance for reminding me that Lagos is blessed with industries.

From the Budget Speech, it is observed that the French Government subsidised the Western Nigeria Marketing Board by a loan of some £6 million in order to purchase all cocoa offered for sale by the farmers; this subsidy was given in the form of a loan by the Federal Government. But may I say that there is no hope of recovering it and in due course it is going to be a bad debt—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I will not allow the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) to mislead this House. It is not going to be a bad debt. As a matter of fact, it is not a loan to the Western Nigeria Government, but to the Marketing Board.

Mr Edomwonyi : It is quite correct, according to the Minister, that the £6 million was a loan to the Marketing Board; but in his Speech, the Minister of Finance points out thus—

For the Western Nigeria Government the position is difficult, because it relies very largely each year on a large contribution from Marketing Board profits to its capital development fund.

The question is, if I do not eat corn, but drink pap, then I do eat corn. So, although the loan was not given to the Western Nigeria Government, but to the Western Nigeria Marketing Board which is a feeder to that

[MR EDMONYI]

government, in effect it is the Western Nigeria Government which received the loan. To my thinking, this kind of preferential treatment to the Marketing Board amounts to spoiling an already spoilt child.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is a very serious matter and, although I shall be replying to most of the points made, I think I must clear the air. We are all one in this country. The question of withholding the sale of cocoa was an economic measure taken in the interest not only of Nigeria or West Africa, but of Africa as a whole. And the Federal Government, in addition to being an umbrella for the regional governments, should be able, whenever a regional government is in financial difficulty or in any difficulty for that matter, to come to the aid of that regional government. It is not that the Western Nigeria Government was bankrupt, or that it was in any financial difficulty, but that the Marketing Board was unable to get better prices for our cocoa. If it had succeeded, it would have affected not only cocoa, but also rubber and other products ; and I think it should be complimented for being bold enough to take the step it took in order to get good price for our export products.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am again grateful to the Finance Minister for this explanation. I would not like to be as hard on that point as I intended to be, in view of his explanation. But, nevertheless, I would still like to remind the House that it was through this Marketing Board that the then Western Nigeria Government, of which the N.N.D.P. members on the other side were prominent, squandered the taxpayers' money, and even signed some of the documents with their toes—

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : On a point of information, may I say that on this question of squandering the taxpayers' money, the hon. Gentleman speaking is right in part but wrong in part. It is true that the Marketing Board money was frittered away, not by the N.N.D.P., but by the Action Group.

Mr Edomwonyi : May I add that Chief Akinloye was a Minister in the then Action Group Government. Am I to understand that since his party affiliation is now with the N.N.D.P., he is no longer the Chief Akinloye he was at that time ?

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : And may I add too that the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) and myself were both in the N.C.N.C. when the Action Group embezzled the money.

Mr Edomwonyi : Does the hon. Gentleman who has just interjected and whom we often refer to as "Dr Sloans" think that being in the N.N.D.P. absolves him and the rest of what part they played in the frittering away of the Marketing Board's money ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My point of order is on relevancy in debate. I want to appeal to the House that whether we belong to the Action Group, or the N.C.N.C., or the N.P.C. or the U.P.G.A. or the N.N.A., we should refrain from attacking our political parties as such, unless one is provoked to it.

Let us debate the financial policy of the Government, and I would appeal to the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) to please desist from mentioning a political party that is represented here, because all the parties are representing not only their own interests, but also that of millions of Nigerians.

Mr Edomwonyi : I am grateful that the hon. Minister of Finance has saved the situation, otherwise it could have been worse.

In the siting of industries, Benin Division should not be forgotten as this is the largest Division in the Mid-Western Region. In Benin Division, there are vast rural and undeveloped areas. There is great need for electricity in the whole of the Division. There is also need for the construction of pipe-borne water in large towns like Uhen, Egbeta, Igwobazuwa, Udo, Ugbogiobo, Osasimwinoba, Odighi, Urhokwosa, Ehor, Ugieghudu, Igbanke Eguaholor, Ugo and Evbohghae.

I mentioned the names of these places because in the whole of Benin Division, Benin City is the only place where there is pipe-borne water ; Benin City is the only place where there is electricity. All the other towns in the whole Division have suffered untold hardships under the rule of the Western Region. I am therefore appealing, very seriously, to the Federal Government in its pledge to aid—

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : On a point of information, Mr Speaker, I sympathise with the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) who is now speaking. It is true that the Mid-Western Region suffered adversely under the Action

Group but it was not the N.N.D.P. I was not even a minister then. I was a minister from 1951-56. From 1956-60 when the Mid-West suffered, it was Chief Obafemi Awolowo who was Premier of the Western Region then.

Mr Edomwonyi : Much as the hon. Minister of Finance is trying to save the situation, I think the hon. Minister of Industries is trying to pull my leg and I shall let him have his fill if Mr Speaker will permit me to do so.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : One could well understand the reason for the appeal made by the Minister of Finance, but I think he has forgotten that the standard of the Government Bench has been lowered by the recent appointments of some Members of this House to ministerial posts and that is why, of course, the Minister of—I have forgotten his portfolio—may be he is the Minister for Ibadan—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is the first time that I shall be hearing what my hon. Friend, the Minister of Trade (*Dr Mbadiwe*), would call logical illogicality for I cannot see how the prestige of the Government Bench can be said to have been lowered when it is reinforced by people who are duly elected by their constituents, reinforced by people of respectability, and, above all, people who can be rightly called timbers of timbers and caterpillars.

Mr Edomwonyi : It is true that there are timbers of timbers, be they *obeches* or *kpokpos*.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) please wind up his contribution to this Debate.

Mr Edomwonyi : I have to express my gratitude to the Minister of Works for the construction of the Shagamu-Benin road. I however pray the Minister of Works to widen the bridges and straighten the bad, sharp corners which lead to the bridges and which constitute death traps to all the users of this road. Many deaths have been reported on that road this year and nearly every day we have accidents occurring on this road. There is no doubt that the road in itself is very good but the bridges are so narrow that they can hardly take big lorries.

While still speaking on roads, may I appeal to the Federal Government to widen the Mission Road in Benin City. It is a Trunk A road but it is in a very bad condition. The coal tar has given way. The road is badly deluged.

The drainage is very poor, yet this road runs through the heart of the City. The care of this road is not the duty of the Regional Government nor the duty of the City Council but it is the duty of the Federal Government. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Works to see to it that this road is widened urgently so that it can be made a double traffic road.

Finally, I wish to point out that the gap between the pay of Ministers and other Floor Members of this House is in the ratio of 4 : 1. I therefore implore this Parliament sitting to review the salaries of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other Members of this House to make these salaries reflect the ratio of 6 : 5 : 4, thus Ministers would earn £2,400, Parliamentary Secretaries £1,500 and Floor Members £1,200.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Benin West (*Mr Edomwonyi*) has exhausted his time.

Mr W. Aileru (Egba Central) : I rise to join other Members in congratulating the Minister of Finance on the able speech he made on the Floor of this House. In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the year 1965-66, I have some observations to make.

In stressing the need for national unity we should not overlook the need for equitable distribution of Federal Government amenities. I must point out here that for the past ten years no single industry has been sited in the Western Region and in the Mid-Western Region by the Federal Government. This is not fair to us in the West and the Mid-West.

Again, if we sincerely want unity in our country we must together eradicate tribalism from our ministries, corporations and our universities. Appointments, promotions and awards of contracts under these ministries, corporations, universities, Armed Forces and the Police should strictly be made on merit and not on any other thing.

In the past the Ministry of Communications had not been fair to my people in Abeokuta. Three years ago, the Federal Government voted money for the building of an automatic telephone exchange in Abeokuta, but up till to-day this exchange remains a dream; the site has not even been cleared.

To end my contribution to this Debate, I strongly appeal to the Federal Government to increase its all-round financial assistance to the

[MR W. AILERU]

regional governments of the Federal Republic in order to enable them carry out their development and welfare programmes like health, agricultural and educational developments for their people.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Dr T. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : I rise to join the others in congratulating the Minister of Finance on his **Rededication Budget** not only because of the manner in which he presented it but also for his personal ability and the way he has managed the financial affairs of this country for the past five years.

I am not here to make his head swell, but I must make this remark that our hon. Minister of Finance is well known the world over and we are proud of him in this country. I am particularly happy that he has been included in the new Cabinet, and not only included, but reappointed the Minister of Finance. He has made his financial management result in progress, stability and unity in this country. He has, in addition, made it possible for the products of this country to be increased, and this is in proportion with the increase in population of the country.

However, I would like to encourage the Minister to put more money in agriculture. Not enough money has been put in agriculture. There are many areas of land all over the Regions, both in the North, West and the rest of the Regions. In the West there are thick forests which can be cultivated but without money this cannot be achieved.

I am sure that with large sums of money being invested in agriculture, the school-leavers all over the country will be encouraged to take to agriculture and we will have less loafers in the cities and in the towns.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : And we will have no more thugs.

Dr Dada : Yes, there will be no more thugs.

At this juncture I would like to call on the Minister of Finance to take appropriate measures to encourage our citizens who are living in Ghana. There are many Nigerian nationals living in that country but they are not allowed to send enough money home to their children in this country. I would therefore like to ask the Minister of Finance to take adequate measures to see that this situation is rectified.

In the speech, not enough emphasis was placed on the insurance houses, bankers and merchantile houses in this country. It appears that much of the money realised in this country is being taken out of the country to other countries. I do not know how, but I think it is necessary to have a legislation to make it compulsory that a greater percentage of the profits made in this country must be ploughed back in the country for the improvement of the nation.

I would now like to speak on the Ministry of Communications. I regret very much that my hon. Friend the former Minister of Communications is no longer there. I know that a lot of evil is going on in this Ministry, especially with the Posts and Telegraphs Department. For example, hon. Members will be surprised to hear that an hon. Member of this House sent some money to his people in Jos from Lagos since January, and up till now the money has not been received. When the officials are questioned, they hide under their senior officers, who in turn always protect them, and in the end the money is lost.

Quite a lot of anomalies can be found in this arm of the Ministry, particularly in connection with registered parcels, money and letters. I would, therefore, ask the new Minister of Communications to see that this evil is rectified.

I would like also to point out to the Ministers of Works and Transport that we have too many trucks and trailers on our roads nowadays. These vehicles are too heavy for our roads and cause not only damage to the roads and bridges but also cause many accidents and deaths on the roads. No doubt we transport our products through this means, but I think the railways should be improved and expanded so that most of the heavy transporting will be done through the railways.

I now turn to the all important question of unity. Talking in all seriousness, the people who always stand up in this country and sing unity, unity, are the very people who work against the unity of this country, by doing the opposite of what they preach.

Several hon. Members : People like the Member for Ilorin East (*Dr Dada*).

Dr Dada : I would very much like to tell my friend the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) who was trying to mislead this House this morning—

Some hon. Members : But he is not here now.

Dr Dada : Yes, he is not here now, but I told him to come because I was going to attack him. He ought to be here in any case.

I think it is necessary to understand the set-up of universities. The academic work of the University is the responsibility of the Senate of the University while the administrative work in the University is for the Provisional Council or the Council of the University. Therefore, there are members of the Senate who are members of the Council and as such when a decision is taken by the Council it is necessary that it should be obeyed by the Senate and by the students.

I would like to take this opportunity—

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central) : On a point of order, the administration of the University is in the hands of the Senate as provided in section 3 (2) of the University of Lagos Act. We have a special law governing this particular institution. It is not the same thing as that of Zaria.

Dr Dada : My hon. Friend has not been to a university and he does not know what happens there.

Several hon. Members : But he has an LL.B. degree.

Dr Dada : I know quite a lot of people who got their LL.B's outside a university. The pity is that most hon. Members do not know how a university operates. (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Members have to wait for their turn if they want to speak.

Dr Dada : What I am saying is that it is now necessary to call a spade a spade, and when our students in this country misbehave it is for us to condemn their attitude on the Floor of this honourable House. We do not want to produce graduates who will be incorrigible ; we do not want to produce graduates who will not obey orders and the law. So, I want all hon. Members of this House to join hands in condemning the attitude of hooliganism and unnecessary demonstrations in our institutions of higher learning.

I beg to support.

Mr S. U. Bassey (Eket South-West) : I would like to contribute to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and in doing so, I would like to say that the budget speech, apart from being a masterpiece of rigmarole, has also shown clearly where Nigeria is going now.

It has clearly shown us what the economic policy of Nigeria is. In fact we do not know that Nigeria has adopted capitalism as an economic policy.

I want to say that the U.P.G.A., to which we all belong, believes strongly in socialism. Therefore, I am surprised and I have to express my regret that the Minister of Finance has come out openly to attack this philosophy. If the hon. Minister of Finance does not believe in socialism, then it is better for him to resign from the N.C.N.C.

Furthermore, I want to draw the attention of Members to the speech of the Minister of Finance on socialism, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote :

I must draw the attention of this honourable House to a cankerworm which, if we allow it to grow fat and multiply, will surely destroy the economic fabric of the nation. That cankerworm is the new socialism.....

The tenets of socialism require that state ownership of land, of capital, of the means of production and distribution must replace private ownership, with the abolition of inheritance as a necessary corollary.....

For the basic principle of socialism, the principle from which nationalisation springs, is the complete subordination of individual freedom to the supposed interests of the State.

It therefore means that the type of freedom which the Minister of Finance is advocating is freedom for the rich few to continue the ruthless exploitation of the workers and the ordinary people of our society. The sole aim of socialism is to abolish capitalism ; that system which breeds the exploitation of man by man ; the system which the Federal Government is now advocating as being ideal for Nigeria. It is precisely—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, it will be interesting to note how much the Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) was earning as a trade unionist. I have known him since I was Minister of Labour ; let him tell us how much he was earning compared with the ordinary labourer in the street. Let him tell this House, and if he is not prepared to tell the truth I will do so, so that hon. Members will know actually who is exploiting the workers.

Mr Bassey : Let the Minister of Finance know that when the time comes the salaries of Ministers and their allowances will be reduced.

R BASSEY]

Chief Okotie-Eboh rose —

I want the Minister of Finance to be calm and to listen a little more to all of us who are going to speak.

I want to tell this House that the type of freedom which the Minister is having in mind is a freedom for a few to send their children to Eton College in England or to Switzerland, while millions of children of ordinary people are perpetually condemned. In time to come the school leavers of our free primary education will become hewers of wood and drawers of water in the farmyards of the Nigerian capitalists.

The freedom which we talk about here is the type of freedom in which one man is in a position to give his daughter a birthday present of a *Mercedes Benz* car, whereas thousands of Nigerians are not even able to afford transport fares for their children. It is freedom for the rich few to dominate governmental machinery and appoint eighty Ministers out of a House of three hundred and twelve Members; the amount of salary they get we shall have to analyse later and on the Floor of this House. In short, it is freedom for the rich to get richer and for the poor to get poorer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order; this shows that my hon. Friend, the Member for Eket South-West, (*Mr Bassey*) is not only a *wayo* trade unionist but also a pagan. It is stated even in the Bible that to those that have, more shall be given, and from those that do not have shall be taken even the little they have.

Mr Bassey : That is the type of doctrine that we are strongly opposed to; such freedom to exploit and plunder is alien to socialism. The type of freedom in which one man works to make another man rich is basically due to inequality of opportunity and this is what —

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Mr S. D. Lar) : On a point of order, I want to draw the attention of the House to the Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) and to say that he looks more a capitalist than a socialist. The wrist watch he is putting on costs more than sixty pounds.

Mr Bassey : I think the hon. Member who has just interrupted my speech has a wrong conception of socialism. He has disgraced socialism. Socialism does not mean that one should go in tattered clothes.

I would now like to deal with certain aspects of the Budget. I want to say that when I first listened to the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance I thought that the Budget had something in store for Nigeria. Honestly, on close examination, I have discovered that the Minister of Finance and, of course, the Federal Government for that matter, had thrown a balloon on the nation. I regret that the Minister of Finance has chosen to call it a *Rededication Budget*, but in actual fact, it is a *Frustration Budget* to the nation.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, my hon. Friend has already drawn his salary from this *Frustration Budget* as well as his consolidated allowance, and yet he is so frustrated.

Mr Bassey : I have got nothing. I want to refer to a very important aspect of the Budget and I would like hon. Members to please look at the fiscal policy of the Federal Government. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote from page 21 of the Budget Speech, which reads as follows :—

In speaking about investment incentives I wish also to refer briefly to exchange control policy. Nigeria's exchange control is relatively free and unrestricted in a world where completely free exchange is almost impossible.

It is one thing for the Federal Government to advocate a policy that people should invest in the country, and it is another thing altogether to allow them to go away with all the profits.

During the negotiations on the Morgan Awards, we did point out several companies that had repatriated large sums of money from Nigeria. The big question at that time was : What was the law governing repatriation of profits? The law is not there yet and as a result, huge profits made by these companies are repatriated overseas for building their countries. This is very vital to the economy of this country. If we can give the investors all the encouragement and all the assurances they require that their enterprises will not be nationalised, we expect them to re-invest part of their profits in the country in order to give full employment to our people. But they do not do so and they continue to repatriate their profits overseas, thereby leaving the country completely empty.

The Minister of Finance has put it clearly that it is only through expectation that they will do so—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, my hon. Friend was present when I presided over the negotiations, and this type of wild allegation was made by them. The hon. Member will remember that I challenged them at that time that they should come to my office and name the companies that repatriated their huge profits overseas. None of them has done so up till now. I now challenge my hon. Friend to name them as he is covered by parliamentary privilege. He should not make a general remark in order to scare people away.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijoro) : On a point of order, may we know whether the profits that accrue from the *Omimi Shoe Factory* are sent to Switzerland ?

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order. It seems there are so many frustrated socialists here.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : This is really a point of information. The Minister has tried to refute the allegation about repatriation of profits by overseas investors. I would like him to explain to the House what has happened to the reference made to the huge credit on page 6 of this Budget Speech, which I quote with your permission, Mr Speaker :—

Total credit to the private sector rose from £134.4 million at the close of 1963 to £158.8 million at the end of 1964—an increase of over eighteen per cent.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Is it only on the pages of newspapers that the hon. Member can reason ?

Chief Onabanjo : I can reason not only on the pages of newspapers but also on the Floor of this House.

Mr Bassey : With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would still like to quote from page 21 of the Budget Speech, which reads as follows :—

Whilst many foreign companies do re-invest a reasonable proportion of their profits, there are others which repatriate profits in full and at the same time rely over-much on the slender resources of the banking system to finance their working capital requirements. This is not a fair response to the policy of free and unrestricted exchange control, and I wish it to be known that I can and will withdraw my permission for local short-term borrowing where it is evident that the applicant is using such facilities as a substitute for adequate permanent capital.

During the negotiations on the Morgan Awards, we named several companies which we knew to have repatriated large sums of money overseas.

I can see that the Minister of Finance is challenging me. That was exactly the way he challenged me during the negotiations on the Morgan Awards. I even said then that several expatriate civil servants who received as much as nine thousand pounds in lump sum compensation later came back to this country and were re-engaged by the Federal and Regional Governments. The Minister challenged me at that time, and I named the expatriate officers.

It is unfortunate that this Budget should be called a Rededication Budget. It is not so in fact. It is a frustration Budget, and I want to take the opportunity of pointing out to this House all the lapses in this document.

Let us refer to several other items which the Minister of Finance has presented to us in his Budget. What do we find ? What is there in it for the nation ?

Some hon. Members : £78 million.

Mr Bassey : £78 million on what ? Let us take the Niger Dam Project, which is designed to generate electricity for the country. No mention is made of the sum of money already spent. No mention is made of how much more this project will cost the nation. Are we afraid of the details involved ? What were the effect of insurance and freight charges by the Conference Lines on materials supplied for the project since the past two years ? We do not know all these details.

Then let us take the Bacita Sugar Factory. All that is produced by this factory is granulated sugar. There is another company, the *Tate and Lyle Company*, which turns this granulated sugar into cube sugar.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, I really want my hon. Friend to be clear in what he is telling the House. Is he saying that in Bacita, there is a Sugar manufacturing company that produces granulated sugar, and that there is another British company called *Tate and Lyle* turning it into cube ? Can the hon. Gentleman substantiate that ?

Mr Bassey : That is exactly what I am doing.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But this is absolutely untrue.

Mr Bassey : I want to say this : I am a trade unionist. It is my duty to tour the country

[MR BASSEY]

extensively and know exactly what is happening in the country. Probably the Minister of Finance has not toured the country enough to know all this. He has probably toured only overseas.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) : The Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) is speaking about industries located in my Constituency. Therefore, I have the knowledge which he has not, to correct him in what he is saying. The Bacita Sugar industry is located in Bacita, and the *Tate and Lyle* Company is not located in Bacita, but in Ilorin Town. (*Prolonged Laughter*)

Mr Speaker : Will hon. Members please allow us to hear more of this frustrated socialism.

Mr Bassey : I gratefully accept the correction of the hon. Minister of State (*Alhaji Abdul Razaq*). The fact is that the Bacita Sugar Factory produces only granulated sugar and the *Tate and Lyle* Factory turns this into cube sugar. Why is there this duplication of operation? Why cannot the Bacita Sugar Factory complete the process by turning the granulated sugar it produces into cube sugar? This is the point I am making.

Alhaji Abdul Razaq : The Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) is still misleading this House. The *Tate and Lyle* Factory that is located in Ilorin Town which has not gone into production yet, will be turning granulated sugar into cube sugar, but the principal thing is making sales.

Mr Bassey : I do not want my own contribution to the Budget debate to be very controversial in this House.

I want now to deal with the Morgan awards and how they affect the economy of this country. I want to say that the failure on the part of the Government to legislate on the payment of the awards has given many employers of labour much latitude to frustrate the workers of this country. I will cite an example of the *Omimi Shoe Factory* at Sapele which is still paying under £5 per month to its workers, and which cannot permit the organisation of a trade union in that industry.

Mr Speaker : These are some of the details that will be discussed at Committee stage. I think we should concentrate on the general financial policy of the Government.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I will correct the last statement by my hon. Friend that trade unionism is not allowed in the *Omimi Shoe Factory*. From where he has got his information, I do not know. As a matter of fact, there is a Joint Industrial Council in the Shoe Factory, and he knows what that means.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, The *Omimi Shoe Factory* is not under the Minister of Finance.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu South-West should know that I have a declared interest in that Factory. If he did not know before, he should know now, and write it in *Aiyekoto* tomorrow.

Mr Speaker : The Minister of Finance must have been replying on behalf of the Minister of Industries.

Mr Bassey : As I was saying, the failure of Government to legislate on the payment of the Morgan awards, has given much latitude to employers of labour to exploit the workers of this country. There is no compelling force attached to the payment of the awards.

We know of several employers of labour in this country who are making enormous profits, and who are quite in a position to pay the workers these awards. They refuse to pay because payment of the awards is not enforceable by law. We pointed out during the negotiations that if these awards were not enforceable by legislation, it would be difficult to realise the full implementation of the increases. The Federal Government has paid so much to her own workers, while employees of private firms and industries have not enjoyed any awards out of this Morgan negotiations.

When we shall be dealing with specific heads of the Estimates, we shall point most of these lapses out.

I next want to refer to cocoa prices. The Minister of Finance has confirmed the fall in cocoa prices. If that is so, it is unfortunate that we have not sought for markets outside the N.A.T.O. powers. We are afraid of our image. Nigeria has not stamped her image on the world map.

I wonder why Nigeria, up till now, has not been able to establish cocoa processing mills that will manufacture ovaltine, cocoa, chocolate and other beverages for our own consumption. It is shameful that if the prices of cocoa are falling in the Western market, we cannot

explore other opportunities in the Eastern European countries. Unless we extend the sale of cocoa to the Eastern countries, we shall be undermining our policy of non-alignment.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) has exhausted his time. Furthermore, it is now 6 o'clock and under Standing Orders, sitting is suspended until 9 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.

Alhaji Salami Olukotun (Kabba) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

I am supporting this Bill with the hope that this time the scholarship scheme of the Minister of Education would not be in the pattern of what it has been during the past five years. Is it not an open fact that the Federal scholarships have been awarded in such a way that they have become the exclusive reserves of the Easterners? Well, I am happy that the new Federal Minister of Education is from the Western Region. I, therefore, appeal to the new Minister to distribute scholarships in such a way that they would benefit all the regions of the Federation. Kabba Division, in particular should be given a fair share of the scholarships.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr N. Asanbe (Owo Central) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so ably prepared and read by our opulent and fabulous *Omimi Ejo*, the hon. Minister of Finance. He must have spent many sleepless nights preparing that piece of document which he rightly christened, the Rededication Budget. He therefore deserves my hearty congratulations for good work done.

In order to reflect the spirit of sacrifice on savings propagated in the Budget Speech, I would like to call on the Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, to reduce drastically the army of his Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I humbly appeal to him to reduce the number from eighty to forty. The mere fact that the Government is broadly based does not necessarily mean having an unwieldy number of people on the Government Bench, but it means that the parties forming the Government should all be represented. The number eighty is a sign of squandermania. A reduction

of this number would mean that there would be more money available to the Government for the providing of amenities.

Charity begins at home.

If the number of the people on the Ministerial Bench is reduced, this will show some seriousness in the Government and then the Government's call for sacrifice on savings will be well taken by the people of Nigeria.

My second point is on the theory of socialism propagated by the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech. The theory portrays the Minister as anti-socialist. His doctrine cuts across his party's ideology of pragmatic socialism. I do not know whether the Minister of Finance is on his way towards crossing the carpet to an unknown side very shortly. After all, carpet crossing is in vogue in this country.

I would advocate that extreme capitalism be discouraged and that wealth should be evenly and equitably distributed. No Nigerian should remain poor in the midst of plenty!

I wish to say a few words on agricultural improvements. The farm settlement is a partial answer to unemployment and the production of enough food for the people of this country.

The interest on loans granted to farm settlers, particularly, in the Western Region, is prohibitive, and as a result of this many students run away from the farms before the completion of their training. I suggest that the conditions of the loans should be made quite attractive so that many students would be prepared to stay and finish their courses.

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of order, the hon. Member speaking is irrelevant. He is misleading the House. Farm settlement in Western Nigeria has nothing to do with the financial policy of the Federal Government.

Mr Speaker : I would like to hear a little more of what the Member for Owo Central (*Mr Asanbe*) has got to say.

Mr Asanbe : Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, the Federal Government's promise to help the Regional Governments with grants in respect of agricultural improvements, is welcome.

I would like to refer to the surplus powdered milk and flour being sent to our schools and colleges as free gifts by the U.S.A. Government. I wish to place it on record that we are grateful to the Americans for their generosity. But I

[MR ASANBE]

think that Nigerians could have better appreciated this generosity if agricultural machinery were given to us instead and our people taught to make use of them in the production of our own local food crops.

We must encourage co-operative farming and modern agricultural appliances should be provided and distributed on a constituency basis.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Member is too selfish.

Mr Asanbe : No, I do not live near rivers and so I cannot sell fish.

Referring to the building of roads, the Federal Government deserves some praise. I congratulate the Government on the work done on the Shagamu-Benin road. But I have to point out that the bridges on this road are very narrow. Narrow bridges are a source of danger to lives and properties. The bridges should be sufficiently widened to take two lorries at a time. The Regional Governments should emulate the action of the Federal Government on the question of roads.

If we have not got the money to build motor ways like those to be found in civilised and more advanced countries of the world, we could at least start building two-lane Trunk Roads "A". The road from Owo to Lokoja should be converted into a Trunk Road "A". A link should be made to connect the Owo and Ore-Benin roads. The building of a railway line from Oshogbo via Ilesha and Akure through Owo Division to Benin is a necessity. Good roads are a good means of evacuating our agricultural products.

The Speaker may like to know that Ondo Province is one of the primary producers of cocoa in the country. Therefore, Ondo Province deserves better roads. It was Adam Smith who said that the building of roads is of the greatest agricultural importance.

I have a few observations to make on the implementation of the Morgan Commission's Report. I should like to suggest that the negotiation on the conditions of service of teachers should be speeded up and that teachers should be given their proper position as citizens of Nigeria, because teachers are the builders of the nation. Their case should not always be treated last. Teachers should be

made happy and contented in order that they may be able to implement our educational policies and thereby help in building a strong and prosperous Nigeria. If teachers are paid well and their conditions of service made good then the exodus of teachers to other fields of employment will be arrested.

With regard to the exploitation of our mineral wealth, I would like to entreat the Federal Government to carry out a comprehensive geological survey in Owo Central Constituency at Oka, Epemi, Supare, Isuwa and parts of Akoko Division. We have got the older type of rocks in these places and they will therefore contain some mineral deposits. If minerals were mined in this area this would provide employment opportunities for many thousands of unemployed school leavers in the country.

Oka, with a population of nearly 63,000 people is in dire need of pipe-borne water supply and electricity. The people there want to feel the impact of the Federal Government's industrialisation of the country. I entreat the Government to establish an industry in my constituency as a step towards solving the acute unemployment problem which exists there.

Finally I would like to say that some of us talk glibly about unity. We shout "one Nigeria" when it suits our convenience. Even a Minister, for that matter, had the effrontery on the Floor of this honourable House to make provocative statements asserting that the review of the constitution should not be contemplated.

Ours is a peculiar sort of Federation. After the constitutional reviews and conferences before independence, our leaders said that federalism was imperative. We at the moment still have not absorbed fully the principles of federalism. One of such principles is that no one state should be large enough to override the wishes of all the other states put together. But the Northern Region of Nigeria violates this principle and therefore constitutes a threat to the Federation. To remove this anomaly the North should be split into at least four states, if we are really sincere and genuinely interested in the unity of the Federation. The boundary between the North and the South must be adjusted.

Minister of State (Mr S. D. Lar) : Honestly we cannot allow the standard of debate to deteriorate in this House. The Member who is speaking is not discussing the fiscal policy of this Government. He is rather discussing the question of states and this has nothing to do with the fiscal policy of the Federal Government. So he is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Owo Central (*Mr Asanbe*) has actually deviated from at least the discussion on the fiscal policy of the Government. He should realise that this is not a constitutional conference.

Mr Asanbe : When I referred to the unity of the country and the constitutional reviews that are necessary I mean to say that we want a good atmosphere to be created to enable the fiscal policies work well. That was why I thought it fit in my speech to mention something about unity and the review of the constitution.

Mr Speaker : That is a long-term fiscal policy.

Mr Asanbe : If there is no peace in the country and there is no tranquility, then the fiscal policy will be a sham. Secondly, the machinery for elections must be overhauled if we want peace in the country. No one would like the event of last December to repeat itself. No candidates should be prevented from filing their nomination papers. Anything that makes a mockery of the election and makes nonsense of the ballot box should be avoided. Thuggery should be made illegal in this country. In this regard I have it on good authority that the N.N.D.P. would cause thirty of its candidates to be returned unopposed in the forthcoming West Regional Elections.

Mr Speaker : This is indeed not fiscal policy and the Member for Owo Central knows this very well.

Mr Asanbe : I think an atmosphere of tranquility should be created if we want our fiscal policy to succeed. If we brush aside events that cause disunity I think that we are not being sincere to ourselves. Therefore, I feel very strongly that these things should be put right once and for all. If we come here and make sweet speeches and try to cover up or patch up things, I do not think that that will help us. I think it is very much better that

we give a realistic approach to our problems and try to solve them. That is why I have taken some trouble to go into this question of the review of the constitution. But as Mr Speaker has asked me not to go further into that, I still feel that the unity of the country is paramount to us and when conditions are created whereby everybody could feel that he is a member of the Federation, then our aspirations would be realised.

With these points I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (Gwarzo) : I rise to support the Budget Speech of this year. Once again the speech is masterly, well-prepared and shows that the Government of the Republic has the welfare of the people in its heart.

I have only a few observations to make. The first one is about transport. When I talk of transport I have in mind local transport. We were told in the past to combine together and form unions, because we just could not get anything worth getting individually. We formed good transport unions and companies up-country. In Kano and in other places we have good motor transport unions but, and a very good "but" it is, what do we find? We find that although Nigeria fought and got her independence politically, the fruits of independence have yet to be realised by the local people.

We have among us some alien money grabbers from Lebanon and Syria. I can hear a Member asking me to include Israel so I include it. These people are giving us an unnecessary headache economically. Our local motor transport union members have to come down to Lagos to prostrate and beg these aliens to give them loans. What is amazingly bad is that some of these aliens from the "Near" East and the Middle East, not even from the Far East, have no transport of their own but they are allowed somehow somewhere to organise themselves as middlemen.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : How tall is the middle man?

Alhaji Bello Dandago : He is very tall. We are fighting a losing battle against them. These people—the Syrians, the Lebanese and (I have been asked to add the Israelis) the Israelis—can play a nasty game and they know how to do it. They play such a nasty game here and anywhere else except in Ghana. I

[ALHAJI BELLO DANDAGO]

do not know why they play it in Nigeria. Ghana does not tolerate nonsense in this respect, though not in all respects. The Government over there is highly jealous of these people and that is why, in all seriousness, I am asking this good Government—and I know it is good—to re-consider the stand of the local people in the field of motor transport.

The Federal Minister of Finance's customs duties have made cars very dear to-day, so much so that as tall as I am I have to squeeze myself into a *Morris Minor* car.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : It must be a very strong *Morris Minor* car that can carry the Chief Whip.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : So, some poor Nigerians have learned to unite, and they have formed a motor transport union in order to be able to buy the lorries at their present high prices, but unless they are given the facilities, they are assisted, and they are allowed to use the lorries bought, I think the economy of the country will be drained to the "Near" East and the Middle East.

All that I have said about motor transport applies equally to local trade. The Lebanese and the Syrians sell almost everything including pepper for soup; so the competition is something which we just cannot afford to continue beholding with calm. It is time we re-arranged things. A well-known adage says: "Live and let live", but we should not allow other people to come and live and suffocate us until we die economically. That is not good enough. We do not ask them to pack up and go, but they can reasonably live and allow us who are the indigenous people to benefit from the fruits of the country. I am extremely serious about this. I know that the Ministers—the few we have on the bench and those not here—will, in their collective responsibility, take the necessary notes and I hope something tangible will be done.

Year in and year out we come here and complain about the havoc these aliens do to the country, but sufficient care is not taken. I hope that this will be the last or the last but one time that I will complain about this matter.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I seek your protection, Mr Speaker. The Chief Whip has been looking at me as if I were an alien.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : By the looks and by the attire of the Minister, any man in his senses will know that he is not an alien. However, he is one of the people that matter. It is to him that we are talking and complaining bitterly on behalf of our motor transport union and local traders.

I now come to the Traffic Police. With the betterment of medical facilities the birth rate is on the increase. At the same time, the vehicles on the roads are over-swelling. Unfortunately, the vigilance of the Police as we knew it in the past is diminishing. Whether this is caused by the attainment of independence I do not know. In any case, I think the Traffic Police should be much more vigilant in checking motor drivers with a view to minimising the deaths on the roads. It will interest the House to know that on checking somewhere I found that in two years, in two years only, the number of Nigerians who lost their lives was 4,000. People who were just wounded or injured are not included in this number.

Any money spent on the Police to that effect is worthwhile. I am suggesting that the number of traffic policemen be increased because their responsibilities have increased. Their training makes them better on their jobs.

I think this is the time to ask the Government to persuade the Judges to do something about traffic offenders. There is no point arresting a reckless driver only for him to be warned or fined 25s. That is not enough. I think, in all seriousness, the Courts should consider a heavier punishment for irresponsible drivers brought to them, no matter what type of traffic offence it is. Whether the driver is drunk while driving or is negligent he should be severely dealt with. So, I think that when the Police are asked to be more vigilant or when their number is to be increased, the Courts should also give us a helping hand in the matter. If one's driving licence is taken away for two years I am sure such a one will learn to be more sensible.

In the colonial days, we knew how difficult it was before a person could be considered fit to drive a lorry. But now, anybody who is prepared to die can go and get a driving licence and drive a lorry. I think that a driving licence is now cheaper and easier to get than what it used to be.

May I say a few words on the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The Nigerian Railway Corporation is continually failing the public, if it has not completely failed. All I am asking is that the Corporation should come out openly and boldly to tell the public, "We just cannot serve you". When they shall have done that, then, we too will say, "Wind up, pack up and go" and we will know what to do.

The coaches of the Nigerian Railway Corporation are filthy, dirty and we have incessant engine failures these days. There are even cases of engines breaking down after two or three miles of operation. This is not good enough. It is not the fault of the engines, there is inefficiency somewhere. The inefficiency should be detected first before anything can be done.

Just before the 1959 federal elections, some diesel engines were bought. I do not want to go into the detail of the purchase unless I am forced to do so. Up till now, the coaches, though filthy, are not enough. The engines are not enough and all we hear regularly on the radio is "use the railway, use the railway" and, when we come to use the railway we find it below expectation.

I have also noticed recently, to make the position worse, that the number of coaches on local trains have been reduced. Also, it is the coaches that are used for the limited trains that are also being used for the local trains. There is a very popular one, the Zaria to Kano local train, the number of coaches have been reduced and we have been made to believe that it is a temporary measure but the management did not tell us how long the temporary measure will last.

We can only hope that this temporary measure will not be permanent. It is only this Zaria to Kano local train that I know but, I am sure, if hon. Members are asked they will confirm that the coaches of the local trains in their constituencies have been reduced. The Railway Corporation should do something to improve the situation.

The Railway station at Kano I think was opened in 1910 or 1911. The building, housing the railway station has been standing there like a former filthy army barracks since 1911 and nothing has been done to improve it. It has taken ten years to repaint the building

but they now say it has been redecorated. We do not want redecoration, we want improvement.

The station is a very busy one and if I am allowed to go into detail I can show that it has a voluminous business. I would say that the Railway Corporation should either stop their announcements on the radio forthwith or improve their services. They are not serving the public. I think it is about time, if things have gone as they ought to have gone, to start thinking about double tracks now. The double tracks system is not in sight, even the single track is failing.

Speaking on roads, I think there are some roads in the Regions which should be taken over by the Federal Government in order to help the Regional Governments to face other problems. I have in mind the Gwarzo to Kano road. The road is in the produce producing area and it is only 46 miles long. It is a Regional Government road but I think as it is a produce evacuation road, it serves Gabassawa, Karaye, a big constituency, Dawaki and Kiru, a densely populated area.

I think it is worth-while for the Federal Government to help the Regional Government by taking over the Gwarzo to Kano road. I think this is imperative.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): What do they evacuate?

Alhaji Dandago: They evacuate ground-nuts and when the N.E.P.U. members go and lecture, they bring them back.

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): I wholeheartedly support the Bill but I have to mention some points which seem to me a bit extravagant. I quite appreciate that this extravagance has been brought about by the Prime Minister's love for Nigerian unity.

If one examines our 1965-66 Estimates, one will be convinced that the increase in Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries is going to involve the Government in a heavy expenditure. I am sure all sincere Members of this House will agree with me that it is not the appointment of seventy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries that matters but the difficulties that will arise sooner or later after the appointment.

[MR ODO]

The first thing is that each of the twenty Ministers with portfolios would like to send to his idle brother to come and become his Private Secretary.

All the fifty-three Ministers and their twenty-six Parliamentary Secretaries would like to be provided with cars and houses respectively. Furthermore, the Ministers' wives too, would like to be provided with cars for shopping purposes.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, surely, Ministers' wives cannot come into the question of the Federal Government's fiscal policy. If the Member for Idoma West (*Mr Odo*) has no wife, let him go and marry one.

Mr Odo : We must not lose sight of the fact that there must be housing problems caused by the increased number of Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries. We all know that each of these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries must be provided with houses. This will cost us a lot of money. The money that will be spent on their houses will not include the overseas allowances they are hoping to get when on tour. When they are on tour, they always want their pockets to be filled with allowances.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-North-East) : On a point of order, there is a clear way in which our Ministers' wives can come into the debate on fiscal policy. These Ministers' wives are in the habit of using electric sewing machines, *et cetera*, at the tax payers' expense, thereby consuming electricity to the tune of over £400 or £500 per annum.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu-North-East (*Mr Odulana*) should try to grow much more sensible with the years. No Minister's wife is using electricity to the tune of £400 or more free of charge in a year. The hon. Gentleman, knows that. Therefore, he should not come to the Floor of this House to make statements which he cannot substantiate.

Mr Odo : What baffles me is that our present House of Representatives was not enlarged so as to warrant an increase in the number of Ministers. The question now is,

what has brought about the increase in the number of Ministers in the present Government? (*Interruptions*)

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking, was educated at the same time with those people under the Awolowo group. That is why his speech is very ambiguous.

Mr Odo : Everybody in Nigeria will agree with me that Nigeria needs plenty of industries so as to solve her unemployment problems. So many people are unemployed in this country, especially in the rural areas. What hon. Members are asking for is that the rural areas should be developed in order that the people in the rural areas may be employed.

Every hon. Member here has been talking about the economic development of this country, but I do not know whether the increase in the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries is the economic development which Nigeria needs.

In this connection, I am honestly appealing to those Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who have the love of Nigeria at heart to think and decide to reduce the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries at the next Cabinet Meeting.

Our Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries should also decide to take the third class clerk in their Ministries to serve as their Private Secretaries, rather than inviting their unemployed brothers or relatives to come here and become their private secretaries with a view to buying cars for them and offering them fabulous allowances.

I would also like to suggest that a high-powered Commission of Inquiry be set up immediately to investigate the Ijora land deal.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking, should be asked to refrain from making insinuations on the Floor of this House. I am talking with a sense of responsibility. If the hon. Gentleman will ask the writer of his notes to direct his attention to something else, it will be better. The hon. Gentleman should be told not to come here to tell us that "*I de for school of A.B.C. numbe two.*" (*Laughter*).

Mr Odo : May I tell this honourable House that the Minister of Finance is one of the Ministers who transported all our Nigerian money into his home town at Sapele.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The lorry with which I transported all the money was hired from the hon. Gentleman speaking.

Mr Odo : As I have already said, the Ijora land deal must be investigated and if the Minister responsible is found guilty, then he should be immediately punished. It is high time certain Ministers copied their fellow N.P.C. Ministers.

The N.P.C. Ministers are devoted to the cause of unity and honesty in their services to the nation. I am, sure all the N.N.D.P. Ministers will follow the footsteps of their friends in the N.P.C. because all of them won their seats under the platform of the N.N.A.

In this connection, I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister, to please warn those Ministers who are using their government quarters as commercial houses. Some of them are having electric sewing machines and various other electrical apparatus in their houses. Those UPGA Ministers indulging in this type of business should be sent away.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Idoma West (*Mr Odo*) please, desist from dragging the names of Ministers all over the place.

Mr Odo : It is a great shame to find that a place like Idoma Division which is full of mineral deposits such as limestone and so many others is not considered suitable for any industrial project. It seems that the Division is not part and parcel of this Federation.

Lastly, I want to point out that our Federal Ministers are in the habit of touring overseas countries. They do not even tour the Federation to educate the people on the object of their overseas tours and the benefit to be derived out of them.

All the Federal Ministers are for the Federation as a whole. They are not appointed Ministers only for their Regions' interest. The Federal Minister of Education, for instance, should be known to teachers all over the Federation.

So, I appeal to the Federal Ministers as a whole to put in their best in the service of this nation. They should not devote their attention

only to going overseas from where they derive plenty of allowances; they should also pay regular official visits to every part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr S. W. Nkom (Ikot Ekpene North): In supporting this Bill, I think, I must, first of all, say that we are, indeed, deeply grateful to the Minister of Finance for the amount of work that he has put into his Ministry to produce that excellent document.

Before I go any further, I must tell this House that, whether we like it or not, we are painting a very ugly picture to the whole world, and we must, as a people who want to save this country and her image, rectify our faults.

Without fear or favour, I must say that we have been doing things which make us look ridiculous to the whole world in matters of trade and other things. People in public offices do not show good examples for the younger ones to emulate, and I think it is high time they know that they are working in the interest of this country.

Sometimes, transactions are carried out which they think are hidden and probably not known to others, but they are day-light affairs. Vouchers are signed, and junior clerks know what goes on. These things are very scandalous.

I am therefore asking our public men in high offices to please set a good example for the younger ones to follow. These scandalous deals do not do us any good. They are of no use to us, and we must stop them once and for all. In this respect, I do think that our beloved Prime Minister will be God fearing and not man fearing.

On scholarships, I can stand here to say that since the introduction of Federal scholarship awards not one person from Ikot Ekpene Division has benefited from them.

I hear an hon. Member asking to know how many people have applied for scholarships from that Division, but may I say that very many people did apply, and those who applied were very qualified for the scholarships.

I again hear another hon. Member directing me to the Premier of the Eastern Region on

[MR NKOM]

this matter, may I point out here that I am discussing the Federal Government scholarships and not the Eastern Region scholarships.

I would now like to speak on trade and industry. May I ask the hon. Minister of Finance to take measures to prevent fraudulent traders from giving a bad impression of this country abroad. Some very dishonest traders get goods from overseas, sell them, and make use of the money. They do not honour their trade agreement with the people overseas. Such a thing is very disgraceful, and such dishonest people make other honest people lose their business. I desire that steps should be taken to prevent that.

It appears that industries are concentrated in the area where we have the powers that be. If we must live in this country and be part of it then we have to share the amenities, the privileges and the duties of this country.

I can state that we have raw materials in my constituency for the making of paper. Cork is abundantly available there and we all know that this is very widely used in most of our industries in this country. I hope that the Federal Government would derive large profits from those raw materials if they were utilised. So, I am calling on the Minister of Finance to investigate these things and use them for the benefit of this country.

On trade, I must say that I am very disappointed about the way some non-indigenous banking houses treat our traders. They are not working in the interest of our traders and in the interest of the people of this country. They make things difficult for them.

I am therefore asking that they either make things good for us or we use the big stick to teach them what they should do. They cannot come here, get all the profits, and make away with them. Part of those profits must go into the development of this country and part must be used to improve the living conditions of our people.

On unemployment, I think that if we depend on industries only we might have to wait for a long time before we get our people employed, and I am suggesting that we should borrow a page from the more civilised countries of the world by introducing what is known as national service.

We must work out the details, and get our youngmen who come out from secondary schools, to do national service in the Army for the improvement of the country.

That is how we could use their talents and their energies rather than allow them to roam the streets and become vagabonds. We can use them for the benefit of this country. I suggest therefore that we should explore the avenues of getting that system into operation.

On wages, I must say that something has been done by the Morgan recommendations to bridge the gap. But the gap was so wide that even that attempt has not done much. There is still that gap. Paying more money to the workers is only one way of bridging the gap, and there are other ways. It might appear a difficult thing to do to control prices, but I think if we are sincere and honest we can do something in that direction.

For what purpose is it if a man receives, say, £1 as an increase in his salary, but others who know how to manoeuvre things get more than £3 from him? What has he gained in the long run? He has gained nothing. So, I am saying that something should be done to make those who belong to the low income group to live more comfortably so that if there is any rise in their wages it is not drained from some other sources and they are left probably worse than they were before.

That brings me to the case of teachers. As a Colleague has said before, it is rather surprising that we still adhere so strictly to that colonial mentality of looking down on teachers and making their plight a sorry one. The Morgan award did something to make their conditions slightly better, but, as I said before, not much has been achieved.

Some belong to the group covered by the Morgan recommendations, but what of the other sections — those who earn slightly more than £600? The disparity between the conditions of service in the voluntary agency schools and in the civil service is so great that no one can be satisfied to do the job required to be done in the country in this particular respect.

This is one of the reasons why we find that those who can afford to do so send their children overseas to receive education in better schools, rather than keep them in the country.

Government should improve the conditions of service of teachers so that we can get quality and quantity in education in this country. What I am saying is, let us as honest citizens improve our educational system and make the teachers' conditions of service attractive so that we can get good teachers to come and teach our children. It is the birthright of every Nigerian child.

On the matter of unity, I think so much has been said about it that I should say very little. The much I would say is this, that in practising those things that will bring about unity, let our leaders know that they have a great following. We are bound to copy their examples. If they have mutual respect for themselves, we are bound to copy that. Reckless statements cannot help us very much. If one leader gets up and makes a very derogatory statement about another leader, much as he is undoing the other man, he too is lowering his own prestige. So, if our leaders learn to respect themselves (as we should inherit from the culture of our country) I think they will be doing us a lot of good.

Here I would also appeal to the Press. Much as they have to tell the world the truth, they must exercise some restraint in making statements that can fan the embers of hatred and bitterness. The Press I think is one of the most powerful institutions that can bring about unity in this country, and if they realise their duties and responsibilities, I think they will, more than any other single institution, unite this country.

There is so much tribal hatred and bitterness in Nigeria. It does us no good and I hope that with these few words much will be done to our country.

I support the Bill.

Mr A. A. Raji (Ede): I rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by many hon. Members who have spoken before me on the speech of the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. One thing remarkable about the speech is its brevity. As it stands, it does not go far enough. I expected certain things outlined in the speech to have been dealt with more comprehensively. In any case, this minor criticism should not becloud the merit of the speech itself, namely, that it has touched on the main essentials.

One of these essentials is the effort all the Governments of the Federation have made, are making, and will continue to make in order to achieve a rapid economic growth for Nigeria within the context of an open economy and a democratic political system. So far these efforts have been directed, within the general philosophy, towards achieving maximum increase in the standard of living of everybody; rapid development of trained man-power; an equitable distribution of income, both geographically and socially; a self-sustaining economy supported by Nigerian efforts as quickly as possible; and, lastly, a more diversified economy to minimise excessive dependence on any single physical or economic factor.

Many of my hon. colleagues, I am sure, will join me in thanking the Federal Government for the inspired leadership it has given to the whole country, both politically and economically. I particularly single out the Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, (long may he live to render greater services to Nigeria) and his Cabinet for the excellent and dynamic leadership they have been giving to the Federation in the task of building a virile, self-respecting and a united country out of a conglomeration of diverse ethnic groups.

The present Six-Year Development Plan, according to the President's Speech, is still under way. But I have to remark that the benefits to accrue from the implementation of this Plan should not be confined to either one geographical area, or to one tribal group. We all—politicians, civil servants, labourers and others from all walks of life—have a stake in this country. Therefore, the "national pudding" should not be served on the table of one tribe or ethnic group. We all have to share it in. We do not want to be told how sweet it is. Let us all taste it together.

This brings me to my other point, namely, that discrimination in the distribution of amenities should be stopped forthwith. I do hope that the Federal Government will see to it that such distribution is made according to need and merit. So far so good.

I note with great satisfaction that the Government will pursue during this financial year a vigorous industrial policy. I pray that such a policy should not be pursued to the detriment of one tribe and to the advantage of another. I hope that the Federal Governmen

[MR RAJI]

will work in concert with the other Governments in the Federation to ensure that any industrial policy it pursues is very well co-ordinated and that duplication of efforts and energy is avoided.

It is, however, too early for me to comment on the feasibility of certain projects which the Federal Government wants to undertake during this financial year. I do presume that Parliament will be kept always informed as to what progress the country is making in our industrial and economic efforts.

I am very delighted to note that the Government is planning to establish a Flying School at Oshogbo. There is no doubt that such a school, when established, will attract many of our qualified youngmen to choose Civil Aviation as a career. The earlier the Flying School is established, the better it will be for this country, because this will give our younger generation the opportunity to become great adventurers.

I must say, however, that I am disappointed to hear Government say that Oshogbo is the place where the School will be sited. The land on which the School will be built is in Ede. So, the name Oshogbo should be deleted and Ede inserted in its place.

I am particularly distressed when I remember that strike actions have now become the only weapon by which workers fight their cause with their employers. I think workers should go on strike only when they have failed to reach agreement with their employers by peaceful negotiation.

Also, the decision to establish a National Labour Advisory Council and a National Wages Advisory Council as the instruments for determining labour and wage policies is a step in the right direction. This is a step which I hope will go a long way to improve the present condition of workers—a condition which has made some to be hewers of wood and drawers of water.

The building of low-cost housing units at Surulere will no doubt help in providing cheap accommodation for the low-income group of this country. This also will eliminate, to some extent, one of the grievances of the habitual striking workers.

Now, let me draw my attention to—

An hon. Member : The Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) wants to “drow” his attention to what?

Mr Raji : I did not say “drow”; I said “draw”. The Member asking that question should not be silly.

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of order, the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) appears to be sleeping. I think he will be well advised to clear his moustache before speaking in this House.

Mr Speaker : If the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) means that the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) is speaking in a dream, it also means that he himself is rasing a point of order in a dream.

Mr A. Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*), who is a drug addict, is using an insulting word on the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : Some English words are very cunning. Somebody saying to his friend, “do not be silly”, is not insulting him. He is only advising him. I think it is courtesy.

Mr Raji : I have to thank Mr Speaker for educating the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) who does not know the difference between advice and an insult.

Let me now turn to what the President's Speech said that the Federal Government would do in the field of foreign affairs. I note with satisfaction the way and manner the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have been handling our foreign policy, especially these days, when Africa stands as the battle-field for the East and the West. The Congo debacle is a case in point. Thanks to—

Prince Ademola Olaniran (Oshun South-East) : On a point of order, this is the Nigerian Parliament, the highest Legislature of the land where the standard of debate is expected to be high. I must say that the standard of debate of the Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) is far below the standard.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Ede (*Mr Raji*) has been putting forward sensible suggestions.

Mr Raji : Thanks to the restraint and moderation of the political leaders of this country without whose leadership Africa could have witnessed another internecine warfare, the result of which might have been great beyond our expectation.

So far, we have been able to accommodate the unsisterly behaviour of some of our so-called sister countries.

Please, my hon. Colleagues, do not let us play politics with Nigeria's name abroad. There is too much madness around us. Let us keep our heads clear so that we may serve as the symbol of democratic leadership, a symbol of hope and of courage in this mad continent, nay, this mad world. Sanity may, in the short run be looked upon as being synonymous with stupidity, but in the long run it pays very much. As far as I am concerned, I stand by the pledge of our great Prime Minister that Nigeria will not follow any power or anybody as a matter of routine.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) On a point of order, there is a stranger in this House. I can see a Minister from Sudan.

Mr Speaker : But I cannot see any stranger in this House.

Mr Raji : The O.A.U. is an institution which, I think, by the grace of God, has come to stay in Africa. It is too early to expect it to achieve resounding success. Within the short space of its existence, it has achieved great successes. Even the U.N.O., with its twenty years of existence, cannot boast of a resounding success. What it can boast of is that it is still alive. The question of its strength or its weakness is irrelevant. The O.A.U. is the product of African geniuses, and Nigeria should give it, as the President said in his Speech, all necessary support and co-operation.

For this reason, the Government should encourage our youngmen and women to look beyond their limited horizons and take up appointments in other parts of Africa on the platform of the Organisation of African Unity.

The U.N.O. is still the best hope for peace on earth. An alternative to it is war—war on a scale that mankind has never seen before, or

will ever see. It is the forum where the have-not nations can have a say in and influence, if not change basic power-decisions affecting the good of all. Therefore, Nigeria's support for it and its specialised agencies should be a fore-gone conclusion.

In conclusion, I will insist that our deliberations in this supreme law-making body of the land should be guided by our concern for the well-being and happiness of the peoples we represent, and by our interest to place Nigeria on the world map as a country of hope and glorious ambition. Do not let it be said of our generation that we had opportunity to do so much, but that we did so little.

I beg to support.

Mr S. M. Ojukwu (Bende Central) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. It is a matter for great joy that Nigeria has been blessed with an able man in the person of the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh who, by his performances as the Federal Minister of Finance, has progressively put the finances of the Federal Government on a sound footing. One would have nothing but praise for the Budget Speech so ably delivered by the hon. Minister. A few points, however, call for comment.

If Nigeria is to continue to grow as a united, prosperous and great country, the following points which I wish to raise in the course of my speech must be taken note of.

The unity of this country is the only sure foundation upon which the edifice of Nigeria's economic prosperity can be built. Without unity, all else is in vain.

In the struggle for the independence of this country our leaders, despite their political differences, fought gallantly together like heroes, united and dedicated to a common cause. They had faith in the greatness of Nigeria as a single political unit. When they won the battle for independence all Nigeria acclaimed them. The leaders agreed that the winning of independence was more paramount than certain domestic political differences which could be taken care of after independence.

Without men like Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria ; Dr the hon. Michael Okpara, Premier of Eastern Nigeria ; our respected President,

[MR OJUKWU]

Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe; our able Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, to mention only a few, Nigeria might still have been in colonial bondage.

On the achievement of independence, Nigeria evolved for herself a most excellent and thought-provoking National Anthem, reflections upon which ought to subdue our tribal and regional attachments, and enable us, nay all Nigeria, to demonstrate to the world that tribalism and regionalism can be a pragmatic instrument for national unity.

Let us refresh our memories with the words of our National Anthem which I quote, with your permission, Mr Speaker :

*Nigeria we hail thee,
Our own dear native land ;
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand.
Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign ;
In peace or battle honoured
And this we count as gain ;
To hand to our children
A banner without stain.
O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.*

But the quest for political power has made some of our leaders blind to these magnificent words of our National Anthem, for we now seek to destroy the very house we have built for ourselves.

Some of our political parties, instead of striving to assume a national character, tend more and more to degenerate into regional or tribal parties. With only one exception, the leaders of our various political parties confine themselves to their regional boundaries and fan tribal hatred or talk of citizens from other regions as strangers in their own country. This does not make for the desired unity. These leaders show no interest in personally going out to tour the whole of the Federation to see for themselves the people they seek to rule and their peculiar problems; nor do they make any attempt to establish branches of their political parties elsewhere other than in their regions.

For a stable and lasting unity to be achieved in this country, the following points should be considered seriously. Firstly, our Constitution should be reviewed, and reviewed quickly to provide for splitting the country into more states, so that the backbone of regional domination may be broken. Alternatively, each region should send equal number of representatives to the Federal Parliament. Residuary powers should be transferred from the Regions to the Centre and only specific functions allocated to the Regions.

Secondly, our Electoral Law should be amended to allow a candidate for election to file his nomination papers anywhere in the Federation.

It should be made a serious criminal offence for anyone to write or utter words attacking members of other tribes, or which may induce one tribe to hate the other.

Our non-political heads—for example, Regional Governors—should hold regular meetings with the President of the Federal Republic, and they should pay one another visits. There should be regular meetings of the Regional Premiers and the Prime Minister.

Let our leaders and hon. Members of this House and the people of this country realise that Nigeria is more important than any individual no matter how exalted in life he may be. Let us realise that while we may as individuals die, Nigeria shall for ever live on. Let us try and fulfil our pledge to hand to our children "a banner without stain."

We need to re-arm ourselves morally and attempt to raise our moral standards for the dignity of this God-given potentially great Nigeria. If we care enough, if we share enough, there will be enough for everybody's need but not enough for everybody's greed. We must try to make Nigeria a model of democracy in Africa.

While we may be politicians, let us also be statesmen. Let us in this Parliament rededicate our lives to the building of a new Nigeria free from hate, greed, selfishness, rancour, discrimination, nepotism and dishonesty in all aspects of the life of this nation.

Let me turn to other matters of great importance too. The health of this nation is her wealth. Every effort should be made by

Government to eradicate the various diseases which are now prevalent in this country. They include small pox, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, cerebro-spinal meningitis, sleeping sickness, yaws and river blindness, as contained in the Speech of His Excellency the President to this honourable House on Wednesday, 24th March, 1965.

Hon. Members will agree with me that leprosy is the worst of all these diseases. The sufferer is socially ostracized. He therefore cannot take effective part in the economic reconstruction of the nation. What worries me, Mr Speaker, is that some leprosy persons refuse to receive medical treatment and they are allowed to move about spreading the disease under the pretext that their religion is opposed to medical treatment.

I urge the Government to pass a law and persuade Regional Governments to do the same, making it compulsory for every leprosy person to submit himself for medical treatment.

Another very important issue is the question of prostitutes. Prostitution is a social evil which no nation has been able to check. Provision of employment may reduce prostitution. In all our big cities and towns one finds prostitutes clustering round our hotels and night clubs. They are parasites on men who are enticed by them. But the disquieting feature of the problem is that prostitutes carry all sorts of venereal diseases and infest our men with them.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : I want the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) to tell this House what young men who cannot afford to marry will do if there are no prostitutes.

Mr S. Nnaji (Udi East) : I would like the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) to tell this House whether he would want these prostitutes to be taxed so as to increase the finances of the Federal Government, because we are debating the Budget Speech which says that one must confine one's speech to the economic and financial aspect of the Federal Government.

Mr Ojukwu : If my hon. Friend, the Member for Udi East (*Mr Nnaji*), listens a little further he will hear what I have to say on that.

These prostitutes carry about various venereal diseases. If prostitution cannot be prevented — (*Interruptions*).

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I understand that the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) is an LL.M. Is LL.M. a doctorate degree? If so, then the hon. Member is a prostituted doctor!

Mr Ojukwu : If the hon. Minister of Finance understands LL.M. to be a doctorate degree then he does not need to worry. He should know that I am a lawyer.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I can tell the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) that there are people who are qualified lawyers and who are also medical practitioners, if he is so ignorant.

Mr Speaker : Order, order! There is no need to quarrel on this.

Mr Ojukwu : If prostitution cannot be prevented Government should do something to subject prostitutes to regular medical tests with a view to treating these disease carriers. Prostitutes should also be heavily taxed. The improvement of our internal health services is very important.

Another important issue is the Ministry of Aviation. Every big town in Nigeria should have an airport in order to develop internal air service. In this connection, I urge the Government to set up airports in places like Aba and Umuahia.

Mr Speaker, teachers are the builders of tomorrow's Nigeria, and if any section of our working class community should enjoy better conditions of service, that section ought to be the teachers. Too often one hears complaints from teachers that their salaries are not paid regularly. In some cases, they are not paid for as long as six months.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) is interested in the payment of teachers' salaries in the Regions, he should resign his seat in this Parliament and contest election to the Regional Legislature. All the teachers in Lagos are paid regularly; we have responsibility only for teachers in Lagos. And as far as the Federal universities are concerned as well as the universities that are assisted by the Federal Government, all the teachers are paid regularly. If the hon. Member has a client from Lagos, he should let us know his name.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Central) : May I understand whether the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) is saying that Primary Education should be a Federal subject and that the Government of the Federation should take over the administration of Primary Schools in the country ?

Mr Speaker : That is a leading question.

Mr Ojukwu : What worries some of my hon. Friends is that they anticipate too much ; they are very impatient.

Education, I submit, should be a Federal subject. Government should set up an enquiry—

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : My point of order is to bring to light that some hon. Members in this House seem to forget that the legal profession is a very honourable profession.

Mr Ojukwu : At this stage of our development, the time has come when free primary education should extend to every part of the Federation. The Federal Government should be able to make grants to assist the Regional Governments with a view to introducing free primary education all over the Federation.

It is gratifying to note that Government is taking keen interest in agriculture. There is no gainsaying the fact that for a very, very long time to come Nigeria will continue to remain a predominantly agricultural country. There is need for agriculture to be improved and modernised.

Unfortunately, modern methods of agriculture call for extremely high capital outlay, coupled with a period of waiting. I urge the Government to see to it that the proposal to establish an Agricultural credit Bank is translated into reality, and that should be done quickly too. With the establishment of such a bank, genuine farmers should be given credits on easy terms.

Although I am a lawyer by profession, I take keen interest in agriculture as a means of providing employment for primary school-leavers. Pursuant to this, I am establishing an extensive oil palm plantation in my constituency, and I enjoin every hon. Member to do the same.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : My point of order refers to Order 28 (4) thus—

During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

The Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) is making very valuable contributions and some of us would like to hear him.

Mr Speaker : Order, surely if we make an order and intend to follow it, then we have to be strict about it. There is too much noise being made quite unnecessarily.

Some hon. Members : If our mouths are shut, people would tend to sleep.

Mr Speaker : This is not a sleeping place.

Mr Ojukwu : I now come to a subject of very great importance about which I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance. This relates to the trade in second-hand clothing. This trade should not be allowed to die away. The present high duty on secondhand clothing has hit the dealers in that it has sent up the retail cost of the second-hand clothes. The result is that the poor people can now hardly afford them, much more going in for entirely new materials.

All will agree that the advent of the trade in secondhand clothing has helped to check nudity in this part of Africa, and we should not now smother the trade. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to reduce the duty on secondhand clothing.

If there are bad practices by importers engaged in the trade, the Government should take every effective step to check them ; but even so, the existence of any unwholesome practice should not blind the Government against recognising the social problem which trade in secondhand clothing is helping to solve.

In the course of his Speech the Minister of Finance said, and here I quote—

A new problem has recently arisen from the extension of excise duties to many more goods. Here the difficulty is to detect the smaller factories, some of them perhaps no more than a single room in a house.

I am touching on this point with particular reference to the introduction of excise duty on locally-manufactured singlets. I ask the Minister of Finance to abolish the imposition of

excise duty on locally-manufactured singlets, because the making of singlets is, in most cases, a one-man business using ordinary hand-sewing machine. Sometimes, it is not even a full-time work.

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : For the information of the House, there is no excise duty on singlets but on fabrics.

Mr Ojukwu : As far as I know, singlet manufacturers in my constituency are being harassed by officials of the Customs Department. Whether the duty charged is on fabric or on singlets or whatever it is called, there is excise duty on it. And the amount of money spent by government in attempting to detect defaulters outweighs even the revenue accruing from the manufacture of the singlets.

I would instead suggest that purchase tax should be imposed on interlock woven fabrics which are used in the making of the singlets. This will ensure that a manufacturer of singlets pays the equivalent of excise duty, and the strain on the Customs officials making the collections would be lesser.

For some time now, the people of Umannato in my constituency have been praying the Government to establish a Police Post near the Umannato Hospital. This hospital is centrally sited to serve three communities—Item Alayi and Igbera clans.

It has suffered from constant visitation by burglars who sometimes attack workers. Life and property in the hospital are not safe and the Government should act quickly.

Trade can only improve rapidly if businessmen have means of quick contact with one another. In this connection I call on the Federal Government to extend telegraph lines to every local council area throughout the Federal Republic. In my constituency, Bende Central, one has to travel for as long as 20 miles to send a telegram.

The Federal Government should take over from the Regional Governments some Trunk 'B' roads in order that the Regional Governments might take over and improve some roads which at present are the concern of local authorities, and which are very badly neglected.

Freedom of movement is very important within and without Nigeria. I am therefore

asking the Federal Government to set up passport office in each regional capital within the Federal Republic. At present applicants for passports, who come from the regions, have to wait for a long time to be able to get passports. Passports ought to be issued to applicants within a day or two after applications have been made for them.

I now come to a very important matter on which I have to make a solemn appeal to all the Members of this House. May I re-echo the appeal made through this honourable House to the Prime Minister by my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezeru*), that the Prime Minister, in his usual statesmanlike manner should step in and save the situation plaguing our reputed University of Lagos.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) please wind up his speech.

Mr Ojukwu : This nation cannot afford to let the millions of pounds voted for the university go to the drains. I think this honourable House should not be partisan in the trouble the University of Lagos. Members will, however, agree that an *impasse* has been reached between the Senate and the Provisional Council and it is only fair that voices ought to be heard in Parliament asking the Prime Minister to intervene.

I am holding no brief for anyone but I am concerned to see that peace and tranquility are restored in the University, and that the leaders of Nigeria of tomorrow, that is, the students, should resume normal academic studies.

Some Members have given the impression that it was the Senate that was responsible for the trouble in the University of Lagos. Let me state the legal position of the Senate, the Provisional Council and the Vice-Chancellor. The Senate is responsible for recommending the appointment of the academic staff.—

Mr Speaker : The Member for Bende Central (*Mr Ojukwu*) has exhausted his time.

M. Adamu Yola (Tangale Waja) : In rising to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill of over £78 million presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, may I first of all

[M. ADAMU YOLA]

congratulate the Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for bringing this House into existence. May I also say that Nigeria has got one of the best Finance Ministers in the world, in the person of Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

I suggest that we approve the Second Reading of this Bill in order to improve our conditions. I would like to call on the Federal Government to consider four important things which I think will greatly help this country. The first of these four things is agriculture, the second is education, the third is trade and the fourth is communications.

I have a question to put forward to this House. Where are our children from the age of twelve to the age of eighteen? I shall answer this question myself. At that age our children are either with their parents at home or in the classrooms with their teachers. It is true that some of them may be trading at this age but they are still not regarded as grown-ups.

If we are to spend as much as has been budgeted for the improvement of our country this year, I suggest that the Federal Government should do something about improving the rural areas of this country. Many farmers in the rural areas use nothing but the small hoe, which is not longer than my hand, in carrying out their agricultural activities.

Anybody who has ever handled the small hoe knows the difficulty of farming with that kind of implement. We should also bear in mind that these local farmers have no radios and they cannot read. They depend entirely on what they see being practically carried out.

May I therefore call on the Federal Government to build throughout the Federal Republic good buildings for demonstrating the use of modern methods in farming, and invite the local farmers to come into these buildings and see for themselves. This is a means of keeping the farmers together as a family which will further help in making them think in terms of one united town, and then of one united region and further still in terms of one united Federal Republic of Nigeria.

If we fail to do this, the young ones from the age of twelve to eighteen will continue to run away from the rural areas and this may lead to slave trading in the country as a result of juvenile delinquency.

I would also like to say that if we want to take the improvement of our educational system seriously, we must not forget to improve the lot of our teachers. These teachers spend all their time in the classrooms teaching and lecturing and their service conditions must be improved. We often hear of teachers marching to their proprietors or their school managers, especially those teachers who serve under voluntary agency schools.

May I appeal to the Federal Government, through the Minister of Education, to put an end to this sad situation by giving serious consideration to the teachers' case and making the teachers happy because they are responsible for bringing up our young ones.

The whole House will agree with me that though we constitute Members of this House to-day, we are certainly not going to be in this House forever. What we are to do now therefore is to set good examples for the future leaders to follow.

I should also like to say that trade should be given an important position in the economic development of this country. The Federal Government should lend money to those who are interested in trading and charge as small as 5 per cent interest on such loans. The Government could recruit people like the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Mahmud Dantata*) to lecture on trading.

Communication is my third point of what the Federal Government should give serious consideration to. I have with me here an envelope addressed and sent to me from this Parliament—

Alhaji Mahmud Dantata (Kano East): It appears to me that the Member for Tangale Waja (*M. Adamu Yola*) is not speaking from a broadly based sense. I think he should limit his speech to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I am objecting to his saying that I should be recruited to be one of the teachers to teach on trading. I believe that that was what he said. I do not think that is a broadly-based idea.

M. Adamu Yola: We should do something about communications in my area. A letter was sent from this House to my constituency and I got it after fifty-two days. We have what is called a postal agency which is not working well at all. The Minister should

please look into this postal agency and upgrade it to a sub-post office through which we can get letters quicker.

I would like to seize this opportunity to call on the Government to build a modern agricultural demonstration school in Tangale Waja so that the people will see for themselves what is happening in agriculture in the world, because a majority of the people of this area are farmers.

Sometime ago when the Minister of Internal Affairs in Northern Nigeria tried to pay a visit to Tangale Waja, he was hindered—

An hon. Member : The regional Government has already provided the type of schools the hon. Gentleman is talking about in each of the provinces in Northern Nigeria.

M. Adamu Yola : As I was saying, the Minister of Internal Affairs in the North was held up on the way because of the very bad condition of the road. We have one bridge on the Gombe-Numan-Yola road which is very bad indeed. This road is not even tarred. The bridge is even very narrow and as a result of all this, the Minister could not complete his tour.

May I please appeal to the Minister of Works to take steps to improve this road and the bridges. I also ask the Minister to effect the tarring of the road between Bauchi and Yola as soon as possible and widen the bridges.

I seriously implore the Government to do everything it can to improve the conditions of farmers, teachers and traders in this country.

There is one thing that puzzles one nowadays in this country. With the increasing incidence of demonstrations in this country one begins to wonder whether in due course even the agricultural, economic, educational and social set-up in this country will not be boycotted. It is a very big waste of time, energy and money to have a Bill passed here only to make us spend additional money which we did not plan to spend. In saying this I have in mind such things as the recount of the census, the boycotting of the last elections and thereby causing another election and consequently further waste of public funds. We do not want this further waste of money which is caused by a particular group of people in this country. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance, and I beg him on my knees, not to

listen to those who will either call on Nigerians to recount themselves or to boycott elections and call for fresh ones.

Instead of doing all this, why should we not address ourselves more to improving the conditions of life of the rest of the people of this country, particularly those who are in the farms, those who are in class-rooms and those who are traders, and give them better transport and easier life? We must remember that we are all here not to waste public money but to secure it.

Finally, may I call on the Government to build one school—I have already mentioned the name before—in Tangale Waja.

I beg to support.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North East) : I beg to support the able Speech made by the hon. Minister of Finance in respect of the 1965-66 Budget. While doing so, I beg to make these few observations.

There has been much discussion, both in Parliament and elsewhere, about the rise in the rate of unemployment. Hon. Members will all agree with me that unemployment is the bane of our present day society. Unemployment means a loss in manpower, income, and a fall in the standard of living in this country. The evils of unemployment are well known to this House. How many of our youths, denied the barest necessities of life, are not languishing in jail because they were exposed to various temptations as a result of lack of employment?

I am, therefore, humbly praying the Federal Government to enact laws for the support of the unemployed as is done in other civilised countries of the world.

To establish farm settlements sounds well and good provided people in the rural areas get a fair share of these. In fact, the establishment of farm settlements in the rural areas will discourage youngmen from drifting to the urban areas in search of employment. The returns to the Government, as a long-term investment, will be immense. As an agricultural country, Nigeria would not only be benefited from the exports of the products from the farm settlements, but would feed the population very well.

Our fathers and forefathers grew their food and produced their raw materials in primitive ways, but with the provision of modern

[MR NNOROM]

agricultural machinery, the standards of living of the people of this country will be raised.

If we take my constituency, for instance—is Okigwi North East—there is abundance of vast areas of land where such farm settlements can be established. But the only hindrance is money. I therefore urge the Federal Government to come to my constituency to establish some of these farm settlements, and I can assure the Government that their venture will yield very good dividends.

Now, I would like to direct my attention to our Agricultural Credit Bank or Co-operative Bank. In this connection, I would say that if there is any constituency in this country that needs this badly, it is my constituency because there is not a single bank to serve the whole of Okigwi Division, the second largest in Owerri Province.

If such a bank is established, farmers will form co-operative societies and will raise loans from the bank for their own benefits and that of the Government which established the bank.

I have to thank the Minister of Finance for the sizeable allocation he has made for the development of roads. I am imploring the Federal Government to remember my constituency, the Okigwi North-East, this time. The only trunk A road just by accident touches only eighteen miles of my vast constituency. Also, the two railway stations — Otampa and Ovim-Amaba—which serve the whole of my constituency are mere crossing stations. The Limited trains are not booked to stop at these two stations, in spite of the fact that the bulk of passengers travelling to the North and West come from this area. There are also no adequate level crossings provided for these two stations.

Talking about hospitals, hon. Members will agree with me that the need for proper medical attention cannot be over-emphasised, although some may argue that this is a regional concern. But in the Federal Government Annual Report of 1951-52, it was indicated that the Federal Government should show interest in the distribution of medical services in the rural areas. What I am now saying is that one hospital with only one medical officer is inadequate for the whole of Okigwi Division.

In conclusion, may I say that most of us received moral instructions in schools, and here I would like to quote from the Book of Proverbs. Mr Speaker, with your permission, I quote :

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, When it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not to thy neighbour, go and come again tomorrow I will give,

When thou hast it by thee.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Zubairu Omar (Nasarawa) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was so ably moved by the Minister of Finance.

In contributing my quota to this debate, I must say that Nigeria is the luckiest country in the whole of Africa for having Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as her Prime Minister.

The Minister of Finance, in the Budget Speech, said, and with your permission, I quote :

The critics have been confounded, and the doubters scattered in confusion. This does not mean that the road has been smooth in the last four-and-a-half years. On the contrary, Independence has presented us with many complex problems. I do not claim that we have solved them all, but we have faced them with resolution, and have left no one in doubt that Nigeria is destined to be a powerful influence in the affairs of Africa and indeed of the world. [P. 1 OF THE REDEDICATION BUDGET PARAGRAPH 4]

We are happy that everything has come to its normal place and everybody knows his position.

The **Rededication Budget** is greatly welcomed by all sides of the House as it left no stone unturned.

It is common knowledge that our young school-leavers keep running from villages to towns looking for jobs just because they have nothing to do in the villages. So, I am appealing to the Federal Government to establish cottage industries in rural areas where raw materials are always to be found in great quantities. This will put a check on the tendencies of the young people to run from villages to towns. We do not want industries to be concentrated in one area while others suffer.

Coming to communications, it goes without saying that roads play an important part in our

economic development. I observe that the Federal Government is not doing its best to construct trunk A roads all over the country, especially the one running between Onitsha-Makurdi-Jos. It is not my intention to repeat what other hon. Members have said on the Floor of this House, but I shall call the attention of the Minister of Works to the present situation so that he may give the construction of trunk A roads top level consideration.

The Nigerian Army and the Mobile Police have been doing a commendable work in the Benue Province by maintaining law and order there. All people along the northern side of River Benue who fled from their homes during the last disturbances are now returning.

I want to say that the electorates have confidence in us and as such they expect us to see to it that they also enjoy amenities offered by the Federal Government, such as electricity, water supply, industries to ease unemployment, telephones and good roads.

Lastly, I want to say that I am grateful for the amenities so far provided by the Federal Government, and I implore the Federal Government to see that my constituency which returned me unopposed during the last Federal election enjoys her share of future amenities.

I beg to support.

Mr M. Unurhoro (Urhobo West): I rise to support the second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

In doing so, I must first of all congratulate the Minister for the energy spent in the preparation and presentation of the Budget Speech which also contains the fiscal policy of the Federal Government for the next twelve months. I am not in any way surprised that this document was christened **Rededication Budget**, as I understand that it is characteristic of the hon. Minister so to do.

In my contribution to this debate, I have the following observations to make. Hon. Members will agree with me that no country will prosper, nor accomplish her gigantic projects as those envisaged in our Six-Year Development Plan if there is no internal stability as well as national unity. It is therefore imperative that certain things must be done in this direction, and some

of these things that will usher in what we call national unity are :

1. the urgent review of our present Constitution ;
2. the question of representation in this House which must reflect the population of our constituencies irrespective of sex or religion, as well as the review of our electoral laws to reflect the practice of democracy in this country ; and
3. the much discussed question of the division of powers between the President of the Republic and his Ministers.

I must say that even though the question of the review of our Constitution is of paramount importance, it is not an end in itself. Constitutions are made for man and not man for Constitutions. I would like to say here that the trouble with us to-day is in ourselves. It cannot be true to say that any known country in the world to-day has what is called a perfect constitution. When students of political history say that a country has a workable constitution, they do not come to such conclusions as a result of the perfect state of the constitution. It is the ultimate working spirit of the said constitution, that is, the machinery, and that machinery in this case is ourselves.

It is therefore true to say that the spirit of tolerance and the spirit of oneness is the pivot of our national unity and solidarity. We must preach and practise national unity, not political unity, though the latter is only for political convenience. We would like to see that Nigerians living in any part of this great Republic feel at home. It would be a sad day when Nigerians will be regarded as aliens in our beloved country simply because they happen to live in a place outside their place of birth. I must mention here that the great damages being done to Nigerian national unity to-day are :

(a) The unbridled tongues of those who profess to lead. They should learn to be more restraint in making public pronouncements which will shake the very fabric of this great Republic and which will also tend to pollute the already charged tempo of inter-tribal strife.

(b) The Press should also exercise great discretion in giving prominence to the

[MR UNURHORO]

articles that tend to lay emphasis on those things that separate us.

I know that this is very difficult because certain newspapers are official organs of certain political parties, but that cannot be said of those newspapers which receive government subsidies. These newspapers should help to build the solidarity of this country.

Speaking further on national unity, I would like to say that as Africans, we like to see the visible sign of our oneness. Hon. Members will find on our currency notes as well as our coins that there is no visible symbol of our Head of State on them. They continue to have the bust of the Queen of Great Britain. The Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company which will start to operate as from this month should mint monies that will bear the image of our Head of State.

Speaking on the last general strike, it cannot be overemphasised that a lot of money was lost as a result of this strike. The Government was silent on the teachers' general strike. It would seem that the Government was not vigilant in these matters. The revision of workers' salaries was overdue. This was also brought to light in the speech ably delivered by the Minister of Finance. The strike would have been averted if the Federal Government had actually provided settlement and data for the workers' salary revision.

The step taken by the Government in accepting the recommendations of Morgan Report is also very commendable. I urge the Federal Government to give the Minister of Finance powers to redeem the pledge he gave to this House on housing and rent control when he made his famous Budget Speech.

In concluding this aspect of the debate, I would like to say that pensioners should be remembered so that they will have their own share of the Morgan Report.

On agriculture, I must say that the declared intention of the Government to create a revolution in farming methods is most welcome, even though it came too late. It is a matter for regret that in this twentieth century the same old and out-moded method of farming is still being used in our farms. I think Members will agree with me that such method will create no incentive on the part of our young men to go back to the land. In our farms

to-day, we still make use of small cutlasses to cut trees and also small hoes to dig the ground. In terms of practical and contemporary farming, we are still in the stone age. What we need is a mechanised and modern methods of farming.

I now come to farm settlements. I welcome wholeheartedly the Government's declared intention to assist the Regional Governments in this venture, but I would like to add that the Federal Government should go further than this. The Federal Government should approach this matter positively with a bolder plan. I agree with hon. Members who have spoken before me that Government should not only assist, as this is more or less a negative approach, but Government should accept that farming is the backbone of this country. It is my view that these farm settlements should be State-owned where experimental farming can be carried out. We know that these farm settlements cannot accommodate all our people. In that respect, therefore, those settlers who will be privileged to be there will have the opportunity of knowing modern farming methods. We should have in these farm settlements agricultural implements which are heavy in nature and which the ordinary farmers cannot buy. These should be hired out to farmers who need them.

Still on these farm settlements, I would say that in a place where there is serious opposition to land acquisition for farm settlement, Government should be very cautious in its acquisition policy. Where there is abundance of land and the people surrender the land to the Government, Government should pay adequate compensation for the crops.

I now come to the Central Bank. I was very impressed with the way the Central Bank has played its role in the development of our economy. This also takes me to the amount of money made available to the Western Nigeria Marketing Board to the tune of six million pounds. I cannot at all say that this is a regional affair. The Minister of Finance has made this very clear that this cocoa crisis is not the crisis for the Marketing Board alone, neither that of the Western Nigeria, but that it also affects the Federal Government.

It will be seen, therefore, that the people who are managing that part of the country need to be changed. It is high time the Government of that Region went to the electorate to seek a

House of Representatives Debates

655

[Appropriation (1965-66)

5 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

656

new mandate. Because of the miscalculation of the Marketing Board this cocoa crisis came. The Marketing Board lacks foresight in that it knew fully well that if the Cocoa Alliance refused to sell its cocoa to the overseas buyers, they would go elsewhere to buy.

I would now talk on the transportation of our agricultural products. I do not completely agree that stevedoring contract and periodical port labour dispute hampers the evacuation of our products. Our major ills are slow train movements, failure of Government to improve our ports and lack of communication. I am not going to dwell on the slow movement of our trains as well as lack of communication. I would deal with our ports.

Members will agree with me that in Nigeria, the Lagos port takes precedence followed by the Port Harcourt port, and the Sapele port which is in my constituency comes next. I would like the Minister of Transport to make a statement in respect of the development of Sapele port.

Sapele port takes the third position and this has been evidently brought out in the Nigerian Ports Authority's Seventh Annual Report for the year ended 31st March, 1962. At page 136 of the said report, table 45 under the heading, "ships entered", Lagos had 1,522 ships, Port Harcourt had 556 ships, Sapele had 354 ships, Warri had 171, Burutu had 238, Calabar had 268 ships, Degema had 91 ships and Bonny nil. From this table, Members will find that Sapele has been a very busy port indeed, and I think it should attract the attention of the Federal Government. The tonnage of the cargo handled in a specific period will show that Sapele port is very important indeed. For example, in 1963-64, the total freight tonnage handled was 41,057. Sapele port is actually very big and I hope it will be developed without delay.

I will now go to the question of duty on spirits. I would have liked that more duty should be placed on spirit that is imported into this country. People who could afford to drink a lot of whisky, would afford to pay a lot for it. I could notice from the hon. Minister's Budget Speech that the import of potable spirits has been reduced by certain percentages. I have in mind in this respect that the illicit gin which I will refer to as the locally distilled gin made in Nigeria will actually take the place of imported spirits.

Government should not be hesitant in legalising this gin. Is it because it is made in Nigeria that it becomes illicit? The word 'illicit' is a colonial terminology.

Everyone out of a hundred Nigerians in this country, tastes of this gin in one way or the other. They cannot even admit it, but in their homes people take this gin under the pretext of using it in the preparation of native medicine.

Everyday there is a lot of prosecution in respect of this gin. No matter how we prosecute them, the inhabitants of this country will not actually desist from taking this gin. So the Government must face the inevitable and must be forced to accept that this locally made gin must be legalised. If this gin is dangerous to health, Government could use chemicals in order to neutralise the dangerous aspects of it.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of information, I would like to know from the Member for Urhobo West (*Mr Unurhoro*) whether he is referring to *apeteshi* or he is referring to *kai-kai* or *burukutu*. Which does he want the Minister of Finance to legalise?

Mr Unurhoro : I thank my hon. Friend for this humorous remark. I am referring to the locally distilled gin made in Nigeria. Whether you call it *apeteshi* or *kai-kai* or *burukutu* or *Accra water* or *push-me-I-push-you*, call it by whatever name you like, the implication is the same. The Minister of Finance understands what I actually mean. We cannot actually prevent people from drinking this gin. We must have it legalised.

Speaking on Exchange Control, I will say that I am happy that the hon. Minister of Finance has brought out this point vividly to Members, that most companies actually try to repatriate wholly the profits they make, instead of re-investing them in this country. I agree with the Minister that steps will be taken to check this. But I think that what the Minister of Finance is about is that he would not like it to be put into law.

I wish to ask that where this practice is detected, there should be a law to restrict the amount of money to be taken out of this country. This amount should be fixed by law, so that when anybody or company or group of persons go against this law and send a higher

[Mr UNURHORO]

sum of money out of the country than the one allowed by law, such persons or companies should actually be held in the grips of the law.

Speaking about trade with Eastern countries, I noticed that the Minister of Finance made reference to Japan. He did say that the imports from Japan had increased to over £2½ million in the last eight months, and we do not know what may happen in the next four months.

Actually, this is a very alarming figure compared with the exports from this country to Japan, which is very low. I believe that a balance should be struck one way or the other between the imports and exports of a country. It is, therefore, a matter of great concern to any country to find, as we have found in our trade balance with Japan, that they import more things and actually export very little.

In this respect, I would ask the Minister of Finance to send a trade delegation to Japan carrying with them samples of Nigerian products. If, after that mission to Japan, Japan still refuses to buy our products, I think the Federal Government will be justified.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, I have been to Japan thrice. There is now a Nigerian embassy there with all these samples including those from Sapele, and yet the Japanese will not buy from us. The Minister of Communications, when he was Minister of Transport, was also there. I think as the Japanese people are short, so are they stubborn.

Mr Unurhoro : Having given much latitude to Japan, I feel it is time the Federal Government reviewed their tariff in the trade with Japan.

Coming now to this issue of electricity in the rural areas, I am actually grateful to the Federal Government that a power station is being built in Ughelli in Urhobo Division, even though Ughelli is outside my Constituency. I would like to have an assurance from the Government that the villages in Urhobo Division including my Constituency and also the Delta area would also have the benefit of electricity supply.

The hon. Minister of Finance made reference to the negotiations now going on in connection with certain privileges which will be given to

our products by the European Economic Community. I would ally myself with the speeches earlier made by hon. Members in this House in respect of the inclusion of rubber among those items that would receive special privilege and special entry into the European Economic Community. This is my final point.

I beg to support.

Mr N. O. Aro (Ilorin South) : In contributing to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill moved by the hon. Minister of Finance, I am saying with confidence that all hon. Members in this House will join me in congratulating the able Minister of Finance for the marvellous and well worded Budget Speech. Members will also agree with me that the Speech was not only comprehensive, but also covered nearly all aspects of our nation building, and as such, left little or no room for any criticism.

In fact, there may be some political detractors who shall see nothing good in what the Federal Government is trying to do for the progress and stability of this country. I would like to remind these detractors wherever they might be to kindly bear in mind that with a solid economic foundation, coupled with political unity, the social advance which we all so greatly desire shall become a reality in our life-time.

Furthermore, it is gratifying to note from the Budget Speech that the Government is aware that increased productivity on the farm must go hand in hand with industrialisation, and as such, the Federal Government is prepared to seek ways and means of assisting well thought out programmes of farm settlements.

In view of this, I would like to ask the Federal Government to kindly see to it that the programme is carried out to the last letter, as this will not only minimise the degree of unemployment among school leavers but will also go a long way to nail the coffin of any revolution which might arise in future through unemployment.

On education, it is an interesting thing to note that mention was made in the Budget Speech about the substantial and spectacular progress made in the expansion of higher education in Nigeria. It would serve a useful purpose and it would be an additional credit to the Federal Government if we could find ways and means of catching up with other

advanced countries. We should not be left on earth while other countries are sending people to the moon, to mars, *et cetera*, and so we should do our best to meet up with these advancing countries.

I would like to suggest that radical changes be made in our Primary schools. Seven years in a Primary school is quite enough.

In Northern Nigeria, the Government has adopted special schemes for different types of schools. In this respect, an inspectorate branch has been created under the Ministry of Education. But in my opinion, such multiplicity of officers drains the economy of the Ministry.

According to information given to me from a reliable source, in Lagos alone, there is one Chief Education Officer, L.C.C., who is in charge of all Primary schools; and there is another Chief Education Officer, Primary Section, in the Ministry of Education; and yet a third Chief Education Officer, Adult Education, in charge of both Primary and Secondary schools and each of these men has staff under him. The most ridiculous aspect of this instance I have given above, is that none of these men is really engaged in the actual inspection of schools which I am now talking about.

In my humble opinion, it is enough to have one inspectorate branch under the Ministry of Education, whose job it would be to inspect every school once or twice a year.

Furthermore, schools should be graded in categories, such as A, B, C, and so on. In this way, it would be possible to know which schools are doing well and which ones are not doing well; what type of textbooks should be bought for the students and also by dividing the schools into categories, the Government can plan ahead of time as to how many more schools should be built.

There are not enough schools for our children. Right now in Lagos, there are thousands of children who have reached school age but cannot go to school because there are no schools.

Those who are to be made the inspectors of Primary schools should not necessarily be graduates. They can be experienced teachers who have been headmasters of schools or who because of their higher qualifications are now teachers in teacher training colleges. These

inspectors should not regard themselves as masters but as advisers to both the teachers and the Ministry of Education.

This same scheme should be carried out in secondary grammar schools, modern schools, technical schools and commercial schools. We should now be in a haste in order to catch up with other progressing countries.

No amount of money spent on education would be regarded as judiciously spent unless the conditions of service of teachers are tremendously improved.

The next subject I would now like to talk about is antiquities. It is painful to reveal that at Esie in my constituency, the stone images over which the Government spent a very large amount of money some time ago, have now been forgotten. I would implore the Government to see to it that the road leading to this site, which is about four miles from a trunk "A" road, is well constructed and tarred as soon as possible. The poor condition of this road is an eyesore and a disgrace to the Ministry concerned. The expatriates and Africans who pay occasional visits to these ancient monuments are always disgusted with the deplorable condition of the road.

With due respect, I am humbly calling on the Minister of Works to convert Igbaja-Lafiagi Road in my constituency into a trunk "A" road, after which immediate and adequate provisions should be made for it to be tarred.

During my maiden speech on the Motion of Thanks to the President, I had the privilege to spotlight the shortcomings of the Ministry of Communications towards the people of my constituency. Since then, I have been receiving letters of congratulations from my constituents and some of them have even gone further to suggest that I should do my best to see that the vote for this Ministry for the financial year is cut down even by £1. Besides the Offa Post Office, there is no other Post Office in the whole of my constituency and no telephone services at all.

The people of my constituency travel between fifteen to twenty miles in order to telephone or send a telegram. Many delegations have been sent to the Ministry of Communications on numerous occasions, begging them to convert the Otun-Oro Postal Agency into a post office or a sub-post office with all postal facilities. Well, engineers or inspectors, call

[MR ARO]

them whatever you like, came to the area and after inspection suggested that certain repairs and modifications should be made to the structure of the building. But despite the fact that all these have been done, the Ministry has not yet thought it fit to fulfil its promises. However, in order to give the Ministry another trial, I shall deviate from the instructions given me by my electorates as regards the vote of this Ministry and eagerly look forward to the conversion of this sub-Post Office into a post office during the present financial year.

Quite a lot has been said on the Floor of this honourable House by Members about the corruption existing in the Police Force. It is rather unfortunate that some of the critics did not care to know or did not take the trouble to find out why some members of the Police Force are corrupt. Though I have never been a member of the Police Force nor am I holding brief for them, nevertheless, we should try to sympathise with them and endeavour to show our appreciation for the tedious work done by these gallant guardians of the peace.

Policemen are not adequately remunerated, taking into consideration the volume of work they do. With the information at my disposal, recruits in the Force are now paid an initial salary of £12 a month. This sum of £12, according to the source of my information, has just been recommended. Members of this honourable House will agree with me that some of these recruits are men with families. For goodness sake, how could anybody expect the hands of these poor fellows to be clean and above reproach with this meagre salary being paid to them and when, in fact they buy things from the same market as we do?

Unless and until the conditions of living of these people are further improved and their salary made more attractive, I am afraid that any criticism levelled against them shall bear no fruitful result, and will at the same time be meaningless to the members of the Police Force.

Members of the public often complain that the attitude of our police officers is not complimentary. As a matter of fact, a majority of our police officers are subject to this accusation. What I would like to suggest in this respect is that a subject on the code of conduct in dealing with members of the public be added to the curriculum of the Police Training College.

It should also be made abundantly clear to members of the Police Force on leaving the Training College that they would be subject to immediate dismissal if a report of misconduct about any police officer is received from any member of the public.

On commerce and industry I would like to point out some anomalous practices going on in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which are making the Ministry unpopular among indigenous small importers. In spotlighting these evils I am confident in saying, without any fear of contradiction, that I am voicing out the opinion of a majority of the small importers. This Ministry is not catering for the welfare of indigenous importers while it is allowing the big firms, and particularly the Indian firms, the lion's share of the wealth of this country through trade.

For instance, it is an open secret that when any Indian firm or any other big firm applies for an import licence, especially for goods from either Japan or China, the quota allotted to them always covers many thousands of pounds, while the indigenous importer is given the fragments from the master's table. Furthermore, the funniest thing about this import licence is the act of issuing it to girl friends who are neither importers nor traders for that matter. These girls in turn sell these licences to the Indian firms.

I would like to suggest that indigenous importers be encouraged and protected because it is they who will in future turn out to be big firms like the U.A.C., the G.B.O. or the U.T.C., and so on. Further, I would like the Minister of Trade to see that the issuing of import licences to girl friends is discontinued forthwith.

It is with regret that I note from the Budget Speech that our provisional figure on merchandise trade for the last financial year showed a deficit in our export. This was stated to be traceable to the effect of the nation-wide strike which occurred in the middle of last year, as well as to the fall of cocoa prices in the world market which happened during the last quarter of last year. I pray that such unfortunate events may not repeat themselves again.

It is also disheartening to learn from the Budget Speech that imports from Japan showed an increase while our exports to that

House of Representatives Debates

663 [Appropriation (1965-66) Bill : 6 APRIL 1965
Second Reading]

[Adjournment]

664

country remained low and insignificant. In my humble opinion I would suggest that the Government find an immediate solution to our imbalance of trade with Japan. Nigeria cannot afford to continue with this situation which will result in economic strangulation of the country.

Lastly, I would like to say that the regular increases of import duties is ruining the indigenous importers of this country. If the motive behind these increases is to protect local industries against competition from imported goods, I do not see why long and sufficient notice could not be given before these increases are imposed. The Federal Government should see to it that the output of local industries is sufficient for local consumers before imposing any increases on import duties.

I beg to support.

Mr J. Kagh-Omomadia (Isoko): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was so ably presented by the Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, alias *Omimi Ejoh*. Members will agree with me that the reappointment of Chief Okotie-Eboh as the Minister of Finance shows his efficiency and magnanimity in handling the finances of this Republic. The Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, is to be praised for his foresight.

I wish now to congratulate the Minister of Finance and to say that his Budget Speech is very commendable, not only for its clarity which is satisfying, but also for its breadth and scope, both of which constitute a pride to this ever-growing ever-prosperous giant of Africa which is our country Nigeria.

The Minister in the course of his speech outlined the financial policies of the Government for the current financial year and the various phases of development envisaged. As we are all aware, it is unnecessary and time-consuming to dilate on the points raised in the Budget Speech. This notwithstanding, it will be improper if I fail to make a few observations on some of the points raised in the Speech. In this regard it is hoped therefore that such developments envisaged will in practice be spread to the rural areas.

Several Members have said on the Floor of this House that about 75 per cent of the Members of this House come from the rural areas. This is a fact. Members will also agree with me that it is the duty of those of us who come from the rural areas to pray the Federal Government to encourage our people by giving them such amenities as postal facilities, adequate water supply, electricity supply and small industries in order to ease the unemployment situation which now exists in the rural areas.

For instance, in my Division there is no police station and not even a police post. During the last Parliament I made repeated demands for the establishment of a police post at Oleh but no action was taken on this. Now that my constituency has attained divisional status I pray the Government to establish a police station in Oleh.

We have no adequate postal facilities such as telephone and telegraphic services. I can remember that on the 11th of July, 1961 a telephone call office was opened at Ole but the service was removed the next day, and despite repeated requests by me to the former Minister of Communications no effort was made to restore the service.

Ozoro Postal Agency was due for conversion into a sub-post office two years ago, and I have on several occasions drawn the attention of the Government to this. Efforts should be made to link Oleh-Ughelli and Oleh-Kwale with telephone. I hope the new Minister of Communications will take note of these points and look into them as soon as it is expedient for him to do so.

On the question of electricity—

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 12 o'clock midnight, the Debate stood adjourned, pursuant to the Order of the House This Day.

Debate to be resumed — Upon Wednesday.

And it being after 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 6th April, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

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

Chief James Iloeje George Onyia

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Minister of State (Mr Akubakar Isandu) : I just want to correct something which appeared in one of our national newspapers ; that is, the *Morning Post*. I am referring to Question No. O.139 asked by the Member for Ibadan West (Mr Oyewole) on the 5th of April, 1965. He wanted to know how much was spent during the last Federal Elections. It might have been my fault or a misquotation, for in the *Morning Post* the figure was given as £1.3 million instead of £3.1 million which was the expenditure incurred.

Mr Speaker : I do hope that the newspaper concerned will make the necessary correction.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LABOUR

Unemployment

O.102. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will state how many applicants with the West African School Certificate have remained unemployed since 1964.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr E. A. O. Gbeleyi) : Four thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine (4,199) male and 373 female school leavers were registered as unemployed at the end of February 1965, in all the Employment Exchanges in the Federation. As the results of the examination have only recently been released, it is not yet known how many of the registrants were successful.

Concerning those who left school in December 1963, and hold the West African School Certificate, only 187 boys and 13 girls remained unemployed at the end of December 1964. It should, however, be noted that these figures do not reflect the exact position of all unemployed young persons who hold the

West African School Certificate. No one is obliged by law to register at the Employment Exchange.

Mr B. Okeke (Awka North-East) : Would the Minister not consider employing boys who have passed their standard six in the Prisons Department and in the Police Force, in order to reduce unemployment ?

O.103. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what vocational guidance he employs to help school leavers to get suitable employment.

Mr Gbeleyi : Officers of my Ministry responsible for the placement of school leavers in employment undertake vocational guidance in secondary schools towards the end of the school year. They visit these schools, interview final year students and advise them of job opportunities on the basis of their school performance. On leaving school, they register at the Labour Exchanges and everything possible is done, through the juvenile employment officers, to place them in jobs for which they are best qualified by qualifications, interest and suitability.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : The Parliamentary Secretary said that they go round the secondary schools. Where? Is it in the country or where the Ministry is established ?

Sports

O.104. Prince Ademola Olaniran asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will consult with his regional counterparts to improve the standard of sports in this country ; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Gbeleyi : The National Sports Council, in association with the Regional Sports Councils, have embarked on a programme which is aimed at improving the standard of sports at all levels in the country. Specialist coaches have been appointed for almost all major sports and training is given priority by all sporting clubs. With the existing training scheme and facilities provided, the standard of the performances will continue to improve.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour to tell the House if one of the several Ministers of State in his Ministry is specifically charged with sports.

INFORMATION EXTERNAL BROADCASTING

O.63. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Information, when the Nigerian External Broadcasting Service was inaugurated.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr S. O. Kolade): The Nigerian External Broadcasting Service was officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 1st January, 1962.

"SAVE JOURNEY"

O.64. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Information whether he will consider making a film of the play 'Save Journey'.

Mr S. O. Kolade: *Save Journey*, popularly known as *Shakey Shakey* is a series of radio plays or sketches which has been going on for some years on the N.B.C. under commercial sponsorship. Government does not propose to make a film of the series.

Voice of Nigeria

O.65. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Information whether he will consider introducing in the External Broadcasting Service a ten or fifteen-minute news broadcasting on Nigeria immediately after world news.

Mr S. O. Kolade: It seems that what the hon. Member has in mind is a feature similar to the five-minute broadcast of "News About Britain" which follows the External News Bulletin of the B.B.C. and which in any case is intended for the benefit of Britons serving in overseas countries.

The Voice of Nigeria, does not intend to introduce a special feature of "News About Nigeria" but will increase the length of the external news broadcasts in order to include more items of home news from Nigeria.

MINES AND POWER Electricity for Oshun East

O.109. Prince Ademola Olaniran asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon he proposes to carry out a survey for the supply of electricity to Ikire, Apomu, Ikoyi and Orile-Owu in Oshun East constituency.

Parliamentary Secretary (Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika): The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria intends to carry out surveys for the supply of electricity in Ikire, Apomu, Ikoyi and Orile-Owu as soon as the staff position in the Corporation make this a practicable proposition.

Prince Olaniran: We would be very grateful if the Parliamentary Secretary could be a bit definite about the time.

FINANCE

Crown Agents

O.66. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total commission the Federal Government paid to the United Kingdom Crown Agents during 1963-64 for their services as agent of the Federal Government, and what is the total sum paid for the period 1st October, 1960, to 31st of March, 1964.

Parliamentary Secretary (Chief D. N. Oronsaye): In the financial year 1963-64, the Federal Government paid £50,235 in commission charges to the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations.

The total commission paid to the Crown Agents by the Federal Government in the period 1st October, 1960 to 31st March, 1964, was £188,523.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): When does the Government intend to alter the machinery of ordering goods through the Crown Agents?

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): As soon as the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, can produce agents!

Professor Kalu Ezera: I think that the University of Sapele from which the hon. Minister holds an LL.D. degree can supply us the machinery!

Mr Senu-Oke: We have the Nigerian Office in London. Are they not competent to handle this business at this time, instead of the Crown Agents?

Chief Okotie-Eboh: The Nigerian Office in London is a very competent one. There is also a commercial branch there. But the Crown Agents as agents have a lot of finances which the hon. Member knows nothing about.

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

It is, therefore, impossible for the Nigerian High Commission in London to handle such difficult undertakings.

Hon. Members should mark this point: these undertakings are not given by the Ministry of Finance alone; they are given by different Ministries. If hon. Members want to know more about them; if they care to call on us through their political God-father, the Minister of Housing and Surveys, we will tell them more about that.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): We do not want the Minister of Finance to come to deceive people in this House. If Ghana can establish a buying commission in London we can also do it easily. We are paying £188,000 to the Crown Agents. I do not think that it will cost Nigeria half that sum to establish an office in London where we will have our people to work for us. They can do all these things and then the money will come into our pockets instead of going to the Crown Agents.

What the Minister should tell us is that he is finding ways and means of establishing an office in London in the near future. He should not say that it is impossible to do so. If Ghana can do this, then we can do it too.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: My hon. Friend seems to know much about Ghana. They are his friends. But all I want to say is that the fact that my hon. Friend has got brokers for his printing and general purposes goods in the United Kingdom is enough for him to be honest to say that business transacted all over the world is done through agencies and brokers. We cannot eliminate them. They are professionals. They are not people who, from the Island Club, wake up giddy from sleeplessness and hunger.

Mr Odulana: We should send Nigerians to understudy the Crown Agents. I know that we cannot build Rome over night. But we do not want to continue indefinitely to pay fantastic commissions and interests to the Crown Agents.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): A very embarrassing thing is the apparent inconsistency between the answer given to-day by the Minister of Finance on this Question and the answer which he gave two years ago.

Two years ago on the Floor of this House when the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu Oke*) raised a similar Question, the answer given us was that the contract signed with the Crown Agents for the Colonies had not expired, and that when the contract expired Nigeria would then be prepared to make their own arrangements on these things. To-day, the answer is that the contract will continue indefinitely.

Indeed, I am in support of my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu North East (*Mr Odulana*), who said that this should not be the Minister's answer, and that a suitable answer should be given.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: The trouble with my hon. Friend is that this morning he is carrying so many books that he cannot read them all.

The question asked by the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) at the time referred to is quite different from this one. The hon. Member is asking about the total amount paid; he is not asking us about the material time. If he had asked us about the material time, we would have told him that the amount paid here is related to the material time referred to by the Member for Orlu West.

Mr Senu-Oke: When will the Minister make available to Members of Parliament the details of the contract awarded to these Agents?

Chief Okotie-Eboh: As soon as possible.

Bills from Nigeria Hotels Ltd.

O.67. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, if he has made any efforts with the Minister of External Affairs, to trace documents relating to the payment of certain bills amounting to £517-0s 6d. to the Nigeria Hotels Ltd., referred to in the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1963-64; and if he will make a statement.

Chief D. N. Oronsaye: Yes, Sir. Much time has been spent by the Inspectorate Branch of my Ministry looking into records both in the Treasury and in the Ministry of External Affairs. This effort has not succeeded in tracing the actual Bills, but it has been possible to prepare a statement of individual items making up the total amount of £517-0s 6d.

Customs Tariff

O.68. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Finance, if he will assure the House that the

present policy of making frequent revision of our Customs Tariff will not result in shortfalls of revenue as was the case in 1962-63.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr S. F. Nwika): The Minister does not accept the premise upon which the question is based. Major tariff revisions are not made frequently. Minor adjustments are made as and when the need arises. The revenue shortfall in 1962-63 did not result from frequent revision of the Tariff.

However, I am sure that the hon. Member would have been gratified to note from the Budget Speech that the estimate of Customs and Excise revenue for 1964-65 has been handsomely exceeded, following the Tariff Amendments made on August 3rd last.

Public Debt of Nigeria

O.111. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total public debt of Nigeria as at 31st December, 1964.

Mr Nwika: The public debt of the Federal Government at 31st December, 1964, amounted to £141,915,601. This was made up of £41,741,392, external debt, and £100,174,209 internal debt.

Federal Government's Investments

O.112. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Finance, what is the value of the Federal Government's investments in each of the following years: 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64: and what is its present value.

Mr Nwika: Federal Government's investments in each of the named financial years were as follows, totals being given to the nearest £1,000:—

	£
1960-61	26,654,000
1961-62	24,115,000
1962-63	21,482,000
1963-64	15,322,000

The estimated total for 1964-65 is £11.3 million. The final figure will not be available until the accounts for the year have been closed.

Mr Jackson Edomwonyi (Benin West): Will the Minister of Finance tell this honourable House what is responsible for the downward trend of the investments.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: My hon. Friend should read my Budget Speech again, it is very clearly stated there.

Smuggling

O.113. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Finance, how many cases of smuggling occurred from 1960 to 31st March, 1964; and if he will state how much was realised in each case from the articles seized and sold.

Parliamentary Secretary (Chief D. N. Oronsaye): Between 1st January, 1960 and 31st March, 1964, 3,924 seizures were made, involving 3,809 offenders. Seizures are destroyed, and the second part of the question does not therefore arise.

It may be of interest to the hon. Member to know that fines totalling £71,129 were collected in respect of these seizures, whilst 657 persons who failed to pay fines were committed to prison.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): Now that the Minister's friend, Mr Inyang Akpan Brown is no longer a Member of this honourable House, could the Minister nominate another unofficial "Minister of Smuggling".

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): There can be no better "Minister of Smuggling" than the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*).

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South-East): I want to ask whether the Minister considers the fines collected from these smugglers are greater than the amount that could have been realised if the goods were sold.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I do not know where my hon. Friend, the Member for Uyo South-East (*Mr Inyang*) got his idea from. He must be one of those in the business, otherwise, he would not know that the fines collected are more than the value of the goods destroyed. If the hon. Member will give me more information about their company, I will ask the Board of Customs and Excise to take care of the company.

Mr Inyang: I feel that the fines collected can never be more than the value of the goods if they were sold. I want to say this much. I come from that area and we still have people

[MR INYANG]

who enjoy these smuggled goods. I think the time has come for us to legalise this thing.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If I understand my hon. Friend well, he is asking the Government to legalise smuggling. It may be possible to legalise "smuggled Members" like him into the House.

Mr M. S. C. Abani (Afikpo South) : I want to ask the Minister of Finance, whether some of the Customs Officers who sample and drink some of these smuggled wines are charged for what they drink.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is a very serious charge on honest civil servants who are not here to defend themselves.

Professor Ezera : Some of them even take the greater part of the wine.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I should be grateful if my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) would inform me of the particular Customs Officer referred to by him. If he would do that, he could be sure that appropriate steps would be taken to see that the officer is disciplined.

Professor Ezera : I would very much like to appeal to the Leader of the House and Minister of Finance. His very vicious attitude, quarrelsome and garrulous attitude towards new Members tends to intimidate them. I do not think it is right to refer to an hon. Member as having been smuggled.

The Member for Uyo South-East (*Mr Inyang*) won by a landslide in his constituency. He is an U.P.G.A. Member who defeated his N.P.C. opponent by an overwhelming majority.

Mr Speaker : Really, the point of order of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) was smuggled.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On this issue of smuggling, we do not want the Minister to take things lightly. What we are saying is that since these smuggled goods come principally from the Spanish Island of Fernando Po, the Minister should try to improve trade relations with Fernando Po so that we can trade freely with them rather than toying with this subject every time we bring it to this House.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have explained this matter time and again on the Floor of this House. When I was the Minister of Labour I went to Fernando Po on this very matter and I discussed it in detail with them without achieving any success.

Later on, the External Affairs Ministry took the matter up, but to no avail. Again when I became the Minister of Finance I paid another visit to Fernando Po with a view to discussing this matter, but our friends over there were not forthcoming. Hon. Members know the position of things even better than myself.

The Spanish authorities think that it is better for them to trade with us in this way. They want plenty of Nigerian currency and they cannot get it unless they trade with us in this illegitimate way. We are trying all we can to stop it. However, I have another surprise packet for them. I do not want to disclose what the surprise packet is on the Floor of this House. All I want to say is that we are making every effort to see that we establish a legitimate trade with the Spanish Authorities at Fernando Po. Hon. Members will agree with me that legitimate trade is a two-way traffic. If we are willing to trade legitimately and the other people are not willing to do the same, there is nothing we can do.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, in view of the decline in the present moral standard of this country will the Minister of Finance not consider smuggling as one aspect of free enterprise ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If I understand the hon. Gentleman's question well, he said that in view of the decline in the moral standard of this country now, whether I will not consider smuggling as a free enterprise.

With due respect to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and my other colleagues here, I would say that the day the legal profession in Nigeria is made a free enterprise, smuggling will be made a free enterprise also.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ELECTION OF A DEPUTY SPEAKER

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move—

That the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) be appointed the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

I am not doing this because the hon. Gentleman brought a number of books to this House this morning like a professor. But because my hon. Friend, the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is a seasoned parliamentarian, a respected Nigerian in his own right and a Nigerian that has fashioned something out of nothing. This is the type of Nigerians that Nigeria requires to-day. Nigeria requires thinkers, planners, and people who can produce something out of nothing. This is the case with this hon. Gentleman.

Many people go to overseas to acquire knowledge and on their return, they bring with them strings of degrees. Immediately they come back, they start vegetating. When they become ne'er-do-wells, then they resort to socialism of all kinds with a view to complaining about everything in this world. This hon. Gentleman is not like such people.

When the hon. Member acquired his degree, he came back to Nigeria and went straight to his home town to establish institutions of learning. From there, he was able, by the aid of his people, to build a hospital in order to care for the health of Nigerians. He established other things which are helping to give employment to the citizens of this country. This is the type of Nigerian we want. (*Hear, hear*).

Therefore, those of us in the former Parliament will agree with me that the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is a gentleman. He is not a gentleman because of the fact that he dresses well, but I think he does that outside this House for another purpose.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, if the type of devotion and selfless service rendered by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) as attested to by hon. Members here, is that of "Greater Tomorrow", that we used to know in the past.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) can achieve for Nigeria what "Greater Tomorrow" achieved for Nigeria, he will be a better person than he is now.

However, the hon. Gentleman should know when this honourable House is seriously discussing a matter of importance. The position of the Speaker and that of the Deputy Speaker is vital to the existence of this House. (*Hear, hear*).

Therefore, in selecting someone to be the Speaker, we must select someone whose character is unimpeachable and who is impartial—these qualities, we have found in our able Speaker. If the Speaker, with all these good qualities, is going to be assisted by a Deputy to be elected by this honourable House, then this House, must give the Speaker a square peg in a square hole. This is what we are doing. This is not a matter of fancy or childish play.

I am seriously saying that the election of the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is a well deserved one in all its ramifications. (*Hear, hear*). The hon. Gentleman, I am sure, whenever he deputises for the Speaker, will in his usual cool and collected dignified manner, be able to discharge his duties most creditably.

Therefore, in all sincerity, I recommend him for the approbation of this honourable House as the hon. Deputy Speaker of this House. (*Applause*).

I beg to move.

The Minister of Housing and Surveys (Chief A. O. Ogunsanya) : I beg to second.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, it is not proper according to Parliamentary procedure for a Minister or the Leader of the House to move such a Motion. In this connection, I would like to refer hon. Members to "Erskine May".

I would like the Clerk of the Parliaments to refer to "Erskine May" and tell us what it says. If we proceed with the election of the Deputy Speaker in this way, the result will be null and void.

Mr Speaker : I should have thought that the proper thing is that any Member can move the Motion and particularly those Members on the Government Bench who have the majority. But I will give a ruling as soon as the Clerk looks into "Erskine May".

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, this House is not governed by "Erskine May". This House is governed by our Standing Orders. This point is vital. "Erskine May" is the British parliamentary bible and it may not be the bible for Nigeria.

Hon. Members should realise that a Minister of this House was first of all a Member of this

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

House, before he was appointed a Minister. I want to say that we are governed by our Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) has referred appropriately to the custom in Westminster which we should probably emulate. But in a case like this, I think we should have some pride in our own parliamentary procedure, particularly when it refers to matters of detail such as which Member of this House should move this Motion. Therefore, it is not a rule in Westminster. It is only a custom and as such, I think, we should be entitled to form our own parliamentary customs. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chief Benson : I am happy that the procedure confirms that it is a custom that a Member should move the appointment of the Deputy Speaker. It is good to teach the Members of the Government Bench when they fail to observe the procedure. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order! I have already indicated that it is only custom and not a rule, and we are, therefore, not out of order. This situation is not out of order either in Westminster or in the Nigerian Parliament.

Chief Benson : The point that I want to clarify is whether or not it is a convention. If it is a convention then it must carry the voice of law.

Mr Speaker : Order! I do not think that the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) should insist on a matter of detail to the extent of delaying our proceedings!

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Dr B. U. Nzeribe be appointed the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : It is with deep humility and immense gratitude that I accept this appointment. The office of Speakership is one of the most hallowed and one of the most sacred of parliamentary institutions.

I pray that God will enable me to discharge impartially and judiciously whatever will be my responsibility, following the excellent pace already set by you, Mr Speaker, as the substantive Speaker of this great Parliament.

I once again thank this honourable House for giving me this opportunity of serving my country and my people. (*Applause.*)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I am almost tempted to say that I have it in command, from the millions of men and women, the millions of youngmen and youngwomen, from approximately 90 per cent of the people of this great country, and almost 90 per cent of the hon. Members of this House, to move this Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely :—

“That this House prays the Federal Government to take a more sympathetic view of the efforts being made by the various Regional Governments to improve the lot of rural areas in Nigeria by participating more actively in rural development programmes aimed at raising the standard of living of the rural population and creating social stability among rural areas.”

The Motion had been listed for the past three years during which period it never saw the light of day. It is fortunate that the appearance of this Motion now signifies a change of heart on the part of the Business Committee and also on the part of the Federal Government.

I am not trying to cast aspersion on the efforts made by the Federal Government. It has done very well within the limits of its power and resources.

I am strictly asking the Federal Government, as the central cone on which the economy of this country is mounted, to become more and more a centre of gravity, so that all the efforts being made by the Regional Governments, the Local Councils, the various voluntary agencies, the village and the tribal unions will not be thwarted.

I say this because the Federal Government has the command of the resources of the nation. Unless the Federal Government participates more actively, the fruits of development cannot trickle down to the pyramid-base of the society. I must point out here that at this base we have the teeming millions of people who make up about 90 per cent of the population of this great nation.

So, if one examines the Six-Year Development Programme of Nigeria on which the future development plans, at least, for the next six years, are mounted, one must see that the Federal Government, in co-ordination with the efforts of the various Regional Governments, proposes to spend £676.6 million on capital development.

The President's Speech attests the fact, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote :—

"The Six-Year Development Plan will continue to be the foundation of my Government's effort in developing our national economy".

Now, of this, almost £700 million, which is the sum total of the envisaged expenditure of the various arms of the Governments of Nigeria, the Federal Government alone will spend £400 million from its own resources, leaving to the Regional Governments a capital expenditure of £200 million plus.

In all, the Federal Government spends about 60 per cent of the whole while the Regional Governments including the Governments of Eastern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, Mid-Western Nigeria and Northern Nigeria will together spend only one-third of the overall capital expenditure of the Six-Year Development Plan.

Now, this means, in summary, that when the Federal Government leaves the other Regions to catch cold, whichever way the Federal Government goes, there the Regional Governments will follow. The Federal Government, therefore, constitutes the development.

If one would care to look at some of the specific items one would discover among other things that out of the £400 million to be expended the Federal Government plans to make grants, or loans, or allocations, of only £25 million to the Regional Governments. May I at this point state that the Regional Governments have to cater for the lives, the progress, and, in fact, the liberty of 95 per cent of the people of this country.

Northern Nigeria alone has £98 million to spend. This is approximately three pounds per head, during this period of six years. The Eastern Nigeria has only £75 million to spend, and this means purely—

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): On a point of order, there is one thing which I will not allow to go without clarification. The Federal Government investigated this yesterday and from our investigation we discovered that there was no "cold" in Enugu and Kaduna.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): On a point of order, the barometer of the Minister of Trade is faulty.

Dr Nzeribe: Both the Western and Mid-Western Nigeria have only £90 million to spend within the six-year period. Again, this gives us an average of about seven pounds per head.

If we go a little bit further to a more specific item, we shall see that on education the Government has £33 million to spend. The Eastern Region with a population of over 12 million has £29 million to spend, the Northern Region with a population of 29 million has £18.9 million to spend, and the Western and Mid-Western Regions with a population of 12 million have £12.9 million to spend.

It is surprising that the Federal Government which has the responsibility for all the secondary schools in Nigeria and a number of primary schools in Lagos, and which subsidises all the universities in the country has only £33 million in its coffers to spend for the period of six years. This same Government has £98 million to spend on electricity during the same period.

I come now to the Lagos City Council. The Council has £24 million to spend and there are a little over half a million people living in Lagos. I am not quarrelling with the Federal Government for the development being made in Lagos. I am just trying to present the picture as it is.

Also, the Federal Government has £10.3 million to spend on medical and health facilities in Lagos. The Eastern Regional Government has £3 million to spend, and this is for the period of six years, the Northern Region Government has £4 million to spend and the Western and Mid-Western Regions together have £4 million to spend for this purpose.

[DR NZERIBE]

If one gives this matter a very close and impartial examination, one will see that the rural areas are lacking in growth and development. Even where the Regional Governments are responsible for the provision of these amenities, more attention is given to the townships than to the rural areas. This is the first point that I want to make.

I now want to go to another point which is the supply of water. According to the latest statistics, water costs two shillings and six pence per one thousand gallons in areas in Lagos where taps are fitted with meters. Government Corporations like the N.B.C. and others, get water for two shillings per one thousand gallons.

But in the rural areas of Nigeria—in the North, West, East and the Mid-West—water continues to be their greatest problem. Women travel two, three, four or even seven miles to get water in the rural areas. The time that water is scarce coincides with the time people go out for farming.

January, February and March are the periods when our people clear the forest to plant their crops, and this is the time when water is most scarce in the country. This means that women have to travel two, three, or four miles to fetch water. In this process they have to carry about two or three gallons to and from a distance of about four miles.

They travel for hours early in the morning to get water, and they have to return to their homes in time to prepare breakfast before going back to farm at about ten o'clock in the morning. The time that water is scarce and people travel for miles to get water is the time when they should devote more attention to their farms.

This is an economic factor which is militating against the rural areas, and since the bulk of the people of this country are still farmers, it is impossible to think of agricultural development without water. Therefore, development is a vicious circle in a country like Nigeria where scarcity of water works against agricultural expansion and agricultural expansion works against man's propensity to increase his wealth. This in effect will militate against the overall development of the country, and this is how poverty begets poverty.

The rural people seem, by and large, to be condemned to perpetual penury. The father is a farmer and the son is a farmer, and they do not farm in the modern scientific sense. Agriculture is, thus, relegated to the back ground, it is virtually condemned, it has no dignity, no prestige and no future. And, under this circumstance, who would like to be the son of a farmer? I know that nobody will answer the question.

There are diseases in rural areas. In Nigeria to-day we have 225 hospitals. There are forty-one hospitals with 2,000 beds in Lagos, seventy-seven hospitals with 5,000 beds in the East, sixty-four with 4,000 beds in both the West and the Mid-West and Northern Region has seventy-three hospitals with 5,000 beds.

All these hospitals include those of the Native Authorities, the County Councils and the voluntary agencies. As a matter of fact, non-governmental hospitals form about 90 per cent of the hospitals we have in Nigeria. The Government contributes only about one-tenth of the total—

The Minister of Health (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): On a point of order, it is incorrect to say that the Government contributes only one-tenth of the total number of the medical facilities in the country. If the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) will give us the number of beds in Government hospitals, he will find that 95 per cent of those beds are financed by the Governments of the Federation.

Dr Nzeribe: So, the same is true of education.

Now, to go back to the Ministry of Health, I should like hon. Members to have a look at our malaria control, for instance. It is being proved beyond any measure of doubt that malaria is the biggest killer in this country. I have it on authority from Dr A. E. Boyo, head of the Federal Malaria Service, that fifty per cent of the deaths of infants at the age of two in this country is caused by malaria, and the same authority says that malaria can be controlled and eradicated in Nigeria.

I over-heard an hon. Member saying that malaria is being controlled but that the control is highly localised. That is my point, and nobody can control malaria unless it receives a frontal attack and an eradication programme

on the national level. It is impossible, and medical records have proved this beyond any measure of doubt.

Chief M. A. Majekodunmi : On a point of explanation, I wish my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) will not try to mislead the House. This House has been told time and again that the Federal Government has, in fact, at present embarked on a wide-spread malaria eradication campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organisation—a campaign which is costing this Government £100 million and will take six years to complete.

We have just completed the first year of it when all the people who are going to take part in this eradication campaign are being trained. So, it is incorrect to say that malaria is causing so much trouble and the control and eradication are confined to Lagos. This campaign is spread right through the whole of West Africa and we are collaborating with the neighbouring countries in it.

Dr Nzeribe : I thank the Minister very much for his explanation. But there is a world of difference between what is and what ought to be.

Now, I come to the matter of education. I have had time to say at a certain stage, and again I will reiterate here, that education for a country such as Nigeria cannot be a luxury left only for a few. The doors of education should be flung wide open for every Nigerian, whether he is a Northerner, an Easterner, a Westerner or a Lagosian. Every son and daughter of Nigeria should have an equal opportunity of receiving a good education.

Be it in a city, in a municipality or in a local council area, education is a very indispensable infrastructure. Thus, it will be an untenable excuse to apologise that education is the prerogative of a Region and, therefore, a citizen of Nigeria who happens to be born in Bauchi or in Orlu or in Ogoni, because in his area the Regional Government has no money for education, therefore, by and large, he should be relegated to the background because of having come from that area.

Throughout the world to-day, education is accepted to be a very indispensable ingredient of democracy for the citizens, because no nation can grow beyond the average without a good standard of education by the citizens. But we

are in Nigeria. Gradually, we see our country creating an artificial sophistication of the society in the urban areas as against the standard of life in the rural areas.

How many boys and girls have entered the Queen's College and the King's College during the past ten years from the rural areas, and what is the percentage of these *vis-a-vis* the population of the rural areas in Nigeria? The answer is simple. The fact is that rural schools are poor and rural schools are second-rate schools, whether they are in the North, in the East, in the West or in the Mid-West.

But these are the schools attended by over ninety *per cent* of our boys and girls; therefore, one can easily say without apology that over ninety *per cent* of our boys and girls are receiving a second-rate education. On the other hand, a tiny fraction of less than one *per cent* who have come to be in Lagos or in Ibadan or in Enugu or in Kaduna then becomes the privileged class.

Throughout the rural areas parents are poor, they live in ramshackles. As a matter of fact, these schools are built by the people themselves. The community build these schools themselves, and the same thing is true of dispensaries and so on and so forth. But the ability of a child to enter a university depends on his chances to have received a secondary education. And here again we have the forces militating against the rural population.

The result is that there is to-day in Nigeria a migration of people from the rural areas to the urban areas, and the most aching point is that those who constitute the cream of society in the rural areas are those who are mostly set loose. The cream of society in the rural area is the first to leave and they leave the rural areas for the urban areas without the necessary skills—the necessary skills that will enable them to fit into the structure of society in the urban areas. When they get to the urban areas, they become the lackeys and the flunkeys of the urban areas. To use the language of Karl Marx, they become unemployable, gravitated to the slums, with all the attendant evils of slum areas, in the eyes of Nigerians in an independent Nigeria.

Lagos is full of slums and, by and large, all the inhabitants of the slums are from the rural areas because they come as unemployed and unemployables. They have no skills and so they cannot be absorbed in industry, and these

[DR NZERIBE]

are the cream and the corps of the country. Because they are discontented with life in the rural areas, they come to Lagos to seek employment, but they cannot be employed in any industry because they have no skills.

So, as I said before, the condition is bleak and cheerless, and this is not the case of government by folklore. It requires on the part of the government a radical change of attitude and the adoption of a new method of approach.

I would like to deviate a little bit and talk on the finances for development of Nigeria. How has this country been developed? Where are the sources of finance for the development of this country? This had been the usual questions even right from the time of British imperialism in this country. The answer is that almost ninety *per cent* of the money has come from the rural areas.

The Marketing Boards were the first instruments used by the colonial governments, and these included the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board and the Northern Nigeria Marketing Board. These in turn dealt with cocoa, palm produce and groundnuts. The process was simple. They bought from the local producers (who are the farmers in the rural areas) and sold on the world markets. They paid huge taxes on the profits and in addition made possible huge sums of money to be borrowed by the Government for development purposes.

Please allow me, Sir, to quote one of the most authoritative books on West African trade written by my friend, Mr Peter Bower, a Cambridge who, incidentally, was the one who supervised my Master's thesis. Let me just give you a few instances of what happened in Nigeria between 1939 and the present moment. What is true of the cocoa marketing board and the groundnut marketing board is also true of the palm produce marketing board.

In the year 1939-1940, producer price of Nigerian cocoa was £70 per ton. At that material time, the price realised by the Minister of Finance for Nigerian Marketing Boards in London was £31.5 per ton. The surplus went into the coffers of the Marketing Board. During the same period, the price of palm kernel (I am now talking of Eastern Nigeria) paid to the producer in Eastern Nigeria was £5.8 per ton and during the same period, the price in the London Money Market was £27

per ton. The surplus went into the coffers of the Marketing Board. The same thing was true of cocoa. In fact, instances can be multiplied and superimposed indefinitely.

For example, on the eve of Nigerian independence, the Western Nigeria Marketing Board had £62 million surplus frozen up in the London Money Market at its disposal for the development of Western Nigeria. The Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board had almost the same amount of money, and the North had almost the same amount of money for the development of the various Regions. These various amounts of money are responsible for the first stage, and even the second stage of the development of this country since independence—indeed, before independence and since independence.

This huge sum of money was made off the backs of the farmers—the cocoa farmers, palm produce farmers and groundnut farmers. We know all these things, and even now it is only in the rural areas that the most primitive antediluvian system of capitation tax, or poll tax, is still in practice. In the urban areas people's property and income are taxed. In the rural areas throughout Nigeria, it is the individual who is taxed. In some cases, the poor farmers have to sell their land or go to jail in default.

In addition, there are innumerable other kinds of taxes in the rural areas—community effort, county council rate, bicycle rate, and various union levies. They build schools, roads and everything by themselves, even though they contribute ninety *per cent* of the revenue which this country collects. In addition to all these they are responsible for the education of their children!

We have strikes in this country every time because people are not paid, especially in the county council areas. There has been no record of any teachers in the urban areas who have not been paid their salaries; no record of teachers not being paid in urban areas in the whole of Nigeria—North, East, West or the Mid-West—nowhere else but in the rural areas. The only recourse they have is to go on strike.

Again, you find that the Federal Government is not doing much in the co-operative system. It is only in the limited capacity of the Regional Governments that they are trying to help the rural people. Imagine,

the Federal Government is just proposing to give £2 million to help the farmers in the North to open a co-operative bank. But this is, again, a drop in the sea for almost thirty million farmers. The same thing is true of the East, West and the Mid-West.

So, Sir, I would like here to say that the whole machinery and philosophy of development in Nigeria has to be refined with a view to making it a national responsibility. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote an authority from "National Development and How it Works" by David Cushman Coyle:

The sovereign powers of the nation are required for keeping the various lines of development in a workable balance, and to supply many kinds of public service that cannot be supplied locally. . . . Instead of merely "maintaining law and order" for the protection of the old upper class, it has to supply the mixture of public works, adjustment of business relations, and improved living conditions for workers and farmers that every modern government must provide in order that a high-technology system may be able to do business.

National schemes must be national and not in pieces or in fragments or localised. The Federal Government is the government of the nation. The Regional Governments are only subsidiaries of the Federal Government. It cannot escape the responsibility of catering for the citizens of this country.

In education, a new system must be evolved aimed at educating the entire youths of this country, youths of both sexes, men and women, for what once was for the few must now be for the many. This is the essence of democracy and independence. There is no escape from this. The necessity is not to produce a handful of masters, but to produce as many masters as possible, even though there are millions of masters in Nigeria.

Our society cannot survive unless the least citizen of this country is as free to become a prince, a philosopher, a gentleman, an aristocrat, a man of grace just like the son of a Minister. Everybody should have the opportunity of becoming a man of grace, and no cost can be too high for education.

To wind up my debate, may I just allay a few of the fears that this Government has always shown by referring to the Constitution

and by saying that the Constitution has a thick wall indicating what should be the responsibility of the Regional Governments and those of the Federal Government. It is spelt out in black and white in the Constitution of Nigeria, page 38 Article 73, and may I quote:

Parliament may make provision for grants and loans from and the imposition of charges upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other public fund of the Federation or for the imposition of charges upon the revenues and assets of the Federation for any purpose, notwithstanding that it relates to a matter not included in the Legislative Lists.

Further, the Government has got the power in relation to emergency. The water problem in Nigeria is an emergency. The water problem in the rural areas should be declared a national emergency. (*Applause*). An emergency is an emergency as recognised by this Government, and this honourable House is the Government. I am appealing to the Government to declare water an emergency in this country so that by using the power of the Federal Government every village can get a supply of water. If the Federal Government with the co-operation of the Regional Governments declares a frontal attack—(*Interruptions*).

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): I would very much recommend that the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) who is the Deputy Speaker of this House, be appointed the Chief Administrator of this emergency period.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) is denying his Deputy Speaker.

Mr A. Fasanmi (Ijoro): If an emergency is going to be declared, I suggest that the Minister of Health, *Dr Majekodunmi*, should be made the Administrator.

Dr Nzeribe: Nigeria is not the only country confronted with division of labour on a national level. America, for example, is perhaps the godfather of the experiment on the division of labour among the countries of the world. Right from the time of Abraham Lincoln—and this is one of the secrets of the greatness of America—emphasis have always been laid on the rural people. If one goes through the list of the various legislative acts passed by the American Governments from 1862 to the

[DR NZERIBE]

present time, one will find that emphasis has always been on what can be done to pull the rural people.

Just recently, America's President Lyndon Johnson made a very touching statement which, with the permission of Mr Speaker, I would like to read to this honourable House :

Our agricultural problems are deep-seated yet they are problems of abundance and not problems of scarcity. They tax our ingenuity but they do not, unlike the situation in many other countries, form a bottleneck to economic development. We must continue to seek methods for reconciling the needs of our farm families for a decent income with the necessity of making this abundance available at reasonable prices for domestic and sometimes export.

Fifty million Americans live in rural areas. And again, recently the American President said—

Our goal is not merely a relief for the poverty stricken rural areas. We must undertake measures that will give the poor an opportunity to become productive citizens of this country. The varied resources of many federal agencies and of the states and local governments must be joined together, and the basic purpose of the American Department of Agriculture is to acquire and diffuse information.

The secret is in agriculture and the development of rural areas, and the secret of Russian development and astronomical growth—(Interruptions)

Mr D. Dimka (Pankshin East) : On a point of order, I am inclined to think that the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) who is moving this Motion has exhausted his time. Under the Standing Order, unless he has special order from the Speaker, he cannot continue to speak for more than 30 minutes.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Member for Pankshin (*Mr Dimka*) is attacking an authority on Standing Orders. The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is entitled to speak for 45 minutes, and as the original Mover of this Motion he has some 5 minutes to wind up.

Dr Nzeribe : This is true also of the Soviet Union. I am not talking about the Russian political philosophy. I am not interested. I am just talking about the economic factors and

considerations which catapulted this country from its position in 1927 to where it is to-day in the world. Emphasis was laid on rural development, to pull the whole economy, to pull the whole society.

India has a multiple of states, but Indian Government is known and highly respected for its approach through the A.I.D.—agricultural and industrial development. There is no reason why our Government should not borrow a leaf from that Government.

The *modus operandi* of the approach cannot be spelt out because of the limit imposed on my time, but I plead on behalf of the millions of the people of this country, men and women, youths and Members who represent the rural areas, that the Government should change its heart and give more attention to the plight of the people in the rural areas so that Nigeria will grow as one nation with one destiny and one God.

I beg to move.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I rise to second this Motion which was so ably moved by my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), our new Deputy Speaker. (*Hear, hear*). Unlike *Dr Nzeribe*, I am not going into details to quote figures, but I will confine my speech to those problems that concern the common man.

Now, we all know that the development of rural areas in many parts of the world and particularly in the civilised countries is fundamentally the responsibility of the local authorities. Here in Nigeria, we have the local authorities and the regional governments all putting efforts to see that rural areas are developed. Right, so far so good.

But looking at the trends of affairs nowadays one can see that the rate of development in rural areas is so gradual that it will certainly take at least another 50 years to bring these rural areas to a required standard. That is the reason why we are putting forward this Motion and urging the Federal Government to put more weight in the development of our rural areas.

I am not for a moment suggesting that the local authorities and the regional governments are doing nothing in this connection. As far as I know, the Kano Native Authority and the Northern Regional Government are doing

their best to improve the standard of living of our people. But all the same, we should not blind ourselves to the fact that the Federal Government has a very important part to play in this field, that is the development of the rural areas.

Now, we all agree that unemployment in Nigeria is becoming more and more rampant everyday. Does it not? Why? The answer is simple. Because there is shortage of everything in the rural areas. There are no amenities, no industries, not enough medical care and so on, and that is the reason why a people nowadays tend to go into big cities for employment or at least for amusement.

Therefore, it is my humble suggestion that if at all we want to improve the standard of living of our people, if at all we want to improve our villages, we must do at least three things.

Firstly, we must decentralise all our industries in the cities. Concentration of industries in the big cities is dangerous. It is in my humble suggestion detrimental to the social progress of the rural areas.

One of the solutions to the problem of rural development is the centralisation of our industries, and this is where the Federal Government should and can assist. Of course, we cannot have any industry without electricity and water supply. Therefore, the Federal Government should, as much as possible, ensure that every town and village in this country is provided with these two important amenities which, incidentally, are the prerequisites to industrial development.

Steps must be taken to improve the health conditions of our people in the villages. Diseases like small-pox, chicken-pox, measles, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and other allied epidemic diseases must be eradicated. It is a well-known fact that whenever there is epidemic outbreak in this country, and particularly in Northern Nigeria, very many lives are lost.

Since these diseases seem to be our worst enemies in the world, I think that the Federal Government should, at least, assist in the field of medical research. It is through the result of such a research that we can be able to find out whether these deadly diseases have come to us as a result of the harmattan haze from the Sahara, or whether the testing of atomic bombs in the Sahara has further aggravated the situation.

It is from this kind of investigation that ultimately a permanent solution to the eradication of the above-mentioned diseases can be found, and eventually all our people will live very happily.

Another solution to this problem of rural backwardness is the immediate introduction of modern farming methods. Farmers should be given financial assistance of every imaginable kind that will help them produce more and better crops. All the *fadamas*, I mean the irrigations, should be extended and expanded to allow for large scale dry season farming.

This is very necessary, especially in the North, in that it will enable all the farmers to double their output; thereby reducing considerably the influx of the village people into the cities.

I know all this, as the Members on the Government Bench will say, is the responsibility of the regional governments *vis-a-vis* the constitution. I quite agree with them, but all the same the Federal Government can help by giving greater aid to the regional governments as well as to the local authorities.

May I ask, what is the use in erecting the "Independence Building" in Lagos while the pockets of the rural people are empty; what is the use in building a second mainland bridge while our people are subjected to insufferable living conditions in the rural areas?

It is my humble opinion that prestige buildings in Nigeria must be stopped to allow for the money fixed for them to be diverted to the improvement of the standard of life of Nigerians in the hinterland. The cities have had enough attention concentrated on them, and for the time being, at least, more attention should be placed on the development of the interior.

So the proposal to build a second bridge in Lagos should be suspended temporarily; there is no need for it at present. The same goes for the building of a new Parliament. We do not want any new Parliament building; this present one is enough. Any money intended for this purpose should be re-allocated for the development of the rural areas where the means of existence largely rests on the soil. This aspect of the matter should be given very serious consideration by the Federal Government.

[ALHAJI SARKIN BAI]

I know most of us come from the rural areas. I am one of them and I am not ashamed to own it up. I appeal to all Members to support unanimously this non-contentious, non-controversial Motion.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper thus—

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

"this House congratulates the Federal Government on its efforts not only in creating the necessary conditions for the accelerated development of the rural areas but also for the assistance which it has given to the Regional Governments in discharging their responsibilities in these areas."

The original Motion moved very ably by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is based on a misunderstanding of the meaning of rural development and, in another aspect, on a misunderstanding of the constitution. His Motion implies that community development is all that is required for the development of the rural areas—

Dr Nzeribe : On a point of explanation, the Minister of Economic Development cannot charge me, as an economist, with misunderstanding the meaning of community development and mistaking it for economic development. But I must say that without efforts of the people in their own daily ways of life, there will be no economic development. This has been proved.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : The original Motion implies that community development is all that is required for the development of rural areas. The intention of my Amendment is to put the matter in a truer focus, and to establish clearly that the Federal Government is already doing the utmost permissible under the constitution for the development of rural areas.

In this connection, hon. Members will note that the Federal Government's capital expenditure programme within the national development plan is intended to develop the rural as well as the urban areas. No serious effort can be made to develop the economy of the country

which does not take full account of the fact that over fifty *per cent* of the gross domestic product comes from the agricultural sector of the economy, and that well over sixty *per cent* of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits in one form or another and that they are living in the rural areas.

That is why I agree with most of the observations made by the Mover of the Motion, the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) and also by the Seconder, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*). We could not agree more. We agree with most of the things they have said.

But what my Amendment attempts to do is to show that in recognition of the various things they have said, and in accordance with Section 73 of the Constitution which the Mover quoted, the Federal Government has made the following allocations in the Six-Year Development Programme :

Primary production : £20.5 million or 5 *per cent* of Planned Capital Expenditure ;

Electricity : £98.1 million or 23.8 *per cent* of Planned Capital Expenditure ;

Transport : £104 million or 25 *per cent* of Planned Capital Expenditure.

Dr Nzeribe : On a point of order, I think the hon. Minister of Economic Development should qualify these figures to say that they are not meant for rural areas alone but that these are the figures that the Government is budgeting for the over-all development of the country. Otherwise, the impression given is that £98.1 million goes to the rural areas for the supply of electricity.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : The allocation for primary production includes £10 million for grants to the regional agricultural projects and about £3 million for the establishment of an agricultural credit institution. The intention here is to modernise agriculture, that is in the rural areas, in order to increase the production of export crops through better seed distribution and more modern methods of cultivation, and in this way to increase the income of those who are engaged in agriculture and by increasing their income to raise the standard of living of the people in the rural areas. This is the first point.

It is commonly assumed that as far as electricity and transport are concerned, development in these two aspects of our expansion programme is only carried out in urban areas. But this is wrong and superficial as the building of more and better Trunk Roads, the expansion of the railways such as the recently completed Bornu Railway Extension, and the improvement of river transport are all aimed at the opening up of the rural areas and the making of urban centres and the ports accessible to rural areas.

In the same way the production of cheap electricity will make it possible to supply the rural areas with the power for social and domestic uses as well as providing a basis for the introduction and use of agricultural machinery. Our progress naturally, must be slow. We have just started expansion in all our economic sectors and electricity will soon reach the remotest parts of our rural areas. It is only a question of time.

In view of all this, it would be incorrect to suggest, as the original Motion does, that the Federal Government does not concern itself with the problem of the development of rural areas.

As I said earlier on, the points of the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) are true to facts but I submit that because of the nature of the Constitution in which we all believe, a Constitution which is the best in Africa, one cannot have it better. We cannot deal more directly with the rural areas.

I admit, however, that there are other aspects of rural development, such as community development, which would appear to be the pre-occupation of the Motion by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*).

Community development, by its nature, must remain a local activity based on the initiative of the people themselves and supported by local councils and the regional governments. But as I said, we assist indirectly. I do not dispute that community development forms an important part of rural development but this is obviously an area which, by agreement under the Constitution, must be left to the regional Governments.

We in the Federal Government only give assistance in the manner which I have explained. None of the regional governments

has indicated that it is unable to carry out its responsibility in regard to rural development. We would therefore not like to intervene.

Mr T. O. Umekeje (Awka South) : May I raise a point of information. The hon. Minister of Economic Development referred to the Constitution as a hinderance to Federal Government's active participation in the development of rural areas; I think the Constitution should not be considered as such. If we look back at the President's Speech, which is regarded as evolving the policy of the Federal Government, it is stated there, on page 5 paragraph 3, and with your permission Mr Speaker, I beg to quote :

"A Bill will be presented to you to amend certain Sections of the Constitution of the Federation for purpose of defining more clearly the conditions for granting Nigerian citizenship".

I therefore do not think that the Constitution should be a hinderance to the Federal Government's intention to extend its development programmes to the rural areas.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I am not saying that the Constitution is any hinderance to giving assistance to the regions. On the contrary, I say that one cannot have a better constitution than we have now, at all. I must repeat that. If there is going to be any change in our Constitution, it will not be substantial, and we who control the majority will work this Constitution for a long time. Nobody is going to put ideas into our heads. We see nothing wrong in this Constitution. We will work it for a long time.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Economic Development is making a Ministerial Statement to contradict what we have heard from the President as well as the assurances we have got from the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker : That is a question.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : The Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) should not misunderstand the hon. Prime Minister. If we are going to review certain portions of the Constitution it may mean just some slight changes but I am saying that generally speaking, we see nothing wrong in that Constitution and we are only waiting for those people who think that something is wrong to change it.

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : I do not want this House to read a wrong meaning into what the Minister of Economic Development is saying. The Minister is only expressing his own views. The point that the Minister is making concerning the Constitution is not a Government policy.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I think that we have had enough, in the meantime, for the constitutional part. We shall talk more about it later, but I would rather leave it as it is with one assurance though. I can assure Members that there will be no substantial changes in the Constitution and one thing is this, whether Members like it or not, this Constitution will work. We shall give it a trial for another twenty years.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I think we should depart from the Constitution and discuss the Motion on Rural Economic Development.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I have shown that the Federal Government does assist the Regions considerably and I have given figures in the field of education which the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) said should be made wide open to everybody. We agree with him.

Our educational programmes are already considered really too ambitious ; they are very much ahead of our other programmes—agricultural, industrial and others. I do not think that the Governments of the Federation can do more in education without at least cancelling some of the development projects.

If it is the intention to drop agricultural development, industrial development and health programmes, and then put everything into education, then this is a very new idea on which we would like to be convinced. But frankly, if my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) likes, I will give him statistics produced by the Ministry of Education showing all these things.

Dr Nzeribe : The point I am making is that there is disparity in our educational system : a boy in Lagos goes to school, primary school, free of charge ; a boy in the North pays school fees. So also are his counterparts in the West and in the East. This is fundamental democracy I am talking about—disparity in our educational system.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I think primary education in the North is free. It has always been free in the North except in some of the privately owned schools. It is only in secondary schools and even there, only those who can afford to pay, do pay ; that was up to 1947. But as for primary education it is free in the North.

Again in health, the Regional Governments are doing very well and we in the centre are carrying out our responsibilities in respect of Lagos Territory, I am sure that hon. Members will appreciate our efforts. There is too much money in Lagos to develop Lagos but we have to start from somewhere. So, most of what the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) said are true but I am saying that in order to allow for the smooth running of our responsibilities we must leave matters as they are, the Regions carrying out their responsibilities and we in the Federal Territory doing our share. I think everything will be all right. All we need is patience. Nowadays, impatience is one of our greatest problems and the day we exhaust our patience we are finished.

As a nation I think we have done very well. We are tolerant and we are very conscious of our responsibilities.

I beg to move the Amendment.

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : I beg to second.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igala South) : I was to have moved this Motion but because of unavoidable circumstances I could not come earlier than now.

Why most of us always support the cause of rural areas is because most of us, at least about eighty per cent of the Members of this honourable House come from rural areas and it would be making a mockery of democracy and development if after being a Member of Parliament for five years, and after telling the people in our constituencies that we are in a government which is responsible for providing some of the amenities ; and after all the promises and the lies some of us do tell, these people still fail to see the effect of the government in the rural areas.

It is quite true from what the Bible says that the wind blows and we do not know from where it blows nor do we know where it is

blowing but when it becomes ineffective we realise it. When it blows slowly we call it breeze; if the velocity becomes great we call it wind, and if the velocity becomes greater still we call it tornado. But for us in the rural areas not to feel the effect of the wind blowing, and the wind only blows in the urban areas and the cities, I think it is something that is deplorable.

I thought that when we got our independence our aim would be to develop our own country in a rapid way. Now that we are independent, instead of thinking of the economic development of the country, we are thinking more and more of political philosophies and how we can propagate them throughout the country. I think this is something to think about.

In the Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance said that the ordinary man in the rural area, the man who voted for us to be here, is not concerned with political strife and bickerings. What he wants is for his stomach to be full; he wants a better roof over his head; he wants better schools for his children, and he wants medical facilities to be available. But have we got all these? We have so many hospitals in rural areas manned by only one doctor and this doctor must see to all kinds of diseases in that area. People go to the hospitals and wait from morning till night and they are not attended to. Sometimes when they go to the hospitals and the doctor prescribes medicine for them, the medicine is not available in the store. How do we expect these people to work hard on the farm in order to improve the economy of this country when they are not healthy?

Nigeria is an agricultural country and, therefore, we want our people to work hard on the farm. These people must be cared for. If our women cannot get enough medical care, how will they produce healthy children who will man this country in future?

Enough cannot be said for the lot and cause of the rural areas. We have been coming to the Floor of this House pleading the cause of the rural areas, and sometimes we are a bit disillusioned when no action is taken on this. If we ask for postal agency, we do not get it and the next answer is that we shall get it as soon as possible or as soon as funds are available. But when funds are available they go to those who have long legs in the Ministry.

I know that the Amendment must be supported. I was to second the Motion originally but I was not available in time. In amending the Motion, I would like the Government to remember that what is good for the goose is also good for the gander. The Minister of Economic Development should make a survey of the whole country in order to know the requirements of the rural areas; the potentialities of each locality must be known, and by so doing, developments can be achieved within the shortest possible time in the rural areas. Once the potentialities of the rural areas are known, the people who plan the economy of this country will direct their minds towards achieving them.

I would like the oil prospecting companies to go to the hinterland instead of concentrating all their efforts on the banks of the ocean, in order to tap the natural resources of the rural areas. We should not concentrate all our developments in big towns, otherwise the rural areas will be depopulated. Our young men always go to the townships to look for jobs because they know that industries are sited in those places. If Government can develop the rural areas, our young men and women will stop going to the townships to look for work; they will remain where they are.

When these young people come to the townships and there is no work for them, the next thing is that they constitute themselves into undesirable elements in our society; some of them become thugs for our political leaders. If they are told to go and fight, they will fight; if they are told to go and do any sort of job, they will do it because they are at the mercy of these political leaders.

I would implore this new broadly-based Government to see to the lot of all the people in the rural areas, whether in the field of agriculture or in the field of education. Medical care must be given to them and there must be doctors who are specialists to man the hospitals.

The last but not the least is that now that we have got so many Ministers, they should not concentrate all their efforts and energies on Lagos alone. They should go to the Regions and make reports on the requirements of the rural areas. They should not always run to their constituencies in order to safeguard their seats. They should tour the country so that

[MR ENEFOLA]

our children who want to know them can know them. This is good for their education.

We have been saying that the Federal Government should take over the maintenance of roads from the Regional Governments, and up till now nothing has been done. The Federal Government always says that it will widen and tar roads but it has not fulfilled this promise. We have been telling our people for the past five years that the Federal Government will come to the aid of the Regional Governments as far as roads are concerned. The Regional Governments have not got enough fund to do these, and when foreign aids come, they are shared and nobody feels them.

The Ministers of Works, Communications and especially the Minister of Economic Development should tour the rural areas in order to see things on the spot and also to make reports. We should not be bringing reports to the Minister of Economic Development merely for him to read them in the *Hansard*.

Mr Speaker, I feel that enough cannot be said for the cause of the people living in the rural areas. We should not neglect them and we should not begin to propound theories or preach philosophies which will not make the ordinary man feel happy and which will not make him buy cheap aluminium sheets for roofing his house. These philosophies will not help him to send his children to school or even enjoy free medical care.

Yesterday in Lagos, a woman went to the hospital and was there from morning till four o'clock in the evening. The doctor prescribed medicine for her and told her to go to the dispensary. She went to the dispensary and she was told that the medicine was not available. She went and bought the medicine from a chemist shop. This woman spent two pounds in buying this medicine. When this is happening in Lagos, what about the rural areas.

Now that we have got a full Cabinet, we should forget our political differences and settle down to work. Nigeria should be a nation in a hurry, economically. We should forget our political bickerings and concentrate our efforts on building this nation. If this Government makes its motto, "Nigeria is a nation in a hurry", we can compete with big countries like Russia, America, Canada and

Australia. Within, say, ten to twenty years, we can bring economic stability to this country and the man in the street will feel that he is living in a country where everybody has plenty to eat, plenty to save and plenty to gain.

I support the Amendment.

Dr L. O. Ibukun (Owo North): I support the original Motion which has been ably moved by Dr Nzeribe.

I would first of all congratulate him not only on being appointed the Deputy Speaker of this House, but also on bringing this very important Motion to the Floor of this House.

The question of rural development is very important and I think that many Members both during the debate on the Address and the debate on the Budget have mentioned this point of rural development. The Mover of this Motion, Dr Nzeribe, has collected very valuable data on the trend of expenditure on development and he has shown conclusively that a large percentage of the finance is spent in developing the urban areas.

The important point which, if I may say so, the Minister of Economic Development overlooked is that in this Motion we are not criticising the money which has been spent on development as such. That is not the question. But what we are after is that the ration of the money which is spent on rural areas is too small. Most of us who are Members of this House are from rural areas and about 80 per cent of us have responsibility to the rural areas.

I would say, for example, the population of Ondo Province in Western Nigeria is about three million, and yet not even one single industry has been established in that whole province. Not one single industry has been established in a province as large as that. Furthermore, in Owo Division, we have been clamouring for a long time and begging the Governments, both at Regional and Federal level, to establish for us iron and steel industry because we have enough raw materials and mineral deposits in that area. But still nothing has been done about that.

We come here day after day to hear various estimates for this place and that, and eventually all these places are the big towns. I feel that too little attention is being paid to rural areas.

There is also the economic field and educational field. I think that the Government ought to pay more attention to this, not just by

coming here to make speeches, but they should plan and organise how to improve the rural areas.

I think there should really be a Ministry of Rural Development. That is going to be by far more profitable than this new Ministry of Housing and Surveys which will only supervise about a few hundred houses in Surulere. I think the Government, in addition—

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : On a point of order, I would like the hon. Doctor to tell us briefly the definition of such a Ministry, its functions and its relation with the Regional Ministries of Community Development and Surveys.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I would like to help my hon. Friend—

Mr Speaker : No, you are both doctors.

Dr Ibukun : I was saying that the Federal Government ought to establish a Ministry of Rural Development which will co-ordinate the activities of development in rural areas in the economic, educational and medical fields and collaborate with all the Regional Governments in these fields. Surely this is feasible and it is possible. The rest of the matter is only detail, and the—

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : On a point of explanation, if I may help the hon. Gentleman, we do co-ordinate the economic activities as well as educational and medical activities of all the Regional Governments. We do this through the various Federal Ministries, Health and Education and my own Ministry. We even co-ordinate the Information too. This shows that we co-ordinate at all levels.

Dr Ibukun : I would agree with the Minister that there may be co-ordination in educational, medical and economic fields, but what we are saying is co-ordinating with the rural medical, educational and economic activities. We want a ministry whose main responsibility will be to ensure that a good percentage of the vote is spent on rural areas. Every other thing is a matter of detail which I am sure that the Government can look well into. I do not want to mention any names or quote any statistics, because the Mover of this Motion produced enough figures and data. I believe this Motion is here for everybody to support.

I beg to support.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I wish to support the Amendment. The Amendment emphasizes two important aspects of this debate. One is of course that the Federal Government has created avenues through the Regional Governments for the development of rural areas, and the other point is that the Federal Government also has given money in the form of grants to assist Regional Governments in the development of the rural areas. This is very very important and—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman says that the Federal Government has given money, but he knows that in Russia last year about fifty million people were attending school free of charge, and this is about one third of the population of that country. But here he tells us that the Government has given money.

Mr Ememe : The hon. Gentleman has just spoken about Russia. That shows how hypocritical some of the U.P.G.A. Members are. He is an agent of American imperialism in this country.

Dr Nzeribe : I very seriously and strongly object to the statement which the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has just made. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Gentleman has withdrawn that remark.

Mr Ememe : There are two main jobs which have been taken care of by the Federal Government : one is assistance and the other aid. The assistance being given to the Regional Government is intended to go to them by virtue of their constitutional merits. We all know, for example in the Eastern Region, that when money is obtained by the Federal Government, this money is distributed according to the ratio which is clearly tabulated in our Constitution. In addition to this the Federal Government gives some grants and aids.

I do not understand what the hon. Gentlemen mean when they say the Government should do this and the Government should do that. Do they mean that the Federal Government is not doing its work? If that is the case, I would like to point out that some Regional Governments are not doing what they are supposed to do. I will give an example with my own constituency, Aba South, an oil area having two big oil fields—

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, the Motion before this House is asking the Federal Government to take a more sympathetic view—the emphasis is on more sympathetic view ; and the Amendment is asking the House to congratulate the Government. So that there is only one issue involved and that is, could the Government do more to help the rural areas ? And if that is the issue before the House, it is irrelevant to talk about Asa or any other place now.

So I would ask the Speaker to please ask the hon. Gentleman now speaking to remember this fact.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has been enumerating the various sources of assistance the Federal Government is giving to Regional Governments. We would like to hear more as to whether he intends to suggest that there should be no further assistance from the Federal Government or otherwise. We cannot rule him out of order now.

Mr Ememe : Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I was saying was that my constituency is an example of rural area in the Eastern Region, perhaps in Nigeria. I say perhaps in Nigeria because many Members from the Eastern Region are now asking for secession. I, therefore, do not know whether they are still a part of the Federation of Nigeria or not.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is a Member from the Eastern Region. Is he telling us that he is supporting the view that the Eastern Region should secede ?

Mr Speaker : That is a question and not a point of order.

Mr Ememe : What I am saying is that my own part of the country, the rural area in which I live, contributes immensely to the revenue of this country and to the revenue of the Eastern Region.

Some hon. Members : How much ?

Mr Ememe : Half of the revenue derived from oil in this country comes from my constituency. Apart from all these resourceful contributions made by my people to the Eastern Regional Government and to the Federal Government, and in spite of the fact

that the Federal Government give some grants and some aids to the Regional Government to make it possible for the Regional Government to give amenities to my people, yet, and that is a big yet, we have no water, no electricity, no good roads, and practically no schools.

Mr Mbegbu : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is again misleading this House. It is common knowledge that a refinery is being built in Afam, and that all the roads leading to Afam pass through his constituency, and are tarred. There is no section of his area without tarred road. Still he comes here to complain.

Mr Ememe : The oil refinery that is being built very close to my area is in itself a testimony of the neglect of the people.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is intentionally misleading this House. He is himself a proprietor of a school which receives government grant even though it is being badly run. In his constituency, there are twenty-two schools, and he comes before this honourable House to say that there are no schools in his constituency. We all are men of honour and we ask the hon. Gentleman to sustain the honour of this House.

Mr Ememe : I can understand why some hon. Members from the U.P.G.A. Benches are worried. Facts must be presented. It is my business within these five years which is given to me to present these facts.

Mr N. A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South) : On a point of order, I want to say that there is no refinery at Afam. What is at Afam is just a power station to generate electricity. The refinery is between Eleme and Okrika.

Mr Speaker : It is amazing that hon. Members do not know what a point of order is. Do you not consider it a little bit shameful to raise a point of order only for the House to discover that it is not a point of order ? I think Members should be sensible about the manner they raise their points of order. A Member can raise a point of explanation, a point of debate and all that. But in the guise of points of order Members say quite a lot of things that are out of order.

Mr Ememe : What I am trying to say is that my constituency is one of the rural areas

that are producing a great deal for the revenue of this country, and yet we are grossly neglected.

We have an oil refinery near Port Harcourt. The oil refinery has a board. This board actually ought to have somebody from my constituency to be one of their members, and yet no one from my constituency is on that board.

Secondly, the very power station for gas that supplies the whole Eastern Region is within my constituency, and yet not a single town in my constituency has electric light.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame !

Mr Ememe : Thirdly, The Federal Government report of experts shows that my constituency is one of the best places for the manufacture of gas.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of information, when we of the Rivers Province were agitating for the creation of a Rivers State, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) was one of those who put obstacles in our way. He said then that it was not necessary to create a state in the Rivers area and that the area was fully developed. But now, he is saying precisely what we were saying then. Is he now saying that his constituency is part of the Rivers Province ? At that time he said that they were not. If he is now saying that he belongs to the Rivers Province, let him come and let us form a state.

Mr Ememe : The people of my constituency constitute a part of the minorities within the Rivers Province. It does not matter whose ox is gored.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East) : My point of order is on irrelevancy. When the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) rose to speak, he said that he was supporting the amendment, but now he is talking about the neglect of his area. The amendment refers to the aid given by the Federal Government, and the hon. Member should therefore centre his speech on this subject.

Mr Speaker : The Speech of the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is not irrelevant.

Mr Ememe : For the benefit of the hon. Member who did not seem to understand me, what I said was that the Federal Government

has given sufficient aid and assistance to the Regional Governments, and yet the Regional Government which is in charge of my own area has grossly neglected my constituency. I will give examples of this one by one.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : The hon. Member speaking is being irrelevant. This is not the place to malign Regional Governments. I think the Motion before the House is quite clear. The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should either congratulate the Federal Government for what it has done or pray the Government to do more or to change the venue of its assistance to the rural areas. But for him to come to the Floor of this House to malign Regional Governments, is, I think, uncalled for. And let me say this, Sir, that the hon. Gentleman himself is a renegade who does not believe he will see the walls of this House again, not even through the local councils.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has indicated a neglect by the Regional Government. He has done it so cleverly that I find it difficult to rule him out of order because he has indicated that the Federal Government has given sufficient assistance to the rural areas and that his Regional Government stood in the way of his constituency. I cannot rule him out of order because his speech is definitely in order.

While at the same time, I do not find it proper to put all the blames on the Regional Governments, I am not in a position to say so because I have no idea of the activities of the Regional Governments.

Mr Ememe : Many Members did not want me to come back to this House but, by the Grace of God, I am in this House to-day. Similarly, many Members would not like me to come back to the next House, but by the Grace of God, I will be here in the next House.

What I am saying is that I congratulate the Federal Government on the effort it is making not only in abiding by the Constitution and allowing the Regional Governments to do what the Constitution allows them to do, but also by going beyond that to give aid to the Regional Governments. It is most important to realise and understand their responsibilities to the rural areas under the Constitution.

[MR EMEEME]

If the Regional Governments are getting more than what they are supposed to get from the Federal Government, the people of this country expect them to use part of this Federal assistance on the rural areas: instead of using all the money they have in building mansions with seven toilets rooms for each of their Ministers. This is how our money is being lavished in the Eastern Region. Several hon. Members can bear witness to that.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): On a point of information, if each Minister's house in the Eastern Region has seven toilet rooms, then the houses of the Ministers in the Federal Government have fourteen toilet rooms each.

Mr Ememe: What is worrying the Regional Governments is that they are trying to compete with the Federal Government in the providing of quarters and amenities for Ministers instead of using the money in the development of rural areas.

The people of my constituency are one of the victims of this neglect and of the misuse of funds and irresponsibility on the part of the Eastern Regional Government.

Mr T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East): The Member from Ndoki (*Mr Ememe*) is accusing the Eastern Regional Government of misappropriation of funds allocated for rural development and this issue can only be raised on a substantive Motion.

Mr Ememe: There is no need trying to belabour this point. I have made it very clear that the Federal Government is not to blame in this respect and that those who have brought this Motion to the Floor of this House actually brought it because they are frustrated in their own Region. They are no more getting the amenities they are supposed to get and they now look forward to the Federal Government to give it directly to them.

Why can we not scrap off the Regional Governments? If the Regional Governments are no more useful, let us scrap them and let the Federal Government take over.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South): On a point of order, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is going too far. He is generalising too much. If he has any particular Regional Government in mind, I am sure it is not the Northern Regional Government because the

Northern Government is progressive enough. If anybody doubts that, I would like to invite that person to Kaduna to show him what the Government has done there.

Mr Ememe: Although I was generalising, I have always made it clear that I do not live in all the Regions of the country. I live in Eastern Nigeria and my comments go to the Eastern Regional Government. It is left to the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) to make his own comments about the Northern Government. I am talking about what I know. The Northern Government has no control over my rural area.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East): On a point of order, it will serve a very useful purpose if the hon Member speaking would state emphatically that the Eastern Regional Government is the worst Regional Government in the country. Let him say that emphatically.

Mr Speaker: This is really a leading suggestion.

Mr Ememe: If a constituency of about a hundred thousand inhabitants, living in the most important area of the country, an area full of natural resources of different types is grossly neglected in that way, I think I have the right to condemn whoever is the cause of this neglect on the Floor of this House.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): I am raising this point of order under Order 26 (8) which says *inter alia* that:

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 Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*), it is true, at first confined himself to the substance of the Motion which was ably moved by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*). But it is not difficult to see that the latter part of his speech is devoted to a frontal attack on the members of the Eastern Nigeria Government without a substantive Motion. I am quite sure that the Member for Aba South could make very useful contribution to the Motion on the Floor of this House without maligning or in fact attacking members of a Regional Government who are not here to defend themselves.

House of Representatives Debates

711

[Rural Development]

6 APRIL 1965

[Rural Development]

712

I am praying the Speaker to rule that this latter part of his speech is a frontal and maligning attack on the Regional Government which is not represented here or which is not here to defend itself.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Ememe : One of the main causes of this type of neglect which I have been emphasizing is that within our own area those who are Ministers use government revenue to develop their own areas only, and since there are no Ministers from Asa and Ndoki areas they are completely neglected. That is the way things work in the Eastern Region. I do not know about other Regions.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Aba South has been repeating the same argument for quite a while.

Mr Ememe : What I have said is enough for our people to know and retrace their steps.

What I am going to say further is that the Federal Government should be merciful enough to give further assistance to these people. Let the Government give them another opportunity by granting them further aid and see whether they will be christianly minded enough to use this money to develop rural areas. When this is done, my Friend and Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), will not find it necessary to bring this kind of Motion to this House.

Finally, I wish to thank the Government and to say that the Federal Government has a duty to protect the interests of all citizens of this country and that when the citizens from the rural areas, no matter from where they come, are not cared for the Federal Government should step in by all means to assist these people either directly or indirectly.

Alhaji Inusa Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North): Such an important Motion and the Amendment should be supported by every Member of this House. Whenever there is anything affecting the rural areas every Member here will have to support it. Because of this I am going to support the Amendment to the Motion.

I am afraid that the treatment given to the inhabitants of the rural areas is not satisfactory. If only we could remember that it is the taxpayers in the rural areas whom we go to beg for votes when the House is dissolved we would

treat matters affecting them more favourably. Some people go to these people when there is an election to promise that when voted into power they would provide them with water, hospitals and even helicopters only to forget their promises when they are voted into this House. They come here and sit quiet and do not remember the promises they made to people in the rural areas. This is a matter to be viewed seriously by all Members.

If the people in the rural areas are not happy I doubt very much if the Government will be able to collect revenue by way of tax which is assessed on these people.

Because of this I would appeal to the Federal Government to grant more funds to the Regional Governments in order to provide more amenities to the people in the rural areas. I remember that in some rural areas one has to travel for over a mile or two before one can get a well from where to fetch water for domestic use. This is a very sympathetic situation and yet when we are told about it we keep quiet and say nothing about it. I doubt very much if we are not cheating those tax-payers in the rural areas.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): On a point of order, I think the Member for Gaya North (*Alhaji Inusa*) is contradicting himself. We should know whether he is supporting the Motion or the Amendment. After all, the Motion seeks to ask the Federal Government to give the Regional Governments more aid in order to provide rural areas with amenities. He is now saying that he does not want the Motion but he is asking the Government again to provide amenities for the rural areas.

Alahaji Inusa Wakilin Masaka : Even if I am supporting the Amendment, I think it will be fair enough to explain all the points in order to enlighten the Federal Government as to what step it is going to take to help the situation. In that respect, I am appealing to the Federal Government to appoint a committee or a body or to ask the Regional Governments to appoint such committees or bodies which will tour all the rural areas and find out what will be better and necessary for those people. This is to enable the Government collect full information about what it is going to do in future

[ALHAJI WAKILIN MASAKA]

In some of the rural areas there is, of course, no doubt, as my hon. Friend who spoke last said, that some of the rural areas will even find it difficult to make up their minds on what they require. So, I think that such a body, if appointed, will make it very easy for the Federal Government to meet the requirements of the rural areas.

Ill-health is plaguing the people in the rural areas because of lack of hospital amenities. We will be very pleased and our inhabitants in the rural areas will also be very delighted if the Federal Government will see to this.

It is, however, not only hospitals or schools that are required in the rural areas. There are some roads in those areas which are supposed to be reconstructed and developed. I think this can only be done by the Federal Government taking over some of the roads in the rural areas and allowing the Regional Governments to do other things. I feel that the Federal Government should consider seriously the situation of the people in the rural areas.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Question that the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put—

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr Speaker : We have taken the whole of the period since morning in debating this Motion. We have some other five Motions to come to.

Some hon. Members : This is very important.

Mr Speaker : Well, if it be the desire of the House that the debate should continue, then we will continue until such a time that the House feels we should stop. I, at least, have indicated the time factor.

Mr O. W. Inyang (Enyong West): In supporting this Motion so ably moved by the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), I have to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Mover and also to explain some of the ills that plague the rural inhabitants of this great country.

It is gratifying to note that the Federal Government has decided to ask the Regional Governments to effect a rigorous rural development programme. It is to be hoped that this

new venture is not going to be concentrated only in the urban areas which have already been developed. It may sound funny to say that the people in the rural areas only hear that there is development in the country but they do not experience it. The full impact of our autonomy has not been brought to these people, and it is my considered view, now that the Federal Government is prepared to assist, that immediate steps must be taken to bring development in all its entirety to the people.

I remember some years ago when community development projects were launched in the Eastern Region. The full impact of these projects was felt in Udi Division where it was begun. In order to stimulate the rest of the people in that Region a film captioned *Day-break in Udi* was shown all over the Eastern Region. The caption of this film was ridiculed because in it was embodied all the different phases of rural development. The different communities in the Region had to buckle up to catch up with the times.

Now, I shall outline some of the developments that are urgently needed in the rural areas. It is necessary to say with emphasis that in order to have a happy and prosperous society the Government must take an interest in the health of the people. It is painful to know that in the rural areas the majority of the people have never been to hospital. The reason for this is that the nearest hospital may be about 30 miles away from their homes. As a result, most of the lives that otherwise would have been saved were lost because of inadequate medical facilities.

In most of the dispensaries which are run by County Councils, the staff are unqualified and unable to cope with the bulk of work they have to do. The people continue to suffer from the pang of diseases. Pregnant women are always in danger because ante-natal care does not exist. It is imperative, if we are to have happy and contented citizens, that hospitals, health centres and maternity homes should be built in the rural areas.

In my constituency, for instance, there is no hospital for a teeming population of 223,000. It is disheartening to know how much the people are suffering. I humbly submit that, at least, two hospitals be built in Enyong West.

In order to improve the rural areas, I do not think it is sufficient to vote money only for the

housing scheme for Surulere in Lagos. I feel very strongly that the people in the rural areas should be made to feel the full impact of this great new world that is being built in the cosmopolitan areas in the country.

Mr Speaker : It is now one o'clock and, under Standing Orders, sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr O. W. Inyang : Before sitting was suspended, I did make the point that in order to make the full impact of this development to be felt, low cost houses should be built in the rural areas so as to improve the standard of living of the people. I would also like to submit that as an experiment these houses should be built in Itu in Enyong Division.

Hon. Members will agree with me that most of the people in the rural areas have not got pipe borne water. They have not got good water supply and some of them get water for drinking and cooking from wells. These wells are infested with worms and other harmful microbes. It, therefore, becomes necessary that pipe borne water should be made available to all the people in the rural areas. This will reduce the alarming death rate in the rural areas.

On communications, I would like to say that those of us who live in the rural areas feel that we are completely cut-off from the rest of the world. In some places where there are postal agencies, the work in these agencies is so poor that letters travel for well over a fortnight and, in fact, many of them are lost in transit. These agencies do not provide telegraph or telephone facilities and are therefore not very useful to the community. In order to bring the rural communities into focus, it is necessary to build post offices or sub-post offices in every county council headquarters. In addition to this, postal agents should be made to work full time and should be regarded as permanent employees of the Government.

It cannot be gainsaid that the rural inhabitants of this country need electricity when it is remembered that their counterparts in the

urban areas merely press a button and have something done. The gap between the town dweller and the rural inhabitant is so wide that desperate efforts must be made to bridge it, and it should be done early.

Most of the secondary schools are in the rural areas. A good number of them can ill-afford to pay for private plants. The students are expected to see televised lessons, but how can they do this in the absence of electricity. I would say that if the Government finds it difficult to provide electricity in all the rural areas, it should be the place of the Government to ensure that all secondary schools that have not got electricity are given special grants for this purpose.

When we talk of recreational facilities, youths in the rural areas depend to a large extent on what the schools can provide. The truth is that most schools can only boast of a football field which is inadequate even for the school population. I feel that it is the duty of the Government to provide parks and equipment for games so that our youths in the rural areas can develop not only their brains but their bodies. We want strong and able men, men who can rally round in the event of war.

The roads in the rural areas are so bad that local producers of palm produce find it difficult to evacuate their produce, with the result that licensed buying agents who can feel their way into the rural areas stand to gain by cheating the producer who has no means of taking the produce to a place where competition would be stimulated. As we all know, roads are the arteries of trade and commerce. The Government would be doing a great service to the teeming millions of this country if roads are opened to facilitate the flow of trade in these remote areas.

To cite an instance, in Biase, a part of my constituency, two plantations have been established by the Regional Government, but the inhabitants are so hemmed in that some of them have never been to the administrative headquarters which is a far cry from where they live. May I suggest that survey teams should be sent out to explore the possibilities of opening up these areas which are rich in natural resources.

On home industries, I would say that in Iko Ekpene Division of the old Calabar Province, there is a raffia industry. This industry is

[MR INYANG]
owned by private people. The partners in this business always find it difficult to meet with the demands made on them by overseas customers. In my considered view, I feel that people who are using local materials to start an industry, no matter how humble should be given financial aid by the Government. It is needless to say that if this is done, the business will not only expand but will provide avenues of employment for our youths who now have nothing to do. It will also help the business to be mechanised. At present, home-made looms are used. The industrial revolution of this country will come through adequate development of cottage industries.

Schools in the rural areas are ill-equipped to cope with the demands of this jet age. If care is taken only of the schools in the urban areas and Government schools, then it stands to reason that school children in the rural areas stand a very bad chance of competing for entry into the most reputable schools in the country.

This then creates a class: on the one hand you have children who have all the facilities, and on the other you have those who just get the basic education.

At present, our educational policy seems to cater for only the able-bodied children. It is, however, true that rehabilitation centres are built to help the blind to learn to read and write. But what is the lot of those who are so handicapped physically that they cannot avail themselves of education? In all civilised countries of the world, special schools are built for this class of children.

Mr Speaker, may I humbly suggest that special schools for "spastics" should be built in the rural areas. I am sure that the special school we have here in Lagos does not cater for children in the remote parts of the country.

The establishment of trade schools in towns is not enough. In order to keep the school leavers in the villages, trade schools should be built in each County Council area. At present, the existing trade schools are sited in Divisional Headquarters.

Already the Regional Governments have taken farm settlements on hand, but I feel that the Federal Government should give them increased grants so that more could be opened. This will also help local farmers to improve their output of cash crops.

In the morning, I did refer to "Day-break" in Udi. This was the slogan used when community development had its first impact in the Eastern Region a couple of years ago. I would, in conclusion, humbly submit that in order to improve the lot of the people in the rural areas we should launch operation "Day-break" in Nigeria.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Dr T. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East): I think that this Motion is non-contentious. I support the original Motion and would vote for the Amendment proposed by the Minister. (*Laughter*) What I am trying to say is that whereas the original Motion is quite good, the Amendment prays this House to congratulate the Ministry of Economic Development on what they have not done. It is true that they have done a lot towards the general development of the country but, as far as rural development is concerned, the Ministry has done nothing worthy of congratulations.

I think that you know quite well, Mr Speaker, that most of us here come from the rural areas. When we come to towns like Lagos, Kaduna, Abeokuta, Ibadan, and so on, and we want electric lights, we can get it easily, but in our homes in the rural areas we have no supply of electricity. We do not even have good drinking water.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South-East): On a point of order, I do not understand where the hon. Member speaking stands; whether he is supporting either the original Motion or the Amendment.

Dr Dada: I think that the hon. Gentleman should go back to school to learn how to understand people.

There is no doubt that the rural areas have been left undeveloped whereas they are the back-bone of the country's economy. A lot could be done to tap the potentialities of the rural areas. In those areas, we have mineral resources which remain untapped. We even have some sources of power in the rural areas.

In my constituency, in Share, there are chalk deposits and a chalk factory could comfortably be sited there. Also, in Oreke Hill, mineral deposits like gold and tantalite have been discovered since the colonial days. There are flags there showing the places on the hill. A

simple mining industry should be sited in that area. Up till now nothing has been done to tap these resources. It is this type of thing that the Motion is asking for. The Ministry of Economic Development should invest more money in rural development.

What is more, there is a water-fall near my town, Oro-Agor, in Ilorin East. During the colonial days, the water-fall was surveyed by engineers. The result was that the fall was 200 feet high. This fall could be harnessed for the purposes of hydro-electricity. The river was traced over a hundred miles. In other words, the river could serve more purposes like the supply of drinking water. If the Ministry of Economic Development could sink more money, pay more attention, to rural development, some of these things could be developed to the satisfaction of many people.

I am sure that there are some other God-given sources of power in the country. Surely, if the Federal Government could aid rural development, such things should be taken into consideration and be given priority attention in the interpretation of our Economic Development Plan.

Millions of Nigerians in the rural areas have no alternative but to continue to look forward to the Ministry of Economic Development. I know that to develop the rural areas of this country is a difficult job. But what is most urgently needed is the creation of an arm of the Federal Ministry of Economic Development in the Regions which will, as an hon. Member suggested this morning, co-ordinate the functions of Ministries of Development in different Regions. For instance, there is a newly created Ministry of Water Resources and Community Development in Northern Region. I think that there is also a similar Ministry in other Regions.

I think that it is necessary to mention here that in the rural areas there are many people who want to help themselves through communal efforts, but they have not been adequately encouraged. I hope that in view of this Motion the Federal Government would now give more money for rural development.

Alhaji Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): I rise to support the Amendment, not the original Motion, because it was made by the Government. This is a Government of the people, by

the people, and for the people. I must support my Government.

Although I do not come from a rural area, yet I would like the Government to consider rural areas as far as amenities such as water supply, electricity, roads, communications and industries are concerned. Indeed, most Members of this House come from the rural areas.

I want to say that Nigeria is for us all. For this reason, the national wealth must be spread out in a way that it will make us all know that we are citizens of the same country. If this is not done, I think that hon. Members of this House will not be fairly treated.

All of us, including Ministers, have to face our constituencies when election time comes. When somebody has stayed here for five years without doing a thing for his constituency, how would he be returned to this House during the election? What lies are we going to tell those who elected us to this House so that they may elect us again? As I have said earlier, I am not from a rural area, but rather, I represent an urban area. But the urban area that I am representing is surrounded by rural areas; therefore, it is high time the Government changed its attitude towards hon. Members in this House. The Federal Government should distribute amenities throughout the Federation. The rural areas should not be left out.

If amenities are provided in the rural areas, hon. Members will gladly be sure of being elected to this House again. Unfortunately, on several occasions, I have asked the Federal Government to site only one industry in Zaria which is my constituency. I first made this request in 1958, but up till now, nothing has been done to site an industry in Zaria Central.

Finally, I am appealing to the Federal Government to do something about the rural areas.

I support the Government's Amendment.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East): One would have thought that the Government would accept the original Motion. The terms of this Motion are quite clear and non-contentious. The Motion says in part—

That this House prays the Federal Government to take a more sympathetic view.....

[CHIEF AKINYEDE]

I would like to remind the Minister of Economic Development that the Motion uses the terms "more sympathetic". The Motion is laying much emphasis on "more". I would like to say that, perhaps the hon. Minister did not put the proper emphasis on the word "more."

The Mover of this Motion is not suggesting that the Government has done nothing at all in the rural areas. The Six-Year Development Programme has done half its journey and it has been accepted by all sides of this House that we have only just touched the fringe of our Six-Year Development Programme.

I would like to point out that over seventy *per cent* of the population of this country inhabit the rural areas, but less than five *per cent* of the efforts of the Federal Government within the past three years have been concentrated in the rural areas.

However, now that Industry is in the concurrent list, and considering the fact that we have also got a separate Ministry of Industry, I think that the Government should be able to devote more attention and energy to proper industrialisation of the country.

The Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech, ingeniously suggested that the Federal Government has tried its best in locating one industry at a corner, and that those who could not feel the impact should be pitied. In my own opinion, I think that every part of this country is entitled to a share in the distribution of amenities arising from our Six-Year Development Programme.

As I said earlier on, Industry is a concurrent subject and agriculture is a basic industry. As a matter of fact, agriculture is the mother of all industries, but it seems that the Government, in the past, had been fighting shy of undertaking a bold, imaginative agricultural project in the country. The Federal Government should set up demonstrative and experimental agricultural industries rather than restrict itself to mere research.

A large agricultural industry can be set up in the hinterland where we have good agricultural land for demonstration to the Regional Governments. New techniques in agriculture should be introduced. Even the Minister of Finance accepted the fact that we are still using old methods that are now one century

behind. What the Government should do is to embark on demonstrative agricultural projects in the hinterland.

In my own constituency—Ekiti East, we have a vast area of unlimited fertile land which can be used by the Federal Government. And, if this land is properly exploited, it will yield adequate food and raw materials which would be enough for the entire citizens of this country.

Again, I would like to point out that most of the rural areas are completely cut out from the urban areas because of bad roads. The Minister of Works, has not deemed it quite urgent to provide at least one road for every constituency in the Republic. Our constituencies should be provided with a net work of Federal roads. In the whole of Ekiti division, with over 120 towns and villages, there is not a single trunk "A" road there. It is a shame that no single trunk "A" road touches any part of my constituency. The roads in this area are left in the hands of Local Councils and the Western Region Government which is broke. This Western Region Government cannot even maintain the trunk 'B' roads under its control, much more of constructing other roads.

In this connection, may I suggest that the Erimo-Auchi Road be converted into a trunk "A" road. This road passes through ten constituencies and it is barely one hundred miles in length. Therefore, it will serve ten constituencies and yet it will cost the Federal Government less than a tenth of a million pounds.

When it comes to the question of providing electricity for parts of this country, the Federal Government thinks only in terms of urban areas, but I think the rural areas need equally the attention of the Federal Government. Nothing stops the Federal Government from siting moderate electricity plants in the rural areas, especially where the population of a rural area is over ten thousand. Therefore, instead of concentrating electricity supply in urban areas where the population, sometimes, is under one hundred thousand, it should be extended to the rural areas.

It is my earnest hope that this new Government will lay greater emphasis on the provision of amenities to all parts of the Federal Republic. If the Government will provide and site

industries in all parts of this country, it will improve on our present agricultural system. I hope the Government will thereby also take over all the roads in this country. Furthermore, it would supply electricity to the rural areas of this Republic.

I beg to support.

Whereupon the Member for Bende East (Professor Kalu Ezera) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put ; but Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): First of all, I want to thank the Minister of Economic Development for his intellectual honesty in accepting that the facts as portrayed in my Motion are unadulterated, and we hope that the Government will continue in this spirit of not being rigid. Some years ago, it was an anathema to mention agriculture on the Floor of this House, but the Federal Government has now given out money to improve our agricultural system. This means that the Federal Government is realising actually what we are up to.

So, in view of that, and in view of the continued flexibility on the part of Government machinery, I want to accept the Amendment.

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I just want to say that the Federal Government does not only encourage agricultural projects but has also gone further to create a Ministry for Natural Resources which, in a deeper meaning, covers agriculture.

Mr Nicholas Asande (Owo Central): I would like to speak on the original Motion—

Mr Speaker: The Member for Owo Central (*Mr Asande*) cannot speak on the original Motion now. He can only speak on the Motion as amended.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South East): I do not like the Amendment which is now being accepted, because it sought to limit the extent to which the Federal Government can go in this scheme.

But now that the Mover of the original Motion has accepted the Amendment, I feel that we would still say that the activities of the Federal Government should not be limited at all in its bid to help the people in the rural areas.

The Amendment is in order, because the Federal Government is the umbrella of all the Regional Governments, and it has accepted or recognised the fact that the Regional Governments are doing their duties in helping the people in the rural areas.

In view of that recognition, I would also like to support the Amendment.

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

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

Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House congratulates the Federal Government on its efforts not only in creating the necessary conditions for the accelerated development of the rural areas but also for the assistance which it has given to the Regional Governments in discharging their responsibilities in these areas.

HIRE-PURCHASE SYSTEM

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I respectfully quote the text of the Motion:—

That, in view of the reported abuses of the hire-purchase system in Nigeria by some commercial houses, this House urges the Government to introduce a law which will safeguard the interest of buyers and sellers under hire-purchase terms.

I pray this House to examine the text of the Motion. It will be clearly seen that there is nothing controversial in the Motion at all. The aim of the Motion is to remove the abuses of the hire-purchase system in this country by some commercial houses by introducing a law for that purpose.

Where there is no law there is no sin. The abuses of hire-purchase system, as they are in the country to-day, make one think that there is no law at all, and if there is any law, in any event it has not been enforced.

I pray the Federal Government to enact a law which would safeguard the interest of both the buyers and the sellers by making a balanced regulation to control the purchases,

[MR SENU-OKE]

I remember in the 1930's and in the early 1940's that there was practically nothing known as hire-purchase system in this country. The hire-purchase system became known in this country in the latter part of 1940's, and it became popular in the 1950's and 1960's.

There are two parties involved in the transaction, the buyer and the seller. The seller is the expert on the transaction. He prepares the agreement for the buyer or the hirer who is requested to produce a required number of sureties or guarantors to enter into that agreement after having paid a fixed cash deposit up to 25 *per cent* or 33½ *per cent* of the actual value of the goods.

I am not quarrelling with this kind of agreement, but there are certain clauses in the agreement which I do request legislation to control.

After the initial deposit of, say, twenty-five or thirty-three and one third *per cent* of the original value of the goods, the buyer has to pay regularly, a fixed monthly instalment, but immediately he fails to pay one instalment, the seller or his agent jumps on him without giving any notice and seizes the article.

If the article costs about £1,000, for instance, and the interest charge is, say, £200, as the present agreement stands, and the hirer has paid about £1,190 before he defaults, the seller acting strictly on the terms of the agreement has a right to take possession of the article concerned without notice.

The hirer, as a result of this lapse, automatically faces a charge of breach of contract. He has no defence in any court of law. The seller is advantageously placed to resell the article again. He might possibly resell it for £300 thereby making a profit of about £290. Thus, instead of recovering £10 from the previous buyer, he makes a gain and there is no one to safeguard the interest of the first buyer.

Again, if the balance to be repaid by the first buyer is high and the resale price does not cover the balance, the hire-purchase agreement empowers the seller to institute a legal action to recover the balance.

The hire-purchase agreement as it is now is one-sided. It gives no protection to the buyer. It is an unbalanced agreement. It gives the seller a chance to rob the buyer indirectly as

the agreement leaves no room for any protection at all on the part of the buyer. He is at the mercy of the seller or his agents all the time.

Our Government will be failing in its duty if it does not introduce legislation to control this practice as thousands of our people have become victims of these hire-purchase agreements.

I am not condemning the very existence of hire-purchase system. All I want in the hire-purchase agreement is to stamp out the abuse it carries. Hence, I pray the Government to introduce a law by which, if a buyer pays a total of, say, 25 *per cent* or 33½ *per cent* of the price of any article, the balance should be treated as debt to be recovered, and for which a court action could be taken against the buyer by the seller. The practice of seizure should be completely removed from the agreement.

The practice of hire-purchase system was introduced into this country by foreigners. It is not of our own making. It is carried on by foreign firms and financiers. I think there was an Act in England whereby once a buyer had paid a certain percentage—I think it was one-third of the cost of the article—to the seller, the seller could only take court action to recover the balance. Why should we not emulate such an example?

I am not praying the House to introduce a law in order to stamp out the system from the country as it is doing a lot of good to some of our people, but the law should remain in order that, when the buyer has paid between 25 *per cent* and 33½ *per cent* of the value of the good, he is protected under the law and this law should be known and called the "Nigerian Hire-Purchase Law".

This is a sympathetic request. As I have said, this Motion is non-controversial. It is completely harmless and, therefore, I commend it to the whole House.

I beg to move.

Mr D. O. Enefolo (Igala South): I beg to second this Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*).

This is a simple Motion and as the Mover has said, it is non-controversial. It is only calling on the Federal Government to come to the salvation of people in this country who would like to do business. We, in the colonial

days, had been cheated by our colonial masters. We have won our independence from them and what remains for us to win from those who would like still to dominate us is the economic independence of this country.

I feel that some of these mercantile houses or financial houses are becoming too clever at times for some of our people or the Government of this country. All the laws that could not be implemented in their own country they come here, with all their cleverness in trade, business and other transactions, to put into operation and sometimes we co-operate with them without knowing the implications.

The hire-purchase system in this country is so obnoxious that I do not think it has any parallel in other countries of the world.

As the Mover has explained, it is quite true that the buyer is at the mercy of the seller at all times. Although he has already stated that initially only one-third or about twenty-five per cent of the cost of the article is paid, but there are some firms that demand more than half of the cost price of the article to be deposited before the article is given to him.

I heard a Member saying that it depends on the person who is buying. That may be so, but if the hirer does not know the legal implications, he may go through an agent and most of these agents are always eager to cheat the customers of the firm. I would therefore say that it depends on the person who is selling.

Some of our people in business do not know the technicalities of the legal implications of all these things. Some of them are just starting and once they have started, they are usually only concerned with doing business, but when the conditions under which this business is done is not favourable to them, they have to fold up.

This is one of the things that are responsible for the early down-fall of our businessmen. Ignorance in these things is responsible for their failure in business and this is why we sometimes ask the Government to guard against poverty, ignorance and disease in this country.

For example, the period of time during which instalmental payments can be made under the hire-purchase system is too short. While in

other countries one can obtain an article under the hire-purchase system from 18 months to two years, here we must pay it within eight to ten months. It used to be one year, but now they have reduced it to only ten months.

In the case of cars, if a man wants a car for, say, taxi purposes, he must finish paying for it within a period of eight months. This is terrible! It is very bad for the person who is trying to go into business in this country. Supposing he gets into trouble and he cannot afford to pay the instalment charge each month, according to the Mover, the article will be seized without notice, perhaps after he had already paid, maybe, three-quarters of the hire-purchase price. This is something for the Minister of Trade and the Government to look into. The Government should come to the rescue of our people speedily.

Another thing is the rate of interest. With this limited time of payment which is very high, these financial houses may also charge a very high rate of interest. For example, in 1950 or 1960 when some of us came into this House and we received loans in order to purchase cars, the interest rate at that time was $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and then we cried against it. Lombard had to go and then we went to the U.D.C. that was charging $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

But right now, in the year 1965, the interest rate has now risen to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. What is the basis for this rate of interest? Who decides on what should be the interest? Is it the Government, or the Minister of Trade, or the expatriates finance-houses themselves? I think the Government should come into this business and control it if they cannot take it over.

The Government should be able to decide what rate of interest should be charged. If we allow the expatriate firms to continue to do the business as they do it now, then instead of the business bringing economic progress to this country, it will retard our progress, because people will be scared away and trade will remain in the hands of foreigners.

The last point I want to make in seconding this Motion concerns insurance business in this country. The business is not good as it is at present. For example, if one buys, say, a car or a lorry on a hire-purchase and one is unfortunate, the car or lorry gets involved in an accident, one has to face the troubles of two

[MR ENEFOLA]

different parties. The first trouble is that of the firm from where the vehicle was hire-purchased, and the second is the trouble with the insurance company.

Instead of the hiring company negotiating with the insurance company on behalf of the hirer, in order that the hirer might get a good compensation, they leave him to suffer, writing one letter after the other to the insurance company, at times without any fruitful result. I think these things should be investigated by the Government.

There was a time in this country when we all complained bitterly against the way the insurance companies were running their business. The Government instituted a Commission of Inquiry to look into the complaints, but up till to-day, nothing has been heard about the findings of the Commission.

This Motion is non-controversial as has been said by the Mover, and the Amendment to the Motion is very simple. I am surprised however, to find that an Amendment to the Motion has been filed.

The only difference between the Motion and the Amendment is that the Minister wants the Motion to apply to the Federal Territory alone—

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): On a point of order, the Amendment is not formally before the House, so it is not subject to any debate.

Mr Enefola: That is what I have detected. In any case, I commend the original Motion to the whole House, and I beg to second.

Dr Mbadiwe: I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows:—

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

"this House notes with satisfaction the steps already being taken to introduce a comprehensive hire-purchase legislation which will give adequate protection to all those engaged in the Federal Territory in hire-purchase transactions."

The substantive Motion as it now stands seems to give the impression that the Federal Government is either not aware of its responsibilities or is adamant to the reported abuses as alleged by the Mover of the Motion.

If the Mover of the Motion, the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*), is as interested in the hire-purchase business as his Motion would seem to suggest, then he must know what action the Government has so far taken in order to bring about a comprehensive legislation to give adequate protection to all those engaged in the business.

As a matter of fact, the Government indicated its intention on this subject in the President's Speech during the Budget Meeting last year. A draft Bill was then prepared, and would have been introduced to the House during the last session of Parliament. It had to be delayed on account of the fact that the Regional Governments were unwilling to surrender their legislative rights in this matter in order to enable a law applicable throughout the Federation to be enacted.

The intention, of course, of the Federal Government in this matter was to ensure that no defaulter can escape the ambit of the law by changing the venue of his operations.

Another cause of delay has been the fact that various bodies concerned with the hire-purchase business and, particularly, the Chambers of Commerce made strong representations to the Government in which they drew attention to certain aspects of the law which might put the whole business completely out.

Government's intention in bringing about a hire-purchase legislation is not to kill the business, but to so order its operations as to offer the maximum benefit to our business population, while ensuring that the owners have adequate returns for the risks they take.

I do not intend, Mr Speaker, to go into this legislation at this stage as I hope that before this Meeting is over, Government will bring this Bill before the House.

I only wish to disabuse the mind of the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) who by this Motion is attempting to wrest initiative from the Government.

This much I would like to say, that my Ministry has worked in full consultation with the Regional Governments and that a draft Bill prepared on the basis of a unanimous agreement of all the Governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will shortly be brought to this House

In view of the fact that the Regional Governments do not want to surrender their legislative jurisdiction, the law, when passed, will only apply to the Federal territory. But I am assured that the Regional Governments will also introduce identical legislation to their respective Houses.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): Before I second the Amendment to the Motion, I want to say that there is one point which the Mover of the Motion made, which was not clear to the hon. Gentleman who seconded the Motion. This—

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede: On a point of order, I think if the Minister of Economic Development wants to second the Amendment to the Motion, he should do so formally before advancing any argument on it.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: The point which I made to the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) is this that in England, if one buys anything on hire-purchase and pays one third of the price, then such a thing can no longer be seized from him by the seller. I think that is the point which he wanted to mention.

I beg to second.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): I rise to oppose the Amendment and to support the original Motion for two reasons. First, the Minister mentioned that a Bill which was to be introduced to this House was delayed because one Regional Government or the Regional Governments refused to surrender their legal sovereignty. This is one of the vital points holding back our unity that a Regional Government can over-ride the authority of the Federal Government. If it is true that the welfare of the people is the supreme law, I cannot understand how a fraction can govern a whole.

Some Members are saying "Constitution", but I would say that Constitution or no Constitution, I know that it is the business of the Federal Government to protect the people of this country. In the Constitution which some people are referring to, responsibilities have been assigned to the Federal Government, and I think the protection of the great number of people who like to ride cars or ply them about on commercial grounds should be one of the

things which should be uppermost in the mind of the Government. If hon. Members say that the Regional Governments are autonomous in allowing expatriate firms to exploit our people, I do not know what kind of Constitution that would be.

The second point, as I said, was the Minister upholding the idea that it is only in the Federal territory that purchasers will be protected.

Dr Mbadiwe: On a point of information, I think that the Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) is labouring under a mis-apprehension, with all good intentions, and I feel that he should be told the correct position. Under the law of this land when subjects are concurrent, it means that the Federal Government has power to legislate within the Federal territory, and the Regional Governments can legislate in their spheres of authority. Where they give their consent to the Federal Government, the Federal Government law can prevail throughout the country. But in this case, we have been trying to get all of them to agree that the Federal Government should legislate and they want to take their own initiative in introducing it in their own areas. It may be a concurrent introduction: while we are doing it here, they may be doing it in their own various Regions.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East): With due respect to the Minister of Trade, I think that is a misconception of the law or the Constitution.

Dr Mbadiwe: On a point of information, I am LL.D. When there is a conflict of law, I do the interpretation.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North): I do not understand the explanation of the Minister about concurrent legislation. I would like him to speak again, Sir, because what he said is wrong. If a matter is concurrent and either Government can legislate, then the Federal Government is supreme. But he is saying "within the Federal Territory". He is wrong and he must be corrected.

Mr Speaker: But this is not a point of order; it is a point of law.

Mr Chikelu: The legal arguments that ensued between my last point and the new point I will make, are interesting. I am not a lawyer, so I want to accept the explanation given by the Minister.

[MR CHIKELU]

I want to add that we will not be happy to allow the Government to continue with this dead phrase "as soon as possible" in regard to this law. We expect the Minister of Trade to give us a date as to when this law or legislation would be introduced so that those who are anxious to go into the hire-purchase business will exercise some patience and hope for the best to see what the Government will give to them.

With this point, I will then support the Amendment and not to oppose it.

Mr Senu-Oke : In order to save time, there is one phrase which is really burning in my mind, and if I had had time to speak on the Budget Speech before now, I would have mentioned it. We were in this House for five years. This law was said to be in progress, but it was not brought to the Floor of this House.

This reminds me that sometime ago, we set up a commission in respect of insurance. The report of that commission was not presented to this House. All these things are most annoying. In fact, I was very surprised to see that this Motion has been amended. But as the Minister has given us the assurance to look into it, and since this is a new Parliament with the Balewa broad-based Government which all of us have already given our assurance to support, I am very sure that the Minister, who is a hard-working man, will take up this matter as soon as possible.

With these remarks, I beg to withdraw this Motion and accept the Amendment as moved by the Minister who, I think, will take immediate steps to put this matter right.

Mr Speaker : You cannot withdraw the Motion as long as the Amendment has been moved and seconded. Does the Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) mean to say that he accepts the Amendment?

Mr Senu-Oke : Yes, I accept the Amendment.

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

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved : That, this House notes with satisfaction the steps already being taken to introduce a comprehensive hire-purchase legislation which will give adequate protection to all those engaged in the Federal Territory in hire-purchase transactions.

COAL TAR INDUSTRY

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : Mr Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—

That, in order to find other outlets for Nigerian coal, this House urges the Government to explore every possible means for the establishment of a coal-tar industry based on the use of coal.

Mr Speaker, Nigerian Coal is the first and the oldest national mining industry in this country. It was started about 50 years ago.

There is one important thing about industry. To find money for the establishment of an industry is a very easy and simple matter. To establish it is another. To manufacture, to pulverize, to refine or to produce articles are equally very easy, but to manage it economically is not an easy matter at all.

The Nigerian Coal Corporation is having a different case altogether in this matter. The Coal Corporation itself cannot on its own alone manage the affairs of the Coal Mining Industry economically without the full assistance of the Federal Government.

There are many outlets for the use of Nigerian coal. The first is the local use of Nigerian coal for fuelling in our commercial and industrial concerns such as locomotive engines, ships and boats in this country. The second outlet is through the domestic use. The third outlet is to export it to other countries with a view to gaining an effective balance of trade. The fourth outlet is through its industrial use. It is the last and not the least, this number four, that I am closely concerned with in this Motion.

Coal Tar Industry is one of those industries that I feel this country will in the first instance start in our era of development in industrial field.

There are many thousands of untarred trunk "A" roads. If we have coal tar industry it means that we shall make use of Nigerian coal as raw material which is obtained locally.

It means that coal tar will be cheaper locally than the imported one. One of the reasons why we have many of our roads still untarred is because of the high price of imported coal tar. It is a pleasure to note that the Federal Government is doing well in the development and improvement of our roads, but something must be done further and done quicker than what is going on now.

Usually it took one 12 hours to travel from Enugu to Lagos. Now, I can assure hon. Members that it takes one 7 hours to travel from Enugu to Lagos because of the new route from Shagamu to Benin. It is a practical example. One travels now from Port Harcourt to Lagos in only 8 hours, whereas before it was done in 14 hours. If we had a coal tar industry in this country manufacturing coal tar economically, I am sure that the Federal Government would have completed the reconstruction of Asaba to Benin road. Sooner or later, construction of the Niger Bridge will be completed. But it takes one a long time to cover the distance between Asaba and Benin. If we have tars cheaply manufactured in this country, the reconstruction of the Asaba to Benin road will be done as quickly as possible.

An hon. Member last week spoke about the importance of the Federal road in the Northern Region between Zaria and Kaduna. The Member has travelled from the Eastern Region to Kaduna in the Northern Region. It is necessary that all the major roads connecting Regional capitals and sea ports in this country should be given priority and tarred within the Six-Year Development Programme.

There is one other important route which is the shortest first class route connecting Enugu and Port Harcourt; it also connects Enugu, Awgu, Okigwi, Umuahia and Port Harcourt; it is a Federal road. A small portion of that road has been tarred. If we had cheap tar in this country, that road would have been completely tarred by now. We have rivers along this road.

I feel that something must be done as far as the production of cheap coal tar in this country is concerned. Nigerian coal industry is one of those important industries that we should encourage. In the first place, it will give labour to our people; it will give wealth to our people.

About 4 or 5 years ago, over six thousand Nigerians were dismissed because of lack of market for Nigerian coal. Nigerians in social circles have more responsibilities than their European counterparts. If a Nigerian worker is dismissed, the fate of not less than 20 people is affected. That means that the fate of one hundred and twenty thousand people or more was affected when over six thousand Nigerians were dismissed because of lack of market for Nigerian coal. To give employment to one man means a lot. To dismiss one man means a lot also.

This is one of those matters that call for urgent attention and action. We should do everything possible to provide employment for our people. This was one of the things which made Britain to go out and found colonies or places for their sons and daughters. It is our duty to do everything to exploit all our resources to manufacture goods in this country. Our Nigerian coal tar is one of the resources.

Turning to the allied products of coal, we have in the coal family what is called lignite. This is a younger brother to coal. After centuries of evolution, lignite can become coal. We have deposits of lignite in Asaba. I am sure the Minister of State, Chief J. I. G. Onyia, will like that. I am now calling on the Government to come and mine it. It is a part of coal. We have also another deposit in Awgu, a deposit between Isu and Agbudu down to Oji River.

There is a demarcation between the Enugu coal and lignite deposit. From lignite nylon can be manufactured, and nylon can be manufactured through the use of Nigerian coal.

If one goes through the surface of this Motion one will believe that the Minister of Mines and Power will find outlets for the sale of our coal.

Whilst asking for the establishment of a coal tar industry, it is worth while to extend it to another substance called lignite which belongs to the coal family. So, in order to save time for my next Motion to come up—

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman moving this Motion is at present one of the very few geniuses we have produced in this country. He has established a paint industry and he has produced a lot of dyes; therefore he needs the attention of the Government Benches.

Mr Chukwu : As I said before, in order not to belabour this House I will conclude by praying that the Federal Government should bear in mind that our coal is one of those mining industries that this country can never do without.

I beg to move.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban): I beg to second this Motion which has been so ably proposed by the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*). In so doing I wish to begin by saying that all the world over coal is an indispensable backbone to industry, while at the same time remaining a problem child the world over.

As many of us do know, the industrial greatness of Great Britain, the industrial greatness of the United States of America and that of the U.S.S.R., owe very much to their coal industry.

In Nigeria, as the Mover has pointed out, the first coal mine dates back to 1915, and it has continued to serve this nation very well ever since. About 20,000 Nigerians are at present engaged in the coal industry in one form or another. Some actually are engaged in the mining job at Enugu; some are engaged in the picking up and laying down coal at dumping stations at Kano, Ibadan, Lagos and other places.

A look into the background of many of our industries—and in the case, especially, of the many electrical undertakings which I hope the Minister of Mines and Power will agree—reveals that coal is a very important fuel ingredient. For the manufacturer of cement, coal also is very indispensable.

Government has recently decided to establish an iron and steel industry at Onitsha, Idah, and at a centre to be selected in Western Nigeria. As many hon. Members do know without the use of coal this industry will be economically impracticable in that it will mean the importation of coke which is produced from coal—

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): For the information of the House, our coal now produces coke, and it can do so after being pitched. I am talking from experience.

Mr Speaker : You are not a chemist !

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : I had wanted to say that the Minister of Mines and Power is rather a quack in that field !

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : On a point of order, by the Grace of God, I am the Minister of Mines and Power, and I have been so for the last six years. So I know something about coal.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): We know the Minister as the "Minister of Power Failure."

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : Because we cause power failure to prevent those who are seeking political power from doing so through the backdoor.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : In this country, our coal has been beset by a number of problems. The prospects of coal for fuel have diminished by the discovery of oil in some parts of the country. Oil has a higher calorific value and, indeed, it is a matter for great anxiety when the petroleum refinery begins operation whether coal will have any place in this country. I make this point especially in view of the strong temptation in industry for dieselisation.

From experience, the coal market has already lost tremendously because of the dieselisation policy of the Nigerian Railways. In the year 1958-59, the Railways bought about 490,000 tons of coal; and in the year 1963-64 they bought about 262,000 tons of coal. The Electricity Corporation, because of the dieselisation of the Ijora power house alone, bought 70,000 tons less than what they had been buying in previous years. This invasion of dieselisation is not confined to only Ijora, I understand the Port Harcourt power house as well as the Ibadan power house has also dieselised. This upward trend to dieselise explains the downward demand in the need and use of coal.

It is true that gas has been discovered in commercial quantity in this country. This is also another fuel substance which is invading the coal market, and the natural result of this has been poor market for coal, coupled with more constant industrial disputes; thus constituting another problem for the coal industry.

We should not, in viewing the difficulties facing the coal market, forget the constant shortage of waggons which has necessitated

dumping ; and as an economic measure dumping increases the cost of production because more money will have to be put in for the putting down of coal, picking it up and transportation, and so on.

When we look at that oldest industry (if you regard it as a necessary 'sick child') we see that the prospects of coal, as a means of fuel, are extremely discouraging. The management of the Coal Corporation foresaw this difficulty, and as a result have decided to establish a marketing department which is to engage itself in trying to endear coal to domestic users and to other smaller industries which have been consuming coal.

But the amount of coal taken up by these, when compared with the giant consumption of institutions like the E.C.N. and the Railways, is rather insignificant. Moreover, when we think of coal for domestic uses, we cannot compare Nigeria with Britain.

In Britain coal hearths are still regarded as better than electric hearths and gas hearths. In Britain therefore, a large quantity of coal is consumed in the making of coal fire. But in this country we do not need hearths ; so that when we survey the whole atmosphere it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that the prospects of coal as fuel are, in fact, getting dimer and dimer.

The Government is to be congratulated for anticipating this difficulty because in the year 1960 the Government appointed a high-powered commission of enquiry, with very wide terms of reference, one of which was "to examine the future of coal industry". This commission went carefully into the prospects of the future of coal and produced a very classic report. At page 34 of the report the commission said, *inter alia*, as follows :

Coal is progressively changing its place in industry from a fuel to a raw material. After many years' freedom from competition as a fuel in Nigeria the sudden increase of oil as a rival has eaten into the market for coal even more seriously than in European countries.

"No one can put the clock back. Even if imports of oil were restricted, Nigeria is now a producer of natural gas and oil, and the thermal value of the half million tons produced in 1959, is equal to the whole coal production of Enugu. Once there is a refinery in Nigeria,

the country will be self-supporting for fuel, and coal must compete for markets with oil without questions of external balance of payments as a factor in deciding preferences".

It is known that there are more than 200,000 chemical by-products from bituminous coal—the type we have at Enugu.

Several hon. Members : Let the hon. Member talk on coal tar.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : If hon. Members will be patient I shall talk about coal tar. As I was saying, it is known that there are about 200,000 by-products of coal, the most important of which, for our purpose, is coal tar. In talking about coal tar I am sure that hon. Members are well aware of the need and use of coal tar in this country.

The Minister of Works will only be too happy to get coal tar cheaper and coal tar will certainly become cheaper if we manufacture it in this country. Thus, the many complaints from Members of this House about amenities for their areas will be very much minimised if the Ministry of Works is able to construct roads to every hamlet and village.

It therefore becomes necessary that we should consider these other by-products of coal and as I said, coal tar is the most important for our purpose. There are also other by-products of coal but these do not come into our argument for the day.

For the purpose of appreciating fully how important it is for us to maintain the high position of coal industry in our country, however, it is important to remember that we have from coal fertilizers, insecticides, disinfectants, herbicides, fumigants, preservatives, carbon dioxide for dry ice, ammonia and the synthetic in electric refrigerators.

We also have dyes, synthetic rubber, paints, solvents, hundreds of medicines and antiseptics and photographic films. All these are by-products of coal and I have mentioned them to show Members how important it is for us to maintain that industry because unless this Government is determined to support the coal industry strongly, that industry is bound to die.

On the question of the location of this coal tar industry, I would like to remind hon. Members again that we have tons of coal in all

[MR NNAEMEKA-AGU]

the railway stations throughout the Federal Republic, but Enugu, the source of coal in this country, is an ideal place to locate the industry.

I would like to emphasise that Enugu is the headquarters of the Eastern Region and so far as it is the source of coal there will be no problem of transportation and, what is more, Enugu has not been blessed with any Federal Government industry and the people of Enugu have every right to feel that they have not had their fair share of Federal Government amenities—

Several hon. Members : What about the coal industry at Enugu ?

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : That is the only exception. As a matter of fact, the whole of Enugu Province, with the exception of the coal industry which was inherited from the British Government, has not been benefiting from Federal Government industries.

The people of Enugu Province are therefore very much eager to receive the blessings of this Government either by way of industry or by the establishment of a federal institution there. I can assure this House that if this coal tar industry is established in Enugu, that town being such a large town, will consume a large part of the products of the industry. Furthermore, Enugu is so situated that the marketing of the products of the industry to other large towns like Onitsha, Aba, Makurdi and Benin will be an easy process.

By this honourable House supporting this Motion, it would be contributing immensely towards the stabilisation of an all-important industry. It would be keeping up and improving the employment level in this country and it would be helping to reduce unemployment which has become one of the greatest cankerworms of this Government.

I beg to second the Motion.

The Minister of Industry (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : I rise to move the Amendment to his Motion, standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows :

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

"this House notes with satisfaction, the efforts of the Government to find other ways of making economic use of Nigerian coal including the possibility of establishing a coal tar industry".

It would be seen from this Amendment that Government is in full sympathy with the spirit of the Motion as moved by the Member for Awgu (Mr Chukwu), and that the Government has, to all intents and purposes, accepted the motive behind the Motion.

This Amendment is, however, vital in order to bring to the attention of this House the various measures that Government had taken to find other economic uses of Nigerian coal. This Amendment also emphasizes the important fact that coal tar industry is not the only other use to which Nigerian coal can and should be put.

The production of Nigerian coal for the past two or three years is around 600,000 tons. This level of production is conditioned by the prevailing level of demand for coal. The potentialities and qualities of our coal are high indeed.

The main avenues of the sale of Nigerian coal are the Nigerian Railway Corporation, which buys about 44 per cent, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria about 27 per cent, the Nigerian Cement Industry, about 18 per cent, exports mainly to Ghana about five per cent and small industries and domestic consumption account for the balance of six per cent.

Government duly shares the fears of the Mover of this Motion on the future of the Coal Industry, particularly now that the decline in the use of coal as a form of fuel and energy is unlikely to be reversed. This is largely due to the growing use of the more economic fuel oils by the Railways and the Electricity Corporation. This, hon. Members will agree with me, is a development which we cannot prevent if we are to move with the times.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, we know that in other parts of the world, for example in America, there was a case of over production of wheat and the Government found a way out. A developing country like ours must use what God has given us first before going to look for other things.

We cannot destroy our coal industry and then come here and say there is nothing we can do about it. This Government has no fuel policy and that is what we are asking the Minister of Industry to formulate.

House of Representatives Debates

743

[*Coal Tar Industry*]

6 APRIL, 1965

[*Coal Tar Industry*]

744

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): Members should not be unnecessarily hot on this issue. We have got an expert in the country now who is looking into the use of coal and we are hoping that when he submits his report we shall explore the possibilities of formulating a fuel policy.

Chief Akinloye: Our concern in this Motion to-day is the question of the establishment of a coal tar industry. It has nothing to do with the Government's fuel policy. To get the optimum production of our coal, therefore, other uses have to be found for coal. For this reason and in accordance with the policy of the Government to encourage to the fullest the utilisation of our coal, the Government has commissioned feasibility studies to be carried out on a number of industries including coal.

One of the reports which have been received from a German expert is being considered and it is hoped that the recommendations contained therein will serve as a solution to the problems of the industry.

The Government's recognition of the importance of coal in our economy is also shown by the special provision made for it in our Six-Year Development Plan, where half a million pounds has been allocated to the researches into its industrial uses.

Not long ago, the Government accepted an offer by the Indian Government to have twenty tons of our coal tested in India's Industrial Institute. The report of this test is still being awaited.

As I said earlier, coal tar industry is just one of the many industries that Government is now exploring in which our coal can be used. The Nigerian coal has been found from previous tests to be of high calorific value and to possess certain chemical qualities which are considered of more economic value than coal tar. Although priority is given to other possible uses of this product, coal tar as a possible by-product is not neglected.

In the investigations for the products of iron and steel, tests have been carried out by a Swiss firm on the possible uses of our coal. It would seem from all I have said that Government has for some time now been exploring possible means of finding other uses of our coal. And to accept the Motion of the hon. Gentleman as it stands will not give cognisance to, and appreciation for, the efforts of the Government in this

line. I am sure that the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*) will not find any difficulty in accepting the Amendment.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): I beg to second the Amendment, and in doing so, I would like to emphasize certain points that have been made by my Colleague the Minister of Industries. Apart from the half a million pounds that Government has voted for research into the use of coal, there is also another amount of money to the tune of £300,000 that has been given to the Coal Corporation in order to help its capital.

Apart from all this, we are hoping that when research is carried out into the coal industry and we find new uses for our coal, we will then be in a position to invite people from abroad to come and consider the possibility of setting up industries in this country which will use coal.

Until such researches are carried out, it will be extremely difficult for Government to commit itself to any particular industry. It may be that there are things that are more important, more economical and more paying than the coal tar industry. I am not suggesting that the coal tar industry is bad, but it may be that there are other industries which are better.

What we are trying to do is to save coal and we are doing everything possible. The amount of money, time and attention that the Federal Government is giving to the coal industry is tremendous, and I can assure hon. Members that we are not sitting idle. But I want to appeal to all those who are concerned with the coal industry, be they workers, Board members or Chairman to please make it a point of duty to see that the coal industry receives the best from them and only the best.

I beg to second the Amendment.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): Having listened to the explanation given by the Minister of Mines and Power, my heart gladdens with joy at the future of the coal industry. I have known the Minister to be interested in the welfare of the coal industry in this country, and in the welfare of the workers in the mines. Nevertheless, I would still make my point in support of the industry, coal tar or any other industry, as a by-product of coal.

[MR CHIKELU]

In doing this I will neither advance my argument from the point of view of an industrialist like my hon. Friend the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*), nor couch it in legal language like my lawyer-friend, the Member for Enugu Urban (*Mr Nnaemeka-Agu*). But I will use simple class room illustrations to bring home the urgent need for an industry on a by-product of coal. We all, or rather, many of us travel from our constituencies to Lagos partly on rough, rugged and badly maintained roads and partly on smooth and tarred roads. Therefore, the need for that substance to make our roads good will be determined in the first instance by the number of people, rich or poor, who desire to travel and use tarred and good roads; and I can assert without fear of contradiction that all the people in this country and in the whole world would like to use good and tarred roads.

As we have known that our Government is committed to doing that which will benefit the greatest number of the people of this country we are sure that tarring of roads is a great concern of our Government in order to satisfy the need of many road users.

In connection with this, I will quote from the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance to support Government's intention to provide tarred roads. On page 15 of the Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance said :

In the transport sector no one can fairly say that we have been dragging our feet. The great Niger road bridge is nearing completion. as also are the Shagamu-Benin, Tegna-Daura and Otta-Idiroko roads, whilst work will soon begin on the Gusau-Sokoto-Yelwa and the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road projects, as well as on the second Lagos Bridge. All this represents a massive investment.

These are projects envisaged by the Federal Government: work on the Benin-Shagamu road is still in progress; reconstruction of Ikorodu road at nearly a million pounds has just been completed; several other roads in the Federation have been tarred or are listed to be tarred by the regional Governments or by the Federal Government.

That establishes the fact that huge sums of money have been spent in importing coal tar and these huge sums of money can be saved

if coal tar is manufactured in Nigeria. Therefore, the establishment of a coal tar industry is a *desideratum*.

On the question of unemployment which has been the cry of every Member of this honourable House, I will refer, with your permission to page 37 of the Report of the Kaine Commission appointed by the Minister of Mines and Power, and consequently the Federal Government, to investigate other uses of coal. This was in March 1960 and it says :

The coal is of a nature which cannot be stockpiled without deterioration. Some variation in the number of employees is thus inevitable as the market fluctuates, and to avoid serious local unemployment at some periods and corresponding shortages of labour at others, the development of industry of all types should be actively pressed forward.

This goes to show that the establishment of the coal tar industry or any other industry for that matter as a by-product of coal is very important, and when this has been done, two important problems will have been tackled: the first is rehabilitation and the other is employment.

Some hon. Member may not agree with the use of the word "rehabilitation" but when it is known that several miners worked for so many years before they were laid off, it can reasonably be expected that bringing them back to work may be regarded as rehabilitation.

This argument is very plausible because the first mineral industry of this country was coal. It was then the only source of power and it was the industry which made possible the growth of the Nigerian Railway. A town like Port Harcourt owes its origin and growth to Nigerian coal.

Towns on the railway lines throughout the country owe their industrial growth to Nigerian coal. Shipping on the West Coast of Africa owes its progress to Nigerian coal. Therefore, it is only fair that those who worked for Government in bringing out the coal from the dark and dirty holes known as mines should not be neglected when they were laid off; and the retrenchment was occasioned by other sources of power coming into the scene. I have in mind such powers as oil, gas and diesel.

The dieselisation of the steam engine and the electrical power plants threw a great challenge to the Nigerian coal. The value

consequently fell and miners were laid off in order to equate cost of production with a realisable income.

Between 1960 and 1962, the number of miners laid off was well over three thousand. These were miners with families, with children in primary, and secondary schools as well as in universities. Their hopes were shattered; disappointment stared them in the face and the future became very dim.

In fact, several children of the miners in primary schools as well as in secondary schools broke their academic courses and had to be sent out for lack of maintenance; some of them are still hanging about without any future hope of employment.

Now that invention has placed coal in a position of second-rate power producer, but a cheap raw material in the establishment of related industries—it is high time the Federal Government embarked on the establishment of new industries related to the coal industry so that some of the miners who have been laid off can be re-engaged.

With reference to this again, I will quote a section of the Report of the Kaine Commission; that is on page 46, recommendation 25 and it says:

We recommend that the Government of Eastern Nigeria be asked to do all in their power to provide work and resettlement for the welfare of the retrenched miners.

The government of the Region is doing its best; the farm settlements had absorbed some of the retrenched miners. In fact some of them who were able-bodied were given priority, but many of them still have not been absorbed. And that explains why the Federal Government owes it as a duty to those miners who have given up so many years of their youth to the Government to be rehabilitated.

The second is not far-fetched; it is that the new industries to be established will not take only the retrenched miners but also new ones and so employment will have been created for people.

The last point I would like to make is to put forward the claim that Enugu District should have these industries sited there, or alternatively, they should be sited around

Enugu District. With reference to this, I will complete my quotations from the Kaine Report on same page 37 which says in part:

.....the development of industry of all types should be actively pressed forward in the Enugu District.

This was a Commission appointed by the Government, comprising men of integrity, men of unimpeachable character and men who should be relied upon.

I expect, therefore, that the Government will accept their recommendation without any subtraction. This being the case, Enugu lays a very great claim to have this industry or any other industry related to coal sited in Enugu. If the miners who were laid off on account of new sources of power coming into the field are to be rehabilitated, I do not think it is wise to urge them to travel away from home in order to take up the employment. It is only wise also that the industry in which they can be absorbed should be established near their homes.

The next point is that the materials required for this industry are available in and around Enugu, and I think it will reduce costs if the industry is sited where the raw materials are obtainable instead of incurring extra cost in transporting them.

The last point on that is that the Federal Government has no other industry in and around Enugu. Other industries there are those of the Regional Government or private people, and I think the Federal Government will do well to establish one industry in or around Enugu district.

To summarise this, the explanations of the Minister of Mines and Power are enough for anybody to accept the Amendment of the Motion.

I beg to support.

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

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

Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Government to find other ways of making economic use of Nigerian coal including the possibility of establishing a coal tar industry.

NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Agwu) : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That this House calls upon the Federal Government to establish a National Health Council with a view to fostering effective co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of the various governments of the Federation to combat diseases and improve health throughout the country.

This Motion is so simple and it has no room at all for any controversy and I therefore commend it to all sides of this House.

If one goes carefully to look at the body of the Motion one will see that it calls on the Government to establish a National Health Council with a view to fostering effective co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of the various governments. We all know that health comes under the 'Concurrent List'—each government is responsible for its own medical services, expansion and improvement.

While I am conscious of this implication in the Constitution, I want a National Health Council which will effect practically co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of various governments; I do not say regional governments. What I mean is that the Federal Government having known that a community has a right to have a programme and effect same on medical activities—a district council and a regional government each on its own—the Federal Government should have a National Health Scheme which would co-ordinate the activities of these various governments. Tapping the country's natural resources does not mean tapping mineral and agricultural resources alone, but it also means tapping man-power. To tap man-power is to have a healthy nation and to have a healthy nation, we must have hospitals here and there.

I was just going through the records when I discovered that in the country—

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, I would like to refer the Deputy Speaker to Standing Order 8 (f) which says that

the quorum of the House shall be not less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House.

The Deputy Speaker : There is quorum; the Standing Order says fifty-two.

Mr Chukwu : What I am saying is that the Federal Government is aware of what this Motion intends to say. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to quote the last paragraph of page 3 of the President's Speech, which reads as follows:—

Special programmes for the eradication or control of diseases such as small-pox tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, cerebro-spinal meningitis, sleeping sickness, yaws and river blindness, will be undertaken. My Government will explore the possibility of practical co-operation between the Federal and the Regional Governments in this connection.

The Government's policy here is to explore the possibility of practical co-operation, and I come out to say that there should be effective co-operation and co-ordination. It seems as if I had seen in secret the intention of the Government before it was laid down in this House.

The first property an individual will have and will be proud to have is good health; the same thing goes for a community, government and any progressive nation like this country. No nation will be rich without purchasing a strong and healthy man-power.

When the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) was moving his Motion here in the morning, he said that there were about sixteen thousand hospital beds in the whole Federation; but when I was going through a record, it was stated that there were about twenty thousand hospital beds in the whole Federation. It means therefore that Nigeria with fifty-five million people is having one hospital bed to three thousand people! this is very poor. If that is worked out mathematically, it would just be one *per cent*

We do not doubt the integrity of the Government, but as it is, it is a sad news that there is a hospital bed per three thousand of Nigerian population, even at this time of our present development. I would suggest that $33\frac{1}{3}$ *per cent* of the revenue of this country should go to health services and improvement.

If a person is not healthy, he cannot make money. If he is not healthy, he cannot be happy. So I think that it is necessary that the

Government should first and foremost give priority to medical services and their improvement.

As I have said earlier, this Motion is just a collection of the intentions in the programme of the Federal Government in a conclusive term.

I am happy that while this Motion is being debated, hon. Members are just teaming into the House, and I am sure that it will be acceptable to every side of this House. I would lay emphasis more and more on the suggestion that a good amount of money should be voted specially for health services and improvement. Without good health, there will be no happiness, no progress, no nation.

If we want to implement the Six-year Development Programme, we must have healthy people, healthy man-power; we must have healthy people who would go out into the field to toil and improve agriculture. We have a thousand and one peasants in the villages dying owing to lack of medical care.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to do everything possible to improve the health of the nation. Health is in the Concurrent List, and the Regional Governments are also responsible. But it is imperative that we should have a national health council which will co-ordinate the efforts of the Regional Governments in the field of health.

M. Jibrin Girema (Numan): On a point of order, when I was emphasising this point yesterday, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) called me a drunkard; he called his fellow man a drunkard.

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of order.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): I did not call the Member for Numan (*M. Girema*) a drunkard. I merely asked a question. He could check this from yesterday's *Hansard*.

Mr Chukwu: I am just trying to emphasise before this House the importance of health. I know the hon. Minister of Health is capable. I want him to do something more to improve health services throughout the whole country, and not just pump money into Lagos health services alone.

It is imperative that there should be a University Teaching Hospital in each of the Regions. I want to say, and I will continue to say, and I am sure every Member of this

House will support me in saying that the medical services in this country must be given first class attention, and that 33½ per cent of our revenue should go to improve health services.

I beg to move.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West): I rise to second this Motion. In doing so, I will go even a little further by saying that it is my humble belief that health should be a Federal subject. I think that the time has come when we in this country should take the health of our people very seriously.

It seems to me that there has been very haphazard planning and the relics of colonialism still pervade our thoughts in health programmes.

(*Mr Speaker resumed the Chair*)

Dr Mgbaronye: I am going to bring your minds to the fact that the colonial arrangements of our medical services are still operating in our hospitals. Earlier on in this country we had officers in the services, officers like D.O.'s, who were the chief officers of a station. A D.O. had with him a medical officer whose primary concern was to look after the health of the officials in the particular area. And so has evolved a system whereby people who are employed or somehow connected with Government have constituted a privileged class in matters of their health.

I am asking that the Federal Government should now look into the health of this country, taking every individual as equal to every other. In plain and simple language, I want a thorough survey to be made of the whole country so that we may know exactly how many people or persons one doctor is supposed to be responsible for.

One of the difficulties, I know from experience as a medical officer, has been lack of funds for expansion services.

I am trying to say that if the Federal Government co-operates with the Regional Governments in the establishment of a nucleus of a National Health Service—a contributory service which will produce some revenue—it will go a long way towards solving one of the main problems facing us in this country.

[DR MGBARONYE]

Our next handicap in the medical field is the lack of trained personnel. Some of the criticisms which are unfairly levelled on Government medical officers can be related to the poor salaries which are paid to these officers. I can tell the House from experience as a Government medical officer and later on as a private medical practitioner, that the disparity in emolument between being a Government medical officer and a private medical practitioner is very enormous. Therefore, these medical officers should be well paid so that we can remove monetary aspect from the medical practice and then establish a doctor-patient relationship, which is certainly lacking in medical practice in this country.

One way of doing this is by having a centralised system whereby contributions are being made by the public in small bits of, say, one shilling a week by everybody. There is a peculiar anomaly in this country. Those who can afford to pay for medical services rendered to them, those who earn very high salaries are, in fact, those who receive free medical treatment in this country. Whereas the poorer people of our population pay very heavily for the medical services they receive.

If the Government adopts this system which I am trying to advocate—it is certainly not socialist medicine—whereby a nucleus of health service is created which will be financed by all, the Government can start this scheme without taxing the people for money. This system is necessary because if everybody who has malaria goes to the hospital, the services will be so taxed that we cannot cope with it. So that when the Government says that it is providing medical services for the people, it is only providing these services for a very small fraction of the community.

I am therefore, saying that there is need for the Federal Government, in conjunction with the Regional Governments, to consider the idea of having some form of a National Health Organisation which will receive contributions from everybody and then allocate doctors who will not be members of the civil service, but employees of a management committee or of a hospital. These doctors will have nothing to do with the General Orders. They will practise their medicine and will be rewarded on their efforts and merits. There are things

like credit awards in other parts of the world.

These points I have enumerated should be carefully considered by the Federal Government. This is not a controversial matter, and I do not think politics comes into it at all because it deals with health. Doctors are usually in a privileged position of having to deal with everybody because health or disease knows no ideological barrier.

This Motion is a very good one. I commend it to the House and it is non-controversial. If the Federal Government will consider and accept the suggestions I have made, then this House would have done a great service to the community of this country.

It may be that some people will feel that this is a very radical departure from the system that is already operating. What I am suggesting is something like the Lloyd George Bill which was passed in England about 1911, but this is slightly different because I realise that there are a lot of differences in this country. But I think the time has come for us to think seriously about the health of the people of this country, and if we do this, we will be doing the country a great service.

With these few suggestions, I beg to second.

The Minister of Health (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): My hon. Friend, the Mover of this Motion has rightly said that the responsibility of providing health services lies with the different Governments of the Federation. The Federal Government is fully conscious of this and also conscious of the fact that diseases are no respecter of regional boundaries. It is for this purpose that we are setting up a National Council on Health Services, the inaugural meeting of which took place on the 8th of December, 1961.

The terms of reference of this National Council on Health Services is even more comprehensive than those envisaged by my hon. Friend the Member for Awgu (*Mr Chukwu*), and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I wish to read an extract from the Constitution of this National Council on Health Services.

Objects : (a) to facilitate exchange of views and consultation on medical and health problems among the four Governments of the Federation.

Incidentally, since the creation of the Mid-West State, the Government of the Mid-West has been added on to this National Council.

(b) to co-ordinate on a national basis actions on medical and health projects :

(c) to promote the development of research into the causes and eradication of preventable diseases on a national basis ;

(d) to encourage the training on a national basis of medical and para-medical personnel.

Membership : All Ministers of Health of the Governments of the Federation and their advisers.

Power : The powers of the Council shall be advisory to the four Governments of the Federation.

Duties : The duties of the Council shall be to advise on any matter referred to it by any of the Ministries of Health of the Federation. To initiate investigation on any matter likely to promote co-ordinated medical and health development in the country and make recommendations to the Governments.

These are the proposals which the National Council on Health had before them in December 1961. Since then, several meetings have been held by the National Council on Health the membership of which, as you will see from the constitution, consists of all the Ministers of Health in the Federation as well as their advisers.

The last meeting was held at Enugu last year and the functions with which this Council was charged have been very well discharged. It was at the National Council on Health that the plan for the eradication of malaria throughout Nigeria was formulated. We also got adequate support and co-operation from all the Ministries of Health as well as their advisers in formulating this plan and in executing other plans which have been formulated.

We also have expert advisers from the World Health Organisation to help us, and I am happy to say that this eradication programme is, at present, going on very satisfactorily.

Another very important achievement of the National Council on Health is the formulation of a project to launch a national campaign for the eradication of small pox. We appreciate that it does not matter how efficient and energetic a particular health service is in any part of the Federation, if the other health services are slack in their preventive measures ; the

efforts of the one which is not slack will be wasted. Therefore all these actions are co-ordinated.

I am very grateful to my hon. Friend the mover of the Motion that he pointed to the fact that the vote for medical services is inadequate. He has suggested that we should have 33 per cent of the national revenue spent on health services. I wish he could persuade the Minister of Finance to agree with him and I can assure him that we shall give him a health service in this country of which everyone of us should be proud.

Unfortunately the Federal Minister of Health is not responsible for the health services in the Regions, but we are co-operating with our colleagues in the Regions to ensure that whatever we do here is spread around the rest of the country.

I would also like to thank my colleague and Member for Bende West (*Dr Mgbaronye*) who seconded this Motion for the very nice things he said about the medical services generally, and for the very progressive proposals he has made for the re-organisation of our health services. This augurs well for the future of this new Parliament, because the very proposals about which he has just spoken were those that were contained in my Health Bill which was rejected by the last Parliament. I have no doubt that this Parliament, being a progressive one, will have no difficulty whatsoever in accepting these measures.

Because of what I have just said, the fact that there is already in existence a National Council on Health, and the fact that this National Council on Health is fulfilling all the functions which the mover of this Motion seeks to introduce, I would like to propose the following Amendment :

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

"this House notes with satisfaction that the Federal Government, in collaboration with Regional Governments, has established a National Health Council with a view to fostering effective co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of the various Governments in the Federation to combat diseases and improve health throughout the country."

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq): I beg to second.

Mr Chukwu: While accepting this Amendment, I just want to make one important observation. I would like the Minister of Health to press for more money and not for him to say that I should go to the Minister of Finance to get money. That is one bad faith which he has just shown. I accept his amendment, but wish the Minister would press on the Government to vote more money for medical services and also to see that Doctors are well paid and not to be paid a starting salary of £720 per annum. They should be started with a salary of not less than £1,200 per annum in order that the medical services should be performed excellently.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I do not want to make a speech, but I only want to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to something which has been worrying the minds of the public.

From time to time the commercial section either of the Radio Nigeria or the N.B.S. give up their services to people to broadcast the introduction of certain tablets. They give the impression that these tablets cure all diseases.

I do not want to mention names however. Some say they cure a hundred diseases at a time and all sorts of things which are said in the Radio and the people in the villages take them to be true. I do not know what safeguard is there for the people if such a public organ is used, like the N.B.C., to say that even an A.P.C. tablet or something like that cures all kinds of diseases, and the people are made to go away with this impression. What protection are we giving to the people? This is the point worrying the minds of the public.

Chief Dr Majekodunmi: Adequate safeguard has been provided to ensure that products which are injurious to health are not advertised to the public. The law itself is not very sufficiently strict on these subjects, but measures are at present being taken to tighten the law and ensure that we are able to track down culprits and at least prevent the advertisement of noxious substances.

Dr L. O. Ibukun (Owo North): In supporting the Amendment which has been proposed, I wish to make a few comments. I

must congratulate the Minister of Health for informing this House that there is already established a National Health Council. I think that the duty of the Council is a very gigantic one, and I think that they have to work with real zeal to be able to face the problems involved.

I am rather worried about the composition of membership of the Council in that it appears that the Members are all Government officials. From what has been read out, they are Ministers and their advisers who invariably are probably heads of the Government Ministries. I think that the work of the Council is not merely to carry out the normal routine of medical services. An important aspect of its duty is to do plenty of research into tropical diseases for the prevention and cure of these diseases.

Chief Dr Majekodunmi: I think it will help the Member who is speaking if I explain that the Ministry of Health is very free to draw advice from anywhere in the country and indeed from any part of the world for that matter.

Dr Ibukun: With that information, I drop that point.

I will say that one of the duties which the National Health Council will have to carry out and which will be of assistance to some of us who come from places distant from Lagos, is to provide, perhaps by co-ordinating with the Regional Governments, more help to the local hospitals. In Owo Division, for instance, we have, through communal effort, built a hospital and this hospital has been there for about five to six years. It took about three years before we could persuade the Government to let us have a Medical Officer, and we made a number of applications to the Regional Government. Up till now we have not got even a penny of financial assistance for the running of the hospital.

The point I am making is that health is a very important subject, as has been said in this House, and when large communities realise this and they make a definite effort to establish hospitals, I think that the least that any Government, be it Regional or Federal, can do is to encourage it by giving them financial assistance and personnel assistance as soon as possible.

I think that the National Health Council will, perhaps, even if they cannot operate in the Regions, be able to advise the Regions to pay more attention to local hospitals, especially when they are built by communal efforts.

There is a certain attitude of some of the doctors who are posted in the rural areas which is bad. For instance, in a large area there is sometimes only one hospital and one Medical Officer, and one finds quite often that for a period of a whole week the doctor goes from one village to another doing private practice. I think, as an hon. Member has already mentioned, that if their pay is too small, perhaps the National Health Council can consider increasing their pay. It will not help the people in the rural areas if they have only one hospital and one Medical Officer who can be found probably only one day in the week.

I will pay tribute to the Minister of Health for the two major teaching hospitals which are already in operation. I think that the Ibadan University Teaching Hospital has provided excellent services for a number of years and all we can do here is to pay tribute to all those who have made this possible. I hope that the Government will give greater financial and moral assistance to those teaching hospitals so that they can increase their intake quota of students and those of us in the rural areas can then have two, three or four Medical Officers in the not distant future instead of one Medical Officer.

I hope too that greater attention—I do not think this can be over-stated or over-estimated—should be paid to research in the cure and prevention of tropical diseases and in the use of local herbs for the cure of diseases in this country.

I beg to support.

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

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

Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House notes with satisfaction that the Federal Government, in collaboration with Regional Governments, has established a National Health Council with a view to fostering effective co-operation and

co-ordination of the efforts of the various Governments in the Federation to combat diseases and improve health throughout the country.

INTERNATIONAL ROAD BETWEEN NIGERIA AND DAHOMEY

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That this House prays the Federal Government to consider the possibility of constructing an international road passing through Apapa-Ajegunle-Ojo in Badagry East and Apapa-Badagry West to link Port-Novo in Dahomey in order to facilitate trade with other West African countries.

This Motion is straightforward. I feel that if a very deep economic consideration is given to this Motion the Government will be convinced of the necessity for it. At the moment the only international road which links this country with the French Dahomey is the Trunk 'A' Road from Sango Otta to Idiroko. It is through this road that one goes to Port-Novo, the French Dahomey, Togo and Ghana.

In the text of the Motion, I think the House will find reason to sympathise with me and accept it.

I beg to move.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): I beg to second.

The Minister of Works (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I beg to move an Amendment to this Motion as follows:—

Line 1, leave out from "That" to end of Question and add—"this House notes with satisfaction that the existing Trunk "A" Road between Nigeria and Dahomey serves the purpose of an international link between Nigeria and other West African countries and will facilitates trade with those countries."

And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr. Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 5(3).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East): On the Motion for adjournment, I want to speak in connection with a matter which I consider very important to Members of this House and the public in general.

Parliament does not meet every time. My view is that when we do meet there is an urgent need that there should be a link between this Parliament and the entire public of Nigeria. The only link which our Government has established and which has been doing very good work is the programme which comes on the air from the N.B.C. at 10.30 p.m. or thereabouts. This programme is called *To-day in Parliament*.

Let me say here that the gentleman who conducts this programme and his predecessor are very excellent. The present gentleman, I believe, is Biola Olasope. His predecessor, who was also very good, I think, is Horatio Ageda. We are satisfied with the gentleman who performs the programme now.

Our complaint and our plea is simple. By 10.30 p.m. many people would have gone to bed and, therefore, that link is disconnected, the link between Parliament and the people. We are pleading with the Minister that some sort of administrative juggling could take place whereby this programme could be brought in immediately after the nine o'clock news bulletin, so that all the men and women all over the country can hear hon. Members before they go to bed. By 10.30 p.m. as it is now, the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) who always commends the performance of this House is not heard by his many wives in Kano!

We are pleading that this matter should be given immediate consideration right now, whilst Parliament is still sitting, so that our many wives at home and our brothers and relatives will hear us perform in this House.

Sir, that is my plea.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): First and foremost, my wives do not sleep early.

The N.B.C. is an institution which is trying its best to meet the demands of the public. It has done its best in the past and we hope it will continue to do its best. When this programme

is broadcast at 10.30 p.m., there remains only one and half hours and one minute for the next day to start. This is too late. If the N.B.C. is not sure of what to do with our remarks, they can ask for public opinion on the issue.

As Parliamentarians, we consider that 10.30 p.m. is too late and we are asking the Corporation for a sympathetic consideration. We are not criticising the Corporation; we are only asking for a change of heart to meet the wishes of the public.

The Minister of Information (Chief Ayo Rosiji): The programme, "To-day in the House of Representatives", is broadcast soon after the ten o'clock news. I sympathise with my hon. Friends. It is sure that some people go to bed at ten o'clock; they come back to the house at ten o'clock and go to bed. Some people also find it convenient to leave the house at ten o'clock. It is not possible to put up this programme very early because of the other programmes which have to be fitted in.

Professor Kalu Ezera: On a point of order, I want the Minister to realise that this country is no more interested in the newsreel that tells us about Latin America, Japan and other things we do not understand at 9.15 p.m. We insist, if the Minister does not mind, that the programme be shifted to a time which will suit the country.

Chief Ayo Rosiji: We have considered this matter and I would like hon. Members to know that the N.B.C. is there to serve the public and not to serve just one section of the public at large.

The programme has been investigated since the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) gave me notice of his Motion. All the shifting that can be done has been done, and all I can say is that we have decided to put the programme on at 9.40 p.m. instead of after the ten o'clock news summary. Everything possible has been done.

If some people go out at 9.40 p.m., it is their look out, they will miss the report of the proceedings of the House of Representatives.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at four minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 7th April, 1965
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
COMMUNICATIONS

Postal Offices

O.69. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Communications, how many post offices and postal agencies are there in the country; and how many are in each Region.

Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi) : The number of Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the Federation is as follows :—

	Post Offices	Sub-Post Offices	Postal Agencies
Federal	12	—	36
Western Region	41	18	319
Mid-Western Region	18	14	190
Norther Region	61	3	224
Eastern Region	56	21	439
Total	188	56	1,208

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : Can the Minister of Communications tell us how many of the Postal Agencies in the Northern Region are being converted into either Sub-Post Offices or full Post Offices?

Mr Amechi : I would require a fresh notice of that Question.

Ajeromi Telegraphic Transactions

O.70. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the total units of telegraphic transactions registered in Ajeromi District Council Apapa (Ajegunle), Badagry East; and if he will make a statement as to whether the area is not qualified for a modern Post Office in the light of the rapid development of the place and heavy postal transactions there.

Mr Amechi : The total units of postal transactions at the Ajeromi Sub-Post Office are 114,000. The Sub-Post Office came into being on the 5th January, 1963, as the volume of work being conducted at the old Postal Agency justified its conversion. A Postal Development study on Ajeromi District which has since been conducted has justified the establishment of a full Departmental Post office.

Consequently, my Ministry has asked the Ajeromi District Council to select a suitable site for the proposed Post Office. Steps will be taken to acquire the site when it is available, and building will commence later, when funds become available under my 1962-69 building programme.

Akungba, Ishua, Idoani and Oba

O.119. Mr N. G. Asanbe asked the Minister of Communications, what is the total volume of business transacted at the Akungba, Ishua, Idoani and Oba postal agencies.

Mr Amechi : The current units of business transacted at the Postal Agencies are as follows :

Akungba	12,074
Ishua	6,281
Idoani	19,589
Oba	5,754

Oka Sub-Post Office

O.120. Mr N. G. Asanbe asked the Minister of Communications, when will the Oka Sub-Post Office be provided with telegraph and telephone services.

Mr Amechi : A recent review of the telecommunications needs of Oka has revealed no justification for providing telephone and telegraph facilities. There is therefore no immediate plan for providing these services; but the question is under constant review.

Akungba, Ishu, Idoani and Oba

O.121. Mr N. G. Asanbe asked the Minister of Communications, when will the Akungba, Ishu, Idoani and Oba postal agencies be converted to sub-post offices.

Mr Amechi : The current units of business transacted at the Akungba, Ishu, Idoani and Oba Postal Agencies are as follows :—

Akungba	12,074
Ishu	6,281
Idoani	19,589
Oba	5,754

[Mr AMECHI]

Only the Idoani Postal Agency qualifies for conversion to a Sub-Post Office, as it has attained the 18,000 units mark of business required for conversion. Conversion will take place as soon as funds and personnel are available.

Mr N. G. Asanbe (Owo Central): When do I hope that personnel and funds will be made available?

Mr Amechi: As soon the Minister of Finance can provide the necessary funds and as the Minister of Establishments will provide us with personnel, we shall take your case into consideration along with the others.

Ebonesie

O.122. Mr G. A. Eze asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to establish a post office at Ebonesie in Onitsha.

Mr Amechi: Communities are encouraged to start with the establishment of a Postal Agency before consideration is given for the establishment of a Sub-Post Office or a Departmental Post Office. There is no proposal yet to establish a Post Office at Ebonesie since no application has been received for the opening of a Postal Agency there.

If an application is forwarded to the Territorial Controller, Eastern Territory, Enugu, the matter will receive consideration, provided the usual conditions for opening a Postal Agency are fulfilled.

Okija Postal Agency

O.123. Mr G. A. Eze asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to convert the postal agency at Okija into a sub-post office.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi: The current units of business transacted at the Nkwo Okija Postal Agency are 13,023. This figure is below the 18,000 units mark required for converting a Postal Agency into a sub-Post Office. The Nkwo Okija Postal Agency does not therefore qualify for conversion and no plans exist for its conversion.

Onitsha Inland Town and Fegge

O.124. Mr J. O. Nwankwu asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he proposes to establish sub-post offices at Onitsha Inland Town and Fegge area to relieve the acute congestion at the Onitsha main post office.

Mr Mbazulike Amechi: Onitsha Inland Town and Fegge Area are at present served by Onitsha Cash Account Postal Agency and Fegge Postal Agency respectively. It is not the policy of the Ministry to open sub-post offices in a township, but branch post offices. The units figure required for opening a branch post office is 40,000 but the current units figures of the postal agencies are:—

Onitsha Inland Town	..	37,610
Fegge	14,177

The Agencies are therefore not yet qualified for upgrading to Branch Post Offices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Six-Year Development Plan

O.74. Mr J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he will make a statement on the progress of the Six-Year Development Plan.

Minister of State (Alhaji Muhammadu Gaiyama): I shall make a comprehensive statement on the progress of the Six-Year Development Plan during my contribution to the debate on the Budget.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Revised General Orders

O.75. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Establishments, if he has completed the major revision of the General Orders; and when he will make them available in the Ministries and for sale to the public.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr S. D. Lar): The new General Orders which have been carefully scrutinised by the Cabinet are now in print and I am able to say that they will be ready for distribution even before the present session of Parliament ends.

Civil Service Transport Allowances

O.116. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will consider increasing transport allowances paid to civil servants in view of the high cost of vehicles and petrol.

Mr S. D. Lar: Government does not at the present time contemplate any increase in the existing rates of transport allowances paid to civil servants.

Nigerians in the Executive Class

O.128. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will state the number of Nigerians now in Executive posts in the Federal Public Service as compared with what the position was in 1960, before the country's independence.

Mr S. D. Lar : In 1960, there were 372 Nigerians in the General Executive Class; this figure has risen to 813 in 1965. The Executive Class has been completely Nigerianised.

Expatriate Civil Servants

O.129. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Establishments, how many expatriate civil servants are still in the Federal Public Service as compared with the number in 1960 before independence; and if he will state what Ministries they are serving in.

Mr S. G. Lar : 669 expatriate civil servants, 522 of them on contract terms, are still serving in the Federal Public Service, as compared with 1,818 on the 30th of September, 1960. The large number of contract appointments is due to increased Government activities particularly in connection with the Development Programme for which Nigerians with the requisite professional and technical experience are not available in sufficient numbers.

These officers are serving in the following Ministries and Departments :—

Administration	5
Personal Secretaries	
Secretary-Typists and Official	
Reporters	23
Cabinet Office	1
Police	100
Ministry of Aviation	15
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	17
Ministry of Communications ..	106
Ministry of Economic Development	40
Ministry of Education	55
Ministry of Establishments ..	1
Ministry of Finance	17
Ministry of Health	25
Ministry of Information	2
Ministry of Internal Affairs ..	4
Ministry of Justice	3
Ministry of Labour	4
Ministry of Lagos Affairs ..	1
Ministry of Mines and Power ..	32

Ministry of Transport	16
Ministry of Works and Surveys ..	197
Judiciary	3
Audit	2

HEALTH**Tuberculosis and Leprosy**

O.132. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Health, if he will state how he is facing the problem of limiting and eventually wiping out the spread of tuberculosis and leprosy in Lagos.

Parliamentary Secretary (M. Hamza Gombe) : There are satisfactory arrangements for limiting and eventually wiping out tuberculosis and leprosy in Lagos.

A Leprosy Clinic is run by the Federal Government with some assistance from the U.N.I.C.E.F.

There are two Chest Clinics for Tuberculosis and a 59-bed Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Yaba.

The principles of control of these infectious diseases include :—

(a) Large scale examination to discover new cases.

(b) Isolation of early cases and hospitalisation where necessary.

(c) Follow-up care for defaulting patients.

(d) Education of the public through mass communication media.

(e) Protection of susceptible groups—infants, school children, teachers; etc., through vaccination.

(f) Monetary assistance to destitute patients.

I am happy to state that the diseases are limited in Lagos and should have been eradicated but for influx of cases from outside Lagos who now constitute half of the patients.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES**

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The attention of the Federal Government has been drawn to a proposal by the West African Lines Conference to increase North-bound and South-bound cargo freight rates by 10 per cent, with effect from June 1st, 1965. The West African Lines Conference

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

have sought to justify the proposed increase on the grounds of increased operational costs. Whilst the Government is not in possession of all the data on the basis of which the proposed increase has been calculated, it feels most strongly, that the proposed increase in freight rates is against the best interests of Nigeria.

The effect of the proposed increase on Nigeria will be manifold. But the areas in which the effect will be most severe will be :—

- (a) Nigeria's export trade ;
- (b) Costs of imported essential capital goods for Nigeria's development ;
- (c) Nigeria's internal economy.

With the export of Nigeria's produce suffering such severe reverses in the world market in recent times, the proposed freight rates increase can only be deemed to be calculated to worsen the position of Nigeria's external trade. At the same time, the proposed freight rates increase will distort Nigeria's development programme. The effect on the internal economy are bound to be equally severe.

The internal economy has hardly recovered from the inflationary effects of the Morgan awards. The effect of the proposed freight rates increase will, unfortunately, be to make an already difficult situation worse still.

The considered view of the Federal Government is that the West African Lines Conference could have absorbed the alleged increases in operational costs without inflicting on Nigerian economy, the increased costs which will result from the proposed freight rates increase.

The Federal Government is very disturbed about the whole business because there are bound to be difficulties from the unjustified increases which the West African Lines Conference propose to make to freight rates, North-bound and South-bound, with effect from the 1st of June, 1965. We are watching the situation carefully.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I rise to move again an unpopular Motion, but I hope it will be popular this time, namely—

That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the

House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

- From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.,
- From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
- From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

Again, the reasons I gave before will stand ; and hon. Members should please be present here to-night because as from tomorrow Ministers will be making statements on their different Ministries, and they will take priority.

I am asked if the newly recruited Ministers will also be making statements on their Ministries, but may I say that there are no newly recruited Ministers as it is being implied.

My hon. Colleagues will make statements on their Ministerial responsibilities and I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : I beg to second.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I welcome the proposal put up by the Leader of this House, because night sittings will help Members to contribute to the debate now on the Floor of this honourable House. As you, Mr Speaker, are aware, many hon. Members are itching to speak on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and I know, as the hon. Minister of Finance, the Leader of this House, has said, that many Ministers who may be contributing to that debate by giving an account of their Ministries during the past year may make Members not to contribute sufficiently.

So, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

- From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.,
- From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
- From 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

ORDER OF THE DAY
APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)
ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(31ST MARCH)

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

Mr J. Kagho-Omomadia (Isoko) : Before I proceed with my contribution to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I would like to make one or two corrections.

In my contribution to this debate last Monday, I did say that Usoro Postal Agency was due for conversion into a sub-post office two years ago. I did not refer to Okpara Postal Agency in this respect.

Another point is that during my reference to the headquarters of my constituency, Oleh, several *ole* Members were saying "*ole*", but the name of the headquarters is Oleh. As a result the word has been spelt wrongly in the Official Report as Ole instead of Oleh. The correct word is Oleh.

In my contribution to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I have to complete the aspect of my speech which was interrupted last Monday.

I would like to appeal to the Federal Government to provide a daily mail service between Ughelli and Oleh in order to speed up the delivery of letters and other postal matters to and from Oleh. The present system of weekly or bi-weekly service carried out by a mail-runner on a bicycle is not only slow but also out-dated.

On electricity, I would like to remind the Minister of Mines and Power about a suggestion which I raised on the Floor of this House that it would be economically advantageous to extend the Gas Turbine Station being commissioned at Ughelli to my Division in order to provide electricity for my people. Apart from the benefit they will derive from such an amenity, numerous educational institutions, health centres and maternity homes would greatly benefit from such a service.

On roads, I would like to join in congratulating the Government on the gigantic road work done on the Benin-Shagamu Road and to pray the Federal Government that early attention be given to the widening of the narrow bridges and the straightening of the concealed corners approaching those bridges because they constitute a great danger to the users of the road.

I would also pray the hon. Minister of Works to come to the aid of the Mid-Western Region Government by taking over as from to-day the following roads: Warri-Ughelli-Kwale, Warri-Agbor, and Sapele-Agbor.

The Mid-West Region is a young Region, and only a few months ago the Regional Government took over from the Local Council over 1,000 miles of roads for widening and regular maintenance and about 500 miles of roads for tarring. I hope, therefore, that the Federal Government will come to the aid of this Region in this regard.

As a Mid-Westerner, I would like to crave Mr Speaker's indulgence and to seize this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister of Health, Senator Chief Majekodunmi, for introducing the University College (Amendment) Bill in order to enlarge the membership of the Board of Management by making provision for representatives of the Mid-Western Region to be Members of the Board. This gesture, on the part of the hon. Minister, Senator Chief Majekodunmi, is very magnanimous and must be commended.

Hon. Members are aware that the Mid-West was created as a new Region about two years ago. It has unfortunately been left out in all Federal boards, corporations and institutions. In order that the Mid-West may have its representatives in such boards, corporations and institutions, I do hope that our Ministers and the powers-that-be will follow suit now that the way has been opened by the Minister of Health, Senator, Chief M. A. Majekodunmi, and to give the Mid-West Region adequate representations and allow it to take its appropriate stand in the scheme of things.

On Nigeria's foreign policy, I wish to say a word or two. Our foreign policy has been the subject of conflicting debates among the intelligent sections of our multi-ethnic national communities. It is agreed, in keeping with the letters of our Constitution, that neutrality is the best approach in pursuance to our foreign relations. That Nigeria will continue to work for understanding and friendship among all nations without regard to colour, race, religion or geographical frontiers is the avowed foreign policy of our Federal Government.

While Nigeria has been doing its level best to pursue this policy which is regarded as ideal in the light of unpredictable international developments, it is to be observed, however, that much is left to be desired in the pursuit of our policy of non-alignment.

[MR KAGHO-OMOMADIA]

If I should give an instance, I would say that the problems posed for our young men and women who wish to pursue academic, technical and professional studies in the so-called Communist countries make a big mockery of our policy of non-alignment.

As a result of this ugly situation, our country is generally regarded in international circles as toeing the line of the Western Powers. Our foreign trade seem to be carried on only in countries having Western European sympathy.

It is gratifying, however, to note that our country has opened her economic gates to some countries of Eastern Europe. This is a source of joy to all of us. To be able to project our image more objectively, we should, as an independent sovereign nation, open our doors to every country of the world which is interested in trading with us. To deny any country the right to trade with us is a negation of our policy of non-alignment.

Speaking generally, I must say that the catalogue of proposals embodied in the Budget Speech augurs well for the future of this great Federation. Be that as it may, however, there is a sharp evidence of discontent among our national population. There are complaints from all quarters. For instance, there seems to be a general awareness that we are growing more corrupt as the years roll by.

Existing employment opportunities should not lay premium on the social connections that a prospective applicant has. Several thousands of our young men and women who leave schools with certificates ranging from Standard Six to West African School Certificate and quite a good number of holders of Higher School Certificate roam the streets in search of employment. This situation is a very sad reflection on our national growth.

It is not enough to lay plans on papers. The proposals laid down in the Budget Speech must be pursued rigorously in their entirety. We are all committed to raising the standard of living of our people, most of whom earn below subsistence level.

I must mention at this juncture that concentrating industries only in the capital cities and major towns of the Federation is not too bad an idea when we consider the economic involvement. How be it, it should be noted

that this trend has brought about the overloading of these towns and cities with job seekers, causing a depopulation of the rural areas.

There are many suitable rural areas in which industries can be sited, but I do not wish to mention places as it is my belief that our economic planners are quite aware of these possibilities. Let some industries be sited in the rural areas with fair means of evacuation. However, such places where industries could be sited abound in the Mid-West.

In my constituency, for instance, we have vast areas of land suitable for any industry. In this connection, I have in mind a town in my constituency called Ikpidiama where sugarcane industry is the mainstay of the people. I want the Federal Government to set up a sugar industry in this town.

The establishment of such an industry will not only make the people of my constituency feel the impact of the Federal Government, but will also help to provide jobs for some of the unemployed; this will eventually reduce the exodus of young school leavers to towns and cities.

Before I resume my seat, I must remind this honourable House that the ever-rising incidence of tribalism has done a great damage to our corporate image. As everyone is aware, tribalism has so much eaten into our social fabric that unless we contemplate on some drastic measures, our great nation will undoubtedly face the danger of disintegration.

But as I see it, the end to tribalism is still distant. People may ask why I say this and the answer is that the country has now reached the formative stage—the stage in which every Region, every Province, every Division, every Clan and, in fact, every individual in this country now asserts his or her right and lay claim to the wealth of the nation.

Nevertheless, I hope that before this Session is over, we might have concluded some measures which will bring not only happiness to all and sundry, but which will also enhance our national prestige in the international scene.

I beg to support.

Mr David Dimka (Pankshin East): Several hon. Members have congratulated the Minister of Finance for his fine Budget Speech, and I

wish to join these Members in congratulating the Minister. In doing so, I want to mention some facts.

The Minister of Finance has distinguished himself as an efficient and capable Finance Minister both in Nigeria and in the world at large.

During the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, he had the honour of taking the chair. He is also the first Chairman of the African Development Bank. These and many others have proved the efficiency of our Finance Minister.

One has only to read the conclusion of his Budget Speech on page 29, paragraph 1 to get a complete summary of the whole Speech. This is indeed a masterpiece.

Every year, hon. Members speak on the importance of rural development, especially on improving the lot of the farmers. I am happy to note that this year is witnessing a change of heart by the Government to assist the Regional Governments in setting up farm settlements.

The benefits of these farm settlements are threefold. Firstly, it is to increase food production and to check the rise in the cost of living. Secondly, it is to train our young farmers in the use of modern farm-equipments. And, thirdly, it is to encourage school leavers to appreciate farming as a career and at the time to discourage the tendency of their drifting from the villages to the towns and cities. There is no doubt that these farm settlements will serve as useful employment media.

A simple but important analysis of our economic growth shows that the cost of living of our people is constantly rising at an alarming rate. The Morgan Awards have given the Governments of the Federation an additional burden. The Minister of Finance should appreciate the fact that as long as the cost of living continues to rise, workers will continue to demand for more wages. We should, therefore, do something to arrest the situation in time.

Here, I want to suggest that the Government should control prices of commodities. A Bill controlling the prices of all commodities should be brought before this House, by the Minister of Finance. We have all agreed that the prices of foodstuffs and other things are rising very highly.

Although the Minister of Finance has said that the people of this country cannot all enjoy the amenities being provided by the Government, at the same time, certainly, he cannot dispute the fact that everyone feels the rise in cost of living.

It is gratifying to note that the Government intends to supply electricity to all the important towns in the rural areas. But I wish to say emphatically that we want industries to be sited in rural areas. Government concentrates too much attention only on the main towns at present. I feel that this is a bad method of industrialising a vast country like Nigeria.

I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to instal telephones in every Divisional Headquarters of the Federation. This is very important since telephone is not a luxury but a necessity. If telephone installations are put up in all the important places, they will be very useful during emergencies, and this will be a pride to Nigeria.

I also want to appeal to the Minister of Communications to increase the mail services in some towns in Northern Nigeria to three times a week. The towns I have in mind are Barakin Ladi, Bokkos, Pankshin, Langtang and Shendam. Pankshin is only thirty miles from the nearest power station controlled by U.N.E.S.C.O. The Minister of Mines and Power will be doing a nice job if he extends electricity to Pankshin town. The people of Pankshin are willing to pay for the facility.

The outcome of the negotiation between the Ministry of Finance and the European Economic Community is most encouraging. We commend the efforts of our Minister of Finance in this respect, and we request him to continue with his present policy so that our trade with other parts of the world will be expanded.

Still on foreign trade, I wish to sound a note of warning on the importation of cars into this country. The cost of cars imported into this country is fantastic. The Government should come to the rescue of the nation by negotiating with the foreign firms importing these cars to see that their prices are reduced.

When the Organisation of African Unity was formed, the entire continent of Africa rejoiced, because they saw in the Organisation, a great hope for unity. We all believe that the African image will be projected through the

[MR DIMKA]

O.A.U., and we agree that any amount of money subscribed by this country in the interest of the O.A.U. is money well spent. In fact, this country should always continue to support any move to strengthen the O.A.U.

I am sorry, however, to see that some African countries are not interested in the progress of the O.A.U. For instance, Ghana is always trying to disrupt the mighty Organisation which other African nations are trying to build. Ghana wants to be the leader of Africa. She is very ambitious.

I am not quarrelling with Ghana for being ambitious because it is not a sin to be ambitious. But what I am quarrelling with is Ghana's attitude towards other African states when she discovered that she has failed woefully to make the grade of a leader in Africa.

For instance, when Ghana failed in her bid to lead Africa, she resorted to attack Nigeria, which she knows is likely to take up the leadership. We have tolerated too much of Ghana's subversive activities in this country. She has been attacking Nigeria, and she makes trouble with all her other neighbouring countries.

I support the hon. Members who have suggested that our Government should break diplomatic relations with Ghana. I also want to urge all the other member-states of the O.A.U. to come together, bring pressure to bear on Ghana and kick her out of the Organisation.

Ghana is at present violating some sections of the Charter of the O.A.U. She must be taught some sense. Ghana must be kicked out of the O.A.U. to make room for peace in Africa. She is an obstacle—

Mr S. Sobowale (Epe) : On a point of order, I believe that you, Mr Speaker, have previously ruled that Members should concern themselves only with the fiscal policy of Nigeria. I do not see how Ghana has come into our fiscal policy.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Pankshin East (*Mr Dimka*) please concentrate on our fiscal policy.

Mr Dimka : This Parliament, indeed the whole nation, is grateful to the World Bank and the countries which have always contributed generously to our economic development. We

should prove to those countries which have given us loans that we have a stable Government in this country. We do hope that our revenue will continue to be buoyant.

Finally, I wish to appeal to the political party which says that it is giving this Government a fair trial to desist from such utterances which do not make for unity. Whatever the party has in mind, it should allow the spirit of unity and goodwill to prevail.

I beg to support.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East) : Another year has rolled by on the eagle's wing of time, and a new Appropriation Bill for the year 1965-66 has been presented by our hon. Minister of Finance. I make bold to say that from the Budget now before this House, the Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, has proved himself as a great Parliamentarian.

He has been in this House as a Minister of Finance for over seven years, and has guided the House through some of its most critical times. I must say, however, that without the existence of this Parliament and without the authority and advice of our indefatigable Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, he could never have been able to render the good services which he is now rendering to the nation.

One of those things that must occupy our minds as hon. Members of this House is the sound fiscal policy of our great nation so largely grounded in the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance. Let it not be misconceived by any hon. Member of this House when I say that the sound fiscal policy of this nation should be uppermost in our minds, because a sound mind always abides in a sound body.

Much has been said about the unity of this country, but I must here say that there is nothing wrong whatsoever with the unity of this great country. Unity has not, for a moment, departed from this country, and it will continue to be with us. It is our individual acts as citizens that have departed from the policy of unity.

Recent events in this country have shown that Nigeria is united, no matter the little rantings and dissensions brought about by some sophisticated politicians in our midst.

My advice to all hon. Members who are representatives of the fifty-five million people of this country—a fast growing nation—is that they must go to their respective constituencies, their towns, villages or homes and start from there the truest and sincerest teaching of peace, love and unity between one another.

If they are successful in their households, they should then proceed to their next door neighbours and when they have succeeded on that level, they should carry this teaching to the towns and villages in their constituencies. If they succeeded in this message of peace, love and unity in these places, they can be very sure that they would have done a very good job to Nigeria and, indeed, to their God.

As our success in uniting this country will largely depend on the equitable distribution of amenities by the Governments of this Federation, it is the duty of the Federal Government to see to it that the distribution of its own share of amenities—siting of industries, construction of roads, post office buildings, higher institutions of learning, *et cetera*—is done in a manner that will not cause disunity between one town and another, or between one constituency and another.

There are lots of many good things to be achieved in this country, if only the Federal Government, in collaboration with the Regional Governments, would make sure that minor industries are sited here and there all over the country. May I, for the purpose of clarity, mention a few. We need a factory for making shaving blades. We need a factory for making all brands of pins and clips for office use all over the country; envelopes for office and public use; biro ball pens; needles for sewing; lead pencils for drawing and for office use; buttons for our dresses and so on.

May I touch on the major projects that need the immediate attention of our Governments and businessmen. We need more textile mills in order to put a stop to the several millions of pounds exchanged for Japanese yarns, and the annual purchase or importation of their own woven fabrics of all shades in increasing number year in year out. We need more cement factories which would consume our limestones and employ our local manpower in place of relentless importation of clinker which is known to be about eighty-five *per cent* of finished cement from abroad, thus encouraging

other countries' limestones to be indirectly grounded into powder and imported into Nigeria to our own economic loss.

We need industries for the manufacture of B.Twill Jute bags for our cocoa in the West, kernels in the East, groundnuts from the North and rubber from the Mid-West. We also need more factories for making cigarettes and cigars from our own tobacco. The Nigerian Tobacco Company alone cannot meet the need of this country.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, I do not know if there is a medical expert in this House, but we have been told, and there is a pamphlet now in circulation to the effect that cigarettes cause cancer. Why is the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) advocating the establishment of more cigarette factories in the country?

Mr Speaker: Order! He did not say that we should smoke them.

Mr Odulana: As I was saying, the Nigerian Tobacco Company alone cannot meet the needs of this country. There must be competition here and there all over the country. We need Government's encouragement for all investors willing to come and establish industries both in their private and public capacities.

The Ovaltine Company of Nigeria Limited, a company comprising both expatriates and indigenous Nigerian shareholders, will soon start production here, in Nigeria, at a cost of well over £2½ million. When this factory starts production any time from now, it will consume a lot of our cocoa as raw material for the manufacture of this nourishing and health-giving food which is famous all over the world for almost a century. Our local eggs and milk will be used. The labour to maintain the factory will be recruited here in Nigeria and direct sales and tax payments will be done here too.

This being so, the Governments of this country should see to it that projects of this sort and all others like it are given all the necessary facilities which the promoters may request for, with minimum delay from Government level.

I now come to another important matter on industrial projects—oil refinery. Referring to

[MR ODULANA]

our crude oil which is found in commercial quantities in some parts of the country, may I say once more that unless the Shell BP is willing to include a catalytic cracking plant in the refinery now under construction in the area of Port Harcourt, the Government should invite another company which is willing and prepared to erect or construct another oil refinery of international standard for us in Nigeria where the by-product or what is known as residue will not be thrown into the sea or bought at a cheap price.

Such by-products is usually sent to countries four to five thousand miles away thus, depriving this country of the one thousand advantages of the material outcome of this by-product such as nylon fishing nets, nylon ropes, nylon shirts, socks, wrist watch stripes, combs and brushes, super grade oil, *et cetera*.

Once more, I would like to warn the Government that the oil refinery at Port Harcourt is a half-baked one and a means of holding this nation to ransom so that British trade in oil might continue in Nigeria.

Again, I must mention the uneconomic attitude of all the oil companies in this country. It is unwise to continue to import birates ore from four to five thousand miles away, to the tune of £2 million annually, when this mineral deposit of a better quality than that which is imported can be found in commercial quantity in the Benue Province of Northern Nigeria.

I advise the Government to invite foreign experts other than British and German experts to come and make a new survey of this mineral deposit and see to what extent this country has been cheated.

In conclusion, may I refer to an unnecessary and indirect so-called public charity of well over £80,000 which was given by a certain oil company to a certain political party indirectly in this country on the eve of our last Federal Elections.

When I say public charity of well over eighty thousand pounds, I mean that this sum was donated in response to a certain fund-raising appeal, indirectly by a certain oil company in this country on the eve of the last Federal election. I want this error to be corrected. To the outside world and to the uninformed—
(*Interruptions*).

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I think it would be in good faith if the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) would mention names because this could be a very dangerous statement.

Mr Odulana : To the outside world and to the uninformed about the mysteries and privileges of election pursuits, it is a gift; but I know, and every Member knows, that it is not a free gift. It is a 'pat on the back' gift meant to aid indirectly a certain political party during the last election, and I sincerely ask the Prime Minister to authorise the Federal Director of Audit to call for the books of the Organisation and see how the money was disbursed. It is a part—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr Odulana : It is a "VAT 69 gift" meant to be "96" full of suspicion, ingratiating, inhuman and most inimical indeed.

The next point is about the present controversy over the replacement of Professor Eni Njoku by Dr Biobaku as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos which has caused a lot of extreme tribal feelings among the Ibos who felt that the removal of Professor Njoku from this post is another "shock" for their tribe. It was not clear that when Professor Eni Njoku was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, he was going there as a representative of the Ibo people.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has stated certain facts very well, but it seems that he wants to end up his speech with a very sad note by singling out tribes now. Many a time, Mr Speaker has warned and ruled against many Members who have spoken with the idea of parading tribalism. We should leave this if we really mean to be a united country. I think the Member for Ijebu-North-East should be warned to desist from singling out the Ibos as the only group who are agitating against the removal of Professor Eni Njoku. One can see from the writings in newspapers by different sorts of people that many people in this country are against the removal of Professor Njoku and not the Ibos alone. If the hon. Member wants to make a general statement he can do so, but if he wants to single out a tribe for an attack, he will be causing trouble.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) please concentrate on the fiscal and financial policies.

Mr Odulana : From this Draft Estimate which I am holding, we are going to spend four million pounds on all the universities in this country. I think it is proper to let the country know how the money is going to be spent and who are going to head the institutions where the money is going to be spent. This is not an allusion to the Ibo tribe but to one individual. I do not say that what one man has done is what all the people in the Eastern Region have done. That is what I am trying to clarify. It is—(*Interruptions*)

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is challenging the ruling of the Speaker by discussing the Ibos. Ibo is not in the Estimate.

Mr Odulana : When I finish my statement, the Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr Ahamefula*) will find out that I have not made any insinuation on the Ibo tribe. I said that it was clear that when Professor Njoku was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos he was going there as the representative of the people of this country. But from his actions as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos he has proved that, in fact, he was there to represent the Ibos. This fact disqualified him from being retained in that University meant for all Nigerians.

It is important to point out and deflate the wrong impression being created abroad that Professor Eni Njoku is a man of administrative capability and unimpeachable character. People may remember that this Professor was once the Chairman of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, a post he was forced to relinquish as a result of a court action and an administrative enquiry following a request for such an enquiry by the—(*Interruptions*)

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I very, very seriously protest and seek your protection, Mr Speaker, for one of Africa's most eminent sons who is being brought to the Floor of this House and maligned and castigated by a Member for political reasons. We demand your protection, Mr Speaker. This should not be allowed to continue.

Mr Odulana : It is the saying all over the world that truth is bitter.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : Much as we value unity in this country, it is of no use for a Member to stand up to threaten another Member on the Floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Will hon. Members please try to exercise patience as much as possible. We know that certain matters are explosive and whenever they crop up I do try to listen carefully to see how far they can be allowed to continue to be discussed on the Floor of this House. May I ask hon. Members to please be patient and also to desist from making uncalled for comments on personalities.

Mr Odulana : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. If we as a nation must fight, we must not indulge in the habit of hiding facts. The Floor of this Parliament is the only forum for discussing anything done in this country, which is not made known to all the nations of the world. Our voices in Parliament will echo all round the country. If we cannot discuss the University of Lagos, if we cannot discuss the hospitals, if we cannot discuss any other thing about this country, then what are we here for ? It is my belief, and it is to be remembered, that the Professor who has been replaced in the University of Lagos is a Nigerian and to all intents and purposes he is not a competent man. But will it be a crime for the Provisional Council which is the supreme head of that institution to give a ruling which other bodies in that University like the Senate headed by expatriates would say can have no place in the University ? My point is that those expatriate professors must be told in plain language that what they cannot do in their own countries, they cannot come here to practise.

Mr Speaker : Really, I cannot allow undue attacks on our university staff.

Mr Odulana : Much has been said about the Nigerian National Shipping Line, and this morning the Minister of Finance made a statement on the recent increase in freight charges by the West African Conference Lines as it affects our own shipping line. I am glad that the Government, by this statement, does not feel happy about the increase. But will it not be in our best interest (in view of the fact that the recently announced increase will

[MR ODULANA]

have some adverse effect on our economy) to tell, first and foremost, the Nigerian Shipping Line, which is the handiwork of the Federal Government and financed by the rate-payers of this country, to steer clear and make a pronouncement immediately that they will not lend support or co-operation to the recent increase? That is the first and foremost thing to be done.

We cannot come to this House to say that the Federal Government is really unhappy about it, whilst our own shipping company—financed by the tax of the common man—is still in that Conference Lines. Let them back out openly and say it openly to the nation that they do not agree with the increase recently made by the Conference Lines. We want to hear them say, “we are backing out completely”, and when that is done then we will know the next line of action. The statement made here this morning is not enough.

After all, are we bound to continue with the Conference Lines when other shipping lines of the world are scrambling to get work to do? We should invite those from Russia; call those from America; from Italy; from Australia; from Canada as well as invite those from Germany and leave the Conference Lines alone.

I feel that this is the time when we must not be contented with having few ships to run our shipping business. Why do we go abroad asking for loans totalling over £41 million, as said by the Minister of Finance yesterday? If that amount proves inadequate, let us go out and ask for more to enable us buy more ships, and so tell the Conference Lines that they are not wanted in this country.

If hon. Members will remember, I pointed out in this House last year the injurious practice of the Conference Lines. Where a ton of goods imported to this country costs £10, by return freight it costs £5; so that whatever is coming to Nigeria they charge higher, and whatever is going back to their country they charge lesser. By this means, they are aiding their own country men in their trade, and swelling the price of goods sold to us out here to our own detriment. So that what you buy here for one shilling, you buy the like of it for little or nothing overseas.

If this is the ways and means the West African Conference Lines are trying to help Nigeria, it will not suit us. Let them pack bag and baggage, and the Government must be bold to say so. If the Government feel very unhappy about the ingenious practice of the Conference Lines, they should come out and say that. The Prime Minister must make a statement, not the kind that we heard from the Minister of Finance that the country is awaiting further developments.

The time has come for immediate action. It is said that a stitch in time saves nine, and I want hon. Members to think seriously about this matter. It is our duty to speak out and make the Government realise that we feel bitter about it.

The time has come to tell the expatriates who are not here to help but to exploit us that the colonial days are over. There is nowhere in the world, except Nigeria, where the doors of a country are widely opened to predominantly British people. This has been so for more than one hundred years.

For instance, the button on my clothes is still being imported from Great Britain 4,000 miles away; the razor blade used by so many Members is still being imported from Britain. It is our fault and that of the Government too.

The time has come when the Government must see its way through by aiding indigenous businessmen to take their queue side by side with the expatriate businessmen. I have so many projects in mind, so do many members of our community who are businessmen; but what is holding us back from action is finance.

When you go to the foreign banks like the Barclays, the B.W.A. (now the International Bank for Africa) or the U.B.A., they have nothing to offer you by way of loans. What you are often told is to come back tomorrow, or to go and bring your last financial statement, or that your house is not registered. Whereas the Syrians come in here in large numbers without even a penny on them, and within a month or two they become lords; they become millionaires in this our God-given country.

One of the ways these expatriates defraud us is this new method of sending out agents or representatives to meet people face to face to transact business. All over the country you find them with their brief cases going from

house to house, and from shop to shop, asking for small orders. In the past, when I visited Onitsha market I always found over £5½ million worth of cotton materials in the section where these materials were sold; whenever I went to another section where bicycles were sold, I found them in large numbers. But to-day it is not so.

Now, those who can buy direct from the manufacturers cannot do so; those who can order cannot do so too, because the overseas dealers have their agents right on the spot. There is no more coverage for the local businessman; he can no longer say, "Oh, I have placed an order, the invoice is here, and the order will arrive in two weeks' time", because the overseas' agents are out here. Not only that, they have stores in Apapa where they stock these materials. They even bring people from the interior—North, East, West and Mid-West—to Apapa to make sure that our people do not transact their business through the Nigerian middlemen. I think this practice will not help this country in any shape or form.

Our cocoa must be utilized locally—this is not, of course, to say that it must not be exported. There should be some proportion for export in like manner as our palm kernels, our rubber and our cotton. The same goes for our groundnuts which are piled up in Kano.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): On a point of information, the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has taken up more than thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman please wind up.

Mr Odulana: I am happy to note the encouraging policy towards agriculture, as can be scanned from both the President's Speech and the Budget Speech. All I can add to what I had said before is that, first and foremost, it is the duty of the Federal Government, in conjunction with the Regional Governments, to "free us." Personally, we are not yet independent, that is in so far as agriculture is concerned.

All our forests are in the hands of the aliens. This has been done by design through what is known as "reserved forests"—forests which the expatriates reserved for themselves several years ago. They reserved this land many years ago, for their own kith and kin. In my

own constituency, Ijebu North-East, one expatriate firm leased a reserved forest area which was divided into sub-areas titled J.1, J.2, J.3, J.4 and J.5. This area of land is about 90 per cent of the richest forest reserves we have in the whole of the Western Region. The said expatriate firm will keep this land for the next 50 to 60 years.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has exhausted his time.

Minister of State (Mr T. E. Orodi): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing this—

Several hon. Members: Ministers are to make their speeches tomorrow.

Mr Orodi: I would implore Members to bear with me. I am very much aware that my Ministerial Colleagues will be reviewing the activities of their respective Ministries tomorrow, but for certain reasons particularly because Lagos is the showpiece of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I shall like to make my speech now.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West): We are told that Ministers will be making their speeches tomorrow and that this day—morning, afternoon and evening—Members will make their contributions to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I therefore cannot see any reason why Ministers should start now to make their speeches.

Some hon. Members: Let the Minister withdraw with grace.

Mr Orodi: I shall not withdraw. I think that if Members will be very honest to themselves, if they will allow comprehensive reviews of the different Ministries, they will agree with me that they will be in a better position to criticise the Ministers more objectively. It is in the light of this—to give my other Ministerial Colleagues an opportunity of reviewing the work of their respective Ministries to the best advantage of the whole House—that I crave the indulgence of this House to listen to me.

I would like to begin by saying a few words about the new Oba of Lagos, Prince Adeyinka Oyekan II. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the selection of the new Oba had been made in a peaceful atmosphere devoid of any violence and disorder.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : On a point of order, I wonder if the hon. Minister of State is qualified to speak about Lagos, particularly about the institution of the Oba of Lagos.

Several hon. Members : He is Minister of State for Lagos Affairs.

Mr Speaker : Is the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) qualified to raise that point of order ?

Mr Orodì : Honestly, I shall pardon refreshers in this House for making comments like the one just made by the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*). If the Member would remove his moustache, however, I would listen to him any other time he speaks.

I would like to commend the Chiefs and people of Lagos for the maturity and good sense they have shown in this matter of the selection of a new Oba. I hope that his reign would usher in a period of peace and prosperity for his people.

In his Budget Speech last year, the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs referred to the problem of providing sufficient accommodation for the people of Lagos. I am happy to report that my Ministry, in co-operation with the Lagos City Council and the Lagos Executive Development Board, has been able to reclaim an area of 1,300 acres from Victoria Island for residential purposes to relieve the present acute shortage of housing in Lagos. Plans are already in hand for carrying out the various constructional activities which will open up the reclaimed land for housing and other developments.

The Government has also agreed to provide over £1,300,000 as grants to the Lagos Executive Development Board to build low-cost apartment blocks in Surulere that will provide accommodation for over 14,000 people initially. Efforts continue for the acquisition of more land for much larger building projects.

The Lagos Executive Development Board under its Housing Scheme has made available for sale to the public over 500 freehold plots of land in Surulere, and in addition, a total number of 380 houses have been built and sold. The L.E.D.B. also plans to create an Industrial Estate for the siting of light industries in Surulere, and for medium industries at Iganmu and

Ijora respectively. This, I hope, will create new opportunities for employment, and bring about a higher standard of living for the people of Lagos.

Considerable additions have been made to the amenities in Lagos during the past year. These include, among other things, the Ebute-Ero Market completed at a cost of £250,000 and a new swimming pool of Olympic standard at Rowe Park built at a cost of £56,000 which is to be brought into use during the year. Twenty more buses have already been put to use on the roads, a greatly needed increase in the strength of the fleet in Lagos, thereby providing easier means of transport for the people of Lagos.

Three Health Centres have been opened in Lagos, Surulere and Apapa respectively to supplement the existing medical facilities in Lagos, and it is expected that more of these centres will be opened during the year. The Municipal Library is under construction at a cost of £100,000 and a branch library at Yaba has been built at a cost £15,000. Several parks and open spaces have been improved during the year. The Lagos City Council also propose to build, very shortly, a City Hall in Lagos, which will benefit the capital city of this great country.

In order to provide better roads and thereby reduce traffic congestion in Lagos, there has been a concerted effort between my Ministry and the Lagos City Council to surface all the roads in the commercial and residential areas of the City. Another exercise now in hand is the construction of the Second Mainland Bridge. Work will begin very soon to clear the approaches to the proposed Bridge, and a site at Surulere has been acquired for the re-settlement of the people that will be displaced. There is no doubt that the Bridge when completed, will ease considerably the traffic congestion on Lagos roads and form another impressive landmark.

It is a fact, however, that no matter the amount of improvements made on our roads, the human factor is an important one for ensuring a good and safe use of the roads. It is therefore essential to educate all motorists on good road behaviour and the need for complying with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulations. To this end, a Road Safety Week Campaign was launched from March

22nd-28th throughout the Federal Republic. Over 95,000 posters on road accident prevention were exhibited throughout Nigeria and Road Safety First booklets and painting sheets were also distributed to all schools. I hope that the Campaign has been of help in reducing the incidence of accidents and deaths on our roads.

My Ministry has practically completed the Nigerianisation of its Land and Valuation Divisions while at the same time doubling the professional strength of the Divisions. During the last year, the Registered Land Act 1964 was passed, and more than one thousand applications for first registration of titles of land were dealt with by the Federal Land Registry.

A review has been carried out of the contributions made by the Federal Government to local rating authorities in respect of Federal Government properties and also those of Diplomatic Missions on which rates are not directly charged. In the case of the Diplomatic Missions, the continued expansion of diplomatic representatives in Nigeria has entailed the valuation of a large number of additional properties and an increased contribution by the Federal Government.

Finally, the City of Lagos continues to play an important part in the growing exchanges between the capital cities of the world. Lagos City Councillors last year visited Freetown, Dakar and Moscow and several cities in Israel. It was also gratifying to note that this city played host to the Lord Mayor of Hull and his delegation during the celebration of the attainment of City Status by Lagos.

I beg to support.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East) : I rise to support the Budget speech and in doing so I will only touch a few points. We have included in the Budget speech, the question of the necessity for individual private savings. It is now realised that one of the yard sticks for measuring the wealth of a nation is the measuring of the wealth of the individual.

A nation's prosperity is readily determined by a visitor by the standard of life of the common man he meets on the road, by how many hewers of wood and drawers of water he meets, by how many well dressed people he meets, and by the number of vehicles and decent houses along the streets.

It is therefore necessary that more attention should be paid to the development of the individual. We should do all we can to raise the standard of education of our people in this country because this will certainly help to put them on a proper footing with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

The Minister who spoke a while ago mentioned something about setting up one or two libraries by the Lagos City Council. I wonder what effort the Federal Government is making to set up ideal libraries in all the important cities all over the country. A well equipped library is good for imparting knowledge if not even better than a college or a university.

A well equipped library is an institution of learning in itself. The setting up of these libraries can be done through the machinery of local councils.

In this wise, the Federal Government should help to subsidise each local council to set up an important and up to date library.

Speaking on education, I would like to say a few words on women's education. The importance of women's education cannot be over emphasized. It is usually said "educate a man and you have educated an individual, but educate a woman and you have educated a nation". This is because out of a woman many off-springs will come, and if this woman is educated, she in turn will impart this education to her children, and her ability to achieve this will be wonderfully enhanced.

I feel it is high time we encouraged the establishment of sandwich courses in this country, or evening classes arranged by all firms and institutions and a set of examinations aimed at helping to improve the standard of the masses and their ability in their various works.

This type of course has helped a great deal of people in other parts of the world, and the amount of improvement these courses would bring to Nigeria will be great. The earlier we start it, the better. The evening classes arranged by the universities are too expensive for the average Nigerian.

It is only an individual who is healthy, reasonably educated and some how wealthy who will respond to the call of the Minister of Finance for the purpose of premium bonds. It is when an individual has enough to eat, has good health, and a little to spare that he can

[CHIEF ODEBUNMI]

purchase these premium bonds and help to reduce the necessity for the Minister going abroad to borrow money.

Speaking briefly on the Ministry of Health, I have a tribute to pay to one of the daughters of Nigeria. Nigeria has produced a heroine that has been acclaimed all over the world. She is not only a heroine, she is one whose filial love is indisputable. Her courage and love in saving the life of her only dying son demands the praise of everybody. This is no other woman than Mrs Ashabi Adedire whose name occupied the pages of newspapers all over the world.

The encouragement given to her by the Federal Government is very highly appreciated. It is understood that the Federal Government as well as the Government of the United States of America contributed very generously towards meeting the expense of her transport, maintenance and the operation which she underwent with her son Abraham. This is very commendable indeed.

But I would humbly suggest that in addition to this, something special should be done for her. It is my humble suggestion that throughout the rest of her life, she should be allowed to receive free medical service. (*Hear, hear*) This free medical service should be obtainable by her, any where in this country. In case she might be mistaken for another person, or to eliminate the possibility of somebody else posing as Mrs Ashabi Adedire, it may be necessary that a special certificate be issued to her, signed by the Federal Minister of Health and also by the Ministers of Health in the other regions of this Federation.

I sincerely feel the Minister of Health would have made a wonderful contribution to the prestige and development of this country if he gets this done.

Speaking briefly on museums, I want to ask when Nigeria will set up her own museums. I personally think that the time is overdue. Any part of the world which claims to be civilised should have, amongst other things, a well equipped museum.

When one goes to any town or city in other civilised countries, the places of interest one visits always include museums, but that is not so in the case of this country.

If a visitor to Nigeria approaches Mr Speaker

and asks to be taken to a museum I wonder where Mr Speaker will take him to.

I would like to say a few words about minting in Nigeria. It is welcome news that minting is starting in Nigeria and that we have been assured of its security. But there is one aspect which the Minister of Information ought to explain to the Nation because many people are ignorant of the conditions controlling minting of money and printing of currency.

Some people think that because Nigeria is going to produce her own money, money will be found flowing all over the place. I think the Minister of Information will do very well to explain to the country either through series of lectures or over the radio the conditions governing minting of money and printing of currency notes.

Furthermore, I would like to speak very briefly on transport generally in Nigeria. These mammy wagons which have already been referred to by an hon. Member some time ago are usually used to carry very heavy goods from the southern part of Nigeria to the North. Some time ago, the Minister of Economic Development, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim made a statement on the Floor of this honourable House to the effect that the transport business was going to be nationalised, or rather taken away from the hands of aliens—the Syrians, Lebanese, *et cetera*.

We all applauded the idea, we clapped until our hands ached; in fact this building in spite of its structural stability almost gave way. We have now come to realise that after all this was not to be so. In fact what happened was that some transport magnates were driven off the roads by the refusal of the authorities to issue them permits and licences and these permits and licences were concentrated in the hands of a selected few.

By so doing, some transporters who carry goods from the South to the North have been deprived of their means of livelihood. I think that the Prime Minister should look into this problem of the issue of permits and licences to own and run mammy wagons.

Quite apart from the foregoing, I think these mammy wagons are doing a lot of damage to our roads. We all knew the great havoc they caused to our roads when last we had flood in almost all parts of Nigeria. The railway has been more or less paralysed economically.

Heavy loads which could have been carried on the railway have been taken over by these mammy wagons.

I think that the Railway Corporation and the Minister of Transport and even the Cabinet should look into this matter and see to it that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is not deprived of its own share of these consignments.

While on this point, I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Minister of Works for the excellent work he has been doing on our roads especially the segments affected very terribly during the last flood. If one goes on our trunk 'A' roads one will see the appreciable amount of work done. This should be continued.

While still on this point, I would like to mention one thing which I have said times without number: it is that the bridge at Lafenwa was badly constructed. Whenever rain falls, a pool is automatically formed and water is continuously splashed on passers-by thereby soiling their dresses.

Messrs Taylor Woodrow used to be in charge of that part of the construction of the bridge and they ought to be told what is now going on there. The Minister of Works ought to take this up now or never; and if never, then we shall shout the name of the Minister to the high heavens.

Speaking on cocoa prices, there is no doubt about it that cocoa forms one of the economic resources of this country. Cocoa is very predominant in Western Nigeria and at the moment there is a cocoa crisis which may cripple the economic stability of Western Nigeria and no portion of the country will be hard hit financially without necessarily affecting the other parts of the country.

After all, is it not said that no chain is stronger than its weakest point. The Minister of Finance is well aware of this fact and from his Budget Speech, he had this to say, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote:

This cocoa crisis—and a crisis indeed it is—has created grave problems for the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the Western Nigeria Government, and, ultimately for the Federal Government itself.

Sir, may I suggest two avenues by which our cocoa could be amply made use of. The first—

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North): On a point of order, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Odebunmi*) is misleading the House. We would like to know from him where he kept the three guns which he used during the last elections.

Chief Odebunmi: People who know me, know the stuff of which I am made. It was my opponent who killed my supporters. However, this is a very serious matter and I must warn Members to be careful about the remarks they make.

I was saying that I have two suggestions to make whereby our cocoa could be put to greater use. Apart from the normal exporting quota which is made of cocoa, I want to suggest, and in fact, the Western Nigerian Government has already started on this move of stepping up manufacturing the by-products of cocoa.

During the hot period of the day can anyone imagine how many gallons of chocolate milk are consumed? You see people peddling all about these chocolate drinks which are sold at six pence per packet. These are imported to Nigeria.

Several thousands of gallons of this chocolate milk are consumed in this hot country during a hot day. Could we not manufacture sufficient quantity for local consumption? Could we not manufacture sufficient quantity of *Pronto* for local consumption? Could we not manufacture for local consumption sufficient amount of *Ovaltine*? Could we not manufacture sufficient quantities of these things not only for consumption but for export to other sister-countries in Africa?

If we embark upon this project, our cocoa will certainly help to step up the economy of this country.

Petroleum refinery should be speeded up. It is said that the crude oil exported from Nigeria to overseas figured up to twenty million pounds in 1963 and thirty-two million pounds in 1964. This crude oil is exported from Nigeria at comparatively cheaper rate but when it is brought back fully refined it is sold at a very high rate.

If the refinery is speeded up and located not only in one place but in other places where we have major oil products, it will help to save some money for the country.

[CHIEF ODEBUNMI]

What makes the United States of America a great nation? I think one of the things that make the United States of America a great nation is the production of oil. Petroleum substance is in abundance in the United States of America.

What could prevent Nigeria becoming second in rank financially to the United States of America? Therefore, this Government has a lot to do and it will be money well spent if an appreciable sum of money is earmarked for this refinery.

I would now talk about security for foreign investors. Security for foreign investors is assured by the Minister of Finance. Without adequate provision for the security of their lives and properties, foreign investors will be scared away. No press communique will impress foreign investors as much as a promise from the horse's mouth and that promise came from the mouth of the Minister of Finance. In fact, I am not referring to him as a person.

Street lighting in Lagos is highly commendable but this is lacking in the regional towns. There should be extension of street lighting not only to the regional towns but to the rural areas. Certainly life is not worth living without adequate supply of water and light.

When the Budget Speech was being delivered by the Minister of Finance, I listened very carefully but the Minister made no mention of the new Parliament building. This building where we are now is called National Hall; it is not the Parliament building.

For a couple of years now, plans have been drawn up and they are ready for the new Parliament building, but nothing has been done as yet. We should have a new Parliament building which will be worthy of its name for this growing nation.

I would now like to talk about industrial projects. Textile mills should be stepped up. We need more and more of them.

If the average population of Nigeria is taken to be about fifty million and an average expenditure on clothing material is about a pound, it means then that we send abroad about fifty million pounds every year. It is even more; this is a very generous calculation which I have made. We in fact spend more than

fifty million pounds every year on textiles alone. We certainly need the establishment of more textile industries in Nigeria; many of them are required all over the country.

I now come to my last point and I consider it a very delicate issue. I hope the House will bear with me. The Head of the State of any nation is regarded as the most respectable and most highly respected person. I observe, however that our Head of State being once a man of international reputation in journalism will have his body itching at times to express himself in the press. But could anybody go to the press or contribute to the press without somebody—

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana): On a point of order, I think it is improper for any Member to discuss the conduct or behaviour of the Head of State on the Floor of this House and particularly when the issue which he is going to raise is really controversial.

It will provoke arguments from all sides of the House and I would plead, Mr Speaker, that you ask the hon. Member to refrain from further comments.

Mr Speaker: Order! Although it looks as if he is going to make favourable comments on the President, but I think it is more appropriate to leave the discussion on the President's personality until there is a substantive Motion before the House.

Chief Odebunmi: With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Ibrahim, Iyan Katsina (Marusa-Mashi): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill now being considered:

Mr Speaker: Order. I hope the House appreciates that there are so many Members who wish to speak and so far, of the five Members who have spoken on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, four of them have taken up all the thirty minutes allowed.

As this will exhaust the patience of other Members wishing to speak, I do hope that Members will try to curtail their speeches to matters that are important and avoid the repetition of their own arguments and the arguments of other Members of the House.

This, together with refraining from unnecessary interruptions, will save a lot of the time of the House and thereby enable more Members to make their contributions.

Alhaji Ibrahim, Iyan Katsina : In doing so, I would like first to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his reappointment as Minister of Finance in the present broadly-based Government. I also want to congratulate him on the able way in which he presented the Budget. The Budget is so well prepared that one can hardly get any room for criticism.

However, I have a few points to raise. The Minister of Finance first started his Speech on the Budget by referring to the crises which happened during the last twelve months. The first of these was the widespread strike action in June and the second was the crisis which followed the December General Elections.

Indeed, these two important events had shaken the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We all know what had happened, but by the grace of God everything was settled in a peaceful manner.

Now, let us forget all that happened during the crises and devote ourselves now to finding ways and means of raising the standard of living of our people.

Another important point that I want to mention in the Speech is about the Government's intention to improve agriculture in order to increase productivity on the farm by encouraging farm settlements. This is a very good idea. But there is a problem of finding enough land for the farm settlements, especially in the Northern Region where most of the bush land has been turned into farms, while the rest is kept for communal use, for pastures or reserves.

I think the best method to help our farmers in the Northern Region to increase their yields is to help the Regional Agricultural Departments with money and to encourage mixed farming which has proved to be more successful than the tractor farming. If money is granted to the Region, it will help them to buy more ploughs and spare parts, cattle and fertilizer for distribution to farmers in the form of loan, which they will repay within a reasonable time.

Another welcome proposal is that of establishing a National Agricultural Credit Bank. If the Bank is established, it will help

the Co-operative Societies in the Regions to open more farmers Co-operative Societies in the provinces and give loans to farmers to work their farms in order to increase their productivity.

It is gratifying to note that the Nigeria Airways has extended its services and now operates its domestic and inter-African routes with modern aircraft. In this connection, I would like to say that the best thing to do is to reduce the air fare and extend air services. At present, the fare is more than most of our people can afford, so they do not fly. If the fare is reduced, we want the Katsina aerodrome to be opened for service.

Another point that I would like to mention is the Government's intention to convert the Posts and Telegraphs into a commercial organisation. I hope, if converted, the services will be much improved.

The next point I wish to touch is the proposal for raising the general standard of education, and the economic, cultural and social requirements of our country. In this connection, I want to say that something should be done to improve discipline in schools. Discipline in schools is now deteriorating. There is too much 'going on strike' in schools. This should be stopped. It is disappointing to hear that some students go on strike simply because they are not provided with iron beds and that they cannot wait for an order to arrive.

Another point I wish to make is that I notice that work on the first phase of the Lagos Medical School will commence during the year, and that both Lagos and Ibadan University Hospitals will extend their facilities for medical education. This is appreciated, but it will be more appreciated if both the Nsukka and the Ahmadu Bello Universities have their own Teaching Hospitals.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister on the reshuffle of his Cabinet. The composition of the Cabinet is very well evolved, so, there will be no need for amending the Constitution. The Constitution has now been amended by our respected Prime Minister since the U.P.G.A. Party is included in the Government.

I have a good reason to say this : the present Constitution allows only the Party that has won the majority of the seats to form a government in a democratic form of government like

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM]

ours. Had it not been for the amendment effected by the Prime Minister, the U.P.G.A. Party should go into Opposition.

Those who want the Constitution to be reviewed in this Parliament should go to the Opposition Bench and then they will be qualified to bring a motion for the review of the Constitution. I say this because the present Constitution was made up by the leaders of the Party in power and of those in the Opposition.

Now, we are all in one broadly-based Abubakarian Government, and the best thing for us to do is to be tolerant and exercise patience, respect our Government and desist from making any utterances that may endanger the unity of the Federation.

I beg to support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for the sum of ₦78,221,510 for the services of the Federation.

I want to say that I accept the title "Rededication Budget," considering the various crises we have had as a country in the past years.

In the course of his Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance raised a very fundamental issue, and that is the type of society we envisage for this country. An attempt was made to attack the basic philosophy of, say, my Party of which the hon. Minister of Finance is a member.

Last year, I requested the Government to be specific on the type of society we envisage for this country. I asked the question, are we going capitalist or socialist?

This year, the hon. Minister of Finance has on the Floor of this House mounted a very ruthless attack on socialism. The attack is unprecedented. It therefore becomes a matter of absolute necessity for those of us who belong to the major political parties participating in this Government to make our positions clear on this matter.

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana): On a point of order, is the hon. Gentleman speaking for himself or is he expressing the views of his party on socialism?

Mr Mbah: If the Minister of State (Mr Lana) listens attentively, he will know what I am after.

In the course of his speech, the Minister of Finance said, and here with your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to quote:

Others are unprincipled power-seekers, men who do not hesitate to preach disaffection, men who would not scruple to destroy our society, men who propagate ideologies which they scarcely understand themselves, with one end in view. [REDEDICATION BUDGET, PAGE 3, PARA. 2].

I concede that this type of people, where-ever they may exist, are no good for our society. Such insidious elements constitute a threat to society and orderly progress.

But the Minister went further than that. He drew the attention of the House to what he called "the new socialism" and described it as "a cankerworm" which is capable of destroying "the economic fabric of the Nation". To round it up, he associated socialism with loss of personal freedom and called upon all true and honest Nigerians to reject socialism. This idea is highly debatable as it cannot represent the true feelings of our people.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu): Does the hon. Member speaking realise that we have many social status in this country? Is he talking about dogmatic socialism, nationalistic socialism or pragmatic socialism?

Mr Mbah: I will reply to that question in the course of my speech.

We are aware of the fact that the hon. Minister of Finance is a capitalist, but for him to advocate unbridled capitalism on the Floor of this House is most deplorable. How do we want to understand and practice socialism in Africa, particularly here in Nigeria?

Alhaji Hashim Adaji (Igala East): On a point of order, the Minister of Finance had the courage of his conviction and advocated what he believed and what he wished. Therefore it is most unfair for the Member for Owerri North (Mr Mbah) to accuse the Minister of being insincere to this country.

Mr Mbah: Socialism, according to an African writer, is essentially the transformation of the economic relations between men, and the transformation of economic structures themselves. It is a question of liberating the

mind of all routine, of all scholastic prisons—including those of dogmatic marxism while developing productive forces at the same time. Socialism is a perpetual spirit of investigation and freedom; it is an education ever to be renewed. It is the objective analysis of the current social situation in a given country. Above all, it is the choice of the most effective means to transform that situation by resolving contradictions.

Sir, Socialism is the basic philosophy of my Party, the N.C.N.C. It is our goal. We believe in pragmatic socialism as defined by Dr Okpara, our Leader, and accepted by my great Party.

Dr T. O. A. Dada (Ilorin East) : On a point of order, I do not know whether the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is speaking on dogmatic socialism or pragmatic socialism.

Mr Mbah : As I said earlier, we of the N.C.N.C. are pragmatic because we want to apply socialism to suit our local conditions. We want a state in which every last man has a stake. We will not create a State in which the workers, the farmers, the toiling masses, will, like Karl Marx, say "We have nothing to lose but our chains and poverty".

Much as we sustain the policy of state control of major mean of production and distribution, we do not accept or encourage expropriation as our socialist policy. Ours is a free society where private initiative and individual efforts should be encouraged. Socialism is not an excuse for subversion, loafing, loitering or being lazy. It cannot progress at the expense of patriotism.

We stand against injustice, corruption, nepotism and selfishness. We will, therefore, not encourage a situation where a few individuals will reap the fruits of rising prosperity at the expense of the masses. The real threat facing Nigeria to-day—and this is serious—is not socialism but corruption, unemployment and the growing propensity among public men to grab wealth at the expense of the masses.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, I do not want to enter into any argument with my hon. Friend, but I want to tell him that what is really the malady to-day is the growing propensity of trade unionists like himself

to get wealthy at the expense of the workers they deceive.

Mr Mbah : The hon. Minister of Finance knows me very well. I have known him from the Labour Movement and I think that if he is fair to me and perhaps to truth, he will agree with me that it is wrong for him to associate me with such sentiments.

As I was saying, because of all this growing propensity to grab wealth at the expense of the nation among our public men, we must establish a code of conduct for the Ministers, and politicians.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : For the information of the hon. Gentleman, the Federal Government had a code of conduct and has now revised that code. Members would not know about this until they become Ministers, so the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) can only know about this when he has succeeded in overthrowing this Government and becomes a Minister !

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : On a point of order, I think what the last Government had was a code of misconduct.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) has been guilty of misconduct. He used to be the N.C.N.C. er of N.C.N.C.ers but now he is an Action Grouper of Action Groupers.

Mr Mbah : Surely, there are good men amongst us, but the experience of this age is that good men are scarce. I like to feel that we have in the Government not only people who do not steal but people who will prevent others from stealing.

Since the attainment of national independence our political leaders have ceased to have a common political objective, and there is no common political philosophy. Some of them have to fill the vacuum with tribalism, disunity and material attraction. As a result only a negligible few can afford to die for an ideology while millions will prefer to die for money and material benefit.

We say that elections are too expensive. This is so because either the masses are corrupt or the politicians are corrupt. Last year, the Government talked of mixed economy, but this year they have changed and the Minister of Finance is now denouncing socialism in preference to capitalism. This is just too bad.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of order, I said nothing of that kind. I did not defend capitalism nor did I condemn socialism wholesale. The Member who is speaking is not reviewing all that I said. He should not, therefore, worry himself because I shall be replying on Friday, but he should not misinform the House. On Friday I shall tell him what I said when I shall reply to him and the speech of the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onobanjo*).

Mr Mbah : From records the Minister has denounced socialism. Last year he talked of mixed economy and this year, my impression is that he was advocating capitalism. But if he is denying that, well we might see if we could find a compromise. But I would say that to advocate unbridled capitalism here is quite unacceptable to my party and the country at large.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I do not know on whose authority the hon. Gentleman is speaking for the N.C.N.C., knowing that to the N.C.N.C. elephantine profit, and not chicken feed, is the order of the day.

Mr Mbah : I do not want people to joke about this. This is really a very serious matter because I have heard some mis-informed Members of the House talking about legislation against socialism. It therefore becomes necessary for us then to make our positions clear, and that is what I am doing.

The Minister of Finance, in particular, seems to be too much in a hurry on these ideological questions. He wants to brush them aside without even giving them a very careful consideration. He should realise that a nation is not built in a day. It is a long-term enterprise, requiring a great deal of effort and patience. The two great world powers, the United States and the U.S.S.R. are products of revolution, although by different methods. It took France nearly 2,000 years, up to the time of Napoleon, to attain the status of a nation. Let us therefore, in the words of a great African, Leopold Senghor, "hold firmly to the concrete, and we shall find underlying the concrete beyond the discontinuous and the undetermined, the liberty that legitimates not only our faith but the African road to Socialism."

M. Ibrahim Muku, Sarkin Shanu (Bida West) : Will Mr Speaker please protect the interests of those Members from the rural areas who seek amenities and industries for their areas. We are not for this. It is an attitude like that of the Member who is speaking, that reduces the N.C.N.C. to a scare crow.

Mr Speaker : Order, Order! I quite agree with you that the Member is talking too much at length on political ideology.

Mr Mbah : On the ruling of the Speaker, I would like to digress a bit.

We are glad to hear of the negotiation with the European Economic Community which is another attempt on the part of the Government to obtain better prices for our exports. It is gratifying to hear that the Community has made encouraging concessions to Nigeria.

We have a good lesson to learn from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which took place in Geneva in the first half of 1964. We understand that the developed countries, regardless of their ideological differences, agreed in principle to the removal of trade barriers and accepted that more ready access to their market must be made available, not only to primary commodities, but also to manufactured goods originating from the less developed countries.

This fortifies my contention that in spite of ideological differences, Nigeria must go out in a big way to secure trade agreements with those countries which are genuinely interested in us.

We have noted with interest the news that negotiations are ahead to obtain a loan from the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development with a view to improving the Apapa approach road, the Western Avenue and the Agege motor road.

I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to go further than that. The Minister should get more money to improve the Benin-Asaba road. This road should be reconstructed in such a way that four cars can move side by side at a time.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have to protect the socialists. The socialists do not need so many cars on the road at the same time, especially the type belonging to the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*).

Mr Briggs : At this point I have to sympathise with the Minister of Finance. He has condemned socialism out of ignorance, complete ignorance. Are there no cars in Russia ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I happened to have been in Russia and the Member speaking has never been there. I can tell him the type of cars that are used in Russia. The kind of cars to be found there are made for specific purposes only and they do not need double carriage way which take long cars like the one the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is riding.

Mr Mbah : Everybody in this House knows that I ride the smallest of cars.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : I do not think that the doctrine of socialism is to drag everybody into the gutter ; it is to drag everybody out of the gutter.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If you have four cars on the road at the same time the pedestrians will be driven into the gutter.

Mr Briggs : My hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South-West was quoting a famous socialist wit. What he said was that socialism is not to get out of the gutter but to get rid of the gutter.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : He did not say that. This is Degema brand and his is Ijebu. Go ahead, my brother with a red cap !

Mr Mbah : I do not know why the Minister is always scared by anything red ; I saw a red carpet in his office the other day.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa) : We do not want to pick up any quarrel with the Minister of Finance, but is he suggesting that all those with red caps are necessarily communists ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : All those with tall red caps are communists. (*Laughter*).

Mr Mbah : If it is accepted that those with tall red caps are communists, then there are more of them on the N.P.C. bench.

The bridges along the new Shagamu-Benin Road should be widened. So also the Benin-Asaba road. But what about road reconstruction ? I have seen the progress made by the Ministry of Works which is

really commendable, but I would appeal to the Government, when they want to construct new roads, to go outside to attract road experts from places like Los Angeles, France, *et cetera*. We do not go to Britain to study road construction. We have a lot of accidents on the roads. They can go to Brazil and other—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend should be fair to Nigeria. Let him look at the roads in the Eastern Region from where he comes. He should not go out of Nigeria to cite instances of good roads as if we have no good roads here. I am telling him that we have good roads which he can cite as examples. I can name one in the Eastern Region. He should be fair to himself.

Mr Mbah : I think that earlier on I had paid tribute to the Government for some good roads we find in the country. I went to the North last time and I saw a nice road there. I was happy about it. In the East, of course, we are leading in good roads, and there is no doubt about that. That is a credit to the Regional Government. But I am saying that there are a few good Federal Roads, and I am suggesting that the Benin-Asaba Road, the Onitsha-Owerri-Aba-Port Harcourt Road and the Aba-Oron Road should be properly reconstructed and widened. The Federal Government should also take over the Owerri-Okigwi Road which runs through Ikeduru and Mbaitoli. I am sure there is need for improving the major roads. We want a gigantic road programme, even if it costs us £50 million.

It gladdens our hearts to hear that the oil companies' earnings, by a conservative estimate, are expected to reach a level of not less than £100 million by 1967. This is a wonderful boom which automatically brightens our balance of payments situation. This House cannot help paying tribute to the oil companies for this remarkable achievement, particularly to the Shell B.P., and the Gulf Oil Company, which are now exporting oil.

With the transformation which the oil industry has promised, I am of the opinion that the Government should pay more compensation to the owners of the land on which the oil companies are carrying out their operation. The system whereby the mineral right is vested in the State while the landowner enjoys a surface right is colonial. Elsewhere, say in the United States, the right over

[MR MBAH]

both the mineral and the land is vested in the land-owner. That is the practice in the United States. The compensation paid for economic trees and crops destroyed is negligible. My plea is that the Minerals Act should be revised so that land-owners can enjoy more the fruits of rising abundance. The rate of royalty payable to the Regional Governments from where the oil is extracted should be increased.

The Minister of Industries (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : I believe that my hon. Friend is preaching and advocating socialism, but in the same breath he said a minute ago that we should transfer ownership of minerals in the land and the land itself to private individuals. This is contrary to his doctrine.

Mr Mbah : I never said so. Let the Minister listen carefully. I said a situation whereby the mineral right is vested in the State is colonial; that elsewhere the right over both the land and the mineral is vested in the individual land-owner. I said so and I quoted America as an instance. I said there should be more compensation paid to the land-owners for the surface right and for the destruction of economic crops and trees. That is exactly what I said.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : But socialism vests the ownership of land in the State and not in individuals. This is just what the Minister is saying. What the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mba*) is saying is what I may call incompatible compatibilities. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker : If I may be allowed to help us out of this anomaly, I will say that if compensation is to be paid to the individual, then the individual owns the land, and if it is paid to the State, then the State owns the land. It depends.

Mr Mba : I am suggesting that the rate of royalty payable to the Regional Governments from where the oil is extracted should be increased in order to meet the cost of damage done to the roads and bridges by the oil companies in the course of their operations.

It is regrettable that our trade with the United Kingdom continues to decline. So also are our exports to the United States. We should try to improve trade relations with these countries,

Members are pleased to know that the ventures which the Government made in Eastern Europe have brought a substantial reward. Our exports to Eastern Europe increased from £1 million to over £3 million. The Minister of Finance has tasted the "forbidden apple" and he is now telling us how delicious it is. We are grateful for his testimony.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Where is it ?

Mr Mbah : It is our hope that he will make vigorous strides into the new frontier.

I want this to be clarified by the Minister of Finance. We understand that an offer of about £73 million was made to this country by China and that this offer was refused. I do not know the circumstances under which this offer was refused and I would like a clarification.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is first-class news. I think the next thing is to amplify it and tell my hon. Friend, *Aiyekoto*, to put it down before we reply to it.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I hope Mr Speaker will take note of the constant interruptions from the Government Bench because when the Minister stands up to reply he will have constant interruptions from this side of the House.

Mr Speaker : I was just going to say that the Minister should wait for the appropriate moment to reply.

Mr Mbah : I cannot understand why Government cannot find a solution to the problem of our trade with Japan. For the first time, the Minister of Finance has accepted a defeat but I am yet to be convinced that the defeat is inevitable.

I now come to the question of the new Security Printing and Minting Factory. I have only one small comment to make on this. I am happy that we can now print our own notes in Nigeria, but are we not taking a big risk if the Minister continues to site strategic and security installations on the Bar Beach. The Minister said we have hostile neighbours around us, yet we are going to site Parliament Buildings on the Bar Beach. What guarantee have we that these important establishments are safe? As this area is vulnerable, what is

going to happen? If we have hostile neighbours around us and they decide to attack us, are we safe? Why can we not look for other areas instead of concentrating all these strategic installations at the Bar Beach. I feel the Minister is taking a very big risk.

Apart from that—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): On a point of information, I do not think it is right for us to say to the world that we have hostile people around us.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo: For the information of my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*), all the land around Lagos area has already been bought or given away by the Minister of Lagos Affairs.

Mr Mbah: I am only appealing to the Minister. I know he has good intentions about this, but he should not be taking too much risk. Apart from that, the Bar Beach itself is a menace to the people of Lagos.

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

Mr Mbah: On tariff changes, there is not much for hot exchanges here. It is said that to assist local industries and to discourage unnecessary imports, the duties on certain goods are being increased. This includes the increase of 63½ per cent on leather. What I want to say is that right at Owerri, we have got a new modern shoe factory and on top of that we have the Omimi Shoe Factory. Our information is that the Omimi Shoe Factory is competing with the new Owerri Shoe factory by making things difficult for them. I do hope that the Minister will not use his position to obtain all major Government contracts for the Omimi Shoe Factory at the expense of the new Owerri Shoe Factory. This is a very important point.

Chief Okotie-Eboh: I hope that my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) will substantiate his facts here and now.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo: He said, "I do hope".

Chief Okotie-Eboh: That is a very dangerous hope because it is a hope which he cannot sustain nor substantiate. But there again, if he thinks that because there is a shoe factory in Owerri there will be no other shoe factory anywhere in Nigeria, then he should

think about his tribalism again. Afterwards, the Omimi Shoe Factory was opened before the one in Owerri was opened.

Mr Mbah: I only said in my statement that I do not want this young factory to be crippled by competition. I said that I hoped the Minister would not use his position to obtain major Government contracts for the Omimi Shoe Factory.

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

M. Shekarau Ka'a Layya (Zangon Katab): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to make the following remarks.

As the Minister of Finance noted, the agreement reached with the workers after the Morgan Report on wages and salaries was very important. The Government did not see the need for these wage increases in time so, the workers went on strike which caused the nation great difficulties. There are people who have not got their own salary increases up till to-day. Some voluntary agency school teachers are still suffering. The Federal Government should try to see what help can be given to the Regional Governments so that the salaries of these unfortunate teachers can be paid in time.

The next point I want to make is on the Six-Year Development Plan. Although the Government has met with many difficulties in executing the Plan, we are happy that the Plan is making good progress.

The list of industries receiving Government aid gives me joy. The Nigerian Industrial Development Bank is also doing good work, but I want to remind the House that nothing further has been heard about the ginger-ale factory which I requested the Government to build in Southern Zaria. May I repeat that there are enough raw materials and cheap labour in the area. The railway runs through the area, so that transportation of goods to other parts of the country will not be difficult. I am again appealing to the Government to build this factory in Southern Zaria as it will help the economy of the area and its people.

I may say that the condition of the roads in Southern Zaria as a whole is not very good. The Kachiya to Kafanchan road and Samaru to Saminaka road are very bad. The Federal Government should not be satisfied with the

[M. SHEKARAU KA'A LAYYA]

building of only roads like the Tegna-Daura road, the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road and the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road.

The Government should maintain and look after those roads already constructed. If possible, the Federal Government should give more grants to the Regional Governments with a view to their improving on our existing roads. The roads particularly in Zaria should be improved.

In conclusion, I agree with the Minister of Finance that some progress has been made in the vital power sector. Nevertheless, I must express my disappointment at the slow efforts the Government is making to supply electricity to the rural areas. I am very disappointed in the fact that Kafanchan has not been supplied with electricity up till now. The plan to supply Kafanchan with electricity has been hanging on for many years now without being implemented. Even smaller towns in other parts of this country, have had the luck of being supplied with electricity, whereas Kafanchan has not been so supplied.

In the circumstances, the people of this area cannot be happy with the Federal Government. They are not happy with the continuous delay by the Federal Government in supplying their area with electricity. In this connection, I would like to point out to the Minister of Mines and Power that Kafanchan is a very important railway junction. If one is travelling to Enugu or Jos from Lagos, one would certainly touch Kafanchan. May I say again that the people in this area are not happy about the delay.

I pray that the newly broad-based Government will consider my request seriously.

I beg to support.

Mr S. Nnaji (Udi East) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, ably presented before this honourable House by our hard working Minister of Finance.

In doing so, I wish to make some few observations. I would like to say something about the Federal Government's system of land acquisition. I am not opposed to land acquisition as it were, but land acquisition should be embarked upon if there is need for doing so. However, we should not forget that we are at the mercy of the electorate. It is unfair to the land owners, whose *bona-fide*

rights are taken over by the Federal Government without adequate compensation.

In this respect, I have in mind the acquisition of the land along the Agbani-Enugu Road in the Eastern Region by the Federal Government. This land is to be used for settling the Mobile Police Unit. But the Federal Government assessed the value of the land at forty pounds per acre. This amount, I understand, is what will be paid to the land owners. This is very unfair. It is poor and most disappointing. I wonder whether this is a compulsory system of acquisition or the normal system of acquisition by negotiation. The land owners are highly aggrieved. They are not happy with the Federal Government.

Therefore, I am calling upon the Minister of Lagos Affairs to go into this matter. I strongly urge the Federal Government to review the present system of acquisition, as soon as possible.

I will now touch the question of the last Federal Elections held in the Eastern Region. The election in itself was very free and fair. But the only point I would like to spotlight, is the dangerous tricks played by some Returning and Polling Officers. I was shocked by their dangerous practices. It happened that four Returning and Polling Officers concerned, deliberately omitted to stamp the ballot papers issued out to voters, thereby invalidating a number of votes cast on my behalf. As a result of this cruel omission, I lost not less than 1,000 votes cast in my favour.

Hon. Members would all agree with me that a single vote is enough to cause the defeat of a Member in an election. However, I am proud that the electorate in Udi East, demonstrated their firm support and love for me. My opponent of course; lost his deposit. I have no doubt that the said omission was a deliberate one because these Returning and Polling Officers were all trained properly on how to carry out their assignments on the election day. As I said earlier, four officers were involved in this case. They were all trained teachers. What a degrading show on the part of teachers!

However, I reported the matter to the Returning Officer in charge, who said that they would only have to forfeit their allowances. But considering the seriousness of an offence of

House of Representatives Debates

815

[Appropriation (1965-66)

7 APRIL, 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

816

this nature, one would be inclined to suggest that it should be a police case, which in turn will be taken to the Law Courts. I am, therefore, calling on the Federal Government to introduce legislation to this effect. I would also like this honourable House to view the situation critically.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa) : On a point of order, the Speaker of this hon. House has told us that a number of hon. Members in this House would want to speak on the Budget Speech. I certainly feel that it is irrelevant for the hon. Gentleman over there to be paying much attention to his winning the elections in the Eastern Region ; and how the elections were conducted by the Returning and Polling Officers.

I should imagine that hon. Members should be given the opportunity to speak directly on the Budget Speech. Quite certainly, a number of hon. Members would like to contribute to the debate on the Budget Speech and as such we should not waste our time with speeches of this nature.

Mr Nnaji : Legislation should be introduced to make such an offence a crime, so that offenders can be severely punished.

On the teaching profession, I would like to say that it is a very important and respectable profession. This profession lays the foundation of progress in this country and as such should be adequately rewarded in terms of increased salaries. It is a poor habit to withhold the payment of teachers' salaries for months. This sort of practice would surely kill their zeal to work harder. At present, I know that Education is a Regional subject, but I would like it to be a Federal concern.

Still on the question of teachers, may I ask that the teachers' salaries be reviewed. I support the hon. Members who have previously called for a review of the teachers' rates of pay. If this is done, teachers will show more interest in their duties.

On the question of those teachers elected to this honourable House and the Regional Houses of Legislature, I will kindly suggest that it should be ruled that those teachers be granted leave without pay for the period that such meetings would last. It is very unfair for a servant to serve two masters at a time. It is

better to call a spade a spade. Those teachers should mind their businesses.

With regard to the Government's proposal to intensify the geological survey of this country, I would say that it is a welcome idea, but I must stress that Udi East must be one of the places to be surveyed. Udi East, must not be omitted. Furthermore, I would like the Federal Government to implement this proposal without delay. It should commence as early as possible.

As a matter of fact, we have a lot of hidden mineral resources in this country and it is the responsibility of the Geological Surveyors to find them out. The Geological Survey Section, is a very important section, and as such I am appealing to the Federal Government to increase the salaries of Geological Surveyors. However, the discovery of hidden mineral resources that would result from this extensive survey, will certainly solve the problem of unemployment in this country.

Coming to the question of electricity, I am glad to say that the Government's intention to extend the supply of electricity to the rural areas is highly welcome. This proposal meets with the aspirations of the masses in the rural areas. We are all here representing the interests of the citizens of this country. Therefore, we should make those in the rural areas to feel that they are not ignored. It would be unwise for the Federal Government to concentrate its attention on developing only the urban areas.

Several industries which have been established are all centred around urban towns because of the availability of electricity. But if electricity is to be extended to the rural areas, the siting of industries there will be made easy. And when industries are sited in the rural areas, jobs will be made available for the people in these areas and the question of unemployment will be solved to some extent.

In this respect, I am calling upon the Minister of Mines and Power to provide the people of Agbani crown land, with electricity. This place is a quasi-township for the people in Udi East. I would also say that the distance from Agbani Settlement to Enugu is very short. It is about eight miles. I hope the Minister will consider my request as soon as possible.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 3 p.m.

Mr S. Nnaji : I want to make just a brief comment on the Ministry of Communications. I wish to extend my congratulations to this Ministry in respect of one Post Office opened in Udi East and to request the hon. Minister of Communications to open a sub-post office to serve the northern section of Udi East. This section of Udi East lies very far from the post office which I have just mentioned.

The hon. Minister of Communications would do well to provide telephone services to all the County Council offices in the Federation. I would further suggest that every constituency should have a sub-post office or post office.

I would like to make a short comment on roads. The hon. Minister of Works deserves to be congratulated for the Shagamu-Benin Trunk A Road under construction. The road is wide enough and is solidly tarred, but I must not fail to point out the narrow bridges on this road. Those bridges require widening. May I also suggest that the Benin-Asaba Road should be re-constructed by widening and re-tarring same.

Furthermore, I would like to suggest that the Federal Government should plan to take over some Trunk B roads from the Regional Governments to enable them take over some roads under the control of Local Councils. I wonder how many roads the Federal Government has taken over since the past five years from the Regional Governments.

If this proposal is workable, I would like the Federal Government to take over the Udi-Agbani Trunk B Road. This road is linked to Afikpo, and is a very important road in Udi East, and there is always a heavy traffic on this road. This road, also, forms a link between Udi Division and Afikpo Division. It is as well a short course from Afikpo to any other place around these two Divisions. I strongly appeal to the hon. Minister of Works to think seriously about this road.

Before I resume my seat, I have to make some comments on the high office of the President of this Federal Republic. This office is a very honourable and respectable one. The President is the father of this Republican country, and he must be regarded as such. Hon. Members would agree with me that our President should command the respect and love of the people as the right man in the right place.

I, therefore, appeal to the people of this nation to have their respect for the President.

I support the Bill.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : In making my contribution to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for 1965-66, I would like to associate myself with the views of hon. Members who have previously spoken in congratulating the Minister of Finance on the able way he presented the Bill.

I think the Minister is prodigious, able and efficient. His handling of the financial responsibilities of the Government is, on the whole, satisfactory, considering all the factors working against him and the factors against which he has had to work.

The Federal Government must also be congratulated on its efforts in tackling the fiscal and economic problems of the country, most of which it inherited from the colonial regime. A look around shows the magnificent change that has taken place during the last decade.

Ten years ago, Lagos and the Regional capitals were full of slums. To-day, the story is not the same. Positive efforts have been made to change this sorry picture. Wide and modern roads with tall and elegant buildings have taken the place of death traps and narrow alleys that went by the name of streets, and the shanties that clustered their edges.

Through the foresight and patronage of the Federal and Regional Governments, Apapa, Ikeja and, in a less degree, the whole country is now dotted with various industrial projects in a determined effort to industrialise the country.

In the field of education, health and transport, the same graph of progress is visible. For all these, the Government and the Minister of Finance who is the life-wire of the Government, should be congratulated. But it is true that in all these we have just touched the fringe of our development programmes.

I hope that the Minister of Finance and the Government, who enjoy being praised, will endure well-meaning criticisms of their policies and actions. Parliament is the bastion of the people against an arbitrary Government, or oppression, or misrule. It is also the ears and the eyes of Government. Without it

Government will not be warned. It will not see obvious danger, or hear the booming of its impending doom. For this reason Parliament must not be muzzled, stifled or superseded.

The Federal Government must have an economic objective, an ideal or goal to which it strives, otherwise its activities will be sporadic and will lack a sense of mission.

Having regard to the problems of this country and the lessons which history teaches us, there is no other objective which a sensible Federal Government can pursue except the establishment of a socialist democracy.

Primitive and savage man was individualistic. From savage individualism he progressed to communalism from which, through industrialisation, he passed to capitalism, which can be called industrial individualism, and from which he must now pass to socialism, which is industrial communalism.

The Minister of Finance's categorical condemnation of socialism was most unfortunate and unwarranted. Whether the Minister wants it or not, socialism must dawn on this country. What he and his Colleagues can do is to prolong the painful spell of capitalism.

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola) : On a point of order, I do not think that it is fair for the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) to criticise the Minister of Finance when he is not in this House.

Chief Akinyede : The cankerworm in our society is not the new socialism but the new African capitalism with its four absolutes. These are absolute exploitation, absolute wealth, absolute corruption and absolute power. Socialism is not a term of mischief but an expression and acceptance of the doctrine of live and let live. Socialism as an ideal is as old as man.

I have no intention of treating this House to an excursus on socialism. Mr Speaker, please suffice me to say that it is not un-Nigerian. It is pro Christianity, and it is pro Muslim.

I now come to certain matters on which informed opinion in this country feels rather strongly, and that is extravagant spending. Despite a few welcome efforts of Government to better the lots of the people of this country, some of its actions are anti-socialism. They tend towards capitalism, encourage feudalism

and turn the hands of the clock of progress backwards.

Instead of pegging salaries of high public officers at the revolting levels which our colonial masters left them, the last two Governments continued to increase them so much that they have now reached the immoral level. The average Minister or Permanent Secretary costs this country over £10,000 a year. He receives £3,000 as salary; £1,500 or more as travelling allowance—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade (Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa) : On a point of information, I want to tell my hon. Friend speaking that if he had read the Estimates he would have found that Ministers earn £2,700 per annum each, not £3,000.

Chief Akinyede : In addition to what I have enumerated, they receive £1,000 as basic allowance; entertainment allowance of £500; hidden rental allowance of £3,000. I regard this figure as being indirectly received by them because each of them lives in a house built at a cost of £30,000 and the annual rental of it should be at least £3,000. They also have Government paid drivers, cooks, stewards, gardeners, and so on. Furthermore, they enjoy free electricity and telephone and other amenities.

This is a country where a labourer cannot earn £100 per annum. The ratio of earning is 1:100. There is nowhere in the world that the margin is so wide and so alarming. We are the worst in the world. In the United Kingdom the ratio is about 1:10. We must narrow this gap. Our Prime Minister is moderate and temperate. He should not allow the more fabulous, materialistic, acquisitive and ostentatious fellows around him to ruin this country. The late Pandit Nehru, who was the Prime Minister of about 500 million people, a country ten times the size of ours both in population and in area, reduced his salary to £1,200.

The Minister of Information (Chief Ayo Rosiji) : On a point of order, if the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) must make these criticisms he should base them on facts. As a Member of this honourable House he is entitled to look at Government figures and then give this House the grand figures instead of giving us fabricated figures here. Everything he is saying now is wrong because it is based on wrong assumptions.

Chief Akinyede : It is well-known that the Minister was earning £3,000 before he agreed to cut off £200 or £300 which he got in another way. What the Minister wants us to say is that he is earning the figure of £2,700 instead of £3,000.

As I was saying, the late Pandit Nehru reduced his salary to £1,200 per annum and was riding on a scooter.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman speaking rides an Oldsmobile car which is more expensive than what any Minister of this Government rides.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : On a point of information, one of the U.P.G.A. Ministers did not buy a car until he was appointed a Minister, and when he did he bought a Volkswagen.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East) : On a point of order, Standing Order 28 (5) reads—

Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

My point of order is that some Members are violating this Order.

Mr Speaker : It is quite correct that Members must not make unseemly interruptions.

Chief Akinyede : What I am saying is that the salaries and allowances paid to our public officers are fantastic and unrealistic. We are not asking our Prime Minister to do exactly what the late Pandit Nehru did, but let the salaries of our Ministers be pegged at £2,000 per annum; and that of Parliamentary Secretaries at £1,200. To reflect the dignity and grace of their offices, the President and the Prime Minister should earn £5,000 and £3,000 respectively. Other salaries over £1,000 per annum should be cut by at least a quarter, and money saved through this means should be used in establishing industries which will offer employment opportunities for the teeming millions of Nigerians.

The Transport system of this country should be improved. We have built sufficient sky scrapers and other prestige buildings. It is, therefore, time the emphasis shifted to cheap, decent and moderate houses for the workers, farmers and peasants who constitute more than 95 per cent of our population.

In this austerity exercise, I think that Members of this House should set a good example. Most of us have our professions from which we earn our living. I think that Members should be paid only allowances of, say, three or five guineas a day. This will reduce the present crave for elections into the House of Representatives. It will sift out those whose main aim in standing for election is to improve their earning capacity. Only public spirited men who can afford it will come to Parliament and those humbler people who want to earn the few guineas will learn to remain in the House rather than to go back the following day after claiming their salaries and after showing their faces for a brief period.

I think it is time a code of conduct was set for our Ministers and public officers. Anyone who accepts a public office must be contented with the pay attached to that office and must not use his office to amass wealth. Some years ago the Ministers of this country were known abroad as ten per centers—

Mr Speaker : Order ! Certainly the hon. Member is not serious. The fact is that Ministers have never been known as ten per centers.

Chief Akinyede : The Prime Minister was believed to have said that Ministers are part time employees of the State. With due respect to him, we cannot accept this definition. They are full time employees of the State. How many would have liked to earn a tenth of their earnings working round the clock? Ministers may be on temporary but not on part time jobs. If a Minister who is a trader can continue his trade while he is in office, then a lawyer who is a Minister can as well continue to appear in court. Mr Speaker, this new Government must give the nation new pledges not to abuse their office or betray the trust reposed in them.

The next point I want to discuss is the Government's policy on taxation. It is unfortunate that an unusually high percentage of our revenue is derived from customs and excise duties. A zealous Minister of Finance might continue to increase tax until he cripples all trade or kills the people. Our tax policy must be reviewed to stimulate trade and relieve the people.

Full exemption should be granted on all educational, medical and research equipments. Partial exemption should be granted on necessaries manufactured locally while duties should be reduced on necessaries manufactured abroad. Heavy taxes should be imposed on luxuries manufactured at home and prohibitive duties should be levied on luxuries manufactured abroad. In particular, big cars should be taxed off our roads. I know that this will hurt some people here. But, Mr Speaker, there is a country not far away from us where it is a social offence to purchase a car worth over £800. For this reason, I repeat that big cars should be taxed off our roads.

Strong drinks, woollen and silk cloths, fancy goods, cigarettes, trinkets and jewellery, should attract prohibitive taxes. But buses which carry the masses, soft drinks which are not injurious to health, matches, petrol which is usually regarded as a luxury but which in fact is a necessary, textile goods, salt, and building materials should enjoy a substantial tax relief.

The Minister said that we do not believe in wholesale nationalisation, but we believe in state ownership of certain industries. We started this even in our colonial days. We nationalised the Ports, the Railways, the Electricity Corporation and Coal Corporation, and we are now venturing into other fields. All we are saying is that other sectors of our economy and social services should come under state ownership or control.

This need not frighten anybody. Because of their importance to our economy or to the security and defence of our country, or because of our national pride, there are certain industries that must be zoned—"private exploitation prohibited". We have done it with coal, why not with gold, tin, insurance and petroleum?

I agree with the Minister in his view that we must improve and modernise our agriculture. As I said yesterday, agriculture is an industry and is the mother of all industries. The Federal Government should appoint one of its key men as Minister of Agriculture, especially one of its Ministers who has a qualification in commerce and industry.

I have over-heard a Member asking who it is. I think I should leave it to them to find out and if such a Minister comes from Ekiti —

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr A. A. O. Ezenwa): On a point of information, in the whole of Christendom there is nothing like any qualification in commerce and industry. It does not exist, and so the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) is misleading this House.

A man may get a qualification in Commerce, but never in commerce and industry.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): I am wondering whether the Speaker will not consider reserving the first row on the Government Bench for Ministers with portfolio and of Cabinet rank, the second one for those of Cabinet rank but without portfolio, the third row for those with portfolio but not of Cabinet rank, who are really Senior Parliamentary Secretaries, and the last one for Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mr Speaker: That should also apply to Shadow Ministers.

Chief Akinyede: The net result of my suggestion would be to create another Ministry for one of the Ministers without portfolio and such a Minister would be charged with the duty of doubling the pace of our agricultural progress in the country and intensifying the modernisation of our agricultural industry. Unless we develop and improve our agriculture, and unless we have a truly agrarian revolution, our industrial progress will continue to be slow and self defeating.

The Minister of Information (Chief Ayo Rosiji): As usual, the Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) is out of date. The Government is far ahead of him and the Opposition.

Chief Akinyede: Am I being told that the Government has appointed a Minister of Agriculture and that the Government has modernised agriculture throughout the whole country?

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East): On a point of order —

Mr Speaker: Order! We do not want points of disorder.

Mr Ogike: I wish to say that Ministers are trying to debar us now from making our maiden speeches by trying to disturb a person who is already on the Floor of this House. Most of us have not been able to make our maiden speeches because the Ministers continue to interrupt us.

Chief Akinyede : Nature is rather kind to Nigeria. Geological, physical and geographical factors favour the country so much that with a judicious exploitation of our resources the people of this country can live in full and in plenty. If we step up our exploitation of our agricultural and mineral resources and industrialisation, manufacture most of our goods locally, our balance of payments should be favourable.

The Minister has called his Budget the "Rededication Budget" and has called on the nation to make sacrifices. The nation calls upon him and his colleagues to rededicate themselves to those objectives for which we all fought to achieve self-Government and independence—that is, the building of a socialist democratic republic where everybody will give his best and get the maximum compatible with the needs of society—a society free from poverty and want, a society where man will not cheat, exploit, defraud or destroy his fellow man.

This society may not find its pattern in Shakespeare's kingdom of the honey bees, for while unlike ours it abhors the lazy and excludes the selfish, for while unlike ours it leaves no room for inheritance, it has no place for personal property and the quantum of freedom and liberty is poor indeed.

I beg to support.

Dr Olu Ibukun (Owo North) : The newly-appointed Ministers are treating this House with contempt. If one looks at their seats one will find that they are almost empty. I hope that they will be better advised to come into this House and not stay outside it.

Malam Haikali Maigari (Kauru-Lere) : I rise to support the Second Reading of—

Several hon. Members : Louder, louder please.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please speak louder ?

Malam Haikali Maigari : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I will be very brief in my contribution because I believe in brevity, especially when much of the business of the House is still left undebated and other hon. Members are very anxious to make their own contributions.

I will not hesitate to pay glowing tributes to the able leadership of our leaders, particularly

those who brought about the pacific state of affairs over the constitutional crisis that threatened the unity of this great nation.

I have no doubt that under the continuous leadership of our able, honest and industrious Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, our nation will continue to remain intact. Sir Abubakar's broad-based Government, which is a matter of political expediency, will reflect his honesty, integrity and competence under any circumstances.

The Cabinet Ministers in Sir Abubakar's last Government, the Parliamentary Secretaries as well as all the hon. Members of the last Parliament, should have my hearty congratulations for their respective contributions to the development as well as the stability of this great Republic, which is second to none in the whole continent of Africa.

I want to seize this opportunity to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the development of the rural areas. I feel that the Government is giving too much attention to urbanisation and industrialisation. In fact, the Government is devoting more attention to industrial development than to agricultural development.

Nigeria has adopted the policy of a large-scale production of everything but agricultural commodities. For example, mining is carried out on a large-scale, so are factories and the import and export trade, but in agriculture which should be Nigeria's main economic activity the country still relies on the traditional methods of cultivation.

This does not mean that progress cannot be made unless we automatically turn over at once to plantation system. Obviously, very considerable agricultural progress can be made even within the framework of the present agricultural system. It is true that Nigeria's greatest need is to expand and improve its agriculture in order to improve its output. It is generally believed that if a country wants to increase its productivity in industry. It has to increase agricultural productivity. I hope, therefore, that the Ministry concerned will see to this situation.

Now, I want to direct my appeal to one or two Ministries. I would like to express the disappointment of my people at the surprising

delay by Government in tarring the Jos-Panbenguwa trunk 'A' road. This is an important road and it is one of the busiest roads in Northern Nigeria.

The road is closed to all traffic for at least a fortnight, and at least for about a month to all commercial traffic every year. This road passes through my constituency, Kauru-Lere, and has been the only means of transportation and communications in that area since the Jos-Zaria railway was closed about eight years ago.

I appeal to the Ministry of Works to see that this road is tarred without further delay.

I want to appeal also to the Ministry of Communications to try and expand its activities in the rural areas. I am referring in particular to the rural areas in Northern Nigeria. There is no doubt that most of the Members of this honourable House come from the rural areas.

We often experience difficulties, especially during the rainy seasons in getting postal facilities. We are badly in need of postal agencies and sub-post offices in Rahama, Kagoro and Zonkwa all of which are in the Southern part of Zaria.

The Minister of Communications should please see to it that these towns are provided with communication facilities.

Finally, I wish to say that health is better than wealth. I am therefore appealing to the Ministry of Health to copy the good example laid by the Northern Region Government and introduce a Federal Flying Doctor Scheme throughout the Federation.

Here, I must pay my tribute to the various Missionaries for their devoted services and untiring efforts to meet the great need of our people in medical field. I am sure that if this Flying Doctor scheme is introduced throughout the Federation, many lives will be saved, and we shall have healthy youths to meet our future manpower needs.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Ajayi (Ilesha South) : I rise to say a few things on this Bill. To begin with, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his comprehensive Budget Speech. I also admire the Minister for budgeting for a little over £78 million for the services of this country for the year 1965-66. There is an increase of about £16 million over the last year's Budget.

It will be highly appreciated if this huge sum of money is judiciously spent in a way that all the constituencies in the Federation will be provided with amenities so that all the people of this country may feel and know the importance of the Federal Government.

If the Government can devote only the sum of £16 million which is an increase over the last year's Budget to the development of the rural areas, I am sure that everybody in the country will be very happy.

We all know very well that there are 312 federal constituencies in this Federation. If the sum of £16 million is shared among the 312 constituencies that we have in this country, each constituency will have a sum of a little over £51,000. I have often heard many people say that the money of this country goes into the stomach of some people, and that these people do not want to—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I have divided the sum of £16 million by 312, which is the number of constituencies we have in this country, and I have failed to get a sum of £51,000. What I have here is less than £4,000.

Mr Ajayi : The people of this country even went to the extent of saying that after the federal election, the stomach of those who have swallowed the money of this country will be purged and the money recovered from the stomach will be used for the good of the masses. But from the Budget Speech and the arrangements being made, one can see that steps are being taken to see that a lot of improvement takes place throughout the country during the year.

If we follow the speech of the Minister of Finance closely, we will all see that it is obvious that the progress of this country is uppermost in his mind. But it is the wish of everybody in this House to see that something is done for each constituency in this Federation as early as possible.

All the Members of this House will be very proud of this Government if amenities are provided for all the constituencies in the country. The Government too will be proud of itself if something substantial is done for these constituencies.

The very first thing I would implore the Government to provide for our people is health facility.

[MR AJAYI]

The road leading from Ibadan to Ife and Ilesha is an appalling one. This road is full of potholes and gallops, and these constitute a danger both to pedestrians and motorists using it. I appeal to the Government to see that immediate action is taken to widen and repair this road.

Furthermore, we know that in any place where we have any institution which concerns the Government, such a place should actually be developed. I would like to say that in Ilesha South constituency where we have mine-fields, the road there is very, very bad.

The Minister of Mines and Power will know of this because his workers go there and the vehicles used are often damaged on the road. In the circumstance, I appeal to the Government to see that that road is reconstructed and tarred.

That is not all. I am suggesting that the road should be improved up to Ile Oluji so that the large number of people residing in this area may have means of transport.

Moreover, arrangements should be made to provide each rural area with a bulldozer which will be used to level down hills in order to construct new roads in local areas. These bulldozers could be handed over to the District Councils, and most especially, one will be welcomed in Ilesha rural area and the Council there will really take care of it.

We are all aware of the fact that health is wealth. Government must therefore realise that it is its paramount duty to look after the health of the people. In this wise, I am suggesting that each rural area should be provided with a cottage hospital. These cottage hospitals must receive assistance from the general hospitals in the urban areas.

The provision of this cottage hospital would be of tremendous assistance to us in Ilesha South constituency, and I urge the Government to provide at least one in that place very urgently.

We all know that education is the basis of our progress. Now, the Government should pay more attention to the educational system in this country. There are, in fact, so many teachers who have taught for many years and have not got the opportunity of being trained. Nowadays, these teachers are being sent to

their homes, but if we look at things very well, we will see that these old teachers did some wonderful work a decade or two ago, and if we should send them away now because they are untrained, it would appear as if we are not appreciative of their services.

I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should see to it that these old men are given some special training or special arrangement should be made to train them so as to enable them to take care of young children who are just beginners at school, and to teach the adults too.

Also, teachers should be well cared for. The condition of teachers in the country should be made very attractive.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : Mr Speaker, I think the Member for Ilesha South (*Mr Ajayi*) is being irrelevant. He has spoken about teachers and about cottage hospitals. These are regional matters, and I can well understand his being thrown out of the House after the election petition against him is decided.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Gentleman please speak on the Budget.

Mr Ajayi : I am saying that the Federal Government should actually help the Regional Governments to do these things.

We have heard a lot of people complaining about postal services. This is very, very important in the country. I suggest that the Government should arrange to provide more post offices in big towns. For instance, at Ibadan, one often sees people waiting for a long time without being attended to, and the counter clerks are often, too, very busy. This supports my contention that the present post offices are not enough for that big city. The Government should provide more postal facilities in the whole country, especially in the Ilesha South constituency.

Another thing I would like to call the attention of the Government to is this question of research that is being made always. Now, we all know very well that there are hidden treasures in our land. The Government should initiate a vigorous policy which will enable it to carry out an extensive survey of the whole country. If this is done, I am sure that lots of minerals will be discovered in so many places.

For example, I know that in Ijesha Division, gold is being mined in Igbara-Odo, and in so many other places in that area. I am sure that if this area is properly surveyed, and proper care is taken to see that the land owners are adequately compensated, the people will allow the Government to extend its activities to places where more mineral products might be discovered.

Nigeria is an agricultural country and the Government is doing a lot to improve the agricultural condition of this country. Researches are at present being conducted in the field of agriculture but the results of these researches are not yet known. The Government should speed up its effort on this.

We should aim at making this country both an agricultural and an industrial country. If we can establish manufacturing industries which will make use of our local raw materials, I am sure that within a very short time a lot of progress will be made.

I appeal in this connection, to the Government to site industries, with the means at its disposal, in the rural areas of this country especially in Ilesha South. This will solve the problem of unemployment which is rampant in many of these areas.

Industries should not be sited only in the big cities. Workers who live in big cities where industries are sited suffer a lot of inconvenience. They pay high rent for the houses they occupy and buy their foodstuffs at very high prices. In the rural areas, house are cheap to rent and foodstuffs can be got almost free.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Government to see that when it pleases it to extend the railway lines to other parts of the country, it should consider extending one from Oshogbo to Ilesha and down to the Mid-West. This will make transportation easier and safer in these areas.

I beg to support.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South-East): I wish to speak on the Motion for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so eloquently moved by the Minister of Finance. Before I proceed to examine the economic and financial policies and practices as exposed in the Minister's Speech, I wish to pay a little attention to the section dealing with socialism in this Republic.

Although many Members have previously commented on this aspect of the Speech, the subject is so fundamental and significant that I believe it can bear a little more discussion. From the reactions which the Ministers' remarks on socialism have received both inside and outside this House, there can be no doubt that he has once again in his characteristic way, taken the bull by the horn and stirred the hornet's nest.

In return, he has received a flurry of blows from intellectuals and self styled intellectuals and *pseudo* socialists. But the Minister can take comfort in the fact that at least one intellectual agrees with his appraisal of rabid or extreme socialism and its future in this country. I can hear a Member asking—whc that intellectual is? Mr Speaker, I am the intellectual. (*Hear, hear*)

One important thing, to my mind, in an under developed country like Nigeria should be progress and it must be accepted that progressivism is not synonymous with communism or marxist socialism. Indeed, it has become fashionable with most of our intellectuals, politicians and labour leaders to style themselves socialists in order to be regarded as progressive.

But I submit that there is absolutely no need to do this. Besides, most of these pseudo socialists are in fact capitalists or they would readily and gladly become capitalists any day if they could land a jack-pot with "Niger Pools" whose regular customers most of them are. But why are we afraid to accept that we Nigerians are by nature capitalists — each and everyone of us? I would say, like "B.2, the famous Chief Omo-Osagie," used to say, that "minus opportunity". It is only opportunity that most of us are seeking to become capitalists. I am not ashamed to acknowledge it. It should be acknowledged here.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Chief D. N. Oronsaye): The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) is misleading this House. It was not "B.2" who used to say "minus opportunity". It was a certain Member on this side of the House.

Mr Ukegbu: The point of the Parliamentary Secretary is taken in good faith. What I am saying is that in a country like

[MR UKEGBU]

Nigeria, where land is not owned by big landlords or the Government, but by individuals, there should be no question of saying that land which is the primary means of production is owned by any individual.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban): The Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) is a school proprietor. He always makes an excursion into capitalism. We can understand his shade of thought.

Mr Speaker: We do not need this information.

Mr Ukegbu: I happened to have done a special study in under-developed economy and also on the transition of agriculture from the strip system to a real productive agriculture and that is where we are now.

I would say that the thing that matters in a country like our own is progress—material and spiritual progress and it does not matter how this progress is achieved. It need not be achieved by only one route. It does not mean that it can be only by socialism. Who in Nigeria to-day would not like to style himself an American. I would like to. Americans are not socialists but they are preparing to go to the moon but we Nigerians are not doing anything.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I would like to tell the hon. Member speaking to take it easy. In trying to expose a very bad philosophy he may land himself into trouble. He is saying that Nigeria wants progress, not minding how it comes. Does he want progress through revolution?

Mr Ukegbu: I do not want to be diverted from the point I am trying to stress. Let us be very sincere with ourselves: there are two great powers in the world to-day—the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.—and nobody can say that America is not making progress. It did not make it by the route of socialism, whether it is Marxist of whatever you may call it.

What I am saying is that I want to-day the least paid Nigerian to be receiving about £12 a month, and to have a good house to live in, and if he is sick to go to the hospital to cure himself, as well as have education for his children. I do not mind by what route this progress comes to our country.

Before I go on, I want to clear one point. Somebody has said that Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh

has gone against the policy of the N.C.N.C. I say it is not correct. The N.C.N.C. mentions "Pragmatic African Socialism". This brand of socialism actual means—

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East): My point of order relates to relevancy in debate. The hon. Gentleman who has the Floor should base his speech on the financial aspects of government business, and stop telling us about capitalism.

Mr Ukegbu: I am saying that the National President of the N.C.N.C. himself basis his main plank on the socialist philosophy which he has been propounding on progress. He says we want progress in Nigeria by every one being given the opportunity to serve, and by everybody receiving a fair share of the national gross product. Therefore, this is an African way. It did not come from Marx, Lenin or Engels; it came from Nigerians themselves.

The tenets of socialism are that the state itself cares for the less talented members of the community, and everybody knows that in our indigenous society we have actually been our brother's keeper. When you are your brother's keeper, you are a socialist. This too can be traced in our extended family system, where if you have food, you give everybody to eat.

When you go to the North, for instance, you find that the people are generous; the greatest of them actually even appears to be the servant of the rest. I know many people from the North who will gladly forego their meals in order to see that the stranger has something to eat. That is what we call "Pragmatic African Socialism".

For my own part, I am a progressive capitalist. I believe in private enterprise as well as indirect government participation in industrial and commercial development, particularly in those fields where private enterprise is either unwilling or unable or undesirable.

I submit that our ideology in this Republic should be evolutionary progressivism rather than Marxist socialism or communism. This may have succeeded in Russian conditions, but that is no reason to believe that it is the answer to progress in Nigeria where the psychology and outlook to life is more American than Russian or even British.

Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji) : There is a conflict of ideology in the N.C.N.C. because in the morning—

Mr Speaker : This is not the time to say so.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The N.C.N.C. is a truly, democratic national organisation, and its members are not debarred—

Mr Speaker : These are some of the statements you would like to make outside this House.

Minister of State (Chief A. Akerele) : I wonder if the Minister of Finance is speaking for U.P.G.A. ?

Mr Ukegbu : I said that our outlook on life in Nigeria is more American than Russian or even British. Let us face facts—

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I think it is time our intellectuals go into researches of our way of life in this country—and be able to discern what it is exactly. We are neither capitalists, nor communists ; perhaps we are inclining to communalists.

Mr Ukegbu : My ideology of evolutionary progressivism is based on economic nationalism which seeks to Nigerianize our industrial and commercial activities, and is also based on the establishment of social justice by equitable and fair distribution of the gross domestic product among all classes of the people who produce it.

We have no use in this country for a totalitarian state which pigeon-holes the bulk of its citizens and inhibits their creative and adventurous instincts. This does not mean that we should accept a situation (and I want to emphasise this for the records) whereby politicians and top civil servants become capitalists mainly from abusing public office and trust, and convert public power and wealth into private economic gains for themselves and their relations.

I hear somebody saying that this amounts to a contradiction of myself ; it is not and I would like whoever is concerned to listen.

Mr Speaker : I do not like the idea of interrupting a Member whenever he utters a word. There is far too much interruption in this House for sensible debate to continue.

Mr Ukegbu : I am going to repeat this : I say that we welcome private enterprise—mixed economy whereby the government can

go straight into the field of production and services without stifling individual efforts. Why should it stifle individual efforts, any way ?

There are many talented Nigerians who are genuises and capitalists ; why should they not organise industries and employ themselves and others and pay fair, equitable wages to their less talented country men ? I emphasise that this does not mean that we should accept a situation whereby politicians and top civil servants become capitalists mainly from abusing their public office and trust, and by converting public power and wealth into private economic gains either for themselves or their relations. I am sure that the Minister of Finance will agree with this line of approach.

I would like to see many Nigerian millionaires who become rich by organising industrial and commercial projects, and providing employment and paying fair and equitable wages mutually agreed for their less talented fellow countrymen. Of course, this provided always that these capitalists have not stolen their capitals, directly or indirectly, from public wealth, or by the abuse of public power or trust.

I am sure that all honest Nigerians, except those who are lazy theorists or dogs in the manger, will agree with this type of social organisation.

Nationalisation is surely not a magic wand for economic development. This should not be construed to mean that we should condemn genuine and convinced socialists as this would be an infringement of their fundamental human rights which enable them to hold what opinions they hold. It is one thing to hold an opinion but it is another thing to sell that opinion honestly to the people.

Now, I shall turn to certain aspects of our national economy. I wish to apply a little searchlight on our financial policy and practice contained in the speech of the Minister of Finance. In this respect, I do not mean to be unduly critical of this policy and practice. Surely economic and financial affairs are not romantic affairs. Surely, the Ministry of Finance is not the easiest of the Ministries. That is why many of us, when we stop to think, find ourselves, even if unwillingly, admiring the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh for his sheer industry and outstanding capacity for hard work. Hon. Members will find that it is difficult to

[MR UKEGBU]

pick bones with the work of a Minister who has done his home-work; and no one does more home-work than the Minister of Finance.

In fact, I very often imagine what a wonderful boost Nigeria's economy would receive if Omimi's industry and capacity for hard work were married to K. O.'s established capacity for big thoughts and fantastically gigantic plans. I mean that if these two U.P.G.A. timbers were given a free hand, Nigeria would soon be jerked into the twentieth century economic millennium.

But there is one piece of advice which I should like to give to my Friend, the Minister of Finance. He should listen to Members more and castigate them less. We admire his brilliance, but he should not forget that knowledge and wisdom can at times come out of Nazareth. He should be more patient with Members' criticisms and suggestions even though, in the difficult field of public finance, Members' criticisms and suggestions, more often than not, may appear naive if not puerile.

On the other hand, there is a reciprocal obligation on Members of this House to do their home-work on ministerial and government activities and policies before taking the Floor to contribute to debates. This will no doubt engender respect for their views. In this regard, Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence to submit that the approach of Members of Parliament to government plans and activities, especially in the financial and economic fields, must change radically in this present Parliament if we are to justify the huge sums the taxpayers are paying to keep us here.

Members of Parliament, particularly members of the Government, must accept the fact that 370 heads are better than 70—I mean the 70 odd senior and junior Ministers now forming the Government. The Government which called for the election and appointment of 370 Members of this House and Senators must tell the country how they propose to make use of these Members and Senators.

In short, I mean that Parliament must sit more often. I mean that really functioning and active committees of the House, armed with adequate powers and provided with effective rules of procedure—not the colonial

type that we now have—should be established for various Ministries and fields of government activities. We must borrow several leaves from the great Republic of the United States where various committees of the House and the Senate do a great deal to supplement and control the creative efforts of the government. We must encourage and give greater facilities for private Member-sponsored legislations in both financial, economic and other fields.

This, of course, assumes (and why should we not?) that we should legislate to prescribe a minimum of educational qualification and practical experience for election or appointment to either House of Parliament.

I have dwelt on this matter for so long because I am convinced that if 370 knowledgeable and distinguished citizens pool their resources together for the economic and overall national development of this country, this nation will soon achieve the economic and social take-off which everybody is desiring should come up as soon as possible.

I shall now turn to specific economic questions. The Minister of Finance has complained about the rate of foreign private investment in the country. I call upon him to consider if this may not, in part, be caused by the bottle-neck which the Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry constitute in the implementation of the policy of issuing pioneer certificates and import duty reliefs in appropriate cases. I have known many cases where applications were submitted and where, for almost two years, there was no decision in any way. The industrialists concerned abandoned the projects in disgust. Industries meant for Eastern Nigeria, by coincidence perhaps, were the greatest sufferers in this regard. I should call on the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Industry to look into the whole procedure for granting pioneer certificates and affording import duty reliefs.

In this connection, I must call the hon. Minister of Finance's attention to the no doubt unintended hardship which some Nigerian manufacturers are experiencing when import tariffs are raised on some products, to protect local industries whereas these industries are not able or willing to produce some models of the goods locally. I have one specific case. The Oshinmi Company Ltd. at Yaba who are manufacturers of office and industrial gum.

The duty on bottles required for this local product is now so prohibitive that the landed cost of these bottles equals the landed cost of imported office and industrial gum. This is now forcing the closure of this promising small industry. The glass industry which the increased tariff was meant to protect, I understand, have said they are unable to produce bottles for the gum industry.

I should like the Minister of Finance to look into this and see also why the import of foreign gum should not be halted if the local industry can supply our needs, especially as I understand that the quality of this locally manufactured gum has been approved by the Industrial Research Institute at Oshodi.

Dr R. C. B. Mgbaronye (Bende West) : I have never heard of any company as that mentioned by the Member for Owerri South East (*Mr Ukegbu*) in Ikeja and yet I am in a position to know if such a company exists.

Some hon. Members : The company is in Yaba and not in Ikeja.

Mr Ukegbu : I now come to a point which is rather dear to my heart and that is about the difficult question of our financial policy in this under-developed nation. One very important aspect of the lack of development in finance, which I want to examine, is perhaps the most unnecessarily heavy backing of our Central Bank notes with foreign securities and sterling holdings.

I must confess that I am far from being an expert in this field, but most progressive economists agree that in an under developed economy such as ours, a reasonable spark of inflation is desirable if economic development is not to proceed at a snail's pace.

I realise that if funds generated by the reduction of sterling backing are used for the importation of luxury goods, inflation and adverse balance of payments position will result, and will have no off-setting revenue earnings. But I submit that in our circumstances, where there are so many millions of acres of good agricultural land and millions of unemployed or under-employed agricultural hands, only good can result from the injection of money obtained in this way into an aggressive expansion of agricultural production.

I shall put it in this way: the proposed agricultural loan credit bank is a step in the

right direction. But suppose, instead of capitalising the bank with a timid 3 or 5 million pounds, a £40 million agricultural credits internal loan were floated and the bulk of it were taken up by the Central Bank? With £40 million, which an average-sized American company will take as grass root investment, the agricultural credit bank, armed with willing extension workers and inspectors, could finance the employment of our teeming millions in productive agriculture.

This would in time rocket our gross domestic product which now stands at a paltry one billion pounds, less than many appliance manufacturing companies in the United States and Russia earn every year.

Say what you like about industry, it is obvious that unless an aggressive investment is made in the field of agriculture, especially export agriculture, industrial expansion for consumer goods in this country where purchasing power is so limited, can only be a will-o'-the-wisp, that is, a wild goose chase.

If we say that should the Central Bank take up a £40 million agricultural loan as a local security, inflation would result, I shall say to the Minister, prohibit the importation of luxury goods and thus control the balance of payments position.

The Minister of Finance spoke of sacrifice. This is the real field for it. Let those on top tighten their belts and forego luxuries for five years to enable agricultural expansion to be achieved.

Then, Sir, this question of unemployment is connected with agricultural development. It is also connected with technical and commercial training for the young. Why should willing children be allowed to drop out of school after standard six which is supposed only to give the basic condition of literacy to enable training for a living to begin?

Ours is perhaps the only country aiming at industrial development and technical advance where there is no comprehensive national plan on apprenticeship and technical training vigorously executed. The Governments of the Federation should not be afraid of statistics. Let them give us the number of millions of boys and girls available for technical and commercial training and how many places are available for them in government and voluntary agency institutions, and how many of these

[Mr UKEGBU]
young persons are unable to receive this training because their parents cannot afford to pay their fees.

Even though education and agriculture are regional subjects and they might remain so, the Federal Government must boldly subsidise them in the interest of overall national development. After all, agricultural and educational production in the Regions have direct and decisive effects both on the revenue and the manpower requirements of the Federal Government and thus on the overall national development.

Finally, Sir, I must turn to the burning question of our national incomes policy. An hon. Member has said something about it here and I agree with most of his points. I must agree with the Minister of Finance that the limiting of salary increases to the lower income group in accordance with the Morgan Commission recommendations was a step in the right direction.

But I must say that it was a very timid step indeed. I submit that we have got to review our wages and salaries policy and system, very drastically. The system whereby some people are paid £300 a month from public funds—

Mr E. A. Atanda (Iwo West): The hon. Gentleman has been lecturing for more than thirty minutes, and—

Mr Speaker : Order ! He has not spoken for more than thirty minutes yet.

Mr Ukegbu : As I was saying, the system whereby some people are paid £300 a month from public funds while 90 per cent of the same public, buying from the same markets, earn as little as seven pounds a month and in the case of farmers as little as thirty pounds a year, is, to say the least, very iniquitous.

The system in which one Minister or top civil servant is paid as much as eighty times and one Assistant Secretary or Member of Parliament, for that matter, is paid as much as twenty times the salary of the lowest paid man, is definitely sheer oppression and definitely heart-rendering.

Needless to say that this system was inherited from the Colonial era. But now that we have replaced our colonial masters with people of our own flesh and blood, why should they now

step into the shoes of the colonial civil servants and claim public power and wealth as their inheritance ?

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North East): On a point of order, the hon. Member has got two months salary advance and he is now criticising the Members of Parliament who earn only nine hundred pounds a year.

Mr Speaker : I do hope that Members will allow the hon. Gentleman to wind up his contribution.

Mr Ukegbu : Why should we not be patriotic enough to throw this most inhuman and unjust system of distributing public wealth overboard ? I say, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command, that this colonial system, this colonial attitude to public wealth, where, as is said in the popular slang "monkey de work baboon de chop", must be abolished in this country however uncomfortable our politicians and top civil servants may find it.

We certainly cannot continue to organise and rule this Republic on this disgraceful and disproportionate and unfair ratio of distributing the public wealth. If we decide to go on in this way, there are bound to be violent reactions from the have-nots. There is bound to be a revolution which we all pray should never come. I warn, Sir, that we cannot hope to carry out our patriotic task of nation-building in this way. The foundation is colonial. It is not meant for a democratic and self-governing nation.

Indeed, our apparent determination to carry on building the nation in this way is like trying to build a sky-scraper on a foundation meant for a two-storey building—

Mr S. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman has been saying much about capitalism and he is now talking about revolution. I do not know how we can reconcile the two.

Several hon. Members : Sit down ! That is not a point of order.

Mr Shitta-Bey : It is a point of order. He must be consistent in his speech. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! There are many kinds of revolutions, industrial revolution, peaceful revolution and bloody revolution.

Mr Ukegbu : This apparent determination to build this nation in this way, I said, is like trying to build a sky-scraper on a foundation meant for a two-story building. The super-structure cannot stand. The result can only be disaster. I serve this notice that the common people of Nigeria, as they become more and more educated about their just rights, cannot continue to tolerate this system of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Those who have ears to hear with, let them hear !

I am very sorry indeed, Mr Speaker, to have to end my contribution in this note, but I consider it imperative that the salaries of those on top must be drastically reduced. The Minister of Finance has spoken about sacrifice. It must begin from the top. It must start from the President of the Republic downwards.

I cannot see why the President of a poor Republic whose national income *per capita* is less than £20 a year cannot regard a salary of £200 a month as very handsome and prestigious—

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Gentleman is going too far into this.

Mr Ukegbu : I will leave that side. I only have to say that I strongly advocate that the personal salary of the President should be reduced to £2,400 *per annum* and that all other salaries should be scaled down from that ceiling to £12 a month for the lowest paid man in the Republic. It can be done. It should be done, and it has to be done.

Sir, I cannot see why the Prime Minister of a Republic of fifty million odd people and with a Federal Budget of only £78 millions cannot consider a salary of £150 a month a handsome and prestigious, seeing that the late Mr Nehru, the former Prime Minister of nearly 500 million people, with a Federal Budget of well over £2,000 million was satisfied with a salary of £200 a month—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order. Those who cause difficulty and waste the time of the House are less likely to have an early opportunity to speak.

M. Ali Umaru : I rise to contribute to the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. Before I make my comments on the main Bill, I would, first of all, like to congratulate our able Prime Minister for being able to form the present broadly based Government. I wish the Government a safe steering during the next five years. It is my wish that this Government would have a smooth running and I pray that what we all call collective responsibility will reign supreme.

I am saying all this because it is still fresh in our memory what happened during the life of the last Government. There were many instances when Ministers disagreed with one another and a typical example was the controversy generated by the award of stevedoring contracts; another example was the controversy brought about as a result of who should control external publicity.

The Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance is actually very commendable and I say without hesitation that any country on this globe would be proud to have a man of the calibre of Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh as its Chancellor of the Exchequer. The budget has been christened "Rededication Budget" and it is the wish of every Nigerian to rededicate himself afresh for the progress and prosperity of the country as a whole.

In the course of his speech, the Minister of Finance made mention of primary products. The prices of our produce in the world markets must give concern to the country as a whole. The price of cocoa, the price of groundnuts and the price of cotton and other products are not favourable at all. If I may ask: what are we going to do about the present situation? Here, I have some suggestions to make.

The Northern Regional Government, as long ago as 1955, had been subsidising the farmers. I remember that at that time the price of groundnuts fell considerably and in order to help the farmers the Government organised a Marketing Board Pool from which each farmer was paid some sort of premium on his products; some got as much as three pounds and others five pounds per ton and consequently, these farmers felt greatly relieved.

[MR ALI UMARU]

While still on this, and in order to maintain regular price of our products, I think that it would be a good idea if more industries are established. There is absolutely no need for us to continue to import margarine and other by-products of groundnuts when groundnuts are obtainable in Kano. If we have a groundnut processing factory somewhere in the country, if we have a processing factory for cocoa somewhere in the country, as well as for other products, I believe that these will be of great help to the economy of our country.

Secondly, I would like to say something about transportation of these products. If one goes to some of our railway stations in the North, say a place like Kano, or Kaura Namoda, one will see so many tons and pyramids of groundnuts. Traders in these products are keen on evacuating them to the seaports but I regret to say that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is not doing much about them.

Last year, we were told that about ninety wagons had been ordered, but up till now we continue to be told that so many wagons have been ordered. May I ask: when are these orders coming into the country? It is very essential that when we have these products we should as well have good means of transporting them; otherwise we shall be faced with the deterioration of these products and if they deteriorate in quality, or if there is shortage in quantity that would mean a great loss to the country.

We all know that the economy of the country is not bright. Do we like to see deterioration in the quality and shortage in the quantity of our products? I do not think anybody will be happy to experience that type of situation.

Further on in the course of his Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance informed us of negotiations going on between Nigeria and the European Economic Community. I am personally happy over that and I hope that these negotiations will continue successfully. I would like to warn however that whatever our negotiations with the European Economic Community may be, they should not be a complete sell out. What I mean by that is just that the six countries forming the European Economic Community have a special relationship with some of our West African countries

which were formerly under the French Socialists.

If we should review the conditions of our association with the E.E.C. we will find that not all of us would like the country to enter into such negotiations. If we are going to enter into any negotiations with any country or any community, the negotiations should be fair to both sides; they should not favour one side to the detriment of the other.

I would like, as Government has already indicated, that in spite of our negotiations with the E.E.C., the principles of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will not change, and that moreover, we shall continue our friendly trading relations with countries like America, Great Britain and the rest.

About our trade relations with the Eastern countries, it is gratifying to note that these trade relations have risen from £1 million to £3 million. Formerly, the position was not as good as this, and even though it is good now, still it is not good enough. We should review our relationship with some of these Eastern countries. There must be only slight disparity between the value of our exports to and the imports from Eastern Europe. We require a policy which will be favourable to the economy of this country.

As regards Japan, a similar treatment as the one I mentioned in the case of other Eastern countries should be given to that country.

About the location of industries, I would like again to emphasise the necessity for even location of industries all over the country. Our industries should not be limited to Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kano alone. We should also try to have industries in a place like Gombe — a cotton industry — because Gombe Division produces more cotton than any other division in the whole of the Federation.

Why should there not be a cotton industry and a textile mill or something of that nature in Gombe? There should also be a textile mill in Funtua.

When we talk of cocoa, places like Akure and Ondo should each have a cocoa processing factory. We should try to follow the example already set in Western Nigeria the Governor of that Region and has Ministers started to drink cocoa in the Chamber of the Western

House of Assembly the other day. That is very good indeed and it is something worth emulating by everybody in this country.

I would now like to say something about the Nigerian workers. After the Morgan Awards, the Nigerian workers were somewhat satisfied but still yet, those workers in the lower segment are not contented. What they have at present is just sufficient for feeding, clothing and then for shelter.

So many civil servants want to own radios and gramophones but they cannot afford to buy them. I therefore join those Members who have already expressed the opinion that the gap between the senior civil servants and those in the lower segment should be bridged. This is very essential.

The trade union leaders in the country should try to be more patriotic; they should try to be non-partisan in politics. If there is an industrial dispute, let it be from the genuine desire of the workers because they have grievances against the Government. But to call out workers on strike because a certain political party felt that election should not be held is not good and should not be encouraged at all.

If that is done, there will be a sort of confusion between the workers and the Government; this will not pay anybody. Those who call themselves socialists—though I know them to be *pseudo*-socialists—are not socialists in the real sense.

Some time ago, I learnt that the Government was proposing to construct a railway line either through Kaura Namoda terminus or Gusau to Sokoto. If this is in the Government's programme, it should be implemented in time. If it is not, I am appealing to the Government to try and construct a railway line between Gusau and Sokoto and from there it should go through Raba, Bernin Kebbi, Yawuri and thence to Jebba or Zungeru.

If there is a railway line on that route, it will be very, very economical. The quantity of groundnut and cotton being evacuated on this route is very great as well as the cattle being carried to Southern Nigeria and even to Ghana. It is very essential that we should have a railway line on this route.

The Trunk 'A' Road from Yola to Takum, Gboko and Aleji should be well maintained because it is essential for the economy of Nigeria. Between seven hundred and one thousand lorries ply this road every week and as such, I am appealing to the Ministry of Works to see that the condition of this road is improved; if possible, it should be tarred.

The people of my constituency which is Wukari division in Benue Province, are in dire need of a telephone link with Makurdi, the provincial headquarter. Wukari is the divisional headquarter.

Postal facilities in that area are not good enough and if one wants to telephone someone in Gboko or Wukari, one has to be linked with Ibi, Makurdi, Enugu and then back to Gboko or Wukari. This is very bad. Telegrams are not being delivered in time too. I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that these communication facilities are improved.

Coming to water resources, Wukari and Takum in Benue province are some of the dry areas in the whole Federation. The people in these places are suffering because of lack of water. They buy a tin of water for about six pence and during the dry season, they pay up to nine pence for a tin of water.

The Northern Region Government is already doing its best to see that the people of Wukari have a bore-hole from where they can obtain water. I would still like to appeal to the Federal Government to help the regional governments with money in this respect. I would like the people of Wukari to have a pipe-borne water. Wukari is a big town, with a population of about thirty thousand people. These people should be provided with clean water to drink.

Benue province generally is very rich in mineral resources. I therefore appeal to the new Minister of Surveys to see that a team of experts is sent to Benue province. The possibility of having limestone in Tiv division of Benue province need not be emphasised.

I would like the Federal Government to do something about the antimony in Lafia division; salt is also found in Akwana in Wukari Division. The resources in this area should be tapped to the economic advantage of Nigeria. The area is poor and the people there are not all

[M. ALI UMARU]

that happy. They want water and they want to have all other amenities.

Many hon. Members have spoken about our foreign policy. I am not going to discuss this issue in detail, but I want us to move closer to our African neighbours, particularly those in West Africa. The relationship between Nigeria and some African countries is good, but not as it ought to be.

President Hamani Diori of the Niger Republic is very friendly with us in the North but not so much with the Federal Government. The reason is that there are no frequent visits to the Niger Republic. We in the North visit the Niger Republic always as well as the Chad Republic.

Francois Tombalbaye, President of the Chad Republic, is always anxious to have us as visitors and if possible, make friends with the people there. After all, we are one. Anybody that goes there will not be regarded as a stranger, but as a brother.

We are very friendly with Ahmadou Ahidjo's Cameroun Republic too. We should improve our relationship with our neighbours. We can do this by having international road link with these countries. We should be linked with Dahomey, the Niger Republic and also with the Cameroun Republic.

The Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police did a fine job during the last general election—

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): On a point of order, the hon. Member speaking has exhausted his time.

The Deputy Speaker: The Member for Wukari (*M. Umaru*) still has some fifteen minutes more according to the Standing Orders. But I would appeal to Members making contributions to bear in mind that the time is now very limited and many Members are very eager to speak. I therefore appeal to them to try and be a little bit brief in order that other Members may have an opportunity of making their own contributions.

M. Ali Umaru: The Nigerian army and the police did a lot of good work in Nigeria during the last federal elections. I myself, being somebody who comes from Benue Province should be more appreciative of their

good work. They did a lot to restore peace in that area, and we are glad that now things have come to normal.

The Government should try to do all within its power to improve the conditions of the army. I am not saying that they have any grievances now, but still they should be made happier.

In concluding my speech, I wish to join our Federal Minister of Economic Development in condemning the action of the West African Conference Lines on their recent increase of 10 *per cent* on the goods they carry from the country.

Many Members have spoken on unity and the revision of the Nigerian Constitution. As for unity, I am not going to say anything about it; for one to come to the House here and talk of Nigerian unity is to deceive oneself. I would prefer to practise it; should rather like to practicalise outside. I think that is the best way towards Nigerian unity.

What is the use of coming to preach Nigerian unity in this honourable House, when immediately I go out, I will be the first man to antagonise somebody who does not come from my tribe. There is no purpose for me to deceive myself. I am not a hypocrite.

As for the revision of the Nigerian Constitution, well some Members have been talking of it. Even if it is to be done, when the time comes, delegates to the Conference, should be as few as possible, for if we have a large group of people, Nigerian money is going to be spent almost for nothing, and the review, if at all there will be any, will be of very limited importance.

All the people who are now talking of the revision of the Constitution are those who have not been able to achieve all their aims. To review the Constitution will not satisfy us all. You have your need and I have my need as an individual. For example, I am of the opinion that representation of the North in the Senate should be 50 *per cent*. You may bring something which I may not like. As such, I think not much importance should be attached to the revision of the Constitution.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr L. O. Ibukun (Owo North): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) spoke on the Budget Speech yesterday. He should therefore allow others to make their contributions.

The Deputy Speaker : The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) spoke on the Speech from the Throne some few days ago. So he is entitled to speak on the Budget Speech now.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : Some of us did not speak on the Speech from the Throne, and we have not been given an opportunity to speak on the Budget Speech.

The Deputy Speaker : I appeal to all hon. Members, particularly the new Members who have not made their maiden speech, to be patient. Once again, I appeal to those who are making speeches to be very, very brief so that others will have the opportunity to speak.

Dr Ibukun : In supporting the Second Reading of the Bill, I have no alternative but to sympathise with the Minister of Finance for what appeared to me a rather confused notion on socialism. The hon. Minister has contested an election as a pragmatic socialist ; the democratic socialists also voted for him, and now he is taking a Front Bench comfortably as a Minister.

Now he appears to see socialism as a canker-worm which must not be allowed to grow and multiply, and in his own words, it is an evil which can "destroy the economic fabric of the nation." This appears rather wrong. True socialism takes a natural place in our society.

Every true Nigerian has to provide for a number of persons, and his wealth and also his belongings are also somehow shared by those within his immediate community. However, many hon. Members have spoken on this question of socialism, and at this late hour, I do not intend to constipate Members of the House.

I appreciate the inevitable difficulty in making the effect of development felt all over the Federation, which has such a large size. But I feel that the Government must make real effort to ensure that very many more industrial projects are sited in the rural areas.

I think that this point is very important and at the risk of repetition, I would like to say

that factories and industrial projects, when started in rural areas, will definitely provide perhaps the only nucleus of modern living, and the only source of employment in those areas. Whereas when they are sited in towns, they make these towns ugly and they do not in any way encourage the retention of our population in rural areas.

In Owo Division, it has been reported in this House that recently much deposits of iron ore were discovered in the Akoko district of that Division. We hope that the Government would pay particular attention to the establishment of iron and steel industry in that Division, and we are looking forward to a statement on this matter before the present Meeting of Parliament comes to an end.

The hon. Minister of Finance should be congratulated for reminding the various Governments that the millions of Nigerians are not interested in party strife and bickering. Rather, they are interested in better condition of living for themselves and in limitless opportunities for their children. This important fact is somehow often forgotten.

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East) : The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) has been repeating what he said yesterday. I am appealing to him to give way to new Members to air their own views.

The Deputy Speaker : I think that this time should have been used in doing something more constructive so that others would be enabled to make their own contributions.

Dr Ibukun : Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to remind the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Aliboh*) that yesterday, the Appropriation Bill was not on the Order Paper. In Western Nigeria to-day, the ruling party is very busy planning how to victimise political opponents.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, the Western Regional Government is an autonomous body and so, its activities should not be criticised on the Floor of this House.

Dr Ibukun : I agree with the Minister of Finance when he said that whatever part of the Federation we are in, we should know that the masses of this Federation are not interested in political victimisation or in political bickerings.

[DR IBUKUN]

As I have already said, in Western Nigeria the ruling party is now very busy planning how to rig the next Western Regional election. It is also known that the party is equally busy sharing out its booty to its political supporters. The N.N.D.P. Government with its battalion of Ministers should realise that the people of that Region are sick of the new generation of politicians who care only for themselves.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, it was the Action Group that made a pronouncement of do or die during the coming Western election.

The Deputy Speaker : I will appeal to hon. Members to heed the appeal which I have made to them several times and confine themselves to the Budget speech.

Dr Ibukun : The Minister of Finance made reference to the Western Nigeria Marketing Board. He said that this Board owes the Central Bank over £13 million and the Federal Government over £6 million, which is approximately a total of £20 million.

We sympathise with the adverse effect of the cocoa crisis and congratulate the Federal Government for attempting to intervene in the matter. But then, the cocoa crisis is not the only crisis that has made the Western Regional Marketing Board to be so indebted. Sometime ago, there was a serious auctioneering of legislators in the Western Region. Many Members of the Western House of Assembly and some Members of the Federal House of Representatives, were induced—

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) : Quite seriously, the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) should realise that we are discussing the Budget speech. He should not be talking about the "purchase" of Members in the Western House of Assembly. This is quite irrelevant, and apart from the irrelevancy, the hon. Member, who is an Action Group, should not forget that his party, the Action Group, contributed to the poor financial position of the Western Region.

The Deputy Speaker : I quite agree that the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) is talking about money but I would like him to confine himself to the financial position of the Federal Government.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, this House is very interested in knowing how many Members were bought and for how much, because as Members of Parliament we would like to know those who are "commercial" Members and those who are honourable Members.

The Deputy Speaker : Slave trade was abolished in Nigeria many years ago.

Dr Ibukun : Under the circumstances, I would advise the Federal Government to intervene in the financial affairs of the Western Regional Government, and in particular to look into the financial position of the Western Nigeria Marketing Board. This is essential because right now that Board is owing approximately £20 million and it is necessary to ensure that it will be able to pay back this money. I therefore suggest that the Government should set up a commission of enquiry to look into the affairs of the Board and to make sure that the financial affairs of this Board had been honestly and conscientiously managed.

I agree with the Minister of Finance when he said that steady progress has been made in this country in the field of radio and television broadcasting. The use of radio and television sets has become more widespread than ever before. But before we go further, it is necessary to determine whether, in fact, we are making the right use of these media and whether we have followed the development in the field of broadcasting in the most economical way possible.

We are happy that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has been serving all sides fairly and without discrimination. I would, therefore, seize this opportunity to congratulate the N.B.C. for refusing to succumb to any attempt of being used for party political propaganda.

With the distribution of portfolios, it is noted that the N.B.C. is now in the hands of an N.N.D.P. Minister. Let us cast our minds back to the N.N.D.P. controlled broadcasting station at Ibadan. The two media, the W.N.T.V. and the W.N.B.S. are being used for party political propaganda by the N.N.D.P.

When the W.N.B.S. and the W.N.T.V. were opened a few years ago they were used by the Government as well as by the opposition.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-North East) : The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) was once the Managing Director of the W.N.T.V. and the W.N.B.S. He was sacked purely and simply. It is the reason why he was sacked that he should tell this House. Why was he sacked ?

Dr Ibukun : I was the Managing Director of the Western Nigeria Radiovision Services and that is why I know that the media there are being used for party political ends ; that is why I know that the use of the media for this end is because of constant pressure from government quarters and from the N.N.D.P. They were using it for the sole purpose of achieving their political ends. They had to ask me to leave because I would not allow them to make use of the media for party political propaganda.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : On a point of order, I want to refer to Order 21 which deals with relevancy of amendments. If the Member speaking now will tell us what the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Station has been doing, will he also enlighten us on what the E.N.B.C. is doing.

Dr Ibukun : The point that I am making is that I just wonder if the same political pressure which has nearly killed the "First in Africa" will not be used to kill the N.B.C. which is "Best in Africa". This is what we wonder about because the seat of power which had controlled the W.N.B.S. has now rolled perhaps to control the N.B.C.

We appeal particularly to the Prime Minister to use his good offices to ensure that the N.N.D.P. Federal Minister will not continue to use the N.B.C. or begin a new experiment by using the N.B.C. for party political propaganda. It is very important for the information of the masses of the people in the rural areas, in the villages and towns that they should know the truth, the real truth, and not that Ministers of state should begin to edit news items and put out certain programmes purely for party political propaganda.

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) : I think it is rather improper for the Member who is speaking to be trying to impute motives on the new Minister of Information. It is a fact that he is a Minister of the Federal Government and that he belongs to the N.N.D.P., but by

trying to say that he is going to use that position to edit news items, I think, is improper.

Dr Ibukun : For the rather slender financial resources in this country there appears to be so much wasteful expenditure arising from unnecessary duplication of radio and television services in this country. In order to co-ordinate all activities in the field of broadcasting in this country and also to discourage and disallow taking undue advantage of the media by ruling parties, I suggest the setting up of a National Broadcasting Authority which shall be an independent body of experts drawn from all over the Federation and which should have jurisdiction over what I should call the ethics of broadcasting, and also the standardisation of broadcasting in radio and television all over the country and also the economic planning of the development of radio and television.

The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech made reference to Lord Caradon. He said that whatever stresses and strains arise between contending parts of the Federation should be turned to use as what he called checks and balances. The stresses and strains that followed last December's Federal elections have not entirely been forgotten. To overcome them we were made to understand that sometime ago certain agreements, be they oral, verbal or written, were reached giving birth to what has been referred to on the Floor of this House as the Five-point Agreement. We understand that this includes some understanding in respect of the release of the Action Group Leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. It also includes the conduct of regional elections in Western Nigeria and a repeat of last December's Federal election in certain constituencies as soon as possible. Also it includes the participation of the N.C.N.C., the Action Group and the Northern Progressive Front in a broadly based Federal Government. It would appear that as soon as Lord Caradon's stresses and strains were overcome then the agreements which have led to the checks and balances appear to have been thrown overboard.

I would like to assure you, Mr Speaker, that Lord Caradon himself did not envisage this type of spirit which cannot promote political stability in any Federation. Perhaps nothing could be more wrong than accusing a wrong person of a wrong act, and especially in this case when what we are discussing is a matter of spirit ; it is a reflection of integrity.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban) : I wish to call the attention of the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) to Standing Order 28 (5) which states that :

Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

The Deputy Speaker : I do not think the Member for Ijebu North-East was really disturbing the House. He was not disturbing as such.

Dr Ibukun : What we are discussing is a matter of spirit. It is a reflection of integrity and it is surely a question of honour. It would therefore be most helpful to all sides of the House and to all persons in this Federation, inside and outside this Parliament, if the hon. Prime Minister would agree to make a statement on this issue in order to explain to the nation and to us if really there was a five-point agreement and, in particular, what are his own interpretations of this agreement. I think that such clarification would make for better understanding and would rightly guide us inside this House and also outside Parliament.

I would like to commend this particularly to the Prime Minister, and I think that since it is here a question of integrity and honour, I am sure that he will make a statement.

Now that the largest Cabinet in our political history has been announced, I congratulate the Prime Minister for establishing a new Ministry of Natural Resources and Research. This is because I feel that our work in this country lies in our natural resources and that our hopes for continued economic survival lies in research on local problems.

But surely, this Ministry and any other Ministry can do well with only one Minister and one Parliamentary Secretary. Most of the Ministries now have two Ministers and two or three Parliamentary Secretaries. I believe that this is a very wasteful expenditure and looks like another-job-for-the-boys exercise, as the N.N.D.P. has done in Western Nigeria. The Party has brought the West near the brink of ruin. We hope and pray that their influence in this Federal Government will not bring this Federation to economic ruin. There are 36 N.N.D.P. Legislators in this House—

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola) : On a point of order, will the Member for Owo

North (*Dr Ibukun*) tell us how the U.P.G.A. filled its own offices in the Eastern Region ?

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadawe) : When an erudite gentleman is making a speech of momentous importance, I think it is customary for hon. Members to be silent.

The Deputy Speaker : The Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) has three minutes to wind up.

Dr Ibukun : In view of the short time, I like to move forward. It is my belief that the internal affairs of the University of Lagos should not be discussed on the Floor of this House. It has not been my intention to make any reference to the rumpus at the new University of Lagos because, I repeat, I do not believe that the internal affairs of any University should be discussed on the Floor of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) departed from this rule during his speech on the Appropriation Bill. I could not agree with him on some of the comments which he had made and I think, being some type of academician myself, it is now my intention to give my view on the Floor of this House.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of order, the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) has already said that a university, being an institution of higher learning, should not be discussed on the Floor of this House. That is an utter contradiction of himself and of any other thing he said as he went on to discuss not only the University but also whatever had been said about it. It is my humble suggestion—

The Deputy Speaker : I would not call this a point of order, but if you like you may call it a point of contradiction.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, I have been grossly misunderstood by my hon. and learned Friend. I did not at any time on the Floor of this House discuss the internal workings of the University of Lagos. I did not mention names. All I did say was that the stage had been reached when a third party must intervene because we are dumping £4.2 million into the university and the students who are likely to graduate will no longer do so ; that if we kept quiet it would show irresponsibility. I did not say anyone was right or wrong. I am very surprised—

The Deputy Speaker : I think this matter has been given its own share and I appeal to the Member for Owo North (*Dr Ibukun*) to wind up his contribution.

Dr Ibukun : What I want to say is that what is involved in the rumpus is not who is appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University. I am not interested in this. It is not whether the Vice-Chancellor ought to be a Yoruba man, an Ibo man, an Hausa man or an Efik. I am not interested in that. What is involved to me is far more fundamental. It is the postulation of principles that should guide our higher educationists and students all over this country.

Where does the ultimate authority lie in a university? Is it with the students or the Senate or must it lie with the Council which is the supreme controlling body? It is what right the students have in a university to seek to force the nominee as Vice-Chancellor on the Council; it is how far—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): On a point of order, I think that the hon. Gentleman is now contradicting himself. He is discussing what he said is not meant to be discussed on the Floor of this House.

Dr Ibukun : I think that the answers to these questions are simple and clear, and we will be making ourselves—and this is just the only way where I disagree with the Member for Bende East (*Professor Esera*)—a laughing stock of other countries.

The Deputy Speaker : The Member speaking has exhausted his time and I think he should sit down.

Mr P. Nnaemeka-Agu (Enugu Urban): I rise to support the Motion ably proposed by the Minister of Finance that the Appropriation Bill for 1965-66 be read a Second time. In doing so, I wish to point out that the Minister himself in making the Budget Speech presented a masterpiece. He is himself a political timber of international repute. With his jokes, which were sometimes a little expensive, I should say it was a masterpiece well presented.

But looking carefully at the whole speech, there are certain omissions which appear rather important. The first of them, in my opinion, is that the Minister ought to have emphasised more the question of the external

publicity of this country. Many of us who have had the opportunity of travelling abroad have often been embarrassed by the—(*Interruptions*). I will, Mr Speaker, ask to be protected from the interruptions of hon. Members.

The Deputy Speaker : Order! I appeal to Members to listen to the hon. Gentleman making his contribution. If there is any need for them to converse, they should do so in undertones.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : Many of us who have had the opportunity of travelling abroad have always been embarrassed by the way—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, I do not think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is amenable to discipline. In spite of your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker, he is asking an hon. Member to shut up his big mouth.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : When in London or New York or other foreign countries, a Nigerian is always asked about his country of origin. If he says he is from Nigeria, the next question that follows is, where is Nigeria? Is it in Ghana? Is it in Sierra Leone? It is always very embarrassing to some of us who happen to come across such questions and, in my opinion, such a question results from the fact that this country has not been given its due publicity abroad and one would have expected that in view of the good deal of criticisms of our external publicity last year, this year's Budget Speech would have made a good provision for it.

I am not unaware of the fact that a Nigerian News Agency is to be established, but how far this can go to eradicate this flaw is another question. I know that in the Budget for this year, the provision for external publicity is a paltry sum of £11,000 and a staff of thirteen. And we expect this staff with this amount to be able to publicise Nigeria in Africa, Great Britain, Europe, America and other countries of the world. I think this is expecting far too much. I would, therefore, call on the hon. Minister of Finance to consider seriously making additional funds available for the external publicity of this great Republic.

Many times, Nigeria has been referred to as a "sleeping giant". It is high time that this

[MR NNAEMEKÀ-AGU]

country woke up and took its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Another point on which I would like to make some remarks is on the policy statement of the hon. Minister about industries. With your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, I quote. He says—

The present amendments, which I shall outline in a moment, are made with four aims in view, firstly, to protect local industries against competing imports ; secondly, to afford relief to certain local industries ; thirdly, to raise additional revenue from thriving and established local industries ; and lastly, to rectify some anomalies that have become apparent since the last Tariff amendments.

These four points as they stand are very laudable but, at the same time, down the page the hon. Minister goes on to say—

Finally, bottles, blending agents and flavouring concentrates are exempted from duty when imported for use in the manufacture of aperitifs and similar alcoholic beverages.

For the information of hon Members, this country's annual consumption of bottles is 70 million. 70 million bottles are used by this country for beer alone. The number of second-hand bottles which are returned is 30 million, so that this country requires annually 40 million bottles ; and these 40 million bottles must either be imported or manufactured in this country.

Last year, the average duty per bottle was two pence and, therefore, the country made roughly £333,000 on imported bottles. To exempt bottles from duty especially when we have a bottle manufacturing factory in this country appears to me to be a little bit contradictory to the four-point statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance which I have quoted earlier on.

Furthermore, this exemption hits an indigenous industry, that is the bottle manufacturing industry of the Nigerian Glass Company at Port Harcourt. This industry has paid heavy customs duties for the importation of chemicals for the manufacture of bottles. The production cost of each bottle is about six pence and now that bottles are to be exempted from import duty, it means that the landing cost of a bottle in this country would be much cheaper than the one manu-

factured in this country. It would, therefore, become impossible for the young industry to stand on its feet.

I am well informed that this Company has applied since the past eighteen months for import duty relief and has not been successful. Last year, the Company paid as much as £45,000 as customs duty on chemicals imported for the manufacture of bottles. It is my humble submission that the hon. Minister of Finance should reconsider this question of exemption of import duty on bottles because the country is losing a fantastic sum of money, namely, £333,000 per annum.

After reading the policy statement I have earlier quoted I cannot see how the exemption of duty on bottles can be a protection of an indigenous industry when we have a bottle manufacturing company in this country.

The Budget Speech must turn out to be a disappointment for a number of people. Prominent among these are the pensioners of the Federal Public Service. Many of these pensioners contributed immensely to the development of Nigeria and now that the going is good, they have every right to expect increases in their pension. At the time the Morgan salary award was made, the pensioners were left out. They have made innumerable representations to the Government, and so I am calling on the Minister of Establishment to remember the men who have contributed so much towards the growth of Nigeria.

On the question of socialism, I am of the opinion that it should not have come into the Minister of Finance's Budget Speech at all. To say the least, it is a highly controversial point. Many of us understand the Budget Speech to mean a statement of the Government's policies. Therefore, it was wrong in my view for the Minister of Finance to have introduced such a controversial issue into the Budget Speech. Above all, it is my view that socialism as is known in this country, has been painted in very wrong colours. In the first place, we have not got the sort of doctrinaire socialism which one would look upon as a danger. We have not got that brand of socialism in this country. It would appear that the Minister of Finance has put a new wine into an old bottle, because he has been looking at socialism in this country from the point of view of Marx and Engels.

It is clear that nobody of any consequence in this country will advocate that state ownership of land and capital should take the place of private ownership. Socialism as propounded by the two prominent socialist parties in this country, is a form of socialism which is of indigenous growth. It is a form of socialism which accommodates private capital and private ownership of property.

Some Members are making an allusion to the Dynamic Party. The Dynamic Party is a party of no consequence. It has been submerged in a deluge of uncertainty and indecision.

As a matter of fact the Minister of Finance himself knows very well that one of those important and most treasured provisions of our Constitution is the guarantee of private ownership. The Constitution safeguards individual liberty, right to private property and freedom of movement. There is no movement in this country which is a sort of danger.

It is my humble belief that the diatribes of the Minister of Finance are quite unnecessary. They were unnecessary because if he had in mind the pragmatic socialism of the N.C.N.C. or the democratic socialism of the Action Group, I would like to have him know that these are brands of socialism which, when carefully studied, would be presented as worthy of being bound in gold.

I am sure that the Minister of Finance is probably scared stiff of the prospect of nationalisation of industries. Probably he has not forgotten his many industries and industrial concerns, but all I would like to assure him, is that the point of view of these two principal parties is not the nationalisation of his industries.

I entirely agree with the statement made by the Minister of Finance with regard to Morgan Awards, where he said—

The most significant and far-reaching event was, without doubt, the agreement reached in regard to increased wages and salaries following the publication of the Report of the Morgan Commission. The events which led to the agreement are familiar enough to us all, and it would be tedious for me to rehearse them here to-day. The immediate result of the agreement was to provide increases in remuneration for those

earning less than £600 a year, increases which ranged from five per cent to no less than thirty-two per cent.

I would agree with the Minister of Finance in his exposition of the position with regard to the Morgan Awards. Nevertheless, I would like to point out one very essential flaw.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : On a point of order, I would like to draw attention to Standing Order 28 (2), which says—

Members shall not cross the Floor of the House unnecessarily, or sit in a place allotted to any other Member.

The hon. Gentleman over there has been crossing the Floor of the House unnecessarily.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : One aspect of this award is that it does not affect non-Government workers, that is to say, it refers only to Government workers. But these workers all buy from the same market that we patronise. The Federal Government is, no doubt, aware of the unwillingness of the non-Government concerns to pay the Morgan Awards. This is to be regretted but, more regrettable still, is the fact that the Government has not done anything positive to remedy the situation. I think that what is necessary is that the Government should by itself, introduce a minimum wage legislation which will make it compulsory for all the employers of labour in this country to pay not less than a specific minimum wage anywhere. It is my view that the Morgan recommendations, as far as the private enterprises are concerned, have not been implemented. It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to force these private concerns, these capitalist organisations, in the interest of the workers, to pay not less than a stipulated minimum wage.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : On a point of information, I just want to inform this honourable House that I know many indigenous and foreign firms in this country which have followed up with the payment of Morgan Awards. For example the firm of D. N. Chukwu Limited has done so.

Mr Nnaemeka-Agu : I must say that an exception does not cancel a rule. Messrs Chukwu Limited may be an exception, but I know of many other equally bigger concerns which have refused to pay Morgan awards.

[MR NNAEMEKA-AGU]

Therefore, in view of this general rule, it is my humble opinion that it is important to legislate on fixing our national minimum wage.

I am asked whether I have been paying my clerks minimum wages according to Morgan awards. May I say that I have been paying them more than double the awards.

Enugu is the headquarters of Eastern Nigeria, but unfortunately it would appear that the people in Enugu and, in fact, in my home constituency have not felt the full impact of the Federal Government.

If one takes as an example the Post Office at Enugu, one will find that this Post Office has been known as one old colonial Post Office which was in existence before the early thirties. This Post Office is still there. We are, therefore, appealing to the Federal Government to consider the establishment of some Post Offices for each section of Enugu.

Anybody who has been to Enugu would agree with me that it is a town where the population is growing by leaps and bounds. Any section of Enugu has a right to a Post Office, but it might be asking too much to demand Post Offices for all the sections of Enugu and to ask for one Post Office at Abaja-Ngw North. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister of Communications to consider establishing sub-post offices in each section of Enugu and Abaja-Ngw North.

On the question of roads, everybody knows that roads are among the best amenities any constituency can lay claim to. But I regret to say that barring those roads which link Enugu with Kaduna and Benin, Enugu is only blessed with Port Harcourt-Enugu Road. The hon. Minister of State, Onyiba Aja Nwachukwu, who comes from Afikpo would agree with me that there is only one important road which links Udi with Afikpo. If this road is taken over by the Federal Government, and if it is improved, it will shorten the distance from Udi to Afikpo by well over 50 miles.

Again, yesterday, on the Floor of this House, we moved a Motion asking this Government to consider establishing industries to utilise the by-products of coal. In making this appeal again I wish to state that it is going to be a question of investment of capital, because the raw materials are already there. The markets are there.

In this connection, I would humbly appeal to the Federal Government to consider also the lot of the coal miners. With the present competition between oil and coal as raw materials, these miners stand in danger of losing their jobs at any moment, because as soon as the refinery comes into operation the natural temptation is going to be that most people who are using coal now are going to turn to the use of oil. Without the market for coal labour will be surplus, and this is going to lead to retrenchment.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to anticipate this position and make adequate provision for the absorption of these miners. One of the nearest ways of doing this is by establishing industries to utilise the by-products of coal at Enugu.

I beg to support.

Chief Adebisi Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill so ably introduced to this House by the hon. Minister of Finance. In doing so, I have some observations to make.

There is no doubt that for sometime now the relationship between Nigeria and Ghana has been strained. The Federal Government should do all it can to find a solution to this deteriorating situation. Apart from the fact that the people of the two countries should regard themselves as citizens of sister countries, Nigeria and Ghana have so many things in common.

According to latest reports, many Nigerians who own properties in Ghana were said to have been deprived of them by the Ghana authorities whenever those Nigerians felt like returning finally to Nigeria. I do not think that this type of situation can promote good and mutual understanding between two countries which are supposed to be working towards the same objective of achieving African unity.

I take this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to find means by which the people of the two countries can work together in harmony for the good of Africa.

There is no doubt that Nigeria is a country blessed with many mineral resources. It is my view that our Governments are not making sufficient use of this opportunity to increase the wealth of the nation. I can assure this honourable House that if the Federal Government

House of Representatives Debates

867

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

7 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

868

sends a team of experts to conduct a geological survey of my area in Odo-Otin District in Oshun Division, large quantities of diamond white and yellow limestones will be found there. I am sure that there are other areas in the country where this type of thing can be found if only the Federal Government can take the initiative to order a general survey. This will not only go a long way to boost our economy but will also help in raising the standard of living of our people.

The people of Odo-Otin District are to-day virtually cut off from the rest of the country due to lack of adequate communications media. I am appealing to the Federal Government to consider that District for the supply of electricity and modern postal services and the provision of telephone facilities.

A few days ago, an hon. Member of this House made some wild allegation against three leading journalists of this country. He alleged that the journalists received money from the N.N.D.P. and that was why all of them demanded the resignation of Dr Kingsley Mbadiwe over the Ijora land deal.

Although the journalists concerned have since issued statements denying this allegation, yet I feel that it is improper for any Member of this honourable House to make allegations which he cannot substantiate.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): On a point of order, Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker have ruled times without number here that hon. Members should confine their contributions to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to the fiscal policy of the Federal Government, and that they should not wander away—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order! It is now 6 p.m., and sitting is suspended until 9 p.m.

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.

Chief Adebisi Jinadu: Before the break I was speaking on the Ijora land deal. A few days ago a Member of this honourable House made a wild allegation against some journalists

in this country. A lot has been said about the Ijora land deal, but suffice it to say that it is a shame that up till now the Member who accused the journalists—

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central): On a point of order—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Are you raising a point of order, Mr Anah?

Mr Anah: Yes, Sir. I was actually raising this point of order when it was time for us to go on break and I am repeating it now.

You did rule an hon. Member from Owerri out of order, Mr Speaker, when he raised the question of the Ijora land deal and also the question of corruption by the Press and he had to withdraw. I am suggesting that the Member for Oshun North East (*Chief Jinadu*) who is reopening this very matter which you, Mr Speaker, had ruled out of order should be called to order.

Mr Speaker: Points of order have a way of lapsing after a recess, but in view of what you have said now, I will definitely pay more attention to what he will be saying.

Chief Jinadu: The Member who accused the journalists has not accepted the challenge to repeat his allegation outside the Parliament. He should think twice before making such an allegation.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central): On a point of order, as the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Anah*) did say, you, Mr Speaker, had ruled out of order the question of this Ijora land deal and I think it will be improper for any hon. Member to speak on it again.

Mr Speaker: Thank you.

Chief Jinadu: It may be the hon. Gentleman did not understand me very well. I am not saying anything about the Ijora land deal but I am talking about the statement which an hon. Member made on the Floor of this House.

Now, I would like to say something about the University of Lagos. I would like to make some remarks about this University. I will not

[CHIEF JINADU]

hesitate to condemn the attitude of the expatriate who had been meddling unnecessarily in the affairs of the University.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr A. A. Ezenwa) : On a point of order, I think it will be improper for us on the Floor of this House to discuss the attitude of expatriates on the staff of the University of Lagos who incidentally are not Members of this House and are not here to defend themselves. I think that we will have to be very charitable about these things.

Mr Speaker : He has not yet mentioned any expatriate.

Chief Jinadu : Well, I would also like to make some remarks about the students. The students also must be blamed for not heeding the advice of the Provisional Council. This Council is the supreme body in the University and should have a final say on the affairs of the University.

I think we should condemn the students who through advice from some external sources continue to fan the embers of tribalism in the University.

I would also like to mention something about our students in the United Kingdom. A Member is asking whether I had been there. I have not been there, but I have read in the papers about them. It is disheartening to note that some of our students get stranded in the United Kingdom owing to lack of money. I am happy that steps are being taken in collaboration with the Immigration and Passport Control authorities to check this. I feel that it will be necessary for the Government to take more positive steps to curb what may bring a bad name for Nigeria in the outside world.

Parents also should make adequate provision for the upkeep of their children before they are allowed to go overseas.

I suggest also that more scholarships should be offered to promising students because students run mad overseas probably because they have not enough money to cover their studies and so over-work themselves to get money for their studies. The promising students must be taken care of.

Another thing I would like to touch upon is the recent increase in freight rates by the West African Conference Lines. In order to counter the proposal of the Conference Lines, in view of our economic development programme, the Government must adopt the following steps, in order to break up the monopoly of the West African Conference Line.

Firstly, the Government should legislate that all indents from the Governments of the Federation should be placed on the ships of the Nigerian Shipping Line. Secondly, the Government should provide money for the purchase of ships. Thirdly, it should give the necessary guarantee for the supply of ships to the Nigerian National Shipping Line. Fourthly, all cargo for export should be allocated to the Nigerian National Shipping Line. Fifthly, a board or corporation with executive powers should be set up to discharge the duties of the Crown Agents by providing opportunity for the Nigerian Shipping Line to convey to Nigeria all imported goods. Lastly, these steps should be taken by the Federal as well as by all the Regional and Local Governments in the Federation.

I beg to support.

Prince D. J. Umondak (Uyo South West) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to make a few observations.

The much preached unity of this country is a sham if the Federal Government is not taking into serious consideration the plight of the minority elements in the country. I say this with particular reference to the people of the Old Calabar Province in general and Uyo Province in particular.

The so-called six-year development plan is meaningless to the people of this area because they are completely left out. We have land for industries, and men to be selected Chairmen of Federal Government Corporations, but we are always forgotten.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I refer to the case of Dr Isong, who was the first Secretary of the Central Bank, but when the opportunity came for a Nigerian to be made the

House of Representatives Debates

871

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

7 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

872

Governor of the Bank, there was conspiracy in high places which resulted in his being by-passed. Yes, he was not made the Governor of the Central Bank because he happened to come from a minority group—Uyo Division.

I would suggest that the development of this country be carried out on a provincial basis so that no single province or a minority area is left undeveloped.

There was a plan to construct a new railway line from Western Nigeria to Calabar which was to pass through Annang and Uyo Provinces, but I regret to note that the Budget Speech was silent on this. I appeal to the Minister of Transport to get this started and to resist any attempt from any quarters to divert or change this route.

The Ndiya—Ikot Mfon Ferry Crossing constructed by the Federal Government over fifty years ago, has become a death-trap in recent years. This ferry crossing is commercially important and links Western Nsit and Iman Clans. The Minister of Works should please consider building a bridge across this river during this financial year to save the lives of the poor tax-payers in the area.

The people of Uyo Province have found it impossible to get loans from the Federal Loans Board, for the development of their local industries. The Federal Government should make money available in the way of loans, under less rigid conditions for the expansion of local industries which will go a long way towards easing the problem of unemployment in the area.

The low prices of palm produce in recent years has been the greatest set back in the economic life of the people of the Old Calabar Province. The Federal Government should consider building in Uyo Province, an industry that will use palm oil and kernel as local raw materials for production. This, I hope, will not only help in solving the mounting problem of unemployment, but will also help to stabilise the prices of palm produce.

I would like to say this as a warning and it should be placed on record that unless the

Federal Government is ready to be honest, impartial and fair to all sections including the minority areas in the Federation, in the distribution of amenities and Government patronages, Nigeria is bound to become another Congo in no distant time. Some sections cannot afford to be neglected while some in the Federation are more than satisfied.

The next point I would like to make is to call on the Federal Government to look into the unscrupulous way foreign insurance companies are operating in this country and legislate against it. The insurance houses are out to make money for themselves by any means instead of helping the insured.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will refer to a recent case involving the so-called Northern Assurance Company Limited which collected a sum of fifty-three pounds and ten shillings as premium on a car valued at £589. This car was owned by a poor civil servant. About two months after the renewal of the insurance, the poor civil servant's car, which was only fourteen months old was stolen here in Lagos. This unscrupulous Northern Assurance Company paid the owner of the car only £314 out of the insured sum of £589. As a matter of fact, this money was paid to him after the man had spent a lot of money for lawyers who intervened on his behalf. After paying back the £314 he collected from the insurance company to the Government as a part of his car advance, he still has £222-5s outstanding against him. This money is being deducted monthly from his salary.

This poor civil servant now goes about in buses, and this is one case out of a thousand. I have just brought this as an example. Hon. Members should imagine—

Mr Speaker : Order, this is a detail which will be better left for the Committee.

Prince Umondak : I am just trying to ask hon. Members to imagine the plight of this poor man, who now goes to places in buses after owning a car for fourteen months. He thought that the risk of his car was comprehensively covered.

I am therefore urging the Federal Government to take immediate steps to protect the

[PRINCE UMONDAK]

interest of car owners against the dishonest way insurance companies are operating in this country.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr Michael Okpara, and the Eastern—

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): On a point of order, we are debating the Budget and I do not know what the Budget has to do with Dr Okpara, the Premier of Eastern Nigeria.

Mr P. E. O. Aliboh (Asaba East): On a point of order, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) has just come into the Chamber. I do not think he knows what we are discussing.

Prince Umondak: I was congratulating the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr Okpara, and the Eastern Regional Government for appointing an Action Group Member for Uyo, in the Eastern House of Assembly, as a Minister of Cabinet rank. This is a big spirit of unity and UPGAISM which should be emulated by the Premiers of other Regions. By this appointment, the Eastern Regional Government has become as broadly based as Abubakar's Government.

I beg to support.

Mr Peter Turaki (Zaria South-West): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and in doing so, I have some remarks to make.

First of all, I wish to congratulate the Government for the good work it has done during the past years. I also want to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for the good way in which they have been handling the finances of this great country.

The first point I would like to speak upon concerns the establishment of industries in this country. We have often said, on the Floor of this House, that industries should be spread all over the country instead of siting them in only a few capital towns like Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Kaduna and Enugu.

We have also been speaking of unemployment. This is our greatest problem in this country to-day. The problem is more serious in Southern Zaria where young boys run away from home to look for jobs in big cities. The pity of it all is that very few of these boys find jobs when they get to the big cities, which are already congested. Those of them who cannot find any job to do resort to stealing and other bad practices. I hope the Federal Government will try to establish industries so that school leavers can get some work to do. It is only reasonable, however, that when these industries are to be established, the rural areas should be given special consideration.

The next point I want to speak upon is farming. There is no other place in Nigeria which is as good as Southern Zaria for farming.

We have ginger in great quantities in this part of the country. If I remember rightly, one of the Members of the old House once moved a Motion in the House, urging the Federal Government to establish a ginger factory in Southern Zaria. But up till the present moment nothing has been done to that effect. I am now appealing to the Federal Government to see that a ginger factory is established in this area. As I said earlier, we have a lot of ginger in Southern Zaria, but to my greatest surprise, the price of ginger has been reduced.

There was a time when ginger used to cost ninety-six pounds per ton, but now it is sold for forty-two pounds per ton. The ginger peel which used to be £200 per ton now costs only £140 per ton. This is very discouraging to the farmers in Southern Zaria.

I now want to congratulate the Nigeria Police, especially the Mobile Police, for the nice job they did during the last Federal Election. I want to say that the Federal Government should give these people special allowances any time they leave their stations for other towns and villages in the interest of the country. The Government must be commended for the initial start they have made to encourage the members of the riot squadron. We also commend the courage and fortitude of our policemen and women in quelling disorders in any part of the country with little or no weapon. I will come back at a later stage to discuss the the police, who always face violent mobs without being properly armed. Some of them

House of Representatives Debates

875

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

7 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

876

have lost their lives in their attempt to stop rioting in some parts of this country.

Lastly, I want to suggest that the Federal Government should take over the Kaduna-Keffi Road. I say this because this is one of the most important roads which link the Northern Region with the Eastern Region of Nigeria. The condition of this and some other roads in towns like Zaria, Katsina, Sokoto and Kano is very deplorable.

I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South Central) : In rising to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I have a few remarks to make. The Minister of Finance spoke extensively in his Budget Speech on socialism, and we are given the impression that the Government of to-day is not a socialist Government. I am surprised to observe that, because even Great Britain whose system of Government we are copying is trying to change to socialism. In America too, the Government is doing all it can to have the wealth of the country evenly distributed among the people. It will be a matter for regret if instead of moving with the trend of events in the world, this country retrogresses.

The Minister also dealt very much with the necessity for unity in this country, and he said that not only do we have enemies in other parts of the world, but that we have enemies among ourselves also. He said, among other things, that there are people within this country who will spare no efforts in frustrating our unity by setting tribes against tribes, class against class and regions against regions.

I am very, very happy that the Minister did mention this, and I will commend the remarks of the hon. Minister to our Friends on the other side, particularly those Members from Western Nigeria if only they appreciate the fact that the economy of this country will be affected if there is no political stability, peace and mutual trust between the various ethnic groups that constitute Nigeria; and that no investor will come to this country.

I would like to ask these people to note that they are doing more harm to this country than good by adopting the methods they are now using to suppress their political opponents. It has not yielded them any fruit and it will

never yield then any. The result of the last election is an indicator to what is going to happen in future, and very soon, I assure them.

Now, the Minister did talk about savings—

Chief Adebisi Jinadu (Oshun North-East I) : Will the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) please explain to the House what the Western Region Government did during the last election ?

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr Bashua : If the hon. Gentleman calls for it, I think he will get the answer. I understand he is a Customary Court Judge, one of the instruments of oppression in the Western Region.

Now, the Minister did speak about savings in this country. It is a matter for regret that the Government is giving us a very, very bad lead in this matter. What sort of savings are we having with a Government of eighty members ? Now, if we calculate in terms of money the amount that will have to be paid by the poor tax-payers to keep these people going for a year will be enough to set up a factory that will offer employment to over a thousand unemployed people in this country.

Mr Speaker : The Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) is repeating argument already advanced by several other hon. Members.

Mr Bashua : Talking about savings, the Minister will do well to realise that a man who earns, say, £10, who has to pay very heavy tax, get married, in spite of a very high cost of living, pay very highly for food, and transport, especially in Lagos, will have nothing left to save. I am, with due respect, appealing to the Minister to look into all these things. Let us have cheaper transport, cheap food and cheap housing. If we have all these things we will have more money to save and, unless, and until we do this, it will be difficult for the call for savings made by the Minister to be answered.

Now, on the question of communications, I would say that here in Lagos, the Federal Capital of the country, it is a matter for deep

[MR BASHUA]

regret that it takes a person more than an hour to travel from Apapa to Lagos or from Lagos to Yaba.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mr J. A. Awoyinka): On a point of order, the Lagos Municipal Transport Service is being run by the Action Group.

Mr Bashua : Perhaps the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken does not understand that the Trunk 'A' Roads are the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Now, it takes a traveller to move from Lagos to Yaba over two hours, that is sufficient time for someone to travel to Ibadan !

The Minister dwelt very much on the improvement of the outlet to Apapa Wharf. I think, Sir, that it is not the Apapa Wharf alone that needs attention. The Western Avenue is overdue for widening. I think it is a very great death trap. Anyone who travels on that road at night is exposed to danger. The road is straight and there is the tendency for everybody to speed, and quite often within a week, we have death tolls or accidents numbering ten or more. This is not in the best interest of the people of Lagos.

I am very glad that the Minister of Housing and Surveys is here. I would like to say that Ikorodu Road really needs a very, very good attention. From the roundabout at Ikorodu Road to Ikeja Airport is the gateway to Lagos. Any visitor coming to Lagos will have to pass through this way and the first site he gets is that of filth. All along, there is grass growing up and the road is not well cared for. If one goes there by night one will observe that from the roundabout to Ikeja is very dark. I do not know what the Minister is doing to light up this road. I think this is really overdue. When this is done, we shall be doing glory to the Federal Capital of Nigeria.

Another road that requires immediate attention is Agege Motor Road. I think this road is the oldest link between Lagos and the Western Region or the rest of the Federation. For many years now, people have been agitating that this road should be improved, but up till now, nothing has been done. Anyone who

goes along this road in a motor car is likely to have his head bumped against the car roof. There is always a hold-up there and I hope the Minister will provide funds as quickly as possible to have this road improved.

Now, still talking about hold-ups in Lagos, I think that at this stage I should pay tributes to the Superintendent of Police in charge of traffic, Mr Finecountry, for the excellent job he has done to relieve congestion in Lagos. But that is not enough. The Government will be making the job of this gentleman much easier if the Government will consider building overhead bridges at all railway crossings. It is a matter for regret that Lagos, with its development and everything, still has the gates shut against road traffic each time a train wants to pass. We really need one at every level crossing in Lagos. I hope the Minister will take note of this and do it quickly.

Talking about telephone communication, we are now being told that the Posts and Telegraphs will be made to pay its way. Does it sound reasonable that one can take up a telephone and phone to somebody in London, Addis Ababa or America within a minute, and it will take one hour to be connected with somebody at Surulere? I think this is very disgraceful and I hope something must be done very quickly about it.

I am really very happy that at last a second mainland bridge will soon be built. As I said earlier, it is not only this bridge that will relieve congestion in Lagos, although it is a welcome development.

Arising from this second bridge is the question of resettling the people to be affected by the approach to this bridge. This should be the concern of the Government. I am aware that the Government is making provision for their resettlement at Surulere. The people affected, we should know, are the Lagosians, the indigenous people of Lagos.

The slum clearance has done more than enough to clear the people of Lagos from their own land to Surulere. The Government should do something. After all, the Victoria Island is being reclaimed. When the South-West of Ikoyi was being reclaimed we were told that certain areas would be set aside for

the people who would be affected by the slum clearance. But what do we have to-day? The land is being shared among the Ministers and the capitalists as they want it.

We will not live in Lagos with our eyes open to see our land being shared by people from other parts of the Regions. Please, for God's sake, give us a share of this land! I do not think the Minister of Housing and Surveys can point to one or two people from Lagos who have plots in the South-West of Ikoyi. There is none. I hope that the Minister when reclaiming the Victoria Island will make provision for resettling the people of Lagos.

When I refer to the people of Lagos, I mean the indigenous people, Isale-Eko people like myself, Olowogbowo people, Oshodi people and Lafaji people. And when I say Lagos boys I mean people who can trace their generation to the fourth or the fifth in Lagos. I am glad I am one of them. With due respect, I ask the Minister to please take note that we want to stay in Lagos.

The unfortunate thing is that very soon the slum clearance will affect Isale-Eko. It will affect Oshodi people. It will affect Olowogbowo and Lafaji people. We have the indigenous people of Lagos living in these areas. What will happen if all these people are evacuated to Surulere? The Oba of Lagos will have to reign over nobody. That is a very, very sad thing. He will reign over nobody when the Government have taken all the people down to Surulere or elsewhere. This is a very serious matter which is giving serious concern to these people.

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East): If the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*) who is a Lagosian and who has his origin from Benin will try to come back to the Mid-West, we will give him land.

Mr Bashua: I thank the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Aliboh*). I am still on this point. I am suggesting to the Minister of Housing and Surveys, Chief A. O. Ogunsanya, and the Minister of State Mr A. Oshodi who is a Lagosian that instead of evacuating these people, their land should be acquired, and out of the money that the Government will pay

them by way of compensation a portion should be taken to develop this land and set up a corporation for them, if need be.

Their houses should be rebuilt in their various places and then they should be asked to repay the loan granted them over a long time. That is the only solution to this problem. I hope that the Minister of Housing and Surveys will take note of this and do something about it. We do not want to lose our land.

Turning to education in Lagos, I would like to congratulate the former Minister of Education for the progress he had made. The new Minister has done nothing.

On the question of primary education I would implore the new Minister of Education to consider giving the Lagos City Council of which I am a member full power and control over primary education in Lagos. The present administration is divided and as a result it affects administration and progress. Unless this is done, the administration of primary education in Lagos will be more seriously affected.

I would also like to point out that quite a large number of people come from the interior to settle in Lagos and as of right, as taxpayers, their children must go to Lagos schools. The population keeps increasing everyday and the primary schools that we have in Lagos are just not sufficient. I am asking the Government to consider building more of these primary schools so as to absorb all the children in Lagos.

Now, I want to make a remark about something. I am still on primary education and I want Members to take this very seriously. For a very long time now, in fact when I was at school, the meals we ate in the schools were sold to us by some women who were given permission to prepare and sell this food. They used to give us very good food. These women are trained and they do provide good and hygienic food. These women who are to be found in all primary schools, number over a thousand and many of them depend for their living on the income they make from selling these foods. Their children depend on it. Many of them have sent their children to schools or even to England from what they get from selling this food.

[MR BASHUA]

It is a matter for regret that since last year the Government has been planning to take over the provision of this food to the primary schools from the hands of these people and give it to one individual. This is really bad. But it is one of the capitalist tendencies of the new Government. I say, Sir, that to deprive thousands of people of their means of livelihood in Lagos is really too bad. The Minister of Education should please look into this matter.

As a matter of fact most of the people affected are from my constituency. Only yesterday I received a delegation from them. I am sure that the Minister of Education must have received such a delegation too. They implored the Minister of Education not to allow one particular person to provide school meals for all the primary schools in Lagos. They should be left to do it. If there is any improvement that the Government wants them to carry out they should be told and they will look into it.

I am asking the Minister of Education to look seriously into this matter. It is very, very urgent.

I welcome the Minister of Finance who entered this House like a capitalist.

I would like to speak now on the question of scholarships. I wish to congratulate the Government for considering it fit to offer scholarships to deserving children whose parents cannot afford to give them higher education but I would say this. We have a very serious complaint in Lagos.

Allocations of scholarships are made to all the Regions, and the Federal Territory of Lagos has been given its own quota. What do we see happening in Lagos? People go to the Regions to vie for these scholarships, and having failed, they come to Lagos the result is that not a single Lagosian can get the scholarships allocated to Lagos people. We are very much concerned about this.

An hon. Member would like to know who, the people of Lagos are.

By the Grace of God, I am one of them. We are very, very much concerned about this. If the Minister will come to Isaleko I will show

him this. This is a matter over which we are very seriously concerned and I hope that the Minister of Education will look into this very seriously.

We need to have our fair share in the distribution of the wealth of the Federation. We do not get these scholarships. People from the Regions come to vie for them and they get them. If one looks at the list, one can hardly find any name of a Lagosian. We want these scholarships for ourselves.

On the question of establishing industries, I must say that the Federal Government has a lot in siting some industries in Lagos. I would not say too many of them, but the unfortunate thing is that many of these industrialists who come into this country, so mechanize their establishments that it is not difficult to observe that where they invest over £500,000, they employ only about fifty hands. This is not helping this country at all. I would therefore ask the Minister of Industries to look into this. This practice does not in any way solve the unemployment problem which we want them to come and help us solve.

I am going to speak now not only as a Lagosian but as an Isale-Eko Member of Parliament. With due respect, the Minister of Finance did say sometime ago that provision was being made to improve our fishing methods.

Since the Lagos people, or shall I say the Isale-Eko people, have no other indigenous industry than fishing—using the age-long dug-out boat and the hand-woven net—I think they deserve priority attention in this respect. We need the help of the Government now; we do not want to continue to do our fishing in this old-fashioned way.

The irony of this matter is that even though there is a Fisheries Department in Lagos, not much benefit has been derived by us. And I am asking the Minister of Finance to ensure that the money set aside for developing fishing does not all go to the regions.

There are fishermen, like myself, in Lagos. My great grand father was a fisherman; I belong to a family of fishermen, and I do engage in fishing myself. I have my own boat—

The Minister of Finance (Chief Okotie-Eboh): On a point of information, I do a lot

of fishing along the waterside every evening ; so I am entitled to be called a better fisherman than this Isale-Eko man, the Member for Lagos South Central (*Mr Bashua*).

Mr Speaker : Of course, we know the Minister of Finance as the "fisher of money".

Mr Bashua : The next point I would like to touch is the question of health in Lagos. I must congratulate the Minister of Health for what he has done so far, but it appears that what he thinks is the best is just not enough. In Lagos to-day, we have just one maternity centre. This is not enough for the whole of Lagos.

Although I understand that the Minister of Health is planning to build another one on the Mainland, yet I would say that that is still not enough ; and I implore him to build more.

An hon. Member is whispering to remind me that this is a Federation. Of course, yes, but I think the hon. Member should understand that the population of Lagos has more than doubled in recent years, in view of the influx of people from the regions everyday. If you take a look at the last census figures for Lagos, you will observe that the people of Lagos are nearing one million.

We know that health is wealth, and the Government should provide means for helping the Lagosians on this score. We need two maternity hospitals in the Island and two on the Mainland, as well as more hospitals. The population is really teeming and the people must be catered for.

I must congratulate the Police Force very much for the excellent job they have been doing during recent years. I would like to ask that their salaries be increased because of the almost herculean task that they have been carrying out. This should serve as our appreciation of what they are doing to protect our lives and property. We must do everything to encourage them, and I ask the responsible Minister in charge to look into this.

An hon. Member spoke the other day on our hire purchase system, and I am joining him in requesting the Government to consider changing the law as it now stands. We are still, unfortunately, using the pre-1938 hire

purchase law, and the time has come (since even Britain from whom we lifted that law has several times amended it to conform to modern conditions) to repeal it.

It is now possible for somebody in Britain, having paid a third of the price of an article, to own it and it cannot be taken away from him, unless by an order of a Court. What happens in this country is that if you enter into hire purchase agreement—say you buy a television—once you fail to pay an instalment be it a penny the article is seized.

I can hear the Minister of Finance asking if that is not legitimate. I would say that it is by our law, but it is really very bad. The firm concerned comes round to seize the good, and they not only stop at that. They re-sell the article and then sue you to court in addition. They might even re-sell it at an unreasonable price ; but if they allowed the affected person to do the re-selling himself, he could have realised enough to offset the hire purchase instalments.

If we want to improve the living conditions of the residents of Lagos, an amendment to the hire purchase law must be one of the ways of doing that. No improvement, however, can come with the law as it now stands. This hire purchase law is due for a change, and I hope that the Minister of Trade will do something to have it changed at once.

Another serious question I would like to refer to, and which has been mentioned by many hon. Members in the past, is the insurance companies. They are fleecing us in this country, and the time is due to put a halt to it. We allow them to hoard the money of this country overseas and, in turn, we go to them abroad to borrow that same money.

This is a matter for regret, because we do borrow that hoarded money at very high interest rates. It is not helping our economy at all, and I would ask the Minister responsible to look into it with all seriousness.

My next point is that I would require the Government to consider setting up a Ministry of Youth. The future of this country depends very much—

Mr Speaker : The Member for Lagos South-Central (*Mr Bashua*) has two minutes to wind up.

Mr Bashua : I want to mention the question of beggary in Lagos, and I would like the Government to give it the attention it deserves. The Lagos City Council has tried many times to do something, but they have had no co-operation from the Government.

Money should be given to us to set up a settlement for them, instead of sending them back to their various regions and the following day you see them back in Lagos.

The next point concerns the Lagos City Council itself. Everybody was very happy this morning when the statement came from the Minister of Lagos Affairs about the achievements of the Lagos City Council. Everything the Minister said this morning has been done by the Lagos City Council, and if you want us to improve on this, then the co-operation of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs is needed.

It always happens that when we send our estimates in December we do not get it approved until August of the following year. Does the Government want us to provide the money required for improving the roads and providing other amenities sought by the people from our own pockets ?

It is a good thing we have been given a City status, but the status is not being accompanied with commensurate power. Everyday the City Council's power is being reduced. The Minister has power to look into everything we do in the Council to-day, and this state of affairs is hamstringing administration.

A word or two about the Judiciary. I want to say that the Judiciary of the land is being treated with contempt. Every year money is voted for this arm of government, but very little is done. If we look round our Courts we will easily detect that they are not well-cared for. There is oversizing in the building of the Courts.

A look at the Igbosere Court building will show that the money spent on it is a complete waste. A space of land which should have been used to put up a six-storey building is having a building with only four Court rooms. And what do we find? The Government hires premises from private individuals for use as Court rooms. This is really bad. There

is land to build our courts, but the Government will not make use of it. Instead it prefers to put money into private houses like capitalists.

Finally, I would like us to congratulate the Oba of Lagos, Prince Adeyinka Oyekan II, on his appointment as the Oba. I would, however, urge the Government to please do something for our other traditional chiefs. All their lands have already been grabbed and they have nothing else to live upon.

May I appeal to the Government to please consider giving these chiefs some stipend annually, however small it may be. They will always remember the Government for this and it will help them to do their work very well.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : In rising to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I would first of all congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way he presented the Budget. I would also join others in showering encomiums on him for the way he has been able to handle the finances of this country. No doubt, if he had not been doing his work very well, he would not have continued to be appointed the Minister of Finance year after year.

I must also congratulate him for being elected the first Chairman of the African Development Bank and also for the able way he has been undertaking his overseas tours. In fact, the Minister of Finance has proved himself to be a good financial ambassador of this country.

I would like to deal with that aspect of his Budget Speech which touches on socialism and calls for a wholesale condemnation of socialism for being the cankerworm in the economic growth of this country. I would say that the Minister of Finance wanted to take us on an academic exercise. I would also say that, as an emergent African state, I had thought that it would be best for us to steer clear of the fight between socialist consciousness and bourgeois anarchist spontaneity.

What we should do is to keep our minds open and take whatever is good in socialism or capitalism as our way of life. The fact that epithets attached to socialism in the communist countries constitute an anathema does not mean

that it is so in our own country, and the fact that a majority of the people in the world to-day have opted for socialism and have qualified it with such words as "progressive", "democratic" or "pragmatic" is a clear discomfiture of capitalism as an economic way of life.

The socialist world would think that the type of freedom envisaged by capitalism is not a true freedom but freedom of suppression and exploitation of the masses. On the other hand the capitalist thinks that the replacement of private ownership with public ownership does not make for economic democracy but leads to totalitarianism, etatism and all other evils and —isms.

If there are evils in pure socialism and capitalism, why can we not evolve our own brand of socialism instead of opting for capitalism. Many outstanding African nationalists among whom are Leopold Senghor and Julius Nyerere, have stressed the significance of the fact that traditional African society did not know anything about private ownership of land which remains the main means of production in Africa, that collective forms of labour and production were habitual of African society since the ancient times.

In law, too, the presumption is that all native lands are owned communally. Of course this is a reasonable presumption and it is an aspect of socialism which our Government is to-day applying in their scheme for farm settlements.

It was Jean Jacques Rousseau, the great French defender of democracy, who wrote, and with your permission Mr Speaker, I quote :

The better a state is constituted, the more public affairs gain ascendancy in the minds of its citizens over their private concerns. Indeed private concerns become fewer because a greater proportion of the sum total of the common happiness is diverted to providing that of each individual, who can therefore think less of the private cares.

I should not be misunderstood as advocating that the lazy drones of our society should fold their arms and wait for the day when people like our hard-working Minister of Finance will surrender their hard-earned savings and enterprises for the common enjoyment of all. Even socialism scorns laziness.

Let us evolve our own brand of socialism and I am calling on all political parties to adopt and embody in their manifestoes, the brand of socialism advocated by the leader of the N.C.N.C., Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, and that is pragmatic African socialism, with agriculture as one of its main tenets, because this is the only salvation for Nigeria.

Turning now to capital, I must warn the Minister of Finance not to rest his hope too much on obtaining capital from abroad. He must also not develop any undue hostility to foreign capital. There must be a balanced attitude.

To avoid complete dependence on foreign capital, we must endeavour to develop our own internal capital resources. We cannot do this by exacting savings from the poor. That has already been done under the traditional system of low wages and high rents and interest charges. What we should rather do is to exact money from the rich and plough it into industries and public works.

One of the ways of doing this is by graduated income taxation, in which the tax rate is highest on the highest incomes. The money so realised can be taken into the national treasury where it will be available for investment in public works.

Another benefit which could be derived from this system of graduated income taxation is that if the highest incomes earn the highest taxation, in other words, if for instance there is a limit to the amount one may earn and whatever one earns over this limit is to be taxed 17s-6d in the pound sterling, and one realises that for every pound sterling one earns above that limit one saves only 2s-6d what one would do would be to donate the money to charity, just as our Minister of Finance has donated £3,500 to the handicapped undergraduates of the Mid-West.

Such money can also be used for giving low-interest farm credit; thus improving the incomes of the poor. Once this is done, the Government can take steps to hold back the rise in their living standards and channel some of their new income into savings and investments by force or persuasion.

Another way of influencing the rich men of our country to bring out their money and invest it in industries instead of using it in buy-

[MR ANAH]

ing elegant and costly cars, constructing luxurious apartments and hotels and building numerous houses for the exaction of high rents from the low-income workers, is by attracting businessmen with acceptable manners and of unimpeachable integrity to establish small industries and invite local people to join them.

I therefore appeal to the Minister of Finance that whenever he goes on overseas tours he should endeavour to attract such people into the country. The Minister of Finance should also try to get not only hard loans but soft loans from countries willing to help us.

It is a well known fact that so many concerns producing consumer goods such as automobiles or radios are mainly interested in setting up assembly plants in this country. They should be given conditions under which they may set up these plants. They should be told, in other words, that they may set up such plants and continue to assemble the parts here in this country for so many years and thereafter if they are not prepared to establish tributary plants for the manufacture of these parts, they should pack and go. I think this is one of the ways of encouraging the establishment of many industries in this country. It is amazing that almost all the parts of consumer goods are only assembled in this country and not manufactured here. We cannot continue to be a dumping ground.

I now go over to the Six-Year Development Plan. The Minister of Finance posed a very important question during his Budget speech. He asked, what will happen to the Six-Year Development Plan during the remaining three years? I will help him to find an answer.

In the first three years of our Six-Year Development Plan we have financed our projects with aid from the Western bloc mainly. We should not be like *Oliver Twist*: always asking for more from them. Let us not be pests to them. Let us turn to the Eastern bloc and see what they can offer. The taste of the pudding is in the eating. There is no justification whatsoever for turning our faces to the West and our backs to the East. Our foreign policy is that of non-alignment. There should be freedom in our economic policy to deal with all and sundry. If the loans and aids from the Western countries are tied to the

extent that we are not allowed to borrow from the East, we should tell them in plain words that we are a free country and that we cannot accept dictations from anybody.

Why should we not conclude and sign an agreement with the Soviet Union for economic, technical and scientific co-operation? Without signing this agreement it will be impossible to get loans or technical assistance from them because there would be no juridical basis upon which they could act. After all, their interest rates are relatively low, about two *per cent*. Their grants are in many cases interest-free. The Chinese loans have been sometimes at zero interest while the capitalist countries charge as much as four or five *per cent* with all sorts of unwelcome conditions.

Some Eastern countries can accept from the borrower his export products as part of the repayment. In the case of hard loans, the Soviets send to the borrowing countries materials and technicians and the work is completed within a relatively short space of time. The Minister of Finance in the course of his Budget Speech told us that the West German Government earmarked financial assistance for the building of the second Lagos Bridge as far back as 1960, but it was only in September last that the loan agreement was signed.

This is not surprising when one remembers that the Soviet Union started to build a similar mill at —

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman will be doing grave injustice to the West German Government over this question of loan. The delay, I do not think is from the West German Government. The quarrel is over whether they should use steel or concrete. And I think there are some Nigerian businessmen who are interested in using concrete.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) probably knows more than we in the Government know. Concrete or no concrete, iron or no iron, the fact remains that we are going to have a second bridge for Lagos.

I want to state very frankly that no Minister in this Government has any interest whatsoever in concrete or iron industry in Nigeria.

Mr Anah : Well, Sir, this does not surprise anyone when it is remembered that the Soviet Union started to build the Bhilai Steel Mill a year after West Germany had begun to build a similar mill at Rourkela and the Soviet Union completed their own a year earlier. At present thirty-four industrial projects are under construction in India with the Soviet help. In 1960 some 7,900 Communist bloc technicians served in twenty-three developing countries of non-communist world and the number has increased.

Down to 1961 Soviet principal loans had been placed in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Cuba, Guinea and Ethiopia. Have all these countries become communist because they have obtained help or technical assistance from the Soviet Union? If these people are prepared to help us, why do we not embrace them and take the good they can offer?

For instance, I myself as I am talking now, it is impossible for me to be converted into a communist because I am a die-hard Christian. So, I am calling on the Minister of Finance to have a change of heart and see if there is anything good we can get from the Eastern bloc. We have not signed any agreement for economic, technical or even cultural co-operation—

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is perhaps unaware of the friendly relation which exist between Nigeria and the Socialist countries. We have got an Ambassador in the Soviet Union, as Members know, and we sent an economic mission led by the hon. Minister of Finance to the Eastern countries. We have good trade relation with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. So we do have both economic and cultural relations with the Communist countries he is talking about, and gradually we intend to improve upon this.

Before independence we did not know these countries. But since independence, the relationship—economic and cultural—has improved, and we do have scientific and cultural agreement with the Soviet Union, if the Member wishes to know that. Last year, I signed a scientific and cultural agreement with Czechoslovakia myself. It is therefore not correct altogether to say that we have no economic

and cultural relationship with the Communist countries. We have and we are improving upon that.

Mr Anah : I am very grateful to the Minister of Economic Development. I am very delighted that there is a change of heart and I hope that there will be brighter future between the two countries.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : On a point of order, Sir, it is not actually a change of heart. In 1960, when we went to the United Nations with the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister—that was when we were admitted to the United Nations—our first vote which was cast by myself and Alhaji Aminu Kano, on the instruction of the Prime Minister, was in favour of Communist China. The subject at that time was whether Communist China should be admitted to the United Nations. We consulted with the Prime Minister as to what our line of action should be and he said we should vote in favour of admitting Communist China. So, there is no question of a change of heart at all. Our Foreign Policy of non-alignment has been consistent right from the beginning.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : I wonder when the change of heart took place because Dr Jaja Wachuku, when he was Minister of External Affairs, had a change of heart over the admission of China. I wonder whether he did that at the instigation of the Prime Minister.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think, tomorrow, I shall have to invite the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) to the Chinese restaurant to eat some rice.

Mr Anah : I am grateful for the information given to me by our progressive Minister of Economic Development.

What I am saying—

Mr N. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : On a point of order, we ordinary Members have been given the privilege to air our views but the Ministers are trying to disturb us. The point I am making is that this Second Reading is to be brought to a close this night and we are anxious to go back to our constituencies to tell our people what we have done here. I think hon. Members and Ministers alike should be brief in their speeches and interruptions.

Mr Speaker : Order. I think the Member for Okigwi North-East (*Mr Nnorom*) is one of those who waste a lot of time here. I think he is right, of course, in saying that Members should, as far as possible, be brief and to the point.

Mr Anah : I will not conclude my contributions to this Second Reading of the Budget Speech without paying glowing tribute to the efforts being made by the Nigerian Railway Corporation, and without singing the praises of the energetic and indomitable Chairman for his tenacity of purpose, his resourcefulness and his ability to hold on in the face of all obstacles, pseudo-criticisms and tribal invectives.

I also salute the Prime Minister for his cool headedness and sound judgment and calmness in circumstances where others with lesser qualities would have lost their heads and would have thrown this country into untold economic crisis. The hon. Prime Minister had actually been very cool and calm; otherwise he could have been pushed to a stage where people who are not blessed with sound judgment or cool mind would have acted rashly.

There is no doubt that these criticisms are pseudo-criticisms, they are not genuine ones, which have been levelled against the Railway Corporation. And thanks to the Prime Minister, and the Chairman; otherwise the Chairman and his staff would have been sacked by these pseudo-critics who are unable to see the good things which the Chairman himself had put in the Nigerian Railway Corporation, forgetting that the Chairman himself is somebody who had sacrificed his private time for the good of the country.

Finally, I want to talk about the unity of this country. In doing so, I will call on my fellow Nigerians to desist from baseless and reckless attacks on our leaders, because when our leaders are attacked their followers are bound to answer for them. All these bickerings—we still think that the debris of the last crisis has not been cleared; it has only been swept under the carpet and I predict that this deadly monster will rear its ugly head again.

It is now time to legislate against insults on our Head of State, the symbol of the unity of this country. I am therefore suggesting four things which will help us to foster and maintain unity in this country: the first is an

immediate stop to the incessant attacks on our leaders: the second is an immediate stop to the incessant attacks on our Head of State; the third is regard and respect for one another, and the last is the exchange of greetings amongst our leaders.

I beg to support.

M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya (Igbirra North): I rise to contribute my quota to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to say that contrary to the views of some members, the Budget Speech was not as comprehensive as it ought to have been because some points have been left out. The Budget Speech does not make full provision for the rural areas and for their development about which we have talked several times on the Floor of this honourable House.

As I come from a rural area I am bound to support speeches made by people from other rural areas. I am bound to agree with some Members that all the important industries should not be sited in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Kaduna and Kano. If that system is continued, those of us who come from rural areas are bound to question ourselves whether it is necessary for us to be here.

The people of my constituency do not feel the existence of this Federal Government because it has not made any provision for the development of my constituency. In my constituency we do not have a trunk 'B' road, how much more a Trunk 'A' Road.

The provision of electricity for my area is overdue. We have always been on the priority list; this has always been on paper. Before 1958, we were on the priority and in the National Development Plan, we came first on the priority list. Up till the moment we do not know when that will be implemented. The people of my constituency do not in any way feel that the Government is interested in developing their area.

It is a plain fact that we cannot all come from the cities and towns; some people must come from the rural areas and, in fact, a large number of people come from the rural areas. The only thing which our people see on our election to this House is that we come back with cars; that is the only thing the people of the rural areas see.

I now come to talk on the question of establishing industries in the rural areas. There are mineral resources in my constituency. In a place called Oguda, Ataba-Achichi, there is a deposit of marble and there is an iron ore deposit at Eika. All these deposits, I understand, are in commercial quantities. I would like the Federal Government to see that these are tapped. These mineral resources should not be left untapped simply because they are not in Kano, Lagos or Ibadan. I implore the Federal Government on the Floor of this House to see that attention is paid to these things.

In the National Development Plan, it is said that the essential things human beings need are good health, food and houses to live in. The Federal Government should look after the welfare of the people of the rural areas. The people who are living in the rural areas have no means of livelihood and, therefore, Government should come to their aid. The people who are living in the rural areas should also enjoy equal distribution of amenities with the people in the towns and cities. We want to feel that we are living in this Republic.

There are so many cloth weavers in my constituency. As a result of this, I would urge on the Federal Government to see that a textile mill is established in my constituency. Hon. Members who have been to my constituency will agree with me that there is need for the establishment of a textile mill in this area. If we can have textile mills in many areas, there will be no need to import textiles from overseas.

I would like a pottery industry to be established in Ihima in my constituency. In this place too, there are many people who specialise in moulding pots, so the Federal Government should establish a pottery industry in this area.

I now come to talk about unity. We do not even know the people who are responsible for disunity in this country. All sides of this House want unity and people in the street too talk about unity. I must say that we are not serious about this unity because the very people who preach unity in this House are the people who are responsible for disunity in the country. They have failed to respect individual liberty. They want liberty for themselves and they like to deny others of this liberty. We can only achieve unity in this country by co-operating with the Federal Government, and then with ourselves.

Another point is that we cannot complete all the projects listed in the Budget Speech without personal contacts. Our Ministers should tour various parts of the country. They should not limit their tour only to Ibadan, Kano, Enugu, Port Harcourt and Enugu. I would like them to tour the whole country by road and not by air.

What I am saying is that the Ministers as the representatives of the Federal Government should try to have personal contacts with the people in rural areas. They should try to find out what the problems of the people are and try to solve them. For instance, the Minister of Works cannot understand what is meant by a bad road because he has never travelled by road before. He travels by air.

I am not jealous of the Ministers for travelling by air while I travel by road but then it is their responsibility to see to it that these roads are good. I think I am justified to suggest that the Ministers should travel by road in order to find out exactly what the conditions of the roads are.

On the other hand, if Ministers could travel to the rural areas, they would get to know more about the problems of the people. For example, I am sure the Minister of Finance does not know where my constituency is and probably, it is because of this that there is no single federal institution in my area.

In my opinion, if the Federal Government is to be described as a Government for all the people of Nigeria, its effect should be felt in all the rural areas, and not only in Lagos. We know very well that Lagos as the capital of Nigeria should be far more developed than any other place but that does not mean that other areas should be completely neglected. If rural areas are to be neglected, then there is no need for us to be here.

I would like to talk about the Ministry of Communications. There is so much inefficiency in this Ministry that an hon. Member even alleged on the Floor of this House that a letter posted from Jos took fifty-two days to get to him.

The work done by the Ministry of Communications is extremely poor. I think the bad condition of service in this Ministry is responsible for the poor work. No provisions are made for promotions and the staff are so discouraged that they do not care how they

[M. AHMADU BADAMASUIYA]
 discharge their duties. They are not happy and so they do not care about their work. The Government should look into the conditions of service of the workers in order that they may be encouraged, thereby improving the standard of efficiency in the Posts and Telegraphs department. It did cost the Government quite a lot of money when the workers of the P. and T. staged a sit-down strike. This could have been averted if the Government thought it fit to look into the conditions of service of these workers.

I was really surprised to see that when an allegation was made against the Railway Corporation, an hon. Member got up to defend and praise the work done by this Corporation. I am now going to point out some anomalies in the Railway Corporation.

I think there has been an organised conspiracy in the Railway Corporation to sabotage the economic position of the Northern Region. This is true. The fact is that it takes two months for loads railed from Lagos to arrive at Kano and apart from that, it takes quite a long time for delivery to be effected. This is really an attempt to sabotage the economic position of the Region. I am appealing to the Corporation to change its attitude as far as service to the Northern Region is concerned.

The Trunk "A" Road from Lagos to Ibadan and Akure to Owo is extremely bad. The people plying this road more or less put their lives in danger. It is equally very risky to travel from Lagos to Ikorodu. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to improve the road leading from Lagos to Lokoja.

On agriculture, I am appealing to the Government to see to it that the experiment which was intended to take place at an agricultural field in Osara is carried out. This area in Okene, Lokoja, seems to have much agricultural potentialities, and it is my sincere appeal to the Government to see that this area is developed and that an agricultural research station is established there.

As I have said, the people of my constituency do not feel the effect of the Federal Government because the Government has not done anything for them. For instance, the only Government department in my area is the Federal Survey department. Five years ago, an attempt was made to build a new survey school here but up

till now, nothing has been done about it and I understand that the Government is intending to remove even the existing survey department. This is the only Government department in Okene, by which the people know that the Federal Government exists and I therefore appeal to the Government not to remove it, but to make arrangements for a new school to be built.

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East): There are some 36 smuggled-in Members—13 of whom are Ministers—who keep on interrupting and will not allow us to deliberate on what we are to do for the nation.

The Deputy Speaker: There are no smuggled-in Members in the House of Representatives.

M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya: I am appealing that this school should not be removed. Rather it should be improved and re-built to accommodate survey students.

Mr J. S. Daniyan (Akoko-Edo): On a point of order, the Member for Igbirra North (*M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya*) has exhausted his time.

The Deputy Speaker: The Member for Igbirra North (*M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya*) started his speech by 10.22 p.m. it is now 10.42 p.m.; he still has some minutes to go.

M. Ahmadu Badamasuiya: I come now to what some Members in this House describe as democracy. People shout democracy, but what they actually mean by democracy is what is good for them only. What they concede to themselves will not be conceded to others.

Democracy as I know it is the acceptance and practice of the principle of equality of rights. If this definition of democracy, is accepted by all and sundry, then, there ought not to have been any quarrel about it.

The point is that everybody likes to interpret democracy according to his own light, and no one wants to concede any right to the other person. If we all accept our neighbours and concede the right of opinion to them, there should not be any quarrel about democracy. It is by adhering to the principle of democracy that we can have real unity.

I would like also to make mention of the review of the Constitution. It is not our present Constitution that is faulty, but our approach to it. No matter how excellent the

Constitution may be, if we fail to adhere to the spirit of the Constitution something must go wrong.

Mr E. E. Inyang (Uyo South-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Igbirra North (*M. Badamasuiya*) is being irrelevant. He has left the fiscal policy of the Government, and is discussing other general matters. He has less than two minutes to go.

The Deputy Speaker : I do agree with this point, but since practically everybody who spoke here to-day spoke outside the fiscal policy of the Government, the Member for Igbirra North (*M. Badamasuiya*) might as well continue.

M. Ahaadu Badamasuiya : Now, the point is that if the Constitution is reviewed, no matter how excellent it may be, if we fail to practise the spirit of the Constitution, something will always be found wrong. It is for us to unite, it is for us to make sacrifice in the interest of the Constitution and for the benefit of our people.

We all come here with our ideas fixed. It seems to me that some of us do come here always with a resolution just to oppose certain things whether they are right or wrong. It seems to me that some of us do not actually understand what the Constitution is.

There is, as I have said, nothing wrong with the Constitution. There is something wrong in us which we must try to amend. I do not, in any case, support any review of the Constitution at the moment. I know we are human beings. We are not always perfect. There may be tomorrow the need for a review, but not now.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : I rise to support the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill.

In doing so, I have to thank the Federal Government for the general progress so far made throughout the Federation since our independence. But it should be noted that in urban areas such as Lagos, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Aba, Kaduna, Onitsha, Ibadan, and a few other places, rents and cost of living have been rising very considerably especially at this time when there are increases in workers' salaries, and increases in duties on some goods.

The cause of the incessant increases in rents and cost of living is that the rural areas are left uncared for and undeveloped. Since

we are in the age when development and production are swift and scientific, the Government's policy of electrifying the whole Federation, a scheme which has been started, should be quickened so that a great number of the inhabitants of this nation can enjoy the benefit of electricity.

Electricity will also help to establish industries and factories, thus providing employment in many of the rural areas for the millions of school leavers in these areas. At present, these school leavers come to urban towns that have already been over populated; they help to increase the cost of living of their already over-burdened relatives who work in these places.

It would be remembered that these are thousands of buildings in these rural areas that nobody occupies, because there is no employment in the areas for the people. I appeal, therefore, to the Government, especially to the Minister of Mines and Power, to see to it that electricity is spread in the shortest possible time, to such places like Agbor, Umunede, Iseleuku, Auchí, Uromi, Eku, Obiaruku in the Mid-West area.

The people in these areas, I am sure, are prepared to pay for this service. To substantiate this, here is a resolution passed and sent to the Manager of the E.C.N. by one of the Councils in the area.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall read it :

*No. I.D.C. 373/55
Ika District Council,
Agbor.
March, 1965.*

*"The Chief Executive Officer and
General Manager,
Electricity Corporation of Nigeria,
Electricity Headquarters,
13 Broad Street,
Private Mail Bag, 2030,
Lagos.*

*Installation of Electricity in Boji-Boji
and Agbor-Town*

*"I subjoin hereunder, an extract of Minutes
of Ika District Council Management Committee
held on 8th March, 1965 :—*

*"Upon motion by hon. J. B. Eboigbodi,
seconded by Mr G. N. Melekwe, it was
resolved,*

*(a) That the Chief Executive Officer and
General Manager of the Electricity Corporation*

[MR EBOIGBODI]

of Nigeria be called upon to survey Boji-Boji and Agbor town for the purpose of electrification ;

(b) That the Ika District Council is prepared to finance the street lights when installed ;

(c) That the potential consumers who numbered over 4,000 have already applied for electrification ;

(d) That the Ika District Council has guaranteed that the project would be self-supporting and commercially profitable if this plan is carried direct with the E.C.N. as the young Mid-West Regional Government may not be financially ready for this project according to their present policy.

(e) That the people in these areas would be grateful if the E.C.N. would consider the application as early as possible.

"I should be grateful for your immediate action."

Sdg. G. U. Odozi,
Secretary, Ika District Council

Other councils in these rural areas, I am sure, will be quite willing to pay the rates for electrifying the streets and their homes. I pray the Minister to see to it that the electric rates of about five pence per unit be reduced to at most one penny per unit. This is necessary because the need for electricity is no longer restricted to the fortunate few but is now demanded throughout the Federation.

I would like to thank the Federal Government for constructing a bridge across the River Niger to link Asaba with Onitsha and for building the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode to Benin road. Much however still remains to be done on these two projects.

A Motion has been passed in this House calling for the building of a railway line from Lagos or Ibadan through the Mid-West to the Eastern Region. It is a pity to note that there is no space provided on that gigantic and costly bridge for a railway line which will no doubt, bring immense economic prosperity to the Federation.

I hope that the Government will consider the possibility of providing a space on the bridge for a railway to cross the River Niger as soon as possible.

The rate of motor accidents on our roads is alarming. Since the protection of the lives of human beings is the basic economic way of life,

it is most important that absolute care should be taken to widen our roads and bridges when our roads are being constructed.

This point brings me to the new Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode to Benin road. The bridges on this good road are exceptionally narrow. They measure about seven feet wide while the road itself measures about 26 feet to 30 feet wide. The bridges should be up to 24 feet wide in order to have a degree of uniformity with the width of the road.

The road running from Asaba to Benin which is a distance of about 88 miles should be widened to 24 feet. The oilbean trees on both sides of this road which are a danger to lives in the event of accidents should be uprooted. The dangerous corners should also be straightened so that the road running from Port Harcourt or Enugu may be uniform with that running from the Niger Bridge to Lagos. This is necessary because the road will be very busy when the bridge, which may be opened, latest, in December this year, is opened to traffic.

I would like to say that all these economic proposals could hardly be achieved if the whole Federation is not united. To maintain the unity of this country, which we so much preach about as vital to our existence I suggest that —

Mr Vincent Shisha (Iharev Masev) : On a point of order, the Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) has forgotten his eye glasses and I think he should put them on.

Mr Eboigbodi : I suggest that the powers of some of our regional Premiers and some of their followers who think only of their regions and tribes should be reduced. This should be done by converting the former provinces in the North, East and the West which existed during our colonial days into states or regions, so that each region or state may develop on its own as the happy and peaceful Mid-West Region of Nigeria.

In order to make this proposal possible without much difficulty, the bottle neck process of creating states provided for in Section IV, subsections 3, 4, and 5 of the Federal Constitution should be relaxed. They are some of the dangerous clauses entrenched into the constitution of colonial countries which are struggling to become independent by their colonial masters.

This is done in order that some of their leaders may continue to think in terms of their regions and tribes. This is what we have to-day

in some parts of our country, to-day and this situation has caused serious trouble in places like America, India, Ghana, Ceylon, Cyprus, Congo and some other countries too numerous to mention.

These former colonial masters took advantage of the strife among the leaders of these countries to exploit their economic resources after their independence as was the case in the Congo since the unrest in that country started.

The Federal Government, as father of the nation should accommodate all the political parties which won some seats in the last Federal Elections so that bad blood, suspicion, subversive activities and rancour could be avoided in this country. Sharp political divisions can be left to exist in the regions which so desire. This will stop carpet crossing and character assassination of our leaders in this Federation.

If this country is split into states, the leaders of all our major political parties must quit the regions and come to the Centre as Mr Amechi suggested the other day in this Parliament,

With these remarks, I support the Motion.

Chief J. D. Odebunmi (Egba East): I beg to comment on the *Rededication* Budget of the Minister of Finance. I would like to express my thanks to him for the time he devoted to prepare his Budget Speech.

What moved me most about the Budget Speech is the cutting down of cocoa price. I want to inquire from the Minister of Finance why the reduction does not affect the other economic products of the country. Cocoa as we know is the economic product of Western Nigeria in particular, and since we, for the sake of unity, are in this broadly based Government.

The Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. Member speaking please raise his voice a little bit.

Chief Odebunmi: It would be advisable to share the loss sustained by cocoa farmers among other products in the country so that no one citizen will feel cheated in the Federation. By so doing, cocoa farmers will be encouraged. If the price of cocoa falls, so should the price of other cash crops. The price of our cash crops should not entirely depend on the world market so as to save us from fearing that we shall lose money if and when the world market cuts down the price of our economic products.

The country can increase its wealth by industrialisation. There are insufficient industries. Industries such as cocoa industry, cloth industry, *et cetera*, should be established. If we have sufficient industries in the country, our need to import from foreign countries will be minimised and that will improve our balance of payments.

The cotton at Oshogbo should be used for cloth, so a cloth industry should be established there. If we build more industries in the nation the citizens of this country will realise they are enjoying the fruits of their labour. As unemployment is rampant in the Federal Republic, we must tackle it in many ways.

Socialism is not interpreted correctly in Nigeria by political parties. The idea of socialism exists only in the minds of the politicians alone and in this House. If the House adjourns, socialism will be forgotten. The full meaning of socialism ought to be explained to the citizens in the rural areas. I know it is easy to preach but it is not easy to practice what is preached.

We should try to lessen unemployment in the country. Instead of encouraging our boys to practice bad things like thuggery, we should put them into good jobs. Agriculture is our best source of wealth. Let us then encourage farming. Let the Federal Government give aid to the Regional Governments in order to help them encourage co-operative farming by giving the farmers tractors on hire. This will enable the farmers themselves to produce more for consumption.

Unity is important in this country. It is to maintain it that the review of the Constitution is contemplated. To be frank and sincere, unity exists more among the commoners in the country than among the Parliamentarians. For example, some Hausas who live in the Western Region feel quite at home. Some of them were born there. Equally true is it of those in the Eastern Region. Similarly, my own people in Sokoto are happy there. They face their trade and do not engage themselves in politics. They have never been molested in the Northern Region. In other words, it is in this House that we say that there is no unity in the country. Here we debate on it. It is even the leaders themselves who discriminate.

If the leaders can come together and release Chief Obafemi Awolowo from prison, there will be complete unity. Leaving Chief Awo-

[CHIEF ODEBUNMI]

low in prison is like leaving the Israelites in bondage, so also is leaving the Western Region in the hands of the N.N.D.P. Government. If the people are ruled by a good government, there will be satisfaction. A Minister will not dare say anything bad about the Action Group just because he has been appointed a Minister in the Western Region.

What cannot be possible anywhere and has not been possible in any democratic country is political unity, because all the parties cannot be ideologically compatible. No matter how strong a political party may be, even with the support of the masses, there is bound to be an opposition.

On education, I wish to say that the educational standard of our children must be uniform throughout the country. The teachers also must be treated alike. Those in Government schools and Mission or private schools must have the same conditions of service. No one should earn more than the other provided they are of the same qualification.

I beg to support.

Mr F. A. Ogike (Orlu South-East): I rise to speak in support of the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Before I go on, I must, first of all, give praise to the Minister of Finance for the comprehensive Budget which he presented with a most impressive and oratorical speech.

It is gratifying to note that the Government has budgeted a huge sum of money, over £78 million, for the services of this country during the present financial year.

I would like the Government to pay particular attention to places that have been either forgotten or neglected—

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero): On a point of order, I think the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is disturbing the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! I will appeal to the hon. Member to desist from making noise that will disturb other Members.

Mr Ogike: I would like the Government to pay particular attention to places that have been either forgotten or neglected in the past in the distribution of amenities.

Orlu Division is one of the most neglected areas. I was inclined to think that such a place where many personalities have been produced should not be neglected. First of all, no

industry has been sited at Orlu. I would ask the Federal Government to site one big industry at Orlu this year. There is no question of asking for raw materials. Orlu Division happens to be one of the centres of palm produce, palm oil and palm kernel, in the Eastern Region. This produce can be used to mount a sizeable industry in Orlu Division.

Unemployment is most acute in my division. This is so because Orlu Division is one of the Divisions that has a large school population. Of the twenty-four secondary schools in the Division, twelve of them are in my constituency alone. So that nearly 1,500 students complete secondary education every year. Only about two *per cent* go for higher studies but the rest move to the big towns and cities to look for jobs. Many of them move to Lagos and help to over-populate the already over-populated city of Lagos. Most of these schools were established either by the community or by individuals.

I would appeal to the Federal Government to establish a comprehensive post-secondary, trade and industrial school at Orlu where some of our youths may acquire knowledge and skill that would enable them secure jobs easily.

Another urgent need of my people is a farm settlement. I am pleased that the Minister of Finance has given the undertaking that the Federal Government is prepared to encourage modern farming. May I inform the Minister of Finance that we have many acres of land, extending for many miles along the basin of the Njaba River. The land can be converted into a big farm settlement and part of it will be suitable for animal husbandry. A tour of my Division by the Minister responsible for Agriculture would be appreciated.

Orlu township is overdue for electricity. For the past three years, we have always been told that Orlu Division is on the priority list for electricity, but up till now, there is no sign of electricity coming to Orlu Division. We want electricity now within the next few months.

I now come to telecommunications. Telegrams and telephones nearly always fail to serve their purpose in my Division. The telephone system at Orlu is the most out-of-date in the country. Those who use free telephone must appreciate our difficulty. One cannot telephone Orlu from Lagos. If one booked a call at Orlu to Onitsha or Port

Harcourt or Owerri, one would have to wait for hours and hours, and sometimes the call would not go through.

During the February Meeting of this Parliament, I tried in vain for two days to telephone my house, and since this present meeting started, I have not been able to get in touch with my home by telephone. I have a telephone in my house and I pay heavy quarterly bills for it. I would like to ask the Minister of Communications to replace the telephone equipment at Orlu with modern equipment and connect Orlu with Ihiala or Ndizuogu in order that the people might have telephone services. Also, there is congestion always at Orlu Post Office. It is necessary to increase the staff at the Post Office.

May I also appeal to the Government to take over and tar some roads in Orlu Division. There is only about fifteen miles of trunk A road passing through Orlu, that is, the Onitsha-Owerri Road. I would appeal to the Federal Government to take over the trunk B roads or other roads in Orlu Division. I have in mind some of these roads that are overdue for tarring : the Orlu-Owerri Road, passing through Amike, Amaokwaya, Eziana, Isu Njaba, Amandogba, Ekwe Umuaka ; the Orlu-Owerri road, passing through Amaigbo, Amandugba, Amaorie ; and the Orlu-Oguta Road, passing through Okwudor, Awo-Omamma. These are very old roads that should be tarred. The Regional Government and the County Councils have been doing their best to maintain some of these roads but they cannot cope with the maintenance of all the roads in Orlu Division. All the roads in my constituency are maintained by the County Councils. As I said earlier, Orlu Division is a centre for palm produce and there are many roads to be used for the evacuation of produce but many of them are bad during the rainy season.

At this stage of our political development we must do something about our educational system. A plan should be set up and promulgated in order to introduce a national educational system. There should be the same curricula and syllabus for all schools, and there should be the same conditions of service for teachers throughout the Republic of Nigeria. This would make it possible for us to have the same standard of education all over the country. The Federal Government should also aid the Regional Governments to make primary education free throughout the Republic.

On health, I would say that health services should be extended to the rural areas.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) ; The Member for Orlu South-East (*Mr Ogike*) is pronouncing health "hell". I am sure we are not in "hell", I do not know how he can go to "hell".

Mr Ogike : The hon. Gentleman cannot spell the word "health". He does not understand a simple English language.

Health services should be extended to the rural areas. In many rural areas, people have to travel up to twenty or fifty miles before they get to a hospital. There are only two hospitals in the whole of Orlu Province : one is a joint hospital and the other was built by the ingenuity of one of our capable sons.

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking, I am sure, knows that we are trying to start work on the Ojike Memorial Medical Centre. If this Centre is completed, I am sure that it will help solve the health problem which the hon. Gentleman is talking about.

Mr Ogike : The health of the people in the rural areas must be looked after. We need the help of the Federal Government in any form—either through grants to the existing hospitals or through any special aid. The Community Hospital at Awo-Omamma and the Joint Hospital at Amaigbo will serve the people in this area well if encouraged by the Federal Government. The Federal Government should also establish health centres and maternity homes in the rural areas.

In conclusion, I would humbly appeal to the Federal Government to see to it that my Division is not left out in the Six-Year Development Programme. My Division should be given a place in it. I would like the Federal Government to site industries in my Division, develop our present system of agriculture and improve our roads.

I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Nadabo (Danja Kogo) : I rise to associate myself with many hon. Members who had earlier congratulated our able Minister of Finance on his Budget Speech. However, I would like to make some few observations.

On the question of establishing industries, I would say that I fall in line with those Members who spoke before me on this subject. Many

[M. IBRAHIM NADABO]

hon. Members had emphasised the necessity for spreading our industries to the rural areas. This is quite a reasonable suggestion because we have many capable youngmen in the rural areas. But since there are no industries in the rural areas these youngmen, who are capable and progressive, are forced to migrate to the towns and cities where there are industries. Consequently, towns and cities become thickly over-pouplated, and this in turn, brings about over-congestion. And when a town is over-populated, the cost of living there also rises. Therefore, if industries are spread all over the Federation, there will be prosperity and happiness everywhere in this country. There should be no part of this country that would not be developed.

M. Ibrahim Nadabo : I believe that the development of any part of this country can only take place when the Federal Government determines to do so. If the Federal Government determines to industrialise the whole country, it will be done successfully, unless they are not determined to do so. But as they are determined to industrialise this country, I would urge them to distribute the industries evenly throughout the whole Federation, so that everybody would benefit.

If my observations are carefully considered and implemented by the Government, I am sure, it will find the congestion in the towns and cities considerably reduced, and also the inhabitants of the areas where industries have been sited would benefit immensely.

I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill which has been ably moved by the Minister of Finance.

Mr B. Okon (Calabar) : On a point of order, I think there is no quorum in this House.

The Deputy Speaker : There is quorum in this House. The Standing Order says—

The quorum of the House shall be not less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House.

There are over fifty-two Members here.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am rather surprised that at this stage of our country's development, she should be advocating capitalism. I will say emphatically that this country is not prepared at all for capitalism. On the contrary, this country accepts in principle what we call the Pragmatic African Socialism of the

N.C.N.C. and the Democratic Socialism of the Action Group. (*Hear, hear*). Some people may not like socialism, whereas others may like it.

Minister of State (M. Ibrahim Gusau) : On a point of order, we do not want the hon. Gentleman's brand of socialism. We do not want African socialism.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I do not know what the Minister of State, (*Mallam Ibrahim Gusau*), is trying to say. Does he mean his own brand of African socialism in the capitalist way ?

Some people say that capitalism is good, but I think it is difficult for one to believe the protagonists of capitalism if one considers their private interests. Capitalism, to-day, is an evil. We all know that capitalism is dying out in England to-day. For example, people there have recently shown that they no longer support capitalism. That was shown by the defeat of the Conservative Party there. The Labour Party won, and that was the Socialist Party in that country which believes in socialism.

By socialism we do not mean communism. With socialism one can own things privately to some extent, or even to a great extent. But there is one thing which is important. To some considerable extent there must be some measure of nationalisation of certain major industries, and this is the very touchy point of the situation. For example, what do we think would happen to the economy of this country if the major industries of this country are not nationalised ? I am not advocating for total nationalisation.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : May I call attention to the farcicality of the argument of the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*). The hon. Gentleman is the grand-son of the late Shitta-Bey who, in his own right, was a capitalist. Fifty years ago his grand-father bought iron sheets to cover all the mosques in the Western Region. The grand-son of this capitalist now comes here to propagate the ideologies of socialism which he does not know about. His grand-father was a capitalist as well as a philanthropist of no mean order. I shall agree with his ideologies if only he will drop his name as Shitta-Bey.

Mr Shitta-Bey : The Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) has just made a comment, and I would not be doing justice to my-

self or to my family if I did not give him a reply, if only for two minutes.

Again, I hear another hon. Member saying that the comment was fair, but may I say that that might be a fair comment on the one hand, but on the other hand, as far as I am concerned, I can only say that the late Mohammed Shitta-Bey, my late grand-father, might have been a capitalist, but before his death he embraced socialism and even lectured on socialism in various ways.

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola): On a point of order, the Member for Lagos North-Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*), I understand, is below 21 years of age.

Mr Shitta-Bey: That may be so to the Minister of State, Chief B. O. Olusola, but that is wrong information. I am thirty-four, and I am married. I have children and great responsibility.

Now, to come back to the question of some measure of state control over our own industries, the Federal Government must realise that in order to promote our own economic development, in order to increase the living standard of our people, and in order to make life more abundant for our people, some measure of state control should be adopted in respect of our major industries.

I am not asking that Omimi Shoe Factory should be nationalised. But this country must believe in some measure of nationalisation. For example, we have what we call a sugar industry at Bacita, though it is just growing, I do not advocate that it should be nationalised now. But if it grows to a very great extent in this country, some measure of nationalisation should be adopted because sugar is what we all consume and there is a lot of profit that will accrue from that. If we leave that in the hands of private people then it will mean that the accrued profit will be taken away from this country, particularly when we have no legislation on repatriation of profits in this country.

I think it is high time we had that sort of legislation, because it is just not good for expatriate companies to take away about 95 per cent of the profits made out of this country. Then where do we go from there?

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu): On a point of information, I just want to inform the House that the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) who is now advocating

legislation against repatriation of profits is on wrong premises. The moment we do that the foreign investors will be scared away. We want money in this country, and we must start from a humble beginning.

Mr Shitta-Bey: If people say that they want some measure of state control over industries, they do not advocate for complete nationalisation. We want to adopt some measure of nationalisation in the interest of this country because that is the only way to solve unemployment in order to provide jobs for our people.

If foreign investors then refuse to invest in this country because we may probably nationalise one industry or the other, then I would say to hell with them! For example, there is some measure of nationalisation in England. I refer in this instance to the nationalisation of their coal industry. They also nationalised other industries. Even when the Conservative Party came to power they did nothing to put a stop to nationalisation, because they, too, believe in it.

I am urging the Federal Government to think seriously on nationalisation. The Government should nationalise all the industries that are vital to our economy. I am not advocating that all industries should be nationalised. For example, the Bacita Sugar Factory should be nationalised. I must stress, however, that such a nationalisation should not be done at this stage.

Minister of State (Chief B. O. Olusola): On a point of information, the Bacita sugar industry is a joint venture and there are many Nigerians who hold shares in it. Moreover, many Governments—the Northern Regional Government, the Eastern Regional Government, the Western Regional Government, the Federal Government—and the Commonwealth Development Corporation all own shares in the industry, and we cannot nationalise such an industry.

I think the hon. Gentleman is displaying some measure of ignorance in this matter of nationalisation.

Mr Shitta-Bey: If the hon. Minister is referring to me as demonstrating some measure of ignorance, then I have to say that his ignorance is more than mine, in the sense that he was not even aware of the full implication of what he was saying.

[MR SHITTA-BEY]

Now, the Minister of Finance referred to socialism as a canker-worm. I do not agree that socialism is a canker-worm because socialism does not and cannot destroy the economy of the country, but can only promote it. It is capitalism, on the other hand, that should be regarded as a canker-worm which is capable of destroying the whole economic fabric of this country.

In relation to the unity of this country which the hon. Minister mentioned in his Budget Speech, I agree with him that to a very great extent there is need for unity in this country. One thing, however, can undoubtedly affect the economic life of this country and that is if a Region is disintegrating, if a Region is economically bankrupt and if a Region cannot properly manage its affairs in a way that should command respect, nationally and internationally. This is the position with the Western Region to-day.

The Western Region to-day is controlled by a Government—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : I think it will be better for the Member for Lagos North-Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) to confine his speech to Lagos from where he was elected and not to digress to the Western Region. Lagos is not part of the Western Region. It may be tomorrow, but to-night it is not.

Mr Shitta-Bey : What I am saying is that if there is instability in the Western Region, that could affect the economy of the whole Federation. In this respect, I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that there is peace and tranquillity in the Western Region. I am also appealing to the Federal Government in relation to one thing and that is the impending election in the Western Region.

There are several pieces of legislation recently passed by the West Regional Government. This will affect the whole country.

The Minister of Education (Mr R. O. A. Akinjide) : The hon. Member is bringing into the debate the impending Regional election in the Western Region and that is incompetent. This legislature cannot debate matters which are within the exclusive competence of the Regional Government. The Regional election in the West is a matter within the competence of the Government of Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please confine his speech to the financial and economic policy of the Government.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am inclined to say that the instability of any Region could destroy the economic foundation of the whole Federation. That is my point. I am referring to the Western Region particularly in relation to a legislation requiring the prospective candidates in the forth-coming election in the Region to deposit £500 in respect of election petitions. This is unprecedented in the history of electoral regulations in this Federation. This is also an intention to rig the election.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please desist from speaking on elections in the Western Region ?

Mr Shitta-Bey : I will now move to education. In this respect, I am very happy that the Minister of Education is here and I think he will be able to solve our problems ; I am sure he will do so.

The Lagos people, the indigenous Lagosians are suffering from the point of view of scholarship awards. Every year when the Federal Government scholarships are awarded, whenever one looks into the list, it is difficult to find up to two names of indigenous Lagosians on the list.

Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is misleading the House. Apart from the fact that Lagos people always have their separate share of the general scholarships awards, Lagos has a special scholarship scheme for their children as a separate Region in this connection. Lagos is treated in this respect as a separate Region and the Lagosians have always had their own quota apart from the general scholarships awards which are being competed for by the whole country.

Mr Shitta-Bey : While what our former Minister of Education has said might be true to some extent, I would like to mention that though these scholarships awards are intended for Lagos people (when I say Lagos people I mean Lagos citizens), these scholarships awards have been taken by our friends from the other Regions who now live in Lagos. That is the position. Some of these people are from the Eastern Region, some from the West and even some from the North. The Lagos people as such do not receive these

scholarships awards. Most of them study with their own parents' money.

Minister of State (Mr D. C. Ugwu) : On a point of information, I would like to inform the House that last year before people for the Lagos scholarships were selected, an indigenous cultural organisation representing the people of Lagos had to be represented on the Scholarships Board.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am grateful to the Minister, but I would like to say that we have two major cultural organisations in this city which protect the interests of the people of Lagos as such. One is the Lagos Citizens Rights Protection Council and the other is the Egbe Omo Eko. These two bodies have complained bitterly that they have never been consulted in the award of scholarships and I think it is the proper thing for them to be consulted in order to get the indigenous people of Lagos to be given scholarships.

Mr Ugwu : I am telling the hon. Member that these two organisations were consulted last year and that they were represented on the Scholarships Board.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister is misleading this House. I am member of the Lagos Citizens Protection Council and I am a member of what is known as the J.A.C. of that Council. It is not true that these two bodies were consulted and that they were represented on the Scholarships Board.

All I want to say now is that we shall be very grateful if in future these two bodies are consulted. If they are consulted I think our problem in this respect will be solved to a very great extent.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero Ekiti) : I just want to know who are the indigenous Lagosians. I do not know whether the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) is a Lagosian too ; that is why I am asking this question.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am very grateful to my hon. Friend the Member for Ijero Ekiti (*Mr Ayo Fasanmi*). I will answer this question in a minute.

Before 1863, Lagos was ruled by our natural rulers. In 1863 it was ceded to the British Government. Everybody must know that there are people who own Lagos because nobody grows from the soil. People may

move from place to place and in law whenever a person occupies a place—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of information, it is only now that the affairs of Lagos are being run by the indigenous Lagosians. In the past, the affairs of Lagos were run by foreigners.

Mr Shitta-Bey : The point is that the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) did not grow up in Ijebu land. He keeps moving from one place to another. He is not a proper Ijebu man.

Mr Odulana : I am a proper Ijebu man.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) please speak to the point ?

Mr Shitta-Bey : What I am saying is that formerly it was recognised as a matter of law that Lagos belonged to a particular people. It was when we were granted independence that some people began to think that Lagos belongs to nobody. As I said before, we want Lagos back and we are going to claim it. The J.A.C. of the two bodies I have mentioned will take the matter up with the President and the Prime Minister of this country, and we shall go from one place to another until we are satisfied that Lagos is in our hands.

Lagos, our land, has been subjected to various land deals in Ijora, in Ikoyi and in all other places. Politicians should stop messing up with our land. We want our land back. If because some people are so interested in what they get from Lagos they do not want us to take Lagos back, I am quite sure that the Prime Minister is more reasonable, he will listen to our appeal and he will see to it that we get Lagos back. But if anybody tries to stand in our way, I can assure him that we shall take the matter up internationally and make sure that our interest is protected. We are Lagosians, we are not real citizens of Nigeria.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince Lamuye) : On a point of information, I want to inform this House that Lagos is known to be part of Yoruba land, and that the first men who settled in Lagos came from Benin. I do not know how the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) has come to arrive at the conclusion in this House that he and his family are not citizens of Nigeria.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, we appreciate that there are

[CHIEF V. O. ONABANJO]

some of the new Ministers who would like to make their maiden speeches by way of points of order, but I hope that you, Mr Speaker, will note the amount of interruptions we have got from the Ministerial Bench, so that we too may be given the same indulgence when we start business tomorrow.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am surprised to hear the remarks of the Minister of Natural Resources and Research (*Prince Lamuye*). At one time the N.N.D.P. made a promise to the people of Lagos that they were going to get Lagos back for them. Does it mean that the N.N.D.P. members were telling lies when they made this promise ?

Everybody here knows that Lagos should be a separate state for the indigenous Lagosians—

Prince Lamuye : I am not quarrelling about Lagos state. What I am talking about is the statement made by the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) that he is not a Nigerian.

Mr Shitta-Bey : The Minister got me out of context. What I am saying is that we, the people of Lagos, have been denied our rights. I am sure that we will settle this with the Prime Minister. Although we are Lagosians, we are also real citizens of Nigeria.

M. Shehu Ambursa (Gwandu North) : On a point of order, I would like to draw the attention of the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) to the fact that he has deviated from the point we are discussing. I hope that the Member will concentrate his attention on the fiscal policy of the Government, and remember that the Standing Order says that no hon. Member should mislead the House.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am assuring this House that Lagos citizens really want their own state. We all support the creation of our own state, and we are sure that the Prime Minister will give us Lagos back. I want Members to know that Lagos was occupied by some people centuries ago. These people left their children behind and these children have been living in Lagos since then. They have no other region,

they do not come from Ibadan, or Ede or Kutuwiwenji or from any other part of the Federation. They belong to Lagos—

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East) : On a point of order, we are not here to give the history of Lagos or any other part of Nigeria. We are here on a special mission. I am here representing 180,000 people, and I must have something to tell my people when I get back home. I will not tell them that we have been sitting down here tracing the history of Lagos. So, I want the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) to sit down.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I think the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Aliboh*) should have some iced-water to cool him down. He should be thrown out through the window if he is tired.

What I am saying is that the real indigenous Lagosians are not represented on any Board. The Lagos people should have a say in the running of the Government of this Federation. All the Members of this House have benefited from Lagos, and yet the people of Lagos are denied their rights. If we continue to be treated in this way, the position of our Oba will be lowered, our chiefs will no longer be recognised. I want to say that before the chieftaincy institution came into being in any other part of Nigeria Lagos was having a chieftaincy institution. We appeal to all Members to support the people of Lagos in their demand for the creation of a Lagos state. I appeal to the Federal Government to let us have our own Region or state.

Mr Speaker : Order, the Member for Lagos North Central has exhausted his time.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 12 o'clock midnight, the Debate stood adjourned, pursuant to the Order of the House This Day.

Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.

And it being after 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute after midnight.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 8th April, 1965

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CABINET OFFICE : POLICE

Police Stations

O.136. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many Police stations there are in each Region.

Minister of State (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed) : There are 281 Police stations located as follows :—

Northern Region	65
Eastern Region	105
Western Region	42
Mid-Western Region ..	27
Federal Territory including Railway and Ports Authority	42

These figures do not include the Native Authority and Local Government Police stations.

Police Quarters

O.137. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, if there are still some police constables staying in private houses in Enugu ; and if so, how soon will they be provided with official quarters.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : Yes, Sir. More quarters for Police constables will be built when more funds become available.

Mr Chukwu : When will more funds be available ?

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : As soon as possible.

O.138. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, if there are still some senior Police officers staying in private houses in Enugu and Lagos ; and if so, how soon will they be provided with official quarters.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : There are 61 Superior Police Officers in Lagos and one Superior Police Officer in Enugu living in private accommodation. Quarters will be built for them when funds are provided for the purpose.

Polling Booths Cases

O.140. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how many people were arrested for the destruction of polling booths in Lagos during the December 1964 general election.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : Three persons were arrested in Lagos for damaging polling booths during the December 1964 general elections.

M. Ali Umaru (Wukari) : To which political party do they belong ?

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Cheap Housing

O.54. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will report to the House what progress has been made towards bringing into effect the terms of the Motion passed recently in this House calling on him to provide cheap houses for workers in the low income group ; and if he will state how many houses have so far been completed for this purpose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs (M. Abdul Kirim) : Since the adoption of the Motion last March the Lagos Executive Development Board has acquired and paid for 63 acres of land in Surulere for the Low-Cost Housing Scheme. Special designs for various types of apartment blocks have been developed based upon standards adopted by a Joint Committee of the Government and the Trade Unions.

Plans for roads and services for the estate have also been completed. This initial phase of the Scheme will provide accommodation for about 14,000 persons. Tenders were recently invited for the site development contract.

The Lagos Executive Development Board has also completed and sold to the public 208 houses costing £2,250 and less and 80 houses costing £3,100. Prices include the cost of freehold land.

Mr Senu-Oke : Is the Minister aware that up till now there is not a single house built, and that this answer is misleading ? Will the Minister confirm that ?

Minister of State (Mr E. T. Orodi) : Mr Speaker, I am afraid the Member for Badagry (Mr Senu-Oke) is very much misinformed.

[MR ORODI]

It is not true to say that no house has been sold during the last year. All the houses that have been built have already been sold and it may be he is under a dilemma regarding the constructional work which is in progress.

Mr Senu-Oke : Does the Minister realise that my question is based on housing for the low income group of workers and not the houses they build and sell to capitalists ?

Mr Orodi : As I have said earlier, that is exactly where the hon. Gentleman is misinformed. As a matter of fact, low-cost houses are not sold to the people. They are meant only to rehabilitate the people who were move out of Lagos for certain Government projects which are necessary in the overall development of Lagos, and as such, they are not meant to be sold.

EDUCATION

American Peace Corps

O.76. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Education if the American Peace Corps has cost Nigeria anything at all, and if so, how much has been spent each year since the introduction of the scheme.

Minister of State (Mr D. B. Babajide) : Nigeria makes no contribution in cash to either the salaries or the maintenance of the American Peace Corps Volunteers in Nigeria. In the main, our contribution to the scheme has been in providing free housing and transport allowances to Volunteers and according them official hospitality on arrival. The cost of the programme to Nigeria since its inception is trivial in the last extreme and complete records are not available.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : What efforts have been made by the Ministry of Education to eliminate the wild and unfounded attacks on these men and women of goodwill who have come to help us ? For some time in the press and outside, wild attacks have been levelled against these Peace Corps people even though the scheme does not cost the Nigerian Government anything. What efforts has the Ministry made to wipe out and correct these erroneous impressions ?

Mr Speaker : This is a new question and it definitely requires notice.

Rural Education Development

O.143. Prince Ademola Olaniran asked the Minister of Education if he has any plans for assisting rural areas in the field of Post Secondary and technical education, with particular reference to Oshun South-East Constituency.

Mr Babajide : There is no special plan for Oshun South-East Constituency, but in the wider sense of providing Post Secondary (and technical education), the Federal Government offers assistance in the form of scholarships to students from all parts of the Federation to enable them to qualify in both technical and professional fields. Should any student from the hon. Member's Constituency apply for Federal Government post-secondary scholarships in these fields, his application would be considered along with others.

Prince Olaniran : Would the Minister tell me why my constituency should be singled out for this type of treatment while Egbado Division was not ?

Mr Babajide : I am not aware of what the hon. Member is trying to insinuate. All I can say, however, is that as soon as we go into scholarships awards we will see that even treatment is given to every constituency.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East) : The 38th Progress Report on Education, 1964, shows that the expenditure for technical schools falls below standard. May we know what plans the Ministry of Education has to improve this situation for the year 1965-66 ?

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION—TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Review of the Constitution

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : The point I want to raise, Mr Speaker, is in respect of the embarrassing statement made on the Floor of this House last week by the hon. Minister of Economic Development regarding the review of the Nigerian Constitution, and which statement was arrogantly repeated this week by the same Minister.

My oral Question No. O.1 of the 25th of March, 1965, went as follows, and I beg to quote —

... how soon will the Nigerian Constitution undergo a review.

and the reply to that Question by the Prime Minister read as follows, and I quote—

Sir, arrangements will be made for the review of the Nigerian Constitution as soon as the necessary processes have been completed.

Now, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether as a result of this Minister's statement—

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): On a point of order, I think that it is uncivilised to use the word *arrogant* when referring to a Minister. The hon. Member should respect the position of a Minister. Would he therefore, withdraw that word because it is uncivilised.

Mr Ahamefula: I could not have used this word if the Minister had not repeated that statement this week.

I want to know from the Prime Minister whether as a result of this Minister's statement his Government has departed from the original plan. I am making this humble request because of the unprovoked insult of the Minister to Southerners when he said that there would be no need for the review of the Constitution and that the North would resist any attempt to do so. This, in my opinion, is an indication of the—

Mr Speaker: Order! The Member for Okigwi South-West (*Mr Ahamefula*) is now making a speech, whereas I thought that he wanted to ask a question. If the hon. Member has a specific question to ask will he do so now?

Mr Ahamefula: My question is this: I would like the Prime Minister to make a statement on the issue in order to dispel the atmosphere which is already tense.

The Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman has just asked a question. He wanted to debate on it, but I think that it would be very irrelevant to do so during Question Time.

Now, I would like to confirm to him that the reply which I gave to Question O.1 correctly reflects Government's view.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I want to draw the attention of this House to a caption in to-day's issue of the *Morning Post*. It says—**LESS MONEY FOR PRESIDENT; UPGA SAYS HE GETS TOO MUCH.**

I want to say that it is the practice of this House that Members should be free to express their personal feelings unless the political party which the Member belongs to applies the Whip. The caption is devilish and mischievous because the opinions of Members are entirely their individual opinions. Nobody should exploit the proceedings of this House to sustain a very devilish policy. If the *Morning Post* is tired of constructive endeavours, Government should do—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) is most irrelevant. This is an internal affair between the UPGA members of Parliament. He should go as an UPGA Whip in this House and settle the matter with the Member concerned. How can we be responsible for what an UPGA candidate said?

Mr Mbah: The point I am making—and this is the practice not only in Nigeria but elsewhere also—is that Members should express their feelings freely on any issue. Whether the salary of the President should be cut or raised is entirely a matter of individual opinion.

Mr Speaker: Order! I do not like too much discussion on the President's salary.

Mr Mbah: Finally, I am only saying that if the paper is tired of constructive endeavours Government should do well to close it down.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APYRPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(31ST MARCH)

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim): I propose to speak briefly on our Six-Year Development Plan and the state of Nigerian economy. I will concentrate on the major economic problems facing us as a developing nation. I do not intend to play down our great potentialities for development because there is no doubt that Nigeria has the greatest potential for rapid industrialisation and agricultural revolution in Africa.

[ALHAJI WAZIRI IBRAHIM]

In terms of natural resources, population and manpower supply, we are the largest and the greatest. But we would be deceiving ourselves if we thought that Nigeria would automatically occupy the front seat in Africa all the time if we did not show a positive will to develop.

One of the major tests of our ability and general will to develop is in the implementation of our Six-Year Development Plan. We have made some remarkable progress in implementing the Plan. This is shown in the 1964 Progress Report on the National Development Plan which has just been published by my Ministry. Copies of the Progress Report have been distributed to Members of the House. The Report covers the performance of the whole economy in the first three years of the Plan. It sets out in detail what has happened to the Development Programmes of the Federal and Regional Governments and their Statutory Corporations and also the major developments in the private sector of the economy.

It is interesting to note that according to the latest statistics soon to be published by the Federal Office of Statistics, our National Income increased by 5.7 *per cent* in the first year of the Plan compared with the Plan target of 4 *per cent*. I admit that this high growth rate was due mainly to investments undertaken before the Plan was launched and the fact that the year 1962-63 was a good year for agriculture particularly groundnuts. Agriculture contributes over 65 *per cent* of our gross domestic product and as such the rate of growth in the agricultural sector determines to a significant extent the growth rate of our national income. Provided we do not have a very bad year in agriculture, we should not find it difficult to maintain an annual growth rate of the same order of magnitude as we realised in the first year of the Plan for the remaining years when the rate of investment will be much higher than in the first year of the Plan.

The other highlights and major economic events covered in the Progress Report are set out in Chapter I entitled "General Survey of the Nigerian Economy" under the sub-headings "Investment and Economic Growth, Public Private and Structure of Investment, Consumption and Saving, Exports, Imports and Balance of Payments; External Reserves, Unemployment and Manpower Planning, Price

Levels, National Income Policy, Public Debt, Private Investments, Guaranteed by Governments, and Economic Integration and African Unity." Under these headings hon. Members will see details. I do not propose to bore hon. Members by reciting the wealth of statistical and other information given under these sub-headings. The review of financial resources available for financing the Plan has been adequately covered in the Budget Speech and Chapter II of the Progress Report.

There is little point in repeating all the detailed stories of outstanding achievements and unavoidable failures in the Plan faithfully recorded in the Progress Report. It would be interesting to Members if I reviewed very briefly the prospects before the Nigerian economy in the next five years ahead.

The first question that readily comes to mind is—What are the chances of implementing our Six-Year Development Plan which is now half way through its life? May I point out that no development programme can be fulfilled one hundred *per cent*. On the other hand, unless we are able to implement the major elements in our Six-Year Development Plan, we cannot realise its objective of raising the standard of living of the masses of the people. We are therefore committed to implementing most, if not all, of the growth-inducing projects or projects in the Economic Sector of the Development Plan.

It is precisely in this Development Sector, that is the Economic Sector, that we have not been doing as well as in the General Administration and Social Overhead Sectors where we have ironically been performing too well. I think it would be fair to say that if we could raise additional financial resources, which we hope we could, we should be able to carry through the Six Year-Development Plan very well.

There has been a general interest at home and abroad in a Review of our National Development Plan. Some people have criticised us that the total capital expenditure envisaged under the Plan is too large in view of our tight financial resources position. But our critics forget that capital expenditure are investments intended to increase the future size of the national cake before it can be equitably shared out.

There are in this connection, two main problems which call for a large investment

programme. These are, the serious unemployment situation in the country particularly among young school leavers, and the population problem. The Plan assumed an annual population growth rate of about 2 per cent. The 1963 Census shows that Nigeria has a population of about 55.6 million. The detailed breakdown of the census is not yet available and no official estimate of the growth rate has been made. If the growth rate happens to be substantially higher than the Plan assumption, then we have to increase our volume of investment in order to prevent the income *per capita* or the average standard of living in Nigeria from falling.

In short, the annual increase in population should not be larger than the annual increase in our national income. The unemployment situation in the country and the new Census figures call for a large investment programme which involves the mobilisation of more resources for development.

It was against this background that senior planning officials in the Federal and Regional Governments started discussions on a review of the Six-Year Development Plan last year.

I will, with your permission, Mr Speaker, quote from page 59 of the Progress Report—

All these developments have necessitated a careful review of the Plan. The machinery for Plan review was set in motion in June 1964 but was temporarily suspended due to the impending elections to Parliament. Though the details of the review have not yet been finalised the necessary pattern and directions for the second half of the Plan period are now reasonably clear :

(i) *Certain projects incorporated in the current Plan have to be abandoned altogether or implemented to investigations stage only.*

(ii) *Works in progress and projects under construction have to be carried through.*

(iii) *Financial resources, internal and external, will have to be reassessed.*

(iv) *Executive capacity is no longer the major bottleneck in many areas. But there is still a great shortage of high level personnel in some fields (e.g. project appraisers for external finance purposes) and efforts will have to be made to remedy such defects.*

(v) *The Mid-West Plan will have to be finalised and properly integrated with the*

National Plan and the Western Nigeria Development Programme readjusted.

(vi) *The question of employment will be assigned a higher priority among the objectives of the Plan.*

(vii) *More determination is required in our efforts to harness available resources and a greater sense of direction in Plan implementation is called for in the remaining years of the Plan. This involves placing greater emphasis on the Development sector than we have hitherto done.*

(viii) *The collection of basic data and preparatory work for drawing up the second National Plan will have to be put in hand.*

It is essential that full attention be given to all the items enumerated above during the second half of the current Plan. It is on these that the full implementation of the Plan and the realisation of the specified objectives largely depend.

It is clear from all this that we cannot and do not intend to abandon the Six-Year Development Plan. The only way to develop the Nigerian economy and raise the standard of living of our people is to invest in capital development projects.

We must therefore raise additional resources from within Nigeria and abroad to implement the Plan. As clearly stated by my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Finance, in the Budget Speech, this will call for sacrifice from each and everyone of us and from the general public.

The private sector of the Nigerian economy plays an important part in the development of the nation. In the first year of the Plan, the volume of private investment at 1957 constant prices was £82 million compared with £55 million in the public sector. Thus, in terms of aggregate investment, the private sector is the leading section in Nigeria.

I have for some time been giving serious consideration to how to harmonize investment decisions in the private sector with Government intentions and policies. Unless Government can influence investment decisions in private industry and commerce, we cannot control the direction and growth of our national economy.

[ALHAJI WAZIRI IBRAHIM]

Some time last year, I held separate meetings with the Chairmen of Federal Statutory Corporations, leading Nigerian businessmen, Editors and Proprietors of our newspapers and radio network, to discuss, *inter alia*, integration of investment decisions in the public and private sectors, and the general problem of effective co-ordination of our economic activities in the public and private sectors.

I must say that the response I got was most enthusiastic and I came to the conclusion that what we need is an institutional framework to enable the Governments in the Federation and people in the private industry to come together to discuss common development problems facing the country.

We need a forum where leading businessmen, industrialists, workers and employers' representatives can meet government representatives to discuss our problems very frankly and look for solutions which will help the country.

It probably has to start as a consultative body, but the representation on both sides must be at the highest level. My preliminary idea which I propose to discuss with all concerned is to form a Consultative Committee for National Economic Development, charged with the following terms of reference :

Firstly, to examine the effects of Government investment programmes on industrial and other developments in the private sector of the economy and make appropriate suggestions and recommendations to Government and private employers.

Secondly, to assist Government in drawing up National Development Plans with particular reference to investment possibilities in the private sector and advise on appropriate policies or measures for implementing agreed development programmes.

Thirdly, to assess from time to time the performance of the Nigerian economy as a whole with a view to identifying the major obstacles to national development and suggesting ways and means of removing them.

Fourthly, to explore and advise Government on how best to maintain general stability in prices and income with particular reference to frequent price changes in the distributive trade and transportation.

Fifthly, to advise expatriate business enterprises in Nigeria and Government on accelerating the pace of Nigerianisation in industry and commerce with particular reference to ownership and management.

Sixthly, to advise Government and industry on the implications of the proposed West African Common Market for the rapid industrialisation of the Nigerian economy.

Seventhly, to examine from time to time, the labour situation in Nigeria and advise Government and industry on the maintenance of an optimum level of employment and wages.

These are my preliminary thoughts which I propose to discuss with representatives of employers organisations, trade unions, and other leading people in our economic life drawn from manufacturing and petroleum industry, banking and finance, shipping, retail trade and transportation, and so on.

A body like this would be most useful in assessing any current problems such as the proposed increases in West African Conference Lines freight rates. A representative of the Conference Lines could explain to the body why the increase is necessary, and Government representatives and other affected parties could register their protest effectively during discussions in the group.

The problem re-stated briefly, is that Government does not know enough of what is happening in private industry and commerce and *vice versa*.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On this very brilliant expose being made by the Minister of Economic Development, I wonder whether in order to sort things out, he will not like to take advantage of the opportunity of having the trade union leadership, very heavily represented in this House in the persons of the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*), who is behind me here, the Member for Ishan East (*Mr Borha*) and the Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*), interestingly, all in the U.P.G.A. camp. Of course, this shows the Minister how progressive we, in the U.P.G.A. camp, are.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : I would like to tell the hon. Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) that I am yet to be convinced as to whether there can be any more progressive body than the N.N.A. Perhaps the intention

is to absorb all the progressive members of the U.P.G.A. into the N.N.A. and make them more responsible and sensible.

On the question of the trade unions, we are very happy to see Comrades Bassey, Borha and Mbah. We do not mind having them here. We like them because we are very progressive, even more progressive than the U.P.G.A.

However, I must not waste more time. I was saying that the public and private sectors do not influence each other enough in their investment planning activities. We must all plan together on a fully co-ordinated basis in order to avoid wasteful duplication, unnecessary conflicts and inefficient allocation of our scarce resources. This is the only way to develop our resources very quickly.

I would like to end this statement by drawing the attention of Members to another new area in which the Federal Government has been active of late. I have in mind the application of science and modern technology to the development of Nigerian economy. The pivot of this activity will be the proposed National Scientific and Industrial Research Council.

Extensive discussions have been held with university scientists and other people interested in the application of science and technology to development and the present indications are that the National Scientific and Industrial Research Council might be given the following terms of reference :

(i) to promote, support and co-ordinate industrial and scientific research in general in Nigeria ;

(ii) to advise the Federal Government on national policy relating to the application of science and technology to the development of the economy ;

(iii) to promote and co-ordinate the survey and appraisal of the natural resources of the nation and develop such resources through applied research designed to promote the development of the national economy.

The establishment of the National Scientific and Industrial Research Council will be quite a milestone in our determination to modernise the Nigerian economy though we should not expect overnight results in adapting modern technology to the economic development of our great country.

What I have said is briefly my contribution to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and it also serves as an introduction to the Progress Report on the Development Plan.

Before I sit down, I would like to say a few words on the very wise statement made by the Premier of the Mid-West, Chief Osadebay, and I would like Members to read his statement. The Premier simply confirmed my statement in this House that there is nothing wrong in the Constitution and that it is with us that something is wrong.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : This morning the Prime Minister made a statement on the Constitution. I wonder why a Minister in the Prime Minister's Cabinet should continue to be stubborn in sticking to his opinion. I think it is high time we took the statement of the Prime Minister as the conclusive government view on the matter.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : Gentlemen, please do not misunderstand me. I think that I am more loyal to the Prime Minister than some Members are. Members simply misunderstand the Prime Minister. I am only congratulating Premier Osadebay on the statement he made. Some Members seem to confuse issues.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : I just want to know from the hon. Federal Minister of Economic Development whether, in his opinion, the statement made by the Premier of the Mid-West should supersede that of the Prime Minister.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : Never, never, never. The trouble with some Members is that they never like to understand. They make statements before they think.

Mr Mbah : I want to say that we respect our Ministers, but I think that respect must be reciprocal. If Ministers choose to be vulgar in their language and thereby insult Members, we shall not have it. The Minister of Economic Development said, sometime ago, that they in the N.N.A. would teach us in the U.P.G.A. to be responsible and sensible. Here again he is making provocative statements. I think the Minister should learn to curb his tongue otherwise he would get it back from us.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim : Really, I did not mean to be insulting. I am really sorry. The point I am making is that we should be able

[ALHAJI WAZIRI IBRAHIM]

to take other people's opinion calmly. I only said that I was going to end my speech by commending very highly, the statement made by the Premier of the Mid-West. This has nothing to do with the Prime Minister's statement with which I agree, and what Members should understand is that the Prime Minister's opinion is supreme.

Chief A. Frank-Opigo (Brass South): I heard the statement made by the Premier of the Mid-West over the radio and I read it in the newspapers. I feel, also, that the Minister of Economic Development is basing his statement on newspaper reports, and this is not acceptable in this House.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: I was saying that I congratulate Premier Osadebay and I recommend that all Members should see our problems in this country in the way the Premier sees it. I think that if Members read his statement very carefully, we shall soon have less to say on this revision of the Constitution.

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia): I wish to explain that the statement made by the Premier of the Mid-West is not meant to convey the idea that there may not be any need for a revision of the constitution. Furthermore, (*Interruptions*)—Order, please! (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order! The gentility and calmness which the hon. Minister seeks is only suitable for the Senate.

Chief Onyia: I want to say that whatever the statement that has been made by the Premier of the Mid-West is, it is meant to be an individual statement and not meant to be binding on the nation.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: I think we had better leave this for the moment and probably somebody will soon introduce a Motion. The interesting way in which we can debate this is to let somebody bring a Motion on this issue and if we defeat it there will be no review.

I will end now by telling hon. Members that in accordance with the protest statement made by my Colleague the Minister of Finance yesterday, we are vigorously pursuing the question of the increases made by the West African Conference Line. Actually this is murder, and we are charging them with manslaughter. This is terrible and I can assure

hon. Members that we are not going to allow this—

The Minister of Aviation (Dr Jaja Wachuku): On a point of order, my friend the Minister of Economic Development should say that the charges constitute cargo-slaughter and not manslaughter.

Mr Speaker: He is speaking in economic language.

Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim: The Speaker is an all round man, and the former Minister of External Affairs should know that when we speak in economic language, the external affairs men do not understand. When talking on economic problems, we do not talk diplomacy. We tend to be frank.

We are going to pursue this subject at every level, at the United Nations, at the Organisation of African Unity Economic Commission, and in this connection, I would say that a Nigerian was appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa to investigate this question of the open exploitation of the West African Conference Line, and the report I hope, will help us.

The fact is we are undeveloped and the West African Conference Line is a highly developed organisation. They are very ruthless and possess no morals and no sympathy. So, when we are dealing with such an organisation we feel we can do nothing sometimes other than protest.

I think it is a good thing that we hate this and we are protesting and we have put it on record for the future that we have protested and condemned this exploitation.

I think they are going to be very ashamed of themselves when the whole world knows that they are cheating innocent people who cannot defend themselves. We will do our best and I do hope we will have the support of the Members of this House and the public at large in condemning these people everytime we have the opportunity.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Health (Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): In supporting the Appropriation Bill I wish to seize the opportunity to make a review of the activities of the Federal Ministry of Health. The year under review has been characterised on the domestic level by phenomenal expansion of the medical and

health services in Lagos, and on the international level by a continuous growth in our stature at international conferences.

Government subventions towards medical and health services have been very generous and the *per capita* expenditure on health in the Federal Territory is conspicuously higher than in any of the Regions. This fact emphasises the strenuous efforts which the Federal Government is making to improve, firstly, the health of the inhabitants of the Federal Territory and, secondly, through the Medical Schools and the Teaching Hospitals to improve generally the health and medical services in the whole of the Republic.

Although Government is spending large sums of money to improve health in the Federal Territory and in the Republic as a whole, yet we are conscious of the fact that the financial resources at our disposal are sadly inadequate for the task we have to perform. This is not a bad reflection on the Federal Government, which is spending more on health than any of the other Governments of the Federation, but an admission of the fact that the Government alone cannot be expected to carry the burden of providing full, free and comprehensive health services for the people.

The time has come when this honourable House should accept the philosophy of self-help in the field of social services—

Mr T. Mbegbu (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, I think the Minister of Health is aware that at no time have we had any free medical service. He is trying to mislead the House and the public by trying to appeal to the very public that has been responsible for this service for self-help. He should remember that even in Lagos there is no public convivence of any kind—

Mr Speaker : Order.

Chief Majekodunmi : I am aware that some politicians have advocated the provision of free comprehensive medical services in the whole of Nigeria, and I am also aware that such a proposal is absolutely impracticable under these circumstances—

Several hon. Members : What are the circumstances ?

Chief Majekodunmi : I shall be happy when the Constitution is reviewed.

Sir, our Government has made very generous provisions for health services and for this reason, we should like to call upon the members of the public to contribute towards maintaining their health. This is a moral responsibility which every individual should face and accept. I am happy to state that the majority of our people are willing and able to pay for medical treatment. What is responsible for the present confusion is the hybrid nature of the medical services which we inherited from the colonial regime. It is neither fish nor fowl, neither socialist nor capitalist but a breeding ground for malpractices of all sorts. This archaic system of medical administration we are already taking measures to overhaul.

There are several outstanding achievements in my Ministry during the year under review. As I do not propose to bore Members with a catalogue of these achievements, I will only spotlight a few, which will indicate the extent of the progress we are making.

Towards the end of last year the foundation stone of the Lagos University Medical School block was laid. This was a historic occasion for medical education in this country. Hitherto, the Lagos University Medical School has been using a wing of the Teaching Hospital for laboratory and lecture purposes. The Lagos University Teaching Hospital together with the University College Hospital, Ibadan, have expanded their facilities so as to provide opportunities for increased intake of students who will later do clinical work. The first batch of clinical students at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital began their course last October after two full years of pre-clinical training in that school.

The Lagos University Teaching Hospital has started to fulfil the hopes which the Right Hon. Prime Minister expressed on the occasion of its dedication, when he pointed out that that Hospital was founded to serve not only the Federal Territory of Lagos but also the whole of the Federation. Currently, the Department of Anaesthesia of the Lagos University Medical School has been helping with the training of Anaesthetists in the Mid-West Region. Senior members of that department have been working in rotation, staying at Benin, visiting hospitals in that Region, training local doctors in Anaesthesia and generally laying the foundation for improving the work of Anaesthetists in that

[CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI]

Region. This is not an isolated case, for that same Department has been rendering invaluable assistance to Lagos health services by providing anaesthetic covers both at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi, and at the General Hospital.

During the year, a new Department, the Department of Community Health, was opened at the Lagos University Medical School under the headship of a Professor provided under the Canadian Technical Assistance Scheme. This Department is of the utmost importance as far as health development is concerned. The Department deals with preventive and social medicine, and already the staff of this Department have engaged in surveys in various parts of the country in order accurately to assess the health manpower needs of the Republic. When this Department is fully established it will provide training in various aspects of public health and provide, in our local environment, the type of training facilities for which we send officers overseas. The advantage of training in local surrounding in this aspect of medicine is obvious and requires no further emphasis.

Three Health Centres were dedicated during the year: one at John Street, Lagos, another one at Suru-Lere and the third in Yaba. The first two, that is, John Street and Surulere Health Centres have been opened to the public for use. The fourth Health Centre is being built at Ebute Metta and is nearing completion. The fifth is soon to start at Onikan very near the Prime Minister's official residence.

Those Health Centres which are now in use have justified the high hopes which we entertained when the scheme was being launched, and for which hon. Members opposite severely criticised us. They have greatly improved the quality of our health services and have consequently reduced the long queues characteristic of the large hospitals in Lagos. The Health Centres provide a 24-hour service for the inhabitants of the wards in which they are situated. It is the first attempt anywhere on the continent of Africa and in the so-called developing countries to provide, on the basis of total coverage, for the curative and preventive aspects of medicine. The Health Centres also cater for the personal and environmental sanitation of the inhabitants of the wards in addition to providing other

services including Child Welfare, Domiciliary Mid-Wifery, School Health and Infant Welfare Clinics.

I would like to inform this honourable House of an innovation in the administration of these Health Centres. Each Health Centre is for administrative purposes under a Technical Committee made up of experts. In addition to this Committee there is a Ward Committee composed of the ordinary citizens living in the ward where the Centre is situated. This is the Advisory Committee. Its function is to meet regularly and advise the Medical Superintendent of the Health Centre on various points which might lead to the success of the Health Centre. The Advisory Committee brings to the attention of the Medical Superintendent any complaints from members of the public, suggestions for improving the services, for extending their scope and at the same time this Committee acts as liaison between the Centre and the public it serves. For the first time in our history we are experimenting with a situation in which the users of the services are given the direct opportunity of making their feelings known about how the service is run and also for giving useful suggestions for its improvement.

Already, we have begun to receive unsolicited commendations from international experts who have visited these Health Centres. With your permission, Sir, I shall read just a short extract from one such tribute which was contained in a letter which I received on the 8th of February this year. This is a letter from Doctor Robert L. Berg, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Development in the University of Rochester, New York. It reads as follows:

... We had the opportunity of visiting the two new Health Centres at John Street and in Surulere. We were impressed not only with the attractive and ingenious arrangement of the buildings but with the quality of the health programs we found. We had been impressed in East Africa with the system of health centres and how they were able to provide a great amount of health care (often in the hands of nurses and medical assistants), but we did not see such an efficient handling of a great volume of cases elsewhere. We were particularly impressed with the screening arrangements for identifying those patients

that could be handled by the nursing staff, the same identifying those patients who would need to see physicians. The method of dispensing common drugs and of offering educational information on health matters to patients was most impressive.

We have been slow in the United States in exploring functions that could be filled by nurses and medical assistants. One might say that in the past we have had too many doctors to force us to consider these things more sensibly. The result has been that we have not been imaginative about exploring the role of ancillary people in health care. In addition, by emphasising the individual practice in medicine, we have neglected health education, preventive measures, and general public health measures as a part of the provision of health care.

It is not likely that the United States will move in the direction of health centres generally, but it may offer solutions for rural areas in this country and for the care of indigent populations in urban areas. In addition to the health centres as a focus of health care, we were impressed in the way that they had already been in use for teaching purposes. In this direction, a number of faculty members at Ibadan and at Lagos are ahead of our own experiences in this respect. We anticipated that having some of our students spend a summer in Nigeria would be informative and educational for them, and we would also profit from an exchange of institutional staff. I am writing to Dean Thomas about our proposed arrangements and hope to explore further this issue of our capitalising on the experience of Nigerian faculties in using health centres for educational purposes.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, we have listened to this commendation; there is no doubt that the Minister is a very capable man. But there is one point and that is, this very man who wrote this letter must also have seen our night-soil men carrying their drums in the night in Lagos all over the area because of lack of water system in various places. There is no sewerage system and we would like to know what the Minister is doing about that.

Chief Majekodunmi: Unfortunately, Professor Berg did not have the opportunity of visiting *Kakadu* with the Member for

Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). I shall arrange for them to-get-together next time Professor Berg visits Nigeria.

Hon. Members will recall that in his Speech, the President indicated that Government would now explore the possibility of manufacturing drugs in Nigeria. The work in the Government-owned manufacturing laboratory in Yaba has been so successful that there is no longer any doubt that this country can produce a large proportion of the drugs it uses more cheaply than by importing them from overseas.

As far as hospitals and clinics in Lagos are concerned, the figures of attendance continue to be impressive and to give a clear indication of the success of our work in ministering to the health needs of our people. During the year, the average daily attendance at the Lagos General Hospital was 1,300, which is a record by any standard, at the Children's Hospital the average daily attendance was 720, at the Lagos Island Maternity the daily attendance was 206, at the newly opened Health Centres the average daily attendance at John Street was 552 and at Surulere the average daily attendance was 447. These figures show quite clearly that there is an increasing and, probably, an insatiable demand by the public for the advantages conferred by medical science.

I should also like to close these statistics by informing the House that in the Lagos Island Maternity last year over 18,000 babies were delivered.

Our plans for a national Small-pox Eradication Campaign are going on in full swing. At present we have stepped up our production of freeze-dry vaccine at the Yaba Small-pox Vaccination laboratory so as to reach the 20,000,000 dose target which is necessary before the campaign is launched. When this target is reached, the campaign will be launched which, at its conclusion, will mean the end of small-pox in the whole Republic. In the meantime, we are progressing satisfactorily with the building up of the infra-structure necessary before this campaign is launched.

The Malaria Eradication Campaign jointly sponsored by this Government and the World Health Organisation is progressing satisfactorily. In the Regions the pre-eradication phase of this campaign has been nearly completed and everything points towards a successful campaign when it is launched.

[CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI]

The National Council on Health which is an Advisory body consisting of all the Health Ministers of the Republic and their advisers continues to meet regularly to discuss matters of concern to all the Governments. The need for co-operation is so well appreciated by all the members that there can be no doubt that the Council will continue to grow in strength and be a forum not only for disseminating information about health but also for co-ordinating the health plants and the health efforts of the five Governments of the Republic.

We continue to play a leading role in international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and the Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Commission of the O.A.U.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to the large army of men and women, both Nigerians and expatriates, who work throughout the Federal Territory and in Federal Institutions in the Regions to improve our health and medical services. With few exceptions, the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, radiographers, physiotherapists have spent a year characterised by dedication, hard-work and devotion to duty. I am sure that this honourable House will associate itself with me in thanking these men and women for working so hard and so selflessly to improve the health of our country and of our people.

I beg to support.

Mr L. L. Borha (Ishan East) : I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in support of the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the year 1965-66.

I should like first of all to associate myself with the richly deserved tribute which hon. Members who spoke before me have paid to the Minister of Finance for his enlightening Budget Speech delivered with characteristic forthrightness and efficiency. I feel that it is unnecessary to add in many more words to this chorus of unsolicited tribute paid to the Minister of Finance, except to say, like every other patriotic Mid-Western Nigerian, that I take pride in the unrivalled parliamentary proficiency of this great son of Nigeria from the Mid-West—the Region of good and godly people.

As I have already inferred, the Budget Speech is to be commended for its forth-

rightness in presenting to this honourable House the economic picture of the country, and I am happy at the honest effort of the Minister of Finance to avoid sounding a falsely optimistic note about the economic condition of the country. That is why I cannot but express grave concern about the path which is advocated for the future direction of our economic policy.

The Budget Speech, among other things, made a very eloquent plea for free enterprise indeed one might say, for unbridled free enterprise. As a developing nation, our country's economy is unhappily easily vulnerable and I fear that unbridled free enterprise is the surest way to mount the future path of our industrial and economic growth on the road to chaos, for inherent in that particular approach are those factors which, in spite of ourselves and our noble intentions, would most readily inspire or generate social injustice, economic or industrial strife with resultant political unrest. Surely, we would not, indeed we should not, bargain for this. I sincerely hope that my apprehensions here will be proved wrong in the end.

In any case, I plead that our advocacy of free enterprise should not make us enemies of all other forms of economic policy. I consider that in fashioning our economic policy aimed at stimulating speedy expansion and the diversification of the national economy, the greater consideration should be that to the extent that any particular approach or combination of approaches would most help to quicken the pace of economic growth and therefore contribute to national betterment, it should commend itself to those who plan our economic policy.

What I am advocating is that our economic policy planning should be directed to accommodate, at this stage of our growth, practically every form of ownership, so long as all of them work within the Six-Year Development Plan directed by the Governments through their set of priorities.

Within this context, nationalisation, at which Government has taken umbrage for the reasons which the hon. Minister of Finance has very clearly and forcefully presented, would not concern itself with the doctrinaire theory of who should or should not own something or property, or even with the remote question of the right of inheritance. The nationalisation of which I speak is not a theory, but a deliberate

and practical economic arrangement aimed at providing services for the community and increasingly creating opportunities for our countrymen and women to engage in gainful employment.

It would thus be appropriate for the State—and here I mean the Government—to continue its present policy of active participation in investment in the private sector of the economy, and organise interventions, when national interest demands, in the management, direction and stimulation of the economic activity of certain essential industries. This would put our national economy in a position to reconcile the conflict which obviously arises from our desire to give full play to free enterprise on the one hand, and on the other, the present practice of certain foreign entrepreneurs who, exploiting this valid desire of ours, and being obliged under the economic planning schemes of their countries of origin, indulge in wholesale repatriation of profits to the detriment of our economy.

This practice has been rightly condemned, but, of course, this is not enough. I think that what is needed is that the Government of the Federation should consider the possibility of a legislation to make it compulsory under the law for these companies to re-invest their profits on the basis of 100 per cent during the period such companies hold the pioneer industry certificate, and not less than 75 per cent thereafter.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : On a point of order, I want to emphasise that while we have no capital which will help us to industrialise this nation, I feel we must start from a humble beginning to attract foreign investors and allow them to stay here in order to make profits on the money which they have made in their own homes, instead of scaring them away by legislation.

Mr Speaker : This is a point of interruption.

Mr Borha : Now, to turn to another aspect of the Budget Speech, and here I wish to welcome the proposed estimates of expenditure which stand at the colossal figure of well over £78 million Nigerian pounds. This reflects a genuine desire that we are prepared to catch up with the growth in our population and, with it, the great need to harness the economy of the country.

The increase in the budget as compared with the 1964-65 period, I believe, is a healthy sign. It shows that there has been a recognition of the need for increased public spending which in turn indicates a corresponding rise in the earnings of the wage-earners of the population. For, it is implied thereby that demands are effective, that is to say, they are accompanied by the ability to pay.

It is in consideration of this that I should once again welcome the Morgan Commission. At this juncture, I cannot but express regret that Government's intransigence and apathy prior to the Morgan Commission frustrated the workers, restrained their constitutional efforts on the wages issue, and led them eventually to the last resort, which is the strike action. However, these are now matters of history, and I agree with the hon. Minister of Finance that a rehearsal is not necessary here.

But let us record with pride—although I would hope that we can avoid similar situation in the future—that events of the Morgan period proved a fine opportunity to demonstrate the country's steadiness and sound common-sense. It is to be hoped that the Government, the employers and the workers will turn, to quote the hon. Minister of Finance, "these strains and stresses to use as checks and balances" for the future.

Here, for the future, I make this plea : that employers of labour, including the Government, should more readily reciprocate moves for round-table approach by workers organisations, so that from this we can build a very sound basis for our industrial relations. Until this is the case, employers of labour and also the Government in this country cannot reasonably claim that they have made their full contribution to this desirable development in our industrial relations. On the contrary, they would continue to encourage demagoguery and belligerent scenes in the approach to industrial disputes.

In other words, I am appealing that all sides of industry should deliberately work showing that the constitutional approach or the round-table approach works and pays better dividends not only to the workers but to the nation as a whole. For, as long as employers continue to give the impression that they are more easily persuaded to concessions by unorthodox demagogic approaches, so long will

[MR BORHA]

our desire for industrial peace and harmony remain an unrealisable dream.

Allow me, Sir, to take the liberty of paying tribute to the hon. Minister of Finance for the able way he, as Chairman of the post-Morgan Okotie-Eboh Committee, steered the difficult negotiations which followed the Morgan recommendations.

It is true that the final outcome did not give total satisfaction; nevertheless, it is with gratification that we note that the very exercise made a significant landmark in the history of industrial relations in this country. It is to be hoped that the future of industrial relations will benefit from this remark, and will help to create industrial peace, and so promote the objective conditions for the conservation of domestic capital as well as for the inflow of foreign capital needed for our industrial development.

Another aspect of the Morgan Wages Commission which I should like to mention briefly is the contention and the comments which hon. Members, and also the hon. Minister of Finance, have put forward to the effect that increases in wages give a privileged treatment to the minority—that is to say, the workers in our society. How valid is this contention, and how fair are those comments?

I want to state straightaway that the attempt to compare the wage-earner with the peasant farmer *vis-a-vis* their respective responsibility in the economic growth of the nation and their rewards therefrom is untenable. For, whilst the peasant can unilaterally increase his income by increased self exertion, such a course of action is not open to the wage-earner.

Secondly, whilst the peasant farmer is the proud possessor of all he cares to produce, the wage-earner must continue to battle for only a share—often times a miserable share—of what he produces.

Thirdly, the cumulative effect of any increases in the wage-earners pay packet has a direct salutary effect on the well-being of the peasant.

Fourthly, it must be stressed again that wage levels are an index not only of the growth of the country's economy but also of the standard of living of the people. Consequently, it forms an effective basis of attracting foreign capital because by it, foreign investors are assured that what their investments and expanded invest-

ments will produce, will find a robust local market with effective patronage.

In addition, it should be noted that increased wages provide a medium for demand which in turn gives rise to the employment of more hands in order to satisfy such increased demand.

Fifthly, wage increase is and ought always to be an instrument of effecting social justice, in that it works towards ensuring a fair distribution of the national cake.

From the foregoing, it is clear that contrary to the misconception that increase in wages is charity organised for the exclusive benefit of the so-called privileged minority—the workers—it is in fact, a necessary national exercise for our survival.

It has been inferred that the financial obligation arising from the Morgan Commission wage increases, among other things, has involved the Government in deficit spending. I want to say, Sir, that I welcome this deficit spending so long as there is effective control and the spending is directed towards curbing unemployment which is the nation's No. 1 plague to-day.

According to statistics, it is estimated that if the present trend of unemployment continues, there would be about eight million unemployed Nigerians by 1980.

This prospect cannot be a happy one for the future stability of this country. This again underlines the desperate need for the Government to continue its present commendable efforts of raising money locally for investment. In this connection, I would like to suggest the establishment, through legislation, of an Accident Insurance Fund to which all private employers must contribute. This will make available for investment and at the same time ensure that workers can readily receive their due compensations in the case of an accident. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will give this matter serious consideration.

It is gratifying to note that the question of rural development is receiving serious attention from the Federal Government. But it is quite clear that a good deal more has to be done by the Government, although it is true that majority of the social services needed in rural areas are within the competence of the Regional Governments. But it is equally true that the finances of the Regional Governments are too limited to meet up the demands of the rural areas.

This is particularly true of a young Region like the Mid-West. Having been neglected for a long time by the previous Governments, the Mid-West Region should reasonably expect priority consideration in the giving of financial aids and technical assistance by the Federal Government.

Emphasis has been made on farm settlements as a means of helping to cure unemployment in this country, as well as providing the necessary food for our growing population. Welcome as this is, we should not mislead ourselves into believing that this alone can, by itself, cure unemployment nor can it convince the people in the rural areas that they are being adequately cared for.

What can bring the impact of independence and its blessings to the people in the rural areas are, electricity ; easily accessible medical facilities ; good all-season roads which will help in the promotion of commerce and the monetisation of rural economy.

I wish here, to stress the necessity of developing fish farms. In this connection, I wish to suggest that Ilushi Port on the River Niger, which separates Ishan Division from Northern Nigeria, be made into a fishing farm settlement. This port is ideal for a farm settlement and if developed, it could give good economic results.

Before concluding my speech, let me refer briefly to some arguments which developed on the Floor of this House on socialism. To begin with, let me state at once that I am one with the hon. Minister of Finance in condemning those who make fetish of socialism, particularly, when the claim is put forward that even Nkrumaism is a brand of socialism.

As I understand it, socialism is incompatible with any form of dictatorship, the suppression of individual liberties, the economic domination or political subjection of one by another.

Socialism like democracy lends itself to varying interpretations and application. That is why there is the Russian concept and practice ; the Yugoslav concept and practice and some day, there will be the Nigerian concept and practice. This does not invalidate the reality that there is socialism. But this reality is meaningful only to the extent that in any given

country it is voluntarily essential to subscribe towards guaranteeing human rights and social justice to the citizens.

I can defend socialism but certainly not all types and forms of socialism. African socialism, democratic socialism, pragmatic socialism or its compound equivalent—pragmatic African democratic socialism—should not and indeed cannot defend doctrinaire socialism ; or the falacy that is known as the dictatorship of the proletariat.

As I understand it, the pragmatic African democratic socialism to which I subscribe, and to which my hon. Friends subscribe, does not deal with abstract socialist slogans or with doctrinaire or dogmatic theories, nor does it deal with pre-fabricated ideas or ideas that are alien to Africans, rather, it regards itself as an instrument of eliminating not mollifying social injustice, want and poverty, unemployment and the degradation of the dignity of man ; so that famous motto immortalised in the French resurgence of the 18th century, namely "equality, liberty and fraternity" may become a reality. These were the sentiments that inspired our struggle against colonialism and generated the ideal of our national freedom.

May I ask, is there anybody here who is opposed to these noble ideals ? All of us support what is inherently the content of pragmatic socialism as defined by us.

Finally, in the era of independence, when we have the power to rededicate and redirect our destinies, we should do no less than work conscientiously together in order to make these ideals of our freedom a reality.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I rise to support the second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which has been moved by my hon. Friend and colleague, the Minister of Finance, in a lucid, comprehensive, eloquent and thought-provoking speech.

Members will remember that in his reference to the Ministry of Communications, Head 26 of the Estimates, the Minister of Finance drew the attention of the House to the provision of a one-line vote amounting to £6.5 million for the personal emoluments and running costs of the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry which will soon be converted into a quasi-commercial organisation. The Minister

[MR NJOKU]

indicated that I would have more to say about this arrangement in the course of this debate.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I now announce that the second phase of the proposals contained in the Government Policy Paper entitled "A Commercial Policy for the Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications" which was published in 1962 will be put into operation during the course of the present financial year.

To refresh the memories of hon. Members I would like to quote the relevant paragraphs of the Policy Paper as follows :

The adoption of commercial criteria for the provision of new postal and telecommunications services and the establishment of a system of commercial accounts whilst of great assistance to the Posts and Telegraphs Division in the pursuance of a sound and progressive commercial policy, do not represent full scale commercialisation of its activities.—

and more fundamental changes may eventually prove desirable in the organisation of the Posts and Telegraphs Division.

The satisfaction of Nigeria's future demands for postal and telecommunications services will require the exercise of considerable enterprise and imagination and demand flexibility and adaptability in the management of the affairs of the Posts and Telegraphs Division.

Such qualities, hon. Members will agree, do not necessarily flourish in the atmosphere of normal Government Departments where there is a tendency towards cautious conservatism and inflexibility owing to an over-developed reliance on precedent and an anxiety to avoid parliamentary and public criticism; whereas in a commercial atmosphere there is generally more flexibility in policy.

At present the Posts and Telegraph Division is subject to the same kind of rigid parliamentary, administrative, financial and expenditure limitations and control as applied to Government Departments generally. It is not possible to run a large scale business successfully under such restrictions.

Admittedly, these provide very necessary financial discipline on Government Departments which are mainly spenders out of a general pool of taxation—

but in the case of commercialised Posts and Telegraphs Division, the necessity of

balancing income against expenditure would provide its own discipline and would render the rigid and detailed financial controls maintained under the present system superfluous."

The Policy Paper went on to point out that the Posts and Telegraphs provide services which are important to all sections of the community especially to commercial and industrial interests which greatly influence our economic growth.

For this reasons, I would like to quote again—

It is necessary for the Posts and Telegraphs to be acutely sensitive to the needs of the Nigerian economy and must, therefore, ensure that the Posts and Telegraphs Postal and telecommunications services are expanded and diversified to meet these needs."

Members will be pleased to note that I am very much aware of the constant demands which they make for the extension of posts and telecommunication services to the rural areas of their constituencies. These requests to my mind are quite legitimate and I want to assure them that they will be met in deserving cases to the extent of the funds available.

To emphasise that the Federal Government fully recognises the social obligations of the Posts and Telegraphs Division the Policy Paper referred to above stated as follows :—

"It is however recognised that although commercial viability is a desirable objective the Posts and Telegraphs Division has wide social obligation which necessitates the provision of certain uneconomic services particularly in the rural areas and in the sphere international telecommunications, in order to achieve a properly balanced integrated Public Service. It is certainly not intended that the Posts and Telegraphs Division should neglect such services for this would be harmful to Nigeria's long-term economic interest."

These relevant quotations from the Policy Paper prove that Government is determined to provide Posts and Telegraphs services not only to meet the requirements of commerce and industry and urban areas but also those of the rural areas.

During this Session of Parliament, a Bill will be presented to the honourable House for the conversion of the Posts and Telegraphs Division into a quasi-commercial organisation.

It is my earnest hope that the Bill will be ready in August or September this year. Once the Bill is passed the expansion and modernisation of all postal and telecommunications services will be vigorously pursued.

The proposed Bill will necessitate the amendment of the Post Office Act, 1958, the Post Office Regulations, 1958, the Telegraphy Act, 1958 and the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1961. Details of these amendments are now under active consideration.

A significant feature is that all the Posts and Telegraphs Trade Unions have been consulted and given opportunity to express their views in the initial drafting stages of the Bills. The Government therefore wishes to have the fullest co-operation of the various Unions of the Posts and Telegraphs Division who have played a very important part in the development of the postal and telecommunication services in this country.

This is not the appropriate occasion to give detailed information about the proposed quasi-commercial organisation which will replace the present Posts and Telegraphs Division of my Ministry. These will be fully explained in the Bill that will be presented to this House later this year.

At this stage, however, I would like to emphasise that in the preparation of the Estimates for the proposed new organisation that is the quasi-commercial organisation into which the Posts and Telegraphs Division will be converted there has been very close consultation between my Ministry and the Ministries of Finance and Establishments before the figures for the one-line vote were arrived at.

The vast expansion of the services provided by the Posts and Telegraphs Division this financial year is reflected in the provision of £7,200,000 in the Capital Estimates of this Division. Of this total provision, about £6½ million will go towards the implementation of phases 1 and 2 of the telecommunications development plan. The remaining sum would be spent on training, consultation services, development of sub-post offices and the extension of the existing post offices.

When the new quasi-commercial organisation comes into operation—and this is important—it will be expected to meet these capital and

recurrent expenses from its own financial resources.

The capital development under phase 1 is expected to provide a new long-distance microwave route which will connect Lagos, Ijebu-Ode, Ibadan, Benin City, Enugu, Onitsha and Port Harcourt.

I can hear the Minister of Finance asking me what plans my Ministry has for Sapele, may I say, I am coming to that.

Phase 2, which will soon be initiated, will ensure that the cables and conduit systems between Lagos and Port Harcourt are completely replanned and renewed, so as to rid these two cities of frequent telephone breakdown during the rainy season.

Phase 1, it is hoped, will be completed by October this year and phase 2 by April next year. With the completion of these two phases by the end of the current financial year, it will be possible for subscribers to use automatic trunk calls dialling routes linking Lagos to Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Benin City, Onitsha and Enugu.

The routes have been designed to allow for maximum margins of traffic and to permit unlimited trunk calls. At the same time, no less than 27,000 new telephones will be installed as follows: 7,000 in Lagos, 5,000 in Shomolu, 8,500 at Port Harcourt and 6,500 in Enugu.

By October this year, it is hoped to initiate phase 3, which is by far the largest of the four phases. The completion date is expected to some time in 1967. Under phase 3 there would be a total of 28,000 new telephones in all the major cities of the North, such as, Kaduna, Kano, Zaria, Maiduguri, Jos, Bauchi and Sokoto. In addition, phase 3 will provide new switching centres at Kaduna, Ibadan, Benin City and Enugu.

The basic changes which have taken place in respect of the recommendations of Western Electric Report, which was accepted, in the main, by the Federal Government, is that the provision of a modern telephone system for Surulere area which was in phase 4 of the plan has now been brought forward to phase 2, so that it is going to be started right away.

This change has been necessitated by the frequent breakdown of telephones in that area. The Lagos cable development scheme which

[Mr Njoku]

would ensure the replacement of the old cable systems for Lagos with more up-to-date cables is a new introduction to the Report.

Additional facilities for television channels to link up Lagos with Ibadan, Benin City, Enugu, Onitsha and Port Harcourt, are considered desirable in view of the wide interest shown by the Regional Governments and the Federal Government for the development of television services which will provide a country-wide network.

Similar facilities will be sought under phase 3 to provide for television channels to link up Kaduna, Kano, Jos, Zaria and to such other towns as the Northern Region Government may determine.

I must stress that the provision of television channels was not at the instance of the Regional Governments concerned. I, however, consider that since we are now in a position to provide these services more efficiently and more economically, on a nation-wide basis, the initiative should come from us.

The Regional Governments may then take advantage of the facilities provided at reasonable fees, payable to the proposed Posts and Telegraphs new set-up. If these facilities are utilised extensively, in due course it will be possible for all the Regional Governments to have a country-wide television relay which will permit the exchange of knowledge and culture among all the ethnic groups in this country.

Under phase 1, therefore, television relays or channels will be available to the Governments of the Western Region, Eastern Region and Mid-Western Region. The total cost is estimated at £245,000. I am advised that the new channels will take into account the possibility of the various agencies desiring to introduce colour television, thus anticipating the future progress in this field.

Now, having said so much about the provision of telecommunications facilities for urban areas, I must stress that the interests of the rural areas have not been overlooked. (*Hear, hear*). The plan for the development of rural telephone will start in October next year—

Several hon. Members : Next year ?

Mr Njoku : Yes. This is a whole plan.

The plan for the development of rural telephones will start in October next year and end within the current Economic Programme. This does not interfere with the work which we are doing, that is, supplying those that applied and are suitable. I mean the overall scheme which we want to launch.

The rural telecommunications development scheme provides that no divisional headquarters should be without telephones. There has been an intensive consultation with all the Regional Governments in the preparation of the plan which aims principally to redress the imbalance of the past and to make further improvements in the existing services.

At present, there are 55 rural telephone exchanges in the East, 53 in the West, 34 in the Mid-West and 50 in Northern Nigeria. Since some of the divisional headquarters in the Northern Region have not, at present, telephone facilities, account has been taken of the existing defect. Consequently, 61 new centres in the North will be provided with telephones, 17 in the West, 9 in the Mid-West and 23 in the East.

By the end of 1968, it is hoped that the Eastern Region will have a total of 74 new telephone exchanges, the Western Region 69, the Mid-West 41 and Northern Nigeria 108. Those towns which have been recommended by the various Regional Governments and which are not included in the current Economic Programme would have to be provided with telephones as soon as it became practicable.

For the purpose of commerce and industry, the plan for the development of a country-wide telex system is now ready for implementation. The telex service may be defined as a subscriber's switching telegram service which would enable the users to communicate directly and temporarily with one another by means of teleprinters. Unlike the telephone service, messages exchanged are in written form, thereby avoiding the difficulties of language barriers and mishearings usually experienced in the case of the former.

The demand for telex services from business houses, news agencies, shipping lines, airways and diplomatic missions, has already been an outstanding issue. At present, there are only about 80 subscribers for telex and the plan

which will soon come into operation aims at providing for approximately 500 telex subscribers by the first of April, 1968. By the end of May this year, I hope that there will be a sufficient number of tele-printers to meet all outstanding requests.

Lastly, in regard to the development of telecommunications, my Ministry has under review the possibility of improving the existing torn-tape system and rural telegraph system. Thus, for this year an enormous expansion is anticipated in the provision of additional telephones, telex facilities and telegraph services.

Now, I come to post offices. The development of post offices has always been handicapped, to a great extent, by lack of funds, whereas in the development of telecommunications almost every field can attract foreign capital readily. It is not the case with the development of post offices. Since most of the funds for the development of post offices have to come from internal resources, rapid development of postal services can only come about by increasing the cost of these services.

In the last financial year, we had expected that at least a sum of £600,000 would be required for the building of post offices at Abeokuta, Port Harcourt, Enugu and Benin City. We had also expected that at least a sum of £100,000 would be available for the development of the existing postal agencies which have reached the minimum limit for conversion to sub-post offices.

Unfortunately, however, the general demand for other essential services from the available capital caused a delay in the implementation of our original postal development plan, and we had to work within the limits of the funds available. For this reason, it was not possible to develop post offices as rapidly as we had wished. However, in order to ease the congestion which is likely to arise in the continued use of the old and over-crowded post office buildings in large towns, a number of mobile post offices will be available in some towns and villages in addition to the main post offices.

Under the development of postal services in the present Programme, special post offices are earmarked for Port Harcourt, Yaba, Oshogbo, Onitsha, Aba, Minna, Nguru and Ilesha. Larger post offices and the extension of the existing ones are earmarked for Bauchi, Bida,

Auchi, Ikare, Bonny, Nsukka, Orlu, Ogbo-mosho, Ado-Ekiti, Afikpo and Sokoto. In addition, at least fifty other post offices are envisaged for various towns throughout the Federation. No less than 105 existing postal agencies would have been eligible for conversion to sub-post offices by 1968. Branch offices have been earmarked for Lagos, Ebute-Metta, Yaba, Ibadan, Enugu, Onitsha, Zaira, Aba, Apapa, Kaduna, Jos, Umuahia, Nsukka, Kano, Makurdi, Asaba, Oshogbo, Owerri, Sapele, Maidobi, Kafanchan, Nguru, Ilorin, Warri and Calabar. The existing post offices—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): May I know from the hon. Minister why Okigwi is not on the list?

Mr Njoku: The hon. Member was not listening.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West): On a point of order, two years ago, Buguma was promised a post office; Government said then that funds were not available. Last year, Government said funds were available but the site was not available. The site is now available. What is the Government doing now for Buguma?

Mr Njoku: If my hon. Friend the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) did not hear Buguma, he can see me when the House rises.

The existing post offices in Owerri, Abakaliki, Uyo, Awka, Benin, Maiduguri, Yola, Agbor, Shagamu and Oyo are to be expanded and improved.

The only way—and this is very important—Gentleman, to catch up with the plan is to have a new Posts and Telegraphs Quasi-Commercial Organisation which will be able to negotiate for loans to enable the improvements envisaged to take place. As long as the Posts and Telegraphs Division remains a Government Department so long shall we find it difficult to improve our postal facilities as fast as we would like.

It is to be observed that the Meteorological Division is having the same problem as the Postal Section in that little, if any, of these services attracts foreign capital, and future progress therefore depends on the capital available from internal resources. The Meteorological Department, whose Headquarters are at present housed in the Ministry

[MR NJOKU]

of Works, will be moved to Oshodi which is the centre of its activities.

There is also the problem of accommodation for junior servants at Ibadan, Ondo, Maiduguri and Yola. The Training Centre at Oshodi needs to be expanded. New meteorological and electronic instruments are required for accurate weather reports and new equipment has to be provided for the improvement and development of observation net-work. It is expected that a sum of £75,000 might be available for this purpose under the £10,000,000 U.K. Development Loan, and steps are being taken to make use of this fund in the current year development proposals.

It is also proposed to establish Meteorological Offices in each Regional Capital, the functions of which will be to liaise with Regional Authorities and maintain close touch with agriculturists and hydrologists in the Regions. The existing net-work of part-time meteorological stations will be increased from the existing 1,000 to 2,500. The net-work of full-time meteorological stations, which is at present 28, will be doubled. Electronic meteorology, which is practically non-existent at present, will be introduced and embryonic research units established. All these development proposals will be of immense benefit to the development of our natural resources, aviation, agriculture and hydrology.

A word about the Nigerian External Telecommunications Limited. This Company has in the past year maintained a pattern of operation which reflects a reasonably sound growth and continuous efficiency. Apart from the services in the Common-User System with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board, there are services to the following countries:—

Congo Leopoldville, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fernando Po, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Switzerland.

The link with Switzerland forms a bridge-head into Europe through Berne and an alternative to the London route. It is hoped that with the completion during the course of the year of the new installation at Ikorodu, it would be possible to meet the growing need for additional links to major traffic centres in other parts of the world.

Preliminary enquiries have been made into the financial implications of the development

proposals of the proposed Posts and Telegraphs new set-up for the next ten years by reputable firms of Consultants. The result of the enquiries presents a rosy picture. Hon. Members will be interested to hear that a conservative forecast of the balance-sheet of the Posts and Telegraphs Division operating as a quasi-commercial organisation from this year will, by the end of the present National Development Plan (1968), show a net profit of not less than £1,370,000. By 1972, the profit should not be less than £6,070,000 *per annum*. These figures of profits include the development of telephone, telex, telegraph and postal services. Account has been taken of depreciation rate and the rate of interest in respect of the loan to be utilised.

The result of the financial examination of the proposed Posts and Telegraphs set-up is, therefore, very encouraging and proves the fact that the Government would be acting wisely in introducing a new Quasi-Commercial Organisation for the Posts and Telegraphs Division in the current financial year. The result also shows quite clearly that if we desire, as I am sure we do, to improve the non-profitable services in the rural areas, we would first have to develop the more profitable services in the commercial, industrial and urban areas, with the sole purpose of utilising the profits realised therefrom to develop the uneconomic services. Thus, while having regard to the economic factors of life and ensuring the development of the Postal and Telecommunications System on modern lines, we would also be in a position to provide social services which are desired so much by our people in the rural areas.

I have always felt that the Federal Government ought to show greater interest in the development of postal and telecommunication facilities in the rural areas. These areas contain the preponderance of the population of this great country and produce most of its wealth in the form of export and food crops. (*Hear, hear.*) Furthermore, a large majority of the Members of this honourable House have their constituencies in the rural areas and have every justification to ask for the expansion of social amenities which the Federal Government can afford to these areas.

I feel sure that hon. Members will welcome these proposals for the development of postal and telecommunication services which I have just outlined. It is a very comprehensive scheme which covers the entire Federation,

and it demonstrates the determination of the Federal Government to cater for the welfare of the entire country in the fields where it has constitutional responsibility. I want to assure hon. Members that the execution of these proposals will be pursued with the utmost vigour and I shall count on the co-operation of the whole House.

It is evident that a lot of thought, planning and hard work have gone into the preparation of the comprehensive schemes which I have just described. Credit for the success of the plan must in large measure go to my predecessor in office, Chief Olu Akinfosile. His keen interest, patience and perseverance made the finalisation of the plan possible.

I am sure that he would like me to thank the staff of the Ministry, the Western Electric Company—our main consultants—Technical Assistance personnel, Cooper Brothers and other consultants and advisers who played major roles in the formulation of the re-organisation and development schemes of the Posts and Telegraphs Division and other arms of the Ministry.

The planning period has been concluded and the important period of execution is now before us. It is my firm determination, with the active co-operation of my two Colleagues in the Ministry—I mean the two Ministers of State—to pursue the implementation of the gigantic proposals of development and re-organisation with a sense of devotion and urgency. There is no time to waste. Last week, I told the senior members of the staff of my Ministry that our responsibilities to the people of this country are very heavy because our activities are meant to cover the entire length and breadth of Nigeria.

We must pursue our work with vigour and efficiency. In my view, efficiency should be coupled with courtesy in our dealings with the public. From now on, the slogan of the Ministry of Communications is "efficiency and courtesy".

An hon. Member has just said that the former Minister of Communications similarly said so. My reply is that he did not say so.

Steps will immediately be taken to see that every employee of the Posts and Telegraphs Department puts this slogan into practice. I am sure it can be done, because courtesy and

friendliness are two of the natural attributes which an average Nigerian possesses. I would like every Posts and Telegraphs staff, whether at the headquarters or in the large towns, or small towns, or villages, whether in the post offices, telegraph offices or telephone offices, to feel that it is a privilege to serve the public.

It is in this way that the Posts and Telegraphs Department can provide an efficient and popular service of which every Nigerian can justifiably be proud.

I beg to support.

Mr Vincent Shisha (Iharev Masev): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to make a few observations. Our economic problems in this country will not be fully overcome if we all fail to adhere to our motto which is "Unity and Faith". Unless we put this motto before us, I am afraid, we cannot successfully achieve our desired goal—which is the achievement of national unity, that we have been preaching for years. It appears that the temptation of tribalism and the struggle for leadership are the greatest obstacles preventing us from achieving our objective.

In order that our economic problems will be solved, I would seriously ask all hon. Members in this House to co-operate and make self-sacrifices. We should not mind about the question of who is to lead or rule this country. Nigeria is an economic unit in itself and any attempt by any section to secede will tend to break this economic unity. Therefore, the empty threat of breaking away from the Federal Republic of Nigeria by a certain political party, because of election disappointment, will not serve any useful purpose.

Mr B. Okon (Calabar): On a point of order, I would like the hon. Gentleman to refrain from attacking certain parties. I should imagine that we are considering the fiscal policy of the Government, and as such, I do not see how the question of threats to break away comes in. And in any case, the threat is not an empty one.

Mr Shisha: I am only asking hon. Gentlemen to co-operate. The threat to break away from this Republic will not serve any useful purpose, instead it will scare away would-be foreign investors from this country. It is only

[MR SHISHA]

by co-operation, patience and self-sacrifice that our long preached unity will be achieved and well maintained. With the achievement of national unity, many foreign firms will be interested to come to Nigeria, with a view to industrialising her.

I am, therefore, compelled to sound a note of warning to everyone of us in this country, including our political leaders, to refrain from throwing stones where we have built our glass houses. We are now managing our own affairs and as such we must be very careful of our actions, of our words, and in the handling of our national issues, so that other African countries which are looking on Nigeria for leadership will not be disappointed. These African countries want us to be stable and united.

Furthermore, I would like to appeal to all our leaders, who have fought so much to build this young nation, to forget and forgive. They should be prepared to settle their political differences immediately, so that the temptation to destroy our unity will not materialise. It does not matter who is made the Head of State or Prime Minister, provided that such a person is constitutionally elected. What we are concerned with is to have a stable Government like the one we are now enjoying.

The Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech, dealt with almost all the aspects that will promote the economy of this country. I would like to emphasise that the productivity of labour must also be determined.

As a representative from the Tiv Division, I must say that I am not happy with the state of affairs there. I am completely in sympathy with what is going on there. We have often been hearing of riots and disturbances in that area which is a part of this Republic. Formerly, the trouble there used to be internal matters among the Tivs themselves, but the recent one is a combined force which was encouraged by a certain part of this Republic—I am sorry to say, the Eastern Region. (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. T. Mbegbu (Owerri North-East) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is accusing the Eastern Region of causing the trouble in the Tiv Division and at the same time he is appealing for unity. We would like him to be specific. We are discussing the fiscal policies of the Federal Government and as

such I do not see how the question of Eastern Region causing trouble in the Tiv Division comes in.

Mr Shisha : The hon. Gentleman does not want to be told the truth. It is a fact that the Eastern Region was encouraging the disturbances in the Tiv area.

Mr Speaker : I think it is high time that we insisted on intelligent procedure. Normally, when parties wish to attack one another, it is the Front Benchers or the Whips, even though for a short time, that throw these political bats on the Floor of this House. However, I would advise those hon. Members who make comments on political parties or about sections of this country, to see that when they do so it should be in a sensible manner.

I would also warn that the raising of unnecessary points of order portrays some sort of impatience on the part of hon. Members, and that is not good for this House.

Mr Shisha : What I am saying is that when we do not actually co-operate with one another, I do not think we shall be able to face our economic policy vigorously. We all know what a state of emergency is. There was an attempt to extend trouble to other parts of the Northern Region so that a state of emergency could be declared in that Region. This type of attitude which we are now adopting towards ourselves is bad, and that is why I am explaining this to my hon. Friends not to continue with that type of attitude which brings trouble.

It is a pity that the circulation of Indian hemp is rising in this country, and this is actually one of the things which easily make people kill each other nowadays. Even in some cases some people are emboldened to attack and kill Policemen. So, I am appealing to the Federal Government to see that the circulation of Indian hemp is stopped immediately in this country. Anybody caught with any quantity of Indian hemp should be severely dealt with.

The after effect of smoking Indian hemp is deadly. The Tivs were told that anybody who smoke Indian hemp would be free from accidents of all kinds. Eventually, Indian hemp addicts dauntlessly attacked Policemen, and in the fierce encounter which followed they killed some Policemen and the Police killed some of them.

At this stage, I would appeal to the Federal Government to see that the dependants of those who lost their lives during the last disturbances in Tiv Division are adequately compensated. I would also like to appeal to this House that funds should be raised for the dependants of those who were unjustly killed by those hooligans. We should try and pursue vigorously all efforts to assist the people in Tiv Division.

The people who committed these murderous acts would be found among jobless ex-servicemen and jobless school-leavers. What will arrest the situation in Tiv Division is the provision of industries there. Fishing industry can be established in Makurdi, because there is plenty of fish in the River Benue. It will also serve a useful purpose if a cement industry which is now being planned for the area by the Government is established without delay. When those idle hands are busily engaged in industries which tend to raise the economy of this country, they will not be directed to cause a lot of havoc which lowers our economy.

Furthermore, I would like the Government to consider seriously what steps to take to eradicate malaria which spreads alarmingly all over this country. Many people are now dying of malaria, and I think the Federal Government is now only concerned with the curing of this illness. The Federal Government is not paying sufficient attention to the prevention of malaria, even though it is generally known that prevention is better than cure.

In the rural areas the poor people cannot get at pesticides to rid themselves of mosquitoes which bring upon them this malaria. Even in Lagos here nothing substantial is done to rid the inhabitants of mosquitoes. There are mosquitoes even in the Members' Flats here in Lagos.

The Minister of Finance in his speech made reference to the financial assistance which would be rendered to farmers. This is a vital point in his speech which emphasises the role of farmers in the building of this nation. The Minister himself asserted that a farmer is the backbone of a nation, and I am quite sure that he is now prepared to assist our farmers without minding what the Regional Governments are doing now to assist them. If he does that, I think our farmers will be benefiting more than they have ever done.

For example, if modern farm tools are let out to farmers by the Federal Government at a cheap rate this will ultimately lead to greater expansion of farms, and we shall have increased productivity on those farms. I am quite sure that if the Government can pursue this project desperately, our economy will be raised.

It is true that agriculture is a Regional matter, but in certain aspects I think that the Federal Government should step in to assist our farmers. If, for instance, the farm settlement in my area is improved, it will serve this country in a very big way.

On livestock, I think our cattle-rearers have played a very important role in this country. These people should be assisted in their efforts of rearing and transporting cattle all over the Federation. If this is done, we may discover that it may not be necessary for us in future to import milk into this country. We have no dairy factory in this country which can produce a good quantity of milk in a modern way. Efforts should be made in this direction.

The unfortunate thing is that all the things produced in this country are rather higher in their prices than the imported ones. I do not know if the cost of labour in this country has to account for this. Perhaps if the Federal Government would train as many people as possible for those industries in order to produce those things in large quantities, the prices may be a bit lower. The common man will then be in a better position to purchase our home made goods.

I beg to support.

Mr J. N. F. Obioha (Orlu North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill 1965-66. In doing so I would like, in view of the time factor, to go straight-away into one or two points in the speech of the Minister of Finance.

First of all, I shall deal with the economic development programme of this country. There is one very curious phenomenon here in this country which has been discussed off and on by a lot of hon. Members of this House and it is so important that we must continue to repeat and repeat it. This is that the impact of the work of this Federal Government is not felt in the rural areas. It has assumed such importance now that we shall continue to speak of it off and on so that the Federal

[MR OBIOHA]

Government will know that we, as a group from the rural areas, have a case against the Federal Government.

The whole economic policy of the Federal Government should be built on a sort of pyramid which should over-reach every part of the Federal Republic.

I am not unaware of the plea of many Ministers. They always come and tell us that there is division of responsibility, there is the concurrent list, and so on. This is a sort of hypocrisy. No Regional Government has ever taken the Federal Government to court for an injunction or anything like that because it has gone to do anything in the Regions.

There has been what is called Inter-Regional Secondary Schools established in the Regions. Although we say that the Federal Minister of Education is concerned with education in Lagos, when the Federal Government thought it fit to establish Inter-Regional Secondary Schools in the North, in the East, in the Mid-West and so on, there was nobody who complained that the Federal Government had exceeded its bounds.

I am saying that there has been too much emphasis on the part of the Federal Government to concentrate social services in the Federal Territory of Lagos and some big towns and to put in huge sums of money to modernise existing services in Lagos and the big towns. The Federal Government just refuses to squeeze out anything for the rural areas.

As a matter of fact, an average man in the village knows about the Federal Government only once in five years, and that is during the elections. It can be asked, what is this Federal Government for? What have the elected representatives of the people always come to Lagos to do? What are these Federal elections for? These are common questions asked by people in the rural areas.

Now, while everywhere in the villages one can see some visible evidence of the work being done by the Regional Governments by way of subsidising either maternities, hospitals or secondary schools, one will look in vain to know what the Federal Government has done in the country districts of this Republic.

I may just take up one instance of what the Federal Government tried to do in the East,

to be exact in Aba. I am now referring to the Ministry of Communications. The Government was quite prepared to sink up to £2 million or more to build what is called an Automatic Exchange in the township of Aba, but suddenly one curious thing happened. The Federal Government imported the so-called experts and specialists to come and do the constructional work. Under the immediate supervision of these expatriates or specialists, the whole building was completed, some equipment installed and through some internal causes the whole building was on fire. The whole thing was destroyed by fire, yet it was experts and specialists from overseas who had supervised the construction of the building.

Curiously enough, that amount of money went down the drains and it was later decided that the whole thing should be started all over again. Yet the same Ministry of Communications has found it difficult to extend a few social services to places like Owerri, Orlu, Awka and others like that. It is now becoming almost impossible to contact one's family or relations in Orlu. I have been here for the past three weeks and I have been finding it practically impossible to telephone somebody in Orlu; yet the Government says there is no money, it is Regional responsibility, it is on the concurrent list, and so on.

I am urging with all the power at my command that in the present economic development plan, the emphasis must now have to shift from the urban or from the Federal Territory of Lagos to the rural areas, be it in the field of medical services, education, communications or anything. It does not matter because what is good for the goose is also good for the gander.

It was shown two days ago by the Deputy Speaker in a very critical analysis of the situation that all the money with which these big cities were developed came from the countryside, either through the Cocoa Marketing Board, the Palm Oil Marketing Board, or the Groundnut Marketing Board. So, if all those monies having come from the rural areas had been used to put up electricity plants in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, and other places, to put up Universities in Ibadan, Lagos and so on and to establish institutions of higher learning in the big towns and cities, I think it will be just and equitable that at this stage

the emphasis should shift to the rural areas. We are urging the Federal Government in all its future plans to shift the emphasis to the country districts.

I am still on the same economic development planning. As I said before, what we want is a system built on a sort of pyramid. That is to say, there should be an integrated and co-ordinated economic planning for this nation. At the moment, we have the North planning its economy and its industries. The East also plans its industries and its economy separately. The same is true of the West and the Mid-West.

Of course, one can argue and say that when there is such a competition, each Region competing for breweries, cement industries, and so on, there may be more progress and more development. That is, of course, a wrong argument. We all know that in siting industries many economic factors have always been considered and the most paramount is the availability of raw materials.

It may be that in one Region there is a good distribution of certain natural resources in certain quantities and qualities. When a Region is planning with an eye on that Region, it may decide to site industries having regard to what resources it has. Another Region may have the same resources, but in higher quantities and qualities. If we site, let us say, a cotton industry (as there is some cotton in Aba or in Owerri), another Region may have more cotton and more of the other factors. It will also establish a cotton industry.

At the beginning it may look all sweet and good but, there being one country, that particular industry which may have less resources cannot be protected by tariffs or anything like that and the result is that, in the course of time, there will be such duplicity and redundancy that some of the industries may be forced to close down because they are no longer an economic proposition, just because they are competing with industries sited in Regions where the forces are much more conducive to that particular industry.

Thus, it will be a very useful thing for the Ministries of Economic Planning or Economic Development to have a sort of co-ordination and make it possible for the siting of industries not to be duplicated.

There is no need for a particular region to be competing with another on just one industry. It is now becoming a question of every region wanting to establish a brewery. We want to put up a brewery in Owerri to-day, we want to establish another in Enugu tomorrow and the next day we want to establish yet another brewery in Zaria; just because one Region wants to compete with another. This is the type of competition which will not allow a particular industry to be sited in a place which is economically best suited to it. If we continue in this way, the money and energy we could have used in siting industries all over the country would be wasted in competition just because we want to have five countries within one country.

Turning to education, I want to say that the educational policy of this country needs some revision. This is the only country in the world where we have different systems and different standards of education in different Regions of the country. If one goes to the Eastern Region, the number of years to be spent in school may be six; it may be five years in the Western Region and in the Northern Region the position may be quite different. We want a country with one system of education, one system of teachers' training and, above all, one standard of education.

It is very frustrating for somebody who has finished his primary education in the Western Region to come over to the Eastern Region, only to find that he can only cope with the boys in Standard IV.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is a detailed account which should be better left for the Committee Stage.

Mr Obioha : What I am saying is that the various Ministries of Education in this country should come together and evolve a national system as well as a national standard of education. If the reply of our Ministries of Education will continue to be that this subject is on the Concurrent List, then there will be an urgent need for the revision of our Constitution. If the Constitution we have in this country now is one that goes against our progress, then that Constitution is overdue for a revision.

Before I go over to some other subjects, there is one other point I want to deal with which also concerns education. I must say

[MR OBIOHA]

that one bad experience we had in the past is rearing its head again. Sometimes in the fifties, some enthusiastic and philanthropic people of this country founded commercial institutions. These institutions received no Government guidance or directive whatsoever, with the result that they grew up without any standard. In spite of this, the institutions continued to operate and have since been turning out people, who are not regarded as qualified people in any commercial subject. In fact, in the Eastern Region, anybody who attended a Commercial College is looked upon as somebody who has not attended any institution of learning.

We have been having commercial institutions in this country for over fifteen years, and yet we still find it difficult to produce qualified and efficient stenographers. This is because the Government has left our education in the hands of private individuals without any help. If one goes round Lagos, Ibadan and Enugu, one will find that commercial firms still employ typists and stenographers direct from overseas, and yet we claim to have been operating commercial institutions in this country for well over thirty years. Is this a country where we shall be looking forward to God to come down to run the affairs of the nation for us?

I am saying that the time is now overdue for the Federal Government to review our educational system throughout the Federation. Already the present craze is the founding of technical colleges, and the capitalists are catching upon it. Any youngman who works in, say, the U.A.C. Motors, can put up a big signboard in front of his house, publicising it as a school of technology and then start to admit students, and make money from that. Members know that our children are interested in education, and their parents are anxious to educate them. The founder of this so-called school of technology may be somebody who was an Assistant Foreman in the U.A.C. Motors, and he will start to collect huge sums of money from the anxious parents of the willing students. What are these students being prepared for? Are they being prepared for the City and Guilds Examinations? The point I am trying to bring out is that the Federal Government should not allow technical education to be left in the hands of unscrupulous people of this country.

The education of our children is so important that we cannot afford to allow any child to spend five years in a technical college and come out without any qualification.

While still on education, I must say that it is very bad for us in this country to have an educational system whereby some children of school age are denied education, even though they are willing to have education. The Ministries of Education and their officers are so particular about how much money has been paid, the age of the children, and how many children are in a class, that children of school age are denied admission.

I know of a case here in Lagos where a boy was denied an admission into a primary school because he left his former school in a Region for Lagos. The excuse given by the officers was that this boy did not complete a whole year in a school last year. Somebody came to Lagos in April last year, and he was too late to gain admission into any school. He was however fortunate to gain admission into a school early this year, but was disqualified because he did not stay in his former school until the end of the year. I do not think this system is good enough.

There is another aspect of our educational system which needs a review. There are instances of boys and girls in Eastern Nigeria who are between the ages of six and seven who have been thrown out of schools on the ground that they are not of school age. They say that any child who wants to attend a school must be five years of age. This is very frustrating and disappointing in a country which is planning for progress. Progress, whether in agriculture or industry must have its foundation, and—

Mr B. Okon (Calabar): I do not think the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Obioha*) has got his facts correct. As far as I know, there is a ceiling on the minimum age for entering schools in the Eastern Region, and that age is six. It is not true to say that children of six years of age are being denied admission.

Mr Obioha: The point I am making is this. The Member for Calabar (*Mr Okon*) may know of a policy of education without knowing to what extent or how these things are being carried out. He would not expect me, as a Member of Parliament, to talk about things I

do not know. I am speaking from experience. I cannot come here on my honour as a Member of Parliament to mislead this House.

Mr Okon : On a point of information, I want the hon. Gentleman to understand that I have been a principal of a secondary school for ten years, and a member of the Board of Education for Eastern Nigeria for six years. Therefore, I do not know which experience he is talking about.

Mr Obioha : What I am saying is that the Board should take greater interest in scrutinising—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West): The fact is that free primary education is a Regional matter, not a Federal one. Therefore, I would suggest that the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Obioha*) should take his point to his Regional Government and stop wasting the time of the House.

Mr Obioha : The point I am making is that it is a very desperate situation to come here on the hypothesis that this is a Regional matter, and that is a Regional matter, and as a result, things are left undone in the country.

Therefore, I think that the time is overdue for a Ministry to integrate and co-ordinate the whole of our educational policy in this country so that what obtains in the North could obtain in the East, West, Mid-West and the Federal Territory.

I may, at this stage, touch on a very burning question which came here through a private Member's Motion, and that is the hire-purchase structure in this country. It is, of course, gratifying to note that the Minister of Trade did indicate that legislation will soon come in. Every Member of this House, and in fact, the public at large are aware that these hire-purchase institutions or the finance corporations as they are sometimes called, are, as a matter of fact, organised fraud against the Nigerian community.

Now, there is a trilogy or, if you like, call it an unholy trinity, about the whole thing. On one side we have the finance institution; in the centre, we have the motor company—the dealers, selling vehicles—and on the other side, we have the insurance company. The motor company is in the centre and co-ordinates the fraud of these two other institutions properly organised by a trinity which is very, very unholy indeed.

Each time one goes to buy a vehicle, be it from *J. Allen* or any other motor company, the first thing they ask one is: "Do you want hire-purchase, just sign your name here." They ask "Which insurance? Royal Exchange?" If one agrees, they fill the necessary papers and sign them. They then push the papers to the purchaser. Then, maybe, in three months he defaults in making payment, without any notice the motor company seizes the vehicle at once and then makes a bargain within its own circle to sell out the vehicle at a most unequitable and questionable price. After this the next thing they do is to give the balance of the money to the hire-purchase company, and the hire-purchase company goes round to sue the hire-purchaser for the payment not yet made.

In the same way, it may be that the vehicle is involved in an accident or catches fire. The motor dealers get it and the next thing the owner hears is that the pre-accident value is about £200. So that in the centre we have the motor company co-ordinating the activities of these other two institutions.

I have a particular case in view. Somebody bought a Volkswagen van for about a thousand pounds plus. For the first two months there was mechanical trouble. What happened was that this vehicle was siezed and sold for £96. All the tyres were new and one tyre was worth £16; so that the value of the whole vehicle was not equal to the four tyres of that vehicle and they turned round to sue him for the £400 balance which he had not paid. I think these are practices which this Federal Government must have to combat.

What is really disturbing my mind is that the Minister of Trade was trying the other day to give a legal interpretation of what is called the concurrent list, and went on to tell us that the Federal Government must go, cap in hand, to the Regional Governments to beg them to allow it to make a law which will apply to the whole Federation.

This Parliament, by the provisions of the Constitution, has a sort of concurrent jurisdiction with the Regions, and that is, a power to make law on anything. And if there is that power to make such a law, it should have conterminous jurisdiction throughout the whole Federation. So, I think it is wrong for us to wait for, say, the Mid-West to agree or for the East to agree before we begin to fight out

[MR OBIOHA]

something that is really injurious and destructive to our society. I think the activities of these three institutions are so wicked now that this legislation should come into force, if possible, within a month.

I hope also that the Minister of Trade will not hesitate in starting off another legislation on the insurance business in this country.

So many people have taken up a lot of time discussing the vexed problem of unity in this country. I do not intend to speak for a long time on this unity or no unity. All I have to say is that unity or the recognition of the equality of all the various Regions should be the basis on which the progress of this country can be planned, and it is so paramount that every Member of this House, every leader, must do everything possible to make sure that there is unity in this country.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Member for Orlu North (*Mr Obioha*) has exhausted his time. It is now one o'clock, and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr Speaker : I would like to remind hon. Members that there is light failure and that they should please speak as loudly as they can.

Mr E. O. A. Odeyemi (Ikeja Central) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Rededication Budget which was presented by the hon. Minister of Finance.

The Budget has little or nothing extraordinary for the working class of this country. It contains the usual songs of the capitalists which we have been listening to for many years past. One would have expected that the extra sixteen million pounds from last year's Budget should have been used to reduce unemployment figures and provide more amenities for the workers. But what we find is that this huge sum of money is going to be used in paying the many newly appointed Ministers of State thus leaving nothing for the workers.

I am afraid that if the Government continues with this type of spending the rate of unemployment will amount to eight million by 1980, if not doubled, and then the result will be that this Government will be overthrown by the unemployed masses of this country and not by outside forces.

It is true that the wages of the low income groups were increased ranging from 5 *per cent* to 32 *per cent*, but these increases were taken back by the very Government through increases in the taxes on essential commodities, thus leaving the workers where they were before the award. Moreover, the refusal of the Government to make Private Employers pay these increases through legislation, makes the whole increases meaningless because about 40 *per cent* of the workers are under private employers.

I humbly suggest that Legislation should be introduced by the Government to make the payment of the awards enforceable by law throughout this country.

On the Minister's remark that the doctrine of socialism scares away investors, I would like to say that only those investors who are not interested in the progress and development of this country will be scared away by this doctrine. These investors must be told in clear language that if they do not come, we can resort to deficit spending to develop our country and, when this is done, the purchasing power of our people will be increased. These investors will begin to come with the hope of finding markets for their products and keeping their machines busy. We shall dictate the terms under which they will come.

After all, Hitler did this same thing in order to overcome the problem of unemployment. Kenedy did the same thing. To-day, the Germans are finding ways and means of sending American investors out of their country because they themselves are looking for outlets for their own investors and for the sale of their products.

The experience of some investors now in this country is sufficient to drive other would-be investors away. This is not through fear of nationalisation. The investors are not as free as the Minister told us. If any Member is in doubt, I would like to cite what is happening at the Ikeja Industrial Area as an example. Here there are many factories, and Ikeja is a part and parcel of my constituency. The Western Nigeria Government has a large share in these industries. But it is found here that politics is introduced into everything, such as employment and increases in wages. Despite the fact that the Western Nigeria

Minister of Finance was a party to the agreement reached at the Morgan Commission, and despite the fact that he was the chief delegate of his Government, he refused to sign that agreement. What happened was that he went back to his Region and issued a circular telling all the managements of the Ikeja Industrial Area not to pay the Morgan Awards. As a result of this, workers in Ikeja Industrial Area could not receive the Morgan Awards as the workers in Lagos did. It was further agreed at the Commission that Lagos area should be made to cover a 16 mile radius and this agreement was signed by all the Ministers of Finance in this country.

I only suggest that if the Western Nigeria Government is as broke as we find now, it should be prepared to allow the extension of Lagos boundary to cover a 20 mile radius so that workers in Ikeja, Ikorodu, Badagry and in my constituency will enjoy the same amenities as workers in Lagos.

As I said earlier, they have introduced politics into labour matters in the Western Region. I have a report here containing the activities of the Chairman of the Ikeja District Council area—

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman is touching a very serious issue. For this reason, I think that I should correct him because he is making a grave mistake by referring to District Councils. All they have at present in the whole of the Western Region are management committees.

Mr Odeyemi : I accept that correction. All they have there are management committees that know nothing about what they do.

The Chairman went on recommending people for employment, and if the hon. Minister of Labour doubts what I am saying, with the permission of the Speaker, I will tender this document. What I am saying is that we do not want the Chairman to do this type of thing because all of us are in the field.

I said earlier that politics is introduced into the affairs of the working class of this country and I feel that until something reasonable is done by this Government they will continue from time to time to have agitations by workers.

The appointment of the present Minister of Labour by this Government is not satisfactory. Of course, I have no doubt that the new

Minister of Labour is a responsible person in this country. We know him very well. He was one of us, although he has now advanced some ten yards into the region of capitalists. We do not know what his attitude will soon become. The general strike which took place in June last year was brought about by the attitude of the Ministers of Labour who did not heed the genuine demand of workers. How can we make somebody who is very popular among us, who is a noble Prince of Shagamu, responsible for the workers?

Mr Speaker, although I have respect for the Minister, yet I would humbly suggest that it is necessary to transfer him to another Ministry because I know that control of workers in this country should not be left in the hands of a professional politician.

Now, I come to the question of the agreement reached after the Morgan Inquiry. In the agreement which the Minister of Finance was a party to, we agreed that something should be done to provide housing for workers. But what do we find after that? The housing scheme at Surulere was actually launched with fanfare and the Government took pride in showing round the whole place any visitor to Nigeria. But what we find in the final analysis is that Ministers make those houses the quarters for their other wives and girlfriends, thereby making it impossible for workers to enjoy the facility.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : That is false.

Mr Odeyemi : I know that the hon. Minister of Natural Resources and Research will doubt what I am saying. I now challenge him to go to Surulere to see if some of the Ministers will not be found there spending evenings with their other wives.

The Minister of Information (Chief Ayo Rosiji) : Mr Speaker, I do not think that it is a very good thing for the hon. Member to go on imputing motives.

Mr Speaker : Actually, I think that hon. Members should try to avoid imputing motives against Ministers.

Mr Odeyemi : I accept that correction, and if I had mentioned the name of any Minister I now apologise for that. But I still maintain that these houses have been given out to Ministers' wives.

[MR ODEYEMI]

Another thing I want to talk about is the question of rent control. In the agreement reached, it was resolved that rents in Lagos would be controlled. But, unfortunately, what we find is that Ministers and other members of the Government are landlords and have made it impossible for this House to legislate to control rents in Lagos. I must make it clear that in some other important towns in this country rents are controlled. We want the Minister of Finance to assure this House that he would brush aside his brothers, friends and Colleagues and then bring a law to control rents in Lagos.

The other question I wish to speak about is transport. I wish to mention also that the question of transport is included in the agreement we reached after the strike of June. All the Governments of the Federation, excepting the Government of Western Nigeria, signed this agreement. Mention was made in the agreement about the provision of transport facilities for the workers of this country. Many of those working in Lagos come all the way from my constituency. They travel more than eleven miles everyday to get to their offices. I feel that if we must get the efficiency which we in this country desire very much to get from the civil servants, workers must be provided with adequate transport facilities.

How can we expect somebody who lives at Idiro, Mushin or Ikeja to come to work at 8 o'clock in the morning without transport? Under these circumstances he would get to work at 9 o'clock, and I can assure the House that he would not be in a position to put in his best. If the Minister of Finance did not know this, I would like to tell him that we have to do something about transport facilities for workers in order to increase their efficiency and their productivity.

I think that it was on Monday last that the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) said something about foreign transporters in this country. It is very interesting to hear from some of the foreign transporters that even some members of the Government are shareholders in their companies, and as a result of this they are free to do whatever they want to do with their workers. They do not pay these workers, neither do they grant them annual leave or any other facility. For example, during the Morgan Commission, they told me—

Minister of State (Mr S. Lana): On a point of information, the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) did not say that members of the Government were shareholders in transport companies.

Mr Odeyemi: During the negotiations I heard the Arab Transporters say, "You can say whatever you like, but we are not going to pay this thing because all your Ministers are in our pockets." We know all these things and people want us to keep quiet. Until these people are removed, these foreign transporters will continue to cheat our indigenous transporters and they will also continue to exploit this country and we will have nothing left for our future generations.

I join the Member for Gwarzo in his plea to this Government that something should be done about these foreign transporters. They should not be allowed to take everything we have in this country away leaving the indigenous transporters to suffer. These two groups of transporters have not got equal facilities. In the foreign banks the foreign transporters have a lot of power; they allow them to borrow.

The Government has been talking about raising money. We do not need to go to America or Germany before we can get money. Money is here in this country.

Last year, an agreement was reached at a negotiation presided over by the Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh, to subsidize the Lagos Municipal Transport Service to enable them provide sufficient buses for the workers; but up to this moment nothing has been done to put it into effect. Instead, what we observed was that, no sooner that agreement was reached, than the Lagos City Council hurriedly passed what I would call a bogus law prohibiting all privately-run vehicles from plying in and around the municipality of Lagos. This law is very objectionable in that the locally-built buses like the *mammy-waggon*s are not being allowed to carry passengers to and from Lagos. This has inconvenienced the workers very considerably, as well as affected their early attendance to their various working places.

The Lagos Municipal Transport Service is fully aware of the insufficient number of buses at their disposal to cope with the increasing number of people desirous of going by bus,

yet they had this law passed and even empowered the Police to seize the privately-owned buses attempting to disregard that law. Besides the seizure of the buses, they are empowered to keep them for upwards of two weeks, after which their owners can be fined some £12 or so in addition.

Why do we want to hamper the business of the local people? I pray that the Government, through the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, should repeal this L.C.C. law, so that the workers in my constituency—Ikeja, Mushin, Sogunle, and Oshodi—can come to Lagos and go back home with the least inconvenience. The non-availability of buses at the right time is a setback to the poor workers, and if the workers arrive at their various offices at irregular hours, productivity will be greatly slowed down.

It is being suggested to me that the privately-owned buses like those called *Ja'lekun-e* and *Molue* are a menace to the community and should not be allowed to operate. I disagree with the hon. Gentleman who made this suggestion. Perhaps, he will tell us what type of vehicles are being used in his own village. Our *Bolekaja*, *Ja'lekun-e* and *Molue* should be given every chance to run on Lagos roads, so that the people, particularly the workers, can come to their offices on schedule.

The Minister of Finance mentioned that the response from the public to his call for public savings was very poor. I wonder why this type of remark should come from him, when we all know that he is one of the principal capitalists we have in this country. They amass wealth, hoard their money, and yet they want the poor workers to save.

I should like to suggest that this type of public savings called for by the Minister should start from the top in the first instance. That is from the Prime Minister, his Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and all Members of this House. Savings among them should be made compulsory. If the Prime Minister does not save, how do you expect the ordinary members of the public to save?

I humbly suggest that this House should introduce a Bill to make all Members of Parliament—from the Prime Minister down to the last Member—to engage in a kind of enforced savings. Whatever amount is collected from this source should go into financing our development plan.

In conclusion, I want to make a point about dishonesty among some Nigerians. The truth cannot be doubted that, even amongst us in this House, there are certain people who would not scruple to bring about the disintegration of this country; equally true, there are certain individuals who are prepared to divide this country in order to be in power for ever. We have to be very careful about ourselves.

Why do we become critics of the happenings in other countries, when we ourselves are very dishonest to one another in our own country? I feel that if we want to constitute ourselves the judges of other people's undoing in their own mother land, or if we persist in accusing other countries of trying to sabotage our interests, then we must also equally be prepared to call a spade a spade. We want Nigerians who are genuinely interested in this country to come forward to lead the people as well as serve them.

It is being whispered that the N.N.D.P. is the only party that is deserving of this type of hard plea. Well, I do not want to mention any party or any individual, but those who are affected know themselves. I do not see any reason why, because we want to satisfy the desires of a single person, we have to appoint some eighty Ministers. We cannot continue to lavish this country's money just because we want to appease a particular individual.

That is why I am saying that rather than accuse other nations of trying to subvert us, or of trying to sabotage our interests, we had better instead turn our attention to stopping those spurious Nigerians who have had themselves elected into this House through questionable means. If we do not do this, there is bound to be increased suspicion among all shades of people in this country.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye): I rise to support the Second Reading of the (1965-66) Appropriation Bill which was ably moved by my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Finance.

The creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Research is a clear demonstration of the Government's determination to give greater attention to the problems of agricultural development in Nigeria. In facing this task, we are fortunate to have received recently the

[PRINCE LAMUYE]

long-awaited study of Agricultural Development in Nigeria—1964-80, which the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was requested to undertake by the Government. One of the recommendations of the report which I can disclose is the strong support for the creation of a Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Hon. Members will wish to join me in congratulating the Prime Minister on his foresight in anticipating this recommendation, by the creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Research.

My Ministry's first major assignment will be a detailed study of this report in close co-operation with the Regional Agricultural Ministries, with a view to advising the National Economic Council on the steps which can immediately be taken to stimulate further development in the agricultural sector as well as to plan ahead for the next National Development Plan.

A field in which my Ministry will take early action is that of national water resources development. Of all the resources, water has the greatest bearing on the life of people in any developing country. Apart from its domestic use, water is the mainstay of agriculture and industry. We need to develop our water resources to meet the purposes of irrigation, navigation, generation of electric power, industry and livestock as well as to check the destructive influence of water, particularly floods and sedimentation on surface impoundments and on channels.

Failure to develop this resource can be a severe limiting factor in the development and exploitation of other natural resources envisaged in our National Development Plan. It is in recognition of this vital necessity that steps will be taken by my Ministry to co-ordinate the work which is already being done by the Federal and Regional Governments.

In this regard, we shall endeavour to perform the following broad functions :

- (i) compile, evaluate and present available information ;
- (ii) fill gaps in existing information ;
- (iii) assist in appraising the availability of water for key developments ; and
- (iv) broaden and strengthen existing programmes for water use and control.

Anyone who has had even a cursory look at the problem of agricultural development in Nigeria will be struck by the lack of co-ordination of our efforts. For example, the East and the North on the one hand, are, as part of their expansion programme, trying to cultivate cocoa ; the West, on the other hand, is seeking to expand its outputs of palm oil and kernels.

I believe that the present situation in the country as well as in the world market require co-ordinated development and a higher degree of specialization than hitherto. I intend to hold consultations with my Regional colleagues on this issue in the very near future.

One of the areas in which the Federal Republic stands in great need is a review of marketing policies. The Federal Government has, up to now, been able to do very little in the way of making policy on such matters as the amount of export prices which should reasonably find its way back into the hands of the primary producer.

In this connection, it is also my intention to initiate early action for market research as it is my considered view that before any project in the agricultural sector can be implemented with any degree of confidence, there ought to be reasonable assurance that the increased production of whatever commodity or commodities are proposed can be disposed of at a satisfactory price.

My Ministry will seek to carry out on a continuing basis, studies of the World Market for commodities including the preparation of projections of future overseas demand and probable price movements for export products. All such information will be freely made available to the Regional Governments and their Marketing Boards.

Recommendations will also be made on the establishment of an orderly system of food crop marketing and distribution, which should give an adequate proportion of the urban retail price to the primary producer.

It has long been recognised that one of the obstacles to rapid development of agriculture is the lack of credit facilities for farmers. The current National Development Plan has an allocation of about £3 million for the founding of a National Agriculture Credit Institution.

I understand that discussions have been held with the Regional Governments and it will be one of my first acts to bring these discussions to an early and fruitful conclusion.

In the field of research, Members will know that the Nigerian Research Institutes Act 1964 came into effect on the 1st of September, 1964 and with this, the Nigerian Government was able legally to take over the functions and responsibilities of the Institutes which are responsible for research work on cocoa, kola nuts coffee, oil palm and trypanosomiasis.

These institutes were formerly run jointly by the West African countries until in September 1962, when the joint administration was dissolved. I am informed that the three Institutes are doing satisfactory work and that two of them are now headed by Nigerian directors.

In addition, my Ministry also has responsibility for the Federal Department of Agricultural Research in which, as Members know, useful work is being done in the investigation of improved seeds and methods of cultivation of such Nigerian food-stuffs as rice, maize, cassava and yams ; the Department of Fisheries which has responsibility for the development of fisheries in Lagos and for research in the country as a whole.

I intend to speed up work on the establishment of the fishing terminal in Lagos. The terminal, when completed, will handle and store the daily catch in the Lagos area which is at present allowed to go waste through lack of storage facilities.

Finally, my Ministry also looks after the Department of Veterinary Research among whose vital functions is the production of vaccines for the immunisation of livestock in Nigeria. It is my intention to visit these Research Departments and Stations in order to familiarize myself fully with their work.

As regards research policy, I intend to pay particular attention to two main aspects ; the extension of commodity research to cover such commodities as rubber and citrus products ; and the co-ordination of applied research in order to avoid unnecessary and wasteful duplication.

In regard to this, I understand that my colleague, the hon. Minister of Economic Development has done a considerable amount

of work particularly in preparatory discussions with experts in and outside Government.

My task will be to bring these discussions to a conclusion and, as soon as possible, to table the legislation which may be required for creating a National Council for the Co-ordination of Scientific and Industrial Research.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Mahmud Dantata (Kano East) : I humbly rise to support the historic Budget Speech so diligently delivered to this honourable House by the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Sam Okotie-Eboh last week.

The speech, apart from being excellent and comprehensive, is also historic, educative and explanatory. It is no exaggeration to say that the hon. Minister ably and efficiently executes his delicate and arduous duties as a result of which the economic security of our great nation takes a good shape.

I must frankly and sincerely pay my whole hearted tribute to the hon. Minister and pray that he continues to discharge his gigantic assignments as satisfactorily as in the past.

It is a broad-based fact that Nigeria has undergone series of social, political and economic trials, and has triumphantly passed with exemptions. This really proves that Nigeria is destined to be a very powerful and first class nation in the affairs not only of Africa but indeed of the whole world.

In the Minister's speech, he placed before the nation, the Recurrent and Capital Expenditure Estimates of the Federal Government for the year 1965-66 and he told this House the progress so far made with the country's Six-Year Development Plan.

I quite agree with the Minister that the Six-Year Development Plan is making good progress, but I must say this, that in order to achieve one hundred *per cent* success in carrying out this important plan we must put aside all our personal and unnecessary luxuries, cut down our domestic budgets and sacrifice our lives financially, physically and economically to the nation so as to build a concrete and solid foundation of our country's economy.

The Minister also told Parliament, and Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote—

We had a trade gap of £41 million in 1964 as against £18 million in 1963.

[ALHAJI DANTATA]

I very much hope that every effort will be made to narrow the gap in 1965. If we are really serious in narrowing this gap quickly and effectively, we must establish more and more foreign and local industries through which our groundnuts, cocoa, cotton and other products will be commercially utilized.

The prices of these commodities, according to information, have fallen in the world market and we must apply all possible processes of economy to ensure that we get the highest prices for our products.

Besides getting the best prices for our commodities, there are so many internal problems which must be checked in order to succeed in the battle before us. I wish to mention just three of the numerous problems facing us. The first is the refusal of all foreigners to refrain from carrying on transport activities in Nigeria and thus encourage the indigenous transporters to have a one hundred *per cent* control of the business.

This problem appears to be no longer tolerable by the millions of legitimate citizens of this great Federation and as the President-General of the Amalgamated Northern Merchants Union, I have received hundreds of letters from various transport organisations and individuals from all nooks and corners of the Northern Region, complaining bitterly about this subject.

Similar complaints, I am quite sure, do exist in the various transport associations in the Eastern, Western, Mid-Western Regions and also in the Federal territory of Lagos.

How can the fortunate few in the Government circle be sincerely happy when the masses who elected them are being denied their *bona fide* rights by foreign monopolists? This kind of monopoly, is naturally inhuman, socially obnoxious, politically unjustifiable and economically detrimental to the indigenous citizens of this nation, and to the economy of the nation as a whole.

I have travelled far and wide around the world and I am assuring you, Mr Speaker, and the Members of this House, that there is not a single country (perhaps with the exception of South Africa with its inhuman apartheid policy) where foreign transporters have monopolised the control of this business.

In all the countries I visited, I observed that the Government of each country supports and encourages the indigenous transporters of its area and that foreigners have no hand or say in the transport field at all.

We must not deceive ourselves. We must not leave our electorate to suffer continuously like unfortunate orphans and only come back to them shamelessly and seek their assistance to re-elect us into Parliament after five years.

We are the servants of the electorate and must therefore serve them whole-heartedly and satisfactorily. We must always protect and promote their welfare and integrity.

And one of the means of doing this is by supporting and encouraging the indigenous transporters who are part and parcel of our electorate by providing them with the deserved rights and privileges to the fullest extent in this field.

Sir, I am quite sure that my hon. Friends, both the Ministers and Members of this House, including myself, who are gathered in this very highly respected Parliament are lovers of our country and its people. As true lovers, we must do all that lies within our power to make them happy. I do not think there is any of us in this House who disagrees or opposes this particular and humble appeal which is full of nothing but broad-based facts.

I strongly, honestly and seriously appeal to the Minister of Transport to use his usual good offices to bring before this honourable House as soon as possible, a Bill making it illegal for any foreign business man or woman to participate in transport business in Nigeria. This does not prevent them from converting or transferring their investments into other industries.

If this is done, especially at this crucial stage of our economic development, it will no doubt not only stabilise our national economy, but will also bring about the resuscitation of the deprived commercial status of our people.

The next point I want to speak about is the hire-purchase system in this country. This is another important problem which must be looked into. In order that our people may have the full benefit of transport business, the diseases in our hire-purchase system must be

rooted out. I maintain that the hire-purchase system in this country is very very bad indeed.

My next topic is the local retail trade which has been besieged by foreigners. This is another parasite which is gaining ground right in our economic set up. Most of the foreign traders, especially the Asiatics, are all out competing with the indigenous retailers in almost every field. I would like this Parliament to look into this very seriously and do all it can to protect our indigenous retailers.

Before I end my speech, Sir, I would like to touch on unity. It is one thing to express one's desires for unity, and it is another thing altogether to practise it. Let us now, and right now, forget our political differences and aim unanimously at practicalising and preserving the unity of our great and beloved nation.

In conclusion, I wish to end my speech with words of thanks to all our demagogic leaders through whose relentless efforts our country has evolved as an unprecedented and united Federation. They really need to be praised.

May Allah grant wisdom to all of us in all our respective assignments and always guide us on the right path so that we may possess a sincere and undiluted love for unity in its true and natural colour and to put that love into practice. Amen.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule): May I seriously apologise to hon. Members for the frequent power failure that has always characterised the meetings of Parliament. It is a great pity that each time Parliament is meeting we experience this unpleasantness, and it has now come to a stage when I must personally look into it very carefully and make sure that it does not occur again.

May I say, with your permission and in accordance with parliamentary procedure, that I warmly welcome this privilege and honour of rendering to this honourable House an account of the responsibilities assigned to me during the year 1964-65 in my capacity as Minister of Mines and Power, and to indicate in broad terms the achievements envisaged during the financial year which is just beginning.

The primary responsibility for appraising the status of this country's mineral supply and

sources of energy, and, for making appropriate recommendations to Government rests with the Ministry of which I have the honour of being the chief steward.

The modest increases shown in the Draft Recurrent Estimates for 1965-66 over those for 1964-65 occur mainly in the technical divisions of my Ministry where inadequate supply of technical personnel would be detrimental to the national economy and thus aggravate further the difficulties of implementing our ambitious Development Programme.

I sincerely trust that hon. Members will bear this point in mind during our deliberations on Heads 54 and 55 of the Draft Recurrent Estimates now before us.

During the year 1964-65, the Geological Survey Division continued its work on geological mapping of the country, the assessment of mineral resources and exploration for groundwater resources. Valuable and substantial aid has been generously given to Nigeria by a number of foreign countries and international agencies, particularly the governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Italy and from the United Nations Special Fund. It is not just the value only but also the opportunity offered for training our boys that should be considered as well.

Last year, eight geologists were engaged in mapping the North, East and the Mid-West Regions. One notable feature of the year's work is the emphasis on the use of modern techniques of mineral exploration including airborne and ground geophysical surveys and the introduction of geochemical prospecting, for minerals.

In Northern Nigeria, an area of 16,000 square miles was surveyed with airborne magnetometer; the survey was undertaken with the assistance received from the United Nations Special Fund.

During the course of this year, the results of the exercise will be ready and it is planned to follow up by assigning to the project Nigerian geologists, geophysicists and geochemists who will receive intensive training during the operation.

In Western Nigeria the geophysical ground follow-up of the aeromagnetic surveys of the Ilesha area which were made in 1963, was commenced with the assistance received from

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]
the government of Canada. Geochemical prospecting is also being carried out in this area and being closely integrated with the geophysical surveys in order to evaluate in detail the mineral potentialities.

A team of five economic geologists provided by the Government of Italy are now based in Ibadan. They are investigating occurrences of clays, iron ores and sulphine mineralisation in the south-Western part of the Region.

On the Jos Plateau, extensive ground geophysical surveys were carried out by an expert provided by the United Kingdom in connection with the sub-basalt deposits. Surveys of aluminous clays, kyanite and magnetic were made in other places.

Surveys of the groundwater continued and in addition, day-to-day advice on the exploitation of our water resources was given to the general public. The investigations of the artesian water in the sedimentary basins of Sokoto and Bornu Provinces were continued with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development and results are encouraging. The Geological Survey is undertaking surveys for water supplies in the resettlement areas of the Niger Dam project.

Programme of airborne geophysical surveys and plans for specialised aero-electromagnetic surveys in Northern Nigeria, and over parts of the lead-zinc fields in Eastern Nigeria and in some parts of Western Nigeria has been prepared and negotiations for financing the projects is under way.

One problem which the Geological Survey Division of my Ministry has is the difficulty of getting Nigerian geologists. Seven Nigerians were recruited last year but only one now remains with us. Our difficulty arises out of the fact that conditions of service for geologists in the private sector are far more attractive than those which the Federal Government can offer.

The mining industry has continued to make an important contribution to the economy of the country. Exports have been maintained and large quantities of coal and limestone have been produced for local use.

The production level of tin has been maintained and the price has risen considerably, and has reached a figure of £1,713 per ton in October last year.

As a consequence, revenue derived from royalty on tin increased by £832,500 to £2,066,300 during the year, 1964-65. Although the price of tin has since declined, it is still at a satisfactory level and the indications are that the industry may expect an appreciably higher price than the received in recent years.

In November the Internal Tin Council, of which Nigeria is a member, raised the buffer stock floor and ceiling prices from £850 and £1,000 per ton to £1,000 and £1,200 respectively. At present tin is in short supply on the world market and the short-fall is made good by disposals from the American stockpile. This cannot go on for ever and the International Tin Council has already expressed its concern at this shortage.

The second International Tin Agreement expires in June 1966, and a Nigerian delegation went to New York in March to attend the conference convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the purpose of negotiating a Third Agreement. This, as hon. Members are aware, is the first commodity agreement to be negotiated since the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which took place in Geneva last year. My Ministry will continue its efforts to promote investment in mining and foster conducive industrial climate for it.

Production of columbite showed some improvement, but the low price of this mineral has not given much encouragement to producers. Preparations are now well advanced for the re-opening of the lead-zinc mine near Abakaliki. Tantalite, zircon and gold continue to be produced in small quantities and interest is being taken in the production of barytes.

The production of limestone for the manufacture of cement has increased by 30 per cent. It is expected that two new cement factories, one near Sokoto and one at Ukpila in the Mid-West Region will come into operation before the end of the year.

The output of coal has risen by 98,000 tons. In order to ascertain the extent of coal reserves, a programme of drilling has been carried out. This has revealed an additional 19,000,000 tons, making a total of 48,000,000 tons available for development. The demand for coal, contrary to expectation, was reasonably buoyant throughout 1964-65 but had to face difficulty of transport. It is hoped that recent dis-

House of Representatives Debates

991

[Appropriation (1965-66)

8 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

992

cussions with the Nigerian Railway Corporation will bring the desired improvement. Efforts will be intensified to increase productivity in the coal mines in order that coal may be in a stronger competitive position than it is now, *vis-a-vis* other sources of energy.

The senior staff position in the Mines Division has been generally satisfactory and enabled a good standard of administration and inspection to be maintained throughout the mining areas. The re-organisation of the Inspectorates has been carried out and resulted in an improvement over the previous arrangements.

During the year, a Quarries Bill will be introduced for the control of all quarries throughout the Federation. With the passing of the Explosives Act No. 9 of 1964, the control of explosives was made the responsibility of my Ministry. A survey of all existing explosives storage facilities is being undertaken, and Explosives Regulations will shortly be published. The complete and unified control of explosives will then become effective.

The Mines School at Jos has fulfilled the important function of training youngmen for the industry. Fifty *per cent* of the students hold scholarships provided by the mining companies. I have been encouraged by the efforts of the Nigerian Chamber of Mines and some mining companies in sponsoring suitable Nigerians to the school. They have also sponsored few Nigerians for training abroad.

Evening classes have been provided for minesfield workers, with encouraging response. With the co-operation of the St. John's Ambulance Association, further training in First Aid has been given at Jos, and in order to extend and perpetuate this training, selected men have been trained as instructors.

The Ore Dressing Plant at the Mines School continues to be well patronised and is of considerable assistance to producers, particularly the small operators. Advice on ore dressing problem is given and investigations are undertaken for the public. A chemical assay service has now been introduced whereby miners and prospectors may obtain analyses of mineral samples. The Division's drilling unit continues to carry out work for evaluation in certain cases, and the engineering section assists small operators by the hire of drilling equipment and pumps.

During the year 1964-65, I made strong appeals to the Nigerian Chamber of Mines and the entire mining community regarding accidents. The Inspectors of Mines were charged with a wide coverage of the minesfield in order to discover unsafe practices and take immediate remedial measures. I am happy to say that the number of accidents dropped by 41 *per cent*.

As a consequence of the continually expanding industry of the world, the demand for metals and minerals is increasing and there is at present a great upsurge, internationally, for search of new sources of supply. It is the policy of my Ministry to do everything possible to encourage this search in Nigeria and to promote investment in mining so that the country may have an appropriate share of this vital and expanding industry.

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria maintained its rapid growth throughout the year 1964-65 in order to meet the increasing demand for power. Of the total power supply, industrial consumers now account for about 50 *per cent* of total sales, residential 35 *per cent*, and commercial about 15 *per cent*. The total number of industrial and commercial consumers at the end of February 1965 was 191,716. As industrialisation gathers momentum the demand for power is bound to increase.

Before I go on to say this, may I say that the estimate or forecast for power demand which was drawn up during the colonial days has now been exceeded by about 300 *per cent*. During the colonial days it was not expected that Nigeria would progress so quickly in the field of industrialisation.

As regards the problem we are facing to-day, every effort is being made by the Electricity Corporation to solve this problem so that we will be in a position to supply enough electricity for the demand of any industry.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, much as I do not want to dispute the statement about the assessment of our colonial masters, I think a year ago or so, I made a statement on the Floor of this House to the effect that we had heard it from experts that before the next twenty years, power failure in this country would ruin our economy. We have heard about the ten million pounds given to us by the World Bank, but this

[MR MBAH]

question of power failure is so important that it is no use coming here every year with sweet promises. We want something to be done about this.

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) has been too impatient. If only he can wait a little, he will hear all the projects we have in hand with which we intend to alleviate this. We realise that electricity is very important to industrialisation and it is because of this that the Government of the Federation has allocated large sums of money.

I have before me now certain projects which the Electricity Corporation is embarking upon, and with these projects we hope to be able to meet demand for electricity. I can assure my hon. Friend that if more demand is coming, the Government will put more money on electricity so that the supply can be met.

In order to give hon. Members an idea of the ambitious programme which the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is executing, and its plans for this year, the following projects, some of which have already been started, will no doubt be of interest.

(i) We have the 2×15 MW Gas Turbines, Ijora "C". May I say that for quite some time there has been a lot of complaint from the industrialists in Lagos and Ibadan areas as well as from other parts of the country, although there is more complaint in those parts I have named, for lack of electricity for their projects. We must do something in order to meet their demands. For this reason, therefore, Government has agreed that we should build an additional power station in Lagos. Another sea-power station will now be set up in Lagos so that it will be able to meet the demand for electricity for this fast growing industrial area.

(ii) We have the 2×17.5 MW Gas Turbine alternator sets at Afam. This also is to help industrialists in that eastern part of Nigeria. We realise that there is a lot of industrialisation going on and progress there is swift. For this reason, we must make effort to supply the power in order to encourage industrialisation in that area.

(iii) Aba-Onitsha 330 KV Transmission Line.

(iv) Onitsha-Oji 132 KV Transmission Line.

(v) 33 KV Port Harcourt Transmission Line to supply the Refinery.

(vi) Ikeja-Papalanto 132 KV Transmission Line for the Ewekoro Cement factory.

(vii) Jebba Power Station to supply power to the Nigerian Paper Mill Limited.

The aim is to try to help industries and to alleviate our fear of power failure or shortage of power.

In addition to these projects, selected towns in all the Regions have been surveyed, and, subject to funds being made available by the Regional Governments, construction will be started during this year.

Plans are being considered for the supply of power to the Calabar Cement Factory in the Eastern Region and to the Ukpialla Cement Factory in the Mid-West Region. The above bold schemes of expansion are intended to ensure reliable and adequate supply of power to meet the requirements of industry, commerce and private consumers at reasonable cost.

The projected budget for the 1965-66 represents an increase of about 19 per cent over the expected sales of the year 1964-65. The Corporation, hon. Members will note, has been fortunate to receive substantial loans from the World Bank, the United Kingdom Government and from the United States Government. Everything is being done to ensure that the loans are prudently husbanded.

An hon. Member has just said that the administration in the E.C.N. is bad. I must say that we have very good administration in the E.C.N., unlike elsewhere. We admit that elsewhere, administration is bad, but in the E.C.N., I think it is efficient.

Moreover, as I was saying, the Corporation has given the World Bank an undertaking to finance 45 per cent of its capital development projects from its own resources. To this end, it is imperative for the Corporation to maintain a respectable credit-worthiness and to attain an 8 per cent rate of return on its net fixed assets. Every effort is being made to achieve this objective, and measures have been introduced in recent months for recovering consumers' debts.

The size of the Corporation's operations has necessitated a serious review of its staff position in order to cope adequately with the planned

National Grid system. The problems in this regard are of two categories. In the first place, Nigerian engineers are not being trained in sufficient number, and this has made imperative the recruitment of expatriate engineers, most of whom do not stay long enough with the Corporation. Of the 160 engineers serving the Corporation during the year, 57 were expatriates. In the second place, there is acute shortage of middle-grade technical personnel. If the optimum value is to be obtained from the work of engineers, the acute shortage of technicians must be made good.

In order to solve this problem, the Corporation has started its own training schemes. In 1963-64, a total of 54 persons were studying engineering in technical colleges and universities at home and abroad. The Corporation hopes to send at least 35 students to universities in 1965-66.

The Corporation's plan for the future is to train as many as 30 to 40 engineers annually until its staff position becomes favourable. In the meantime, however, while active training of Nigerians is being pursued, a recruitment drive will be carried out abroad for qualified Nigerians who may be studying privately.

The Corporation has been training its technicians at various institutes. In 1962-63, there were a total of 80 students undergoing as Assistant Technical Officers; in 1963-64, the number rose to 122; and in 1964-65, it reached a total of 132 students. In addition the Corporation operates a training school for craftsmen.

Up till now, electricity is produced by isolated undertakings, each having its own generating station supplying nearby consumers through the local distribution system. Due to the rapid expansion and the increase in demand for electricity all over the country, and in order to take full advantage of cheap local energy sources, such as the hydro-electric power at Kainji and natural gas in the Delta area, the Corporation is constructing an extensive high-tension grid of 330 KV which will interconnect, ultimately, most of the isolated systems into one network. It is estimated that about 300 people will be needed for this purpose.

A crash training programme for this project was launched by the Corporation about

four months ago, and I am pleased to report that considerable progress has been made. Intensive local training both in the field and in the class-room is well under way.

Negotiations are being made to send many of the trainees abroad for more advanced training. The enthusiastic responses and swift actions given by the many friendly countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Holland and many others, are most gratifying, and I would like to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation for the kind gesture.

In view of the fact that Kainji Dam is progressing smoothly towards its scheduled completion date of 1968, preliminary discussions are now being held with the Niger Dams Authority on the relationship between the two bodies. The purpose of these discussions is to find the most suitable arrangement for co-ordinating the functions of the two organisations so that over-lapping of responsibilities and unnecessary duplication of efforts, organisations, equipment and skilled personnel can be reduced to the barest minimum compatible with efficiency. I am optimistic that satisfactory arrangements will be made in the national interest.

Nigeria makes the best of her membership of the International Atomic Energy Agency—one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations Organisation concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Our Institutions of higher learning are taking advantage of Nigeria's membership of the Agency to acquire scientific equipment for educational purposes. Nigerian scientists in this field participate in seminars and conferences arranged by the Agency.

The Electrical Inspectorate Division of my Ministry maintained an effective inspection of the electrical installations throughout the country, thus ensuring that the electrical supply systems, including private generating sets and associated wiring, were constructed and maintained to provide adequate and continuous supply of electricity commensurate with safety.

Work on the revision of the Electricity Act Cap. 57 is progressing, but since this is a time-consuming exercise involving as it does extensive discussions, it may not be possible to complete the work during this financial year.

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

Also the Working Committee set up by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to draft proposals for a Wayleave Act for main electric and distribution lines has reached agreement on the necessity to amend certain sections of the E.C.N. Act, Cap. 58, as recommended by the Law Officers. It is expected that the work will be finalised shortly and appropriate legislative measures will be taken.

Nigeria was represented at the International Conference on large Electric Systems held in Paris last June. The papers read at the Conference are made available for study.

Nigerians have become very oil-conscious in recent years and I consider this to be a very important pointer to the future of the oil industry in this country. Any company, irrespective of its country of origin, which is able to give a conclusive evidence of capacity, ability and experience to prospect, explore, exploit and produce oil, is given a chance. There is no intention to change this policy.

There was increased activity in both exploration and production throughout the year. Four new oil prospecting licences and two oil exploration licences were granted over areas on land. One oil prospecting licence was granted on the Continental Shelf. All but one of the oil companies have either discovered oil fields or encountered oil in their exploration wells.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : May I ask the hon. Minister if it is a fact that while exploiting oil, some oil firms have discovered diamond and are now asking for licence to exploit diamond ?

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : In some parts of the world, in the event of exploiting oil, diamond has been discovered and is being mined in the Continental Shelf—that is under the sea. In such cases, oil is discovered beyond where oil should be produced. It is therefore expected that similar finds will take place in Nigeria. But I do hope and pray to God that the time will come when some oil companies will discover diamond in Nigeria.

A great degree of success has been achieved in offshore exploration. This is very important because where oil is found under the sea, it is always found in large quantity. Oil has been discovered by every company that has drilled

offshore. Production from offshore areas commenced on the 21st of March, 1965, and the first shipment of crude oil from there took place on the 5th of April, that is last Monday.

The production of crude oil has passed the figure of 200,000 barrels *per day*, that is 10 million tons a year. This is more than double the average production figure for 1963. With the commencement of offshore production, this figure should be greatly exceeded by the end of this financial year.

In my Ministerial Statement during the Budget Meeting a year ago, this honourable House was informed that arrangements were being made under the Special Commonwealth Assistance to Africa to obtain the assistance of the Canadian Government for a team of experts to conduct a feasibility study of natural gas. It gives me much pleasure to say that the team of Canadian experts has already submitted a report which is at present receiving very careful consideration. It is hoped that concrete proposals on the best ways of utilising the country's rich reserves of gas will be made in due course. Unfortunately, at present, most of the gas produced with crude oil is flared even though an increasing proportion of it is being used at the E.C.N. Power Station at Afam, at the Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate and at the industrial undertakings at Aba.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : We who live in the East have visited a number of these exploration centres and we have discovered that apart from the exploration centre at Aba, at the other centres the gas being produced with crude oil is flared. What step is the Minister taking to see that the gas is made use of instead of being burnt ?

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule : It is rather unfortunate that most of the gas produced with crude oil is flared. Wherever there is crude oil, gas is associated with it. As the oil is being produced, gas is also being produced. However, the oil companies are now finding ways and means of collecting this gas in order to make use of it. But apart from gas which is produced with crude oil, we have got pure natural gas in this country and we have conducted a survey into it.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South-West) : With this quantity of oil being discovered and mined, is there any possibility that the

time will come when this oil would be exhausted?

Alhaji Maitama Sule : Unfortunately, I am a human-being and cannot predict the future, but I only hope and pray that we should have such a large reserve that will not be exhausted.

Mr P. O. Aliboh (Asaba East) : There is an information that when our oil companies go into full production, only three *per cent* of its production would be consumed in this country. What arrangements are the Ministry of Mines and Power making to see that our oil will go into the world market?

Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule : This is a very sensible question. We cannot do much except one thing, and that is to encourage only those companies that have got outlet into the world market and one of the considerations we give before granting concessions is that the oil company must have got an outlet to one or more of the world markets so that when they produce oil it will not just be dumped into Nigeria but will have an outlet so that it will be sold.

This House has already been informed in an answer given to a parliamentary question during this Sitting of the House that the Oil Refinery which is at present under construction at Alesa-Elemente near Port Harcourt, will come on stream by September this year. The coming to stream of the Refinery will mark an important landmark in the history of this Republic.

Since crude oil is produced in the country, what then can prevent its products from being sold at a cheaper price on the completion of the Refinery? This is a question which I have given most serious consideration and I sincerely expect that when the petroleum products refined in this country are available there will be a substantial reduction in their prices.

To this end, I have instructed officials of my Ministry to begin immediate consultations with the oil companies operating in Nigeria with a view to formulating plans for achieving this objective.

The value of crude oil exported in 1964 was over £30 million. Royalty on this and on natural gas sales amounted to about £3½ million, an increase of £1 million on the figure for 1963.

My Ministry is continuously studying the revenue position in so far as rents and royalties are concerned. Royalty is at present calculated on field storage values, which is the actual realised value of oil at the port of export, less handling and transportation charges from the field of production. This arrangement had been satisfactory while production was by one company and from one Region only.

Now that more than one company is producing oil and production is from both the Mid-West and the East it is essential that there should be absolutely no doubt about the quantity and value of oil produced in each Region so that an accurate attribution of royalty may be made.

My Ministry has therefore decided that a clear and verifiable price structure should be evolved. The officials of my Ministry have accordingly been asked to invite the oil producing companies to talks which should lead to the establishment of what are usually referred to in the industry as "posted prices".

Nigeria cannot afford to allow oil companies to continue to produce without "posted prices". We would like to know how much royalty we get from each production and we cannot leave this entirely in the hands of the oil companies. We should be masters of our own fate.

Consultations with the oil companies on necessary amendments to the existing oil legislation have been more or less concluded and the preparation of a new legislation has reached an advanced stage. But in view of the intricacy and complexity of the oil industry, legislation cannot be hurried. I am pleased to note that care is being taken to draw up a comprehensive oil legislation which I hope to introduce on the Floor of this House soon.

There is a plan, during the current financial year, to build a Field Office in Warri, subject only to the availability of funds. The Warri Office will supervise field activities in the Mid-West area and will be responsible for the physical checks on oil production and export in that part of the country.

The Petroleum Division, I am happy to say, is completely Nigerianised. This we have done because I believe that only Nigerians trained in the various aspects of the oil industry can help Nigeria to get the maximum benefit

[ALHAJI MAITAMA SULE]

from this oil industry. It is for this reason that we have made every effort to see that we have trained Nigerians to man all posts in the Petroleum Division of my Ministry.

It is anticipated that for the next few years the Division will continue to expand along with the industry. Any funds spent in providing qualified staff and equipment for the Division is money well spent and it is hoped that requests for modest increases in staff and expenditure will be supported by this honourable House.

Honourable Members would have seen that applications have been invited for scholarships and training awards under the Gulf Oil Training Fund Act. In this regard it gives me much pleasure to inform Members that most of the Oil Companies operating in Nigeria implement commendable training schemes for indigenous officers and they award a number of open scholarships.

In conclusion, I would like to assure hon. Members that my Ministry will not relax its efforts in making its humble contributions to the prosperity of this nation, whatever the sacrifices may be involved.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Minister of Labour (Prince Adeleke Adedoyin): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

I realise that, having taken office only a few days ago, it is yet too early for me to speak with much knowledge and authority on matters concerning my Ministry. I consider it, however, necessary for me to intervene in the debate because of references to certain matters affecting my Ministry.

Before going into these matters, I wish, with the permission of Mr Speaker, to pay a well deserved tribute, and I have no doubt of the support of the whole House, to my predecessor in office, Chief J. M. Johnson, popularly known as J.M.J. His courage, determination and loyalty in the service of this country enabled him to weather the perpetual storm generally associated with my Ministry for seven continuous years.

His name will always be associated with the progress of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the expansion of its services,

particularly in the field of social security, the progress of youth organisations, the special position of sports in our national life and Government's assistance in the development of co-operative societies.

These achievements made him a popular Minister among workers and youths in the country. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing him the best of luck in his retirement from active politics.

Some Members have commented on the labour crisis of last year and expressed concern over developments in the field of labour relations. I do not wish to belabour the House with the events which preceded and followed the appointment of the Morgan Commission. These events are well known to all of you.

Two major factors, however, stand out forcibly from the unfortunate chain of events surrounding the country-wide strike of workers last June. These are, the use of the strike weapon in a democratic, though developing, country and the role of my Ministry.

The general strike which lasted 12 days involved 122,870 workers and cost this country a colossal loss of 934,615 man-days. Even after the successful conclusion of negotiations by the Okotie-Eboh Committee, which consisted of Cabinet Ministers representing all the Governments in the Federation, the Joint Action Committee and the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association, the country witnessed again an almost relentless wave of industrial disputes and stoppages of work during the months of July, August and September, 1964, over the demand by employees in the private sector for the implementation of the Okotie-Eboh Agreement.

It has been stated by some hon. Members that private employers have not paid the agreed Morgan wage rates and that the Government should introduce legislation to make payment obligatory. The Morgan Commission recommended that the minimum wage rates should apply only to persons employing not less than ten persons.

In the tripartite negotiations over the Morgan Recommendations, it was agreed that Government should provide an adequate machinery through the Wages Board Act to deal with the application of the minimum wage rate for each area to private employers.

I want to say here that it is not correct that all private employers have not paid the agreed Morgan rates. Through the co-operation of the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association, which is a party to the Morgan Agreement, majority of private employers belonging to the Association have honoured the agreement.

As I said earlier, it was agreed at the Morgan Negotiations that Government should provide an adequate machinery through the Wages Board Act to deal with the application of the minimum wage rate for each area to private employers. My Ministry has tried to set up Wages Board in each area for this purpose but the central trade union organisations did not support it ; instead, they want a national wages board which will regulate wages and conditions all over the country. This cannot be done until the Wages Board Act is suitably amended.

Although recent occurrences in the field of industrial relations have given cause for alarm, Government policy in this respect continues to be guided by the democratic tradition which we have built up in the country. This policy is that sound industrial relations in a democratic setting must have as an objective the promotion of self-government in industry in conditions which eschew the exploitation of labour and guarantee, at the same time, the freedom of workers and employers to organise themselves into voluntary associations sufficiently strong and independent to settle, by negotiation, the terms and conditions under which workers offer their services to their employers.

The series of labour upheavals which occurred during the past twelve months have brought into sharper focus the significant and pivotal role which my Ministry has played, and will continue to play, in the social and economic development of the country. The preservation of industrial peace is a condition precedent to economic progress and development.

The last general strike has been the worst and most costly experience of labour unrest that the country has had since 1945. The fact that such unpleasant experiences are few and far between is a testimony to the value and importance of my Ministry in the scheme of things.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Morgan Commission accepted by the Okotie-Eboh Negotiating Committee, my Ministry has

had discussions with both the organisations of employers and workers about their implementation. The Regional Governments were consulted as well. Reasonable progress was made until early in January when a serious split occurred within the workers' organisation, that is, the Joint Action Committee of Nigerian Trade Unions. This has, unfortunately, resulted in the formation of another central organisation called the Trades Unions Supreme Council.

The appeal by the former Minister of Labour and Establishments for unity among the labour leaders and for a resolution of their differences have so far not produced the desired effect and, consequently, my Ministry and the other Ministries concerned with the implementation of the outstanding matters in the Okotie-Eboh Agreement have been seriously handicapped in their efforts to press forward with these matters. I believe that the point I have just made will settle what is agitating the mind of an hon. Member who said that he was representing the labour movement.

The blunt refusal of the quarrelling labour leaders to meet together as organised representative groups with my officials and others in any discussion of these matters has slowed down the progress in dealing with the issues of price control, workers transport, low-cost housing and the establishment of rent control tribunals in Lagos.

Mr N. Asande (Owo Central) : On a point of order, I would request the Minister of Mines and Power to supply a candle to each Member because it is dark now, though the time according to the wall-clock is 2.30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker : The time is 4.45 p.m. and not 2.30 p.m.

Prince Adedoyin : Also, the high hopes which my predecessor entertained for the inauguration in January of the National Labour Advisory Council and the National Wages Advisory Council were destroyed by this new development.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I think it is unusual, when a Minister is giving his valedictory address to the House, to be disturbed, but I think it is wrong for the Minister to attempt to blame the labour leaders for the inefficiency of his Department.

The Deputy Speaker : This is not a valedictory address.

Prince Adedoyin : In spite of these difficulties, however, efforts are being made to establish the various machineries which have been agreed on in the sincere hope that the trade union leaders will realise the futility of their quarrels and the need for a collective approach to the wider issues of the welfare of workers.

I must make it clear on the Floor of this House that the Government wants to see a strong, virile and reliable central labour organisation which can speak with one determined voice for all the workers in the country, irrespective of whatever trade union or federation they may be attached to.

In the spirit of our democratic way of life, Government, as a state authority, should be completely free to consult all shades of opinions on issues of national and common concern to the country. Such a dialogue is basic to democracy and is in fact the spring that gives life to this honourable House.

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : On a point of order, I want to sympathise with the new Minister who should have been allowed every opportunity to make his maiden speech as a Minister but, due to the fault of one of his colleagues, we have a black-out. Somebody prophesied darkness, I think we should all pray for a new light to come to this Parliament.

Prince Adedoyin : We have seen enough of bitterness among our people on matters which by their nature call for a collective approach. Everyone must forget the past and take up his share of the responsibility for development.

This brings me to the subject of the National Provident Fund which has come in for criticism of late. The National Provident Fund is not only a bold experiment in the field of social security but, more than that, it provides the only bastion of insurance against destitution in retirement, old age and prolonged unemployment for workers.

* Up to 1st April this year, 470,631 workers and 4,064 employers have been registered under the Fund and contributions amounting

to over £10 million have been collected. These contributions have been wisely invested wholly in Government securities by the Investment Committee of the Fund. Not a penny out of the money of the Fund is invested in private enterprise.

Also during the year, the first annual statements of account in respect of 1962, being the first year of operation of the Fund, were issued to members of the Fund. I do not need to emphasise here the benefit of the scheme in old age for which it is primarily designed.

It has been suggested in certain quarters that it is Government's responsibility to look after workers in old age and that they do not need to contribute to any fund for this purpose. I do not know how they come by this idea. The type of scheme as we now have is maintained through contributions in most countries of the world—rich and poor—including even communist countries.

The workers who contribute to this scheme have no fear of losing their contributions, in addition to those of the employers, as a result of dismissal or liquidation. This makes their position more secure than workers in non-contributory pension schemes who do not enjoy any benefit in many cases, until after a period of service and depending on good character and untarnished record of service.

At the early stage of a scheme of such a magnitude, there are bound to be teething troubles and it would be pretentious not to confess that there are many already. I can assure the House of my determination to see that the administration of the Fund is made more efficient to cope with these problems.

The accumulated fund of the scheme belongs to workers who are assured of its security and who will draw their entitlements as and when they are due.

There is, since the inauguration of the Fund an advisory board, comprising representatives of all the governments, employers and workers, which advises me on the operation of the Fund. I am fully convinced of the goodness of this scheme and I can assure hon. Members and the workers that every penny contributed is safe.

House of Representatives Debates

1007

[Appropriation (1965-66)

8 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

1008

Mr A. U. D Mbah (Owerri North): In normal circumstances, no hon. Member would have liked to disturb the new Minister of Labour who, hon. Members have been listening to in silence and, I would be the last man to do that.

On this question of the administration of the National Provident Fund, we are not saying that the money has been stolen. Nobody likes strike and the last strike, as we all know, caused a lot of trouble. There is evidence to show that Trade Unions and Workers have protested about the administration of the National Provident Fund.

The Minister himself has admitted in his speech that the administration of the Provident Fund has not been good. We know the Minister is new in the Ministry and we should give him time to settle down. I would appeal to the Minister seriously to please look into the administration of the National Provident Fund.

Prince Adedoyin: I understand the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah's*) point and I can assure him that this matter is receiving my attention and, it will continue to be attended to until we have the best side of the whole show.

May I also inform hon. Members that, so far, I have been able to find out that many of the workers feel that after their death the money may not be forthcoming in time. The fault is not with my Ministry or the Fund; we have got to go through the Administrator-General and hon. Members know what this means. The Administrator-General has to find out the next-of-kin of the deceased contributor and to see that the money is paid to the correct person. All this is being looked after. We are consulting the Administrator-General with a view to facilitating payment.

I am fully convinced of the goodness of this scheme and I can assure hon. Members and the workers that every penny contributed is safe and secure and no one will lose a penny of his savings and his employer's contribution.

I have intervened in the debate in order to clear these important issues. I am yet too young in my Ministry to deal with all the subjects under my portfolio. I have, however, discovered that running through all these subjects is the intimate connection they have

with the life of every member of the community. Whether in the field of labour, social welfare, co-operatives and sports, they are human problems which do not have set formulae for dealing with them as in engineering or other professions. Each has to be treated in its own peculiar way. In our democratic setting, they require discussions, consultations and compromises. It is for this reason that I appeal for understanding and co-operation from hon. Members.

Mr J. O. Akhigbe (Ishan West): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill ably presented to this honourable House by the Minister of Finance. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his comprehensive and brilliant Speech and also to congratulate him on his election as the first Chairman of the African Development Bank.

Alhaji Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (Gwarzo): On a point of order, it appears we cannot see properly, as the House is dark. When one removes one's eye glasses, one finds that the House is too dark. We are finding it difficult to read our notes. It is only the younger men that can read their notes without strain. In view of this fact, I suggest that the House should adjourn.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West): On a point of order, I would have thought that this honourable House is meant for younger men because they can see well. The old men are meant for the Senate.

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia): On a point of order, I am yet to see in any part of the world where only younger men live and dominate exclusively the Houses of Legislature. But if this is going to be the case in Nigeria, then we shall send all our younger men to all our Regional Legislatures and Houses of Parliament. But if people like the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) become old, they will not be allowed to partake in any parliamentary deliberations.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East): On a point of order, I agree that those of us who can see should be allowed to go on making references to their notes. But I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman who suggested that Parliament should be meant only for younger

[MR ODULANA]

men. It will be remembered that this hon. Gentleman crossed to a sister country to be trained in the use of ammunition, and it will be very difficult for other youngmen like him to be in this Parliament without the presence of elderly statesmen like the Minister of State, (*Chief Onyia*), and the Member for Gwarzo (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*).

The Deputy Speaker : In view of the fact that time is against hon. Members who wish to speak, may I appeal to hon. Members once again to minimise their points of order.

Mr Akhigbe : I would like to praise the Federal Government for its financial and international trade policies. But in view of the large trade deficit facing the nation as a result of our trade with Japan, it will be advisable for the Federal Government to stop forthwith all trade relationship with Japan, if she is not prepared to buy our produce. After all, international trade is broadly speaking, trade by barter.

With regard to the question of socialism, I would say that there is no God-given definition for it. But the essence of any good government is to cater for the welfare of the great majority of its citizens. It is my belief that the Federal Government is trying its level best in the art of government, but I still wish to appeal to the Federal Government to add more grease to its elbows, and should always endeavour to have the interest and welfare of the people living both in the rural and urban areas of this country at heart.

The Minister of Finance will agree with me that there is nothing wrong with socialism as such, because he is a great admirer of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom which are now governed by socialist parties respectively. But it would seem to me that the Minister of Finance is more interested in the happiness of the citizens of this country than the particular name given to a particular form of government.

Coming to the question of foreign policy, I would say that our foreign policy of non-alignment is only on paper. The question now is whether our foreign policy can be genuinely non-aligned and at the same time be dynamic? The answer probably is no. Although our policy on paper is non-alignment,

in practice it is heavily pro-West. Consequently, in international politics we appear to be timid and unimaginative. (*Hear, hear.*)

On the question of Western Avenue and Agege Motor Road, I would say that it is very pleasing to note that negotiations will soon begin with the United States Agency for International Development for a loan for the reconstruction of these roads. I hope history will not repeat itself, because many hon. Members are well aware of the ill-fate that befell that road called the "Western Avenue" that was planned to be a dual carriage way but, owing to some shameful irregularities, a narrow flood-ridden single road was constructed instead.

Mr E. A. Atanda (Iwo West) : On a point of order, there is no quorum in the House.

The Deputy Speaker : There is quorum in the House.

Mr Akhigbe : Coming to the question of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, I would like to make one observation, and that is the primitive practice of making some patients to pay for the cost of their treatment, either partly in blood or in cash.

It is the habit in hospitals to request patients waiting for operation or expectant mothers waiting to deliver to produce four persons to donate blood on their behalf, whether those patients are short of blood or not. This is a primitive way of getting blood for the Blood Bank. It would, therefore, be a reasonable step if the Federal Government could mount a vigorous campaign to get blood donors for the Blood Bank. I am very sure that many people and almost every hon. Member in this House would be willing to donate at least a pint of blood to the Blood Bank every Budget Session.

I wish to say a word about the Nigerian Law School. It is very gratifying to know that a permanent home will be found for the Nigerian Law School at Victoria Island. This is, indeed, a wise step in the right direction.

However, the Federal Government should not concern itself only with the building of the Law School but should also make some bold programmes for the young lawyers, who will be passing out from that School, in order to reduce to a minimum the disappointments and frustration many young lawyers are encountering in this country to-day.

As a means of minimising these initial difficulties and also providing these young lawyers with the barest means of livelihood, I would suggest that the Federal Government should make these young lawyers of one year standing to be lawyer prosecutors (in place of police prosecutors) in criminal cases in Magistrate Courts.

This can be done by the Police Department assigning such briefs to the chambers of young lawyers who have registered under this system with the Police. This will give an opportunity to young lawyers to make use of their training and earn a living instead of waiting in their chambers for briefs that may never come.

Mr M. Nnorom (Okigwi North-East): On a point of order, may I know if the Member for Ishan West (*Mr Akhigbe*) is a lawyer?

Mr Akhigbe : I am a lawyer.

This initial financial difficulty had caused many lawyers who would otherwise have been brilliant practising barristers to go either into the civil service, industries, or firms.

I wish also to say a word or two about the insurance companies of this country. In view of the unsatisfactory manner in which these companies pay inadequate compensation to the dependants of those killed in motor accidents and/or victims of accidents, I would urge the Federal Government to set up a high-powered commission of inquiry into the activities of these insurance companies, and nationalise them or set up a State-owned insurance company, if they are found wanting.

In a majority of cases, insurance companies refuse bluntly to pay any compensation on the flimsy reason that they were not negligent, and they at times ask such claimants arrogantly to seek redress in a High Court if they are not satisfied. They do all this because they are well aware that a majority of those victims are so poor that they would not be able to foot the bill.

The companies are only interested in the profits they can make and treat with contempt the interests of the insured and victims of accidents. It is, therefore, my humble suggestion that the Government should either nationalise the companies or control their activities. The Federal Government, if it chooses, can set up a state insurance company to rival the existing insurance companies.

I would also wish to say a word about the "commercial cancer" in our society to-day, and that is the hire-purchase system in this country. The hire-purchase agreement is so one-sided and grossly unfair to the hirer, and the interest paid by the hirer is so high that those who avail themselves of the hire-purchase system get into a web of debts and must then have to give up a large part of their salaries in order to liquidate the debts.

The real reason for the introduction and prevalence of the hire-purchase system is not only to help the hirer to get the articles they want but also to assist the firms to reduce the difficulties of disposing of their goods and therefore to secure maximum profits. The firms have now lost sight of this fact.

I would humbly urge the Government to look into this matter. However, I hope to introduce a private Motion in respect of this matter during the life of this Parliament if the present hire-purchase system is not drastically improved.

I wish to say a word about farm settlements. It is indeed very comforting to learn that the Federal Government is alive to the fact that improved agriculture is of paramount importance in this country, and that although agriculture is a Regional matter, the Federal Government is prepared to seek ways and means of assisting well thought out programmes of farm settlements.

I would sincerely appeal to the Federal Government to assist the Mid-Western Government in enlarging and improving the farm settlement at Ekpoma in Ishan Division in order to reduce the unemployment problem in that area.

On Ghanaian detainees, I wish to say a word about—

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! I suggest that the hon. Gentleman should steer clear of that, especially now that we are discussing the fiscal policy of the Federal Government. It has nothing to do with our Budget.

Mr Akhigbe : I also wish to say a word about the Report of the Morgan Commission of Inquiry. This is by and large a measure to narrow the gap between, the well-off and the poor. It is very laudable on the part of the Federal Government to have accepted the

[MR AKHIGBE]
recommendations of the Morgan Commission of Inquiry in a great measure.

My advice here is that awards should never be made in future to have retrospective effect, in view of the great difficulty caused not only to the Federal and Regional Governments but also to the commercial and industrial sectors.

Speaking on wages brings me to the salaries of top civil servants. It is ridiculous to learn that top civil servants earn more than their Ministers who are at the head of their Ministries. I am advocating that such top civil servants should in future earn either £300 or £500 less than their Ministers.

I would not be doing justice to my conscience if I failed to say a word or two about the formation of the 80-man Cabinet which, for any purpose, is too large and an unnecessary waste of the taxpayers money.

The Premier of the North, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, as the leader of the N.P.C. said that he was not responsible for selecting members of the Federal Cabinet. It would therefore follow that this unnecessarily large Cabinet is the handwork of our respected Prime Minister.

It is extremely difficult to fathom on what basis or with which formula the Prime Minister picked his Ministers, because if it is on political party basis, it is surprising to note that the Action Group which is a great political party to be reckoned with in this country is excluded.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo): On a point of order, I do not think that in any Parliament the Prime Minister alone shares every blame. I believe that there is always collective responsibility. The Member for Ishan West (*Mr Akhigbe*) charged only the Prime Minister for excluding the Action Group from the Federal Cabinet. He is only the head, and under a head there is always a body.

Mr Akhigbe : I cannot mention the names of all the Ministers individually. As the Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet, I have the right to mention his name, and as the Cabinet has collective responsibility, the Prime Minister has to answer for all the acts of the Cabinet. If the Cabinet has done anything

good, he will accept the praise and if it has done wrong, he has to answer for it too. So, it is extremely difficult—

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : It would appear that some people are labouring under misapprehension. I am perfectly sure that if some of the Members speaking as they do now were to be in the shoes of the Prime Minister and saw what the Prime Minister had seen, they would have done worse than what the Prime Minister had done.

If they knew the difficulty of holding this country together and of satisfying the different elements in the formation of the broad-based Government, they would not blame the Prime Minister for his action. Even the Prime Minister of England, Mr Harold Wilson, was obliged to enlarge his Cabinet after the last General Election in Britain in order to satisfy the different sections of the country.

Mr Akhigbe : As I was saying, it is extremely difficult to know the basis on which the appointment of the Ministers was made, because if it was on political party basis, there is no reason why the Action Group should have been excluded. The Action Group is a great political party to be reckoned with in this country, and why was it excluded from the broad-based Government ?

If, on the other hand, it is argued that it was on Regional basis, why then was it that the Mid-West which is a Region by itself was given only four Ministerial posts out of 80 ? Moreover, the appointment of only one Cabinet Minister from the Mid-West is not only unfair but also inequitable. Since the Cabinet is so large, the Prime Minister should have appointed at least eight Ministers from the Mid-West.

Furthermore, the last General Election was fought by two great alliances—namely, the N.N.A. and the U.P.G.A.—and the numerical strength of the two alliances in the House is roughly in the ratio of two to one. Therefore, if this Government is going to be a truly broadly-based National Government, the respective strength of the alliances in the House should be reflected in the Cabinet.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): On a point of information, the hon. Member—*(Interruptions)*.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order.

Mr Ememe : The hon. Gentleman speaking seems to be misleading this House by saying that the last Federal election was fought by only two alliances. Independent Members also fought and won election into this House.

The Deputy Speaker : That is a point of independence !

Mr Akhigbe : It is learnt from reliable sources that the U.P.G.A. was given a definite instruction not to select any Action Group Member of Parliament as a Minister. This was confirmed by the composition of the Cabinet recently announced with the non-inclusion of any Action Group Member of Parliament in the Cabinet.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) : Surely, no responsible person could have admitted the Action Group into the Cabinet. A party such as the Action Group which comprises members who were found guilty of a very grave offence as treasonable felony is not worthy of being in any Cabinet.

The Deputy Speaker : The matter of inclusion or non-inclusion of the Action Group in the Cabinet has nothing to do with the fiscal policy of the Government and should not be brought into the debate.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Mr Akhigbe : As the Minister of Economic Development has said, if the party is an illegal party, it should have been banned by now ; but since it is in existence, it should not have been excluded from the broadly-based National Government because a party like the Action Group is a party to be reckoned with in this country. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I would not like Members to waste the time of the proceedings of the House. We have little time left now and there are many Members still wishing to contribute to the debate. Therefore, I see no reason why Members should waste the time of the House unnecessarily. Now, to enable those who wish to make their contribution to do so, any points of order which are not on serious matters will not be allowed.

Mr Akhigbe : As I was saying, the non-inclusion of any Action Group Member of Parliament in the Cabinet recently announced confirmed the rumour that the U.P.G.A. was given a definite instruction not to select any Action Group M.P. as a Minister.

Finally, my humble submission therefore is that the only honourable path for the U.P.G.A. is to withdraw honourably from the Cabinet and go into the Opposition forthwith *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker : I definitely assure Members that those who are very obstinate in continuing to make noise will not easily catch my eye. Now, Mr Akhigbe should desist from making comments on the inclusion of political parties in the Cabinet and should concentrate on the fiscal policy of the Government.

Mr Akhigbe : I have concluded my speech.

The Minister of Industry (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye) : I rise to support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Events of the past few months have clearly vindicated our claim to both political and economic stability and have further assured for this country a most favoured place throughout Africa, in the hearts of foreign investors. Much credit, I believe, is due to the maturity of our leaders, and their recognition of the fact that the strength of this country lies in the fair exploitation of its diverse human and natural resources for the common good of all its peoples.

I am particularly grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for the vision and wisdom shown in the selection of a broad-based Government and for the honour he has done to me in appointing me as Minister responsible for Industry. I consider it a great honour indeed to serve in this capacity in a fast industrialising country such as ours.

Trade and industry had hitherto been served by one Ministry—the Ministry of Commerce and Industry—under a very capable and eminent Colleague, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima. I am, as it were, only stepping into one of his shoes, and as I said earlier on, I am glad to be associated with this task of industrial development.

During the past ten years the former Ministry of Commerce and Industry pursued with vigour, and in co-operation with its regional counterparts, the promotion of industrial enterprises throughout the Republic. This will continue and my Ministry will do all in its power to strengthen the existing healthy

[CHIEF AKINLOYE]

investment climate so that new industries may be attracted into the country and the existing ones expanded.

During the past year, my predecessor has with apparent impartiality implemented Government policy in granting incentives to industries throughout the Federation as a means of attracting overseas investors. I hope to follow this pattern. A journey through the main cities and towns of Nigeria will show clearly that many new industrial enterprises were established and many are still under construction.

This country is very rich in natural resources, but we must emerge from the state of being primary producers alone. We must tackle the problem of upgrading our raw materials with determination if our industrial development is to have any purpose. To this end, a list of industrial priorities will soon be compiled, and future incentives will be particularly geared to projects based on maximum utilization of our raw materials so as to provide more employment opportunities for our teeming population.

As from now on, efforts will also be made to see that industries are not concentrated in particular areas alone. This should have the effect of controlling the mass movement of labour overcrowding in the major cities.

Besides drawing up a list of industries which can be based on our local raw materials, the Federal Government has in the past year greatly strengthened the staff of the Institute of Industrial Research by the recruitment of experienced research men from other developing countries with similar industrial development problems. The Institute is therefore carrying out pertinent research on how to upgrade and give added value to our primary produce. I am glad to report that the days of unfruitful research is over. The institute has constructed a fish drying unit designed to meet our local conditions. It cures fish without fur, and the improved stock has excellent storage properties.

In addition, the experiment on the fortification of *gari* to give it nutritive value is yielding excellent results. The juice of cashew nuts has also been successfully fermented and distilled to yield industrial alcohol. At the risk of boring you with these modest achievements, I should like to add that essential oils

which may be used in the making of perfumes have been extracted from lemon grass and citrus peelings. The latest experiments have confirmed that our local clays are suitable for use in industries relating to paints, tiles, bricks and crockery.

During the passing year, twenty-four new industries commenced full-time and test productions. About 15,000 Nigerians were employed in the new ventures including the £1.5 million brewery at Abeokuta, iron and steel galvanizing plants, pharmaceutical factories, boardpak (a pioneer manufacturer of packaging materials), textile print mills, shoe factories and a synthetic detergent factory. About May 1965, fifteen other factories including the Government Mint, petroleum and sugar refineries, spring weaving and textile factories as well as factories for towels and cosmetics which are under construction, will go into production. Plans for the establishment of paper, flat glass, jute bags, marble, multi-purpose metal, jewellery and textile enterprises have reached an advanced stage.

Industrialisation will not be complete, whatever the scale, if we have to depend on expatriate personnel for longer than necessary. My Ministry recognises the urgent need to provide opportunities for training Nigerians to take over from the many expatriate technicians now handling most of our industrial enterprises. To achieve this, the Federal Government will encourage and promote schemes for industrial training, both in the public and private sectors, designed for Nigerians employed in industry. The Government will therefore give every encouragement to technical training in our Universities and Colleges. Government also will ensure that the foreign firms who establish industries in the country provide training opportunities for indigenous employees in order to prepare them for more responsible jobs.

It is gratifying to note that as a result of efforts already made by this Government the number of industries both small, medium and large scale has increased considerably in recent years. In 1955, for instance, there was only one pioneer company engaged in the manufacture of cement. To-day, we have as many as one hundred and sixteen pioneer companies operating in various industries all over the Federation. With the development of local

industries, the problem of acceptable standards has come to the fore-front.

It is the intention of my Ministry to see that the products of local industries conform to the highest international standards —

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North Central) : On a point of information, the Minister has just said something about international standards. I just want to draw the attention of the Minister to the standard of the matches being produced here in Nigeria. The standard of our matches is too low. For instance, I brought out a stick of match and tried to strike out fire ; but to my surprise the whole thing exploded and my fingers got burnt. This type of matches could even set a whole building or even the Parliament buildings on fire ! In this respect—

Mr Speaker : Order ! Surely these are some of the details we should be discussing in Committee.

Chief Akinloye : I thank the Member for Lagos North Central (*Mr Shitta-Bey*) for this information. I am fully aware of the fact that the standard of some of the matches produced here locally are low, and that is why I have said that the problem facing us now, on our local industries, is that of setting a standard which will be acceptable internationally.

As I was saying, it is the intention of my Ministry to see that the products of local industries conform to the highest international standards in order to ensure that these industries develop on sound lines and are able to withstand competition from foreign manufactured goods. It is therefore hoped, in the course of this year, to tackle the problem of a standard institution.

One of the major problems facing indigenous business-men is the non-availability of capital, and the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank which was established a while ago is giving financial assistance in respect of carefully planned medium-sized projects. The average Nigerian business-man may, however, not be able to meet conditions specified by the Bank. In order to help such people, therefore, arrangements are now on hand to merge the Federal Loans Board and the Revolving Loans Fund so that more funds may be available for the small scale business.

Our major industrial incentives—tax-holiday and import duty relief will continue to be used judiciously to encourage the establishment of industries. As I mentioned earlier these have served a useful purpose, but experience has however shown that a number of anomalies exist in the operation of the pieces of incentive legislation—the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act, 1958, and the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Act, 1957.

These require complete streamlining in order to ensure that industries are not given more than is necessary for their viable operation ; a general review of these incentives will therefore be undertaken to ensure that the economy derives maximum benefits from local industries. Steps will also be taken to see that industries in general and those benefiting from our incentives in particular do not exploit the consumers by increasing prices without sufficient justification.

Following the general re-organisation of my Ministry, an Investment Information Centre has now been set up. This centre will not only advise people interested in development projects but will also supply necessary information relating to specific projects. It will act as an industrial liaison between overseas investors and the public utilities and will thus facilitate the establishment of industries by new-comers to Nigeria. Officers will be drawn from the Regions to facilitate the work of this centre.

Mr S. A. Shitta-Bey : I hope the Minister will not forget Lagos. Lagos should be represented in this centre.

Chief Akinloye : For this purpose, Lagos is regarded as a Region.

Mr Shitta-Bey : I am grateful to the Minister for this information.

Chief Akinloye : It is the intention of my Ministry to work in close collaboration with the Ministries of Trade, Finance and Economic Development in order to combat the imbalance of our trade through import substitution stimulated by restriction in imports and planned industrial growth.

Finally, may I appeal to this House, and through this House to the nation, to encourage growing industries, by a clear demonstration of our patriotism, and use mainly “Made in Nigeria” goods.

[CHIEF AKINLOYE]

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): While supporting the Appropriation Bill, I would like to make the following brief observations. The Rededication Budget, like the President's Speech, is, no doubt, a welcome relief to all lovers of unity in Nigeria. It is also a real parliamentary encyclopaedia in that it has left no stone unturned. It is a tribute to the ingenuity, political wisdom and determination of the able Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

It is embodied in the august Speech by the President that it is the firm resolve of the Government to continue to fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world, that the policy of Nigeria in Africa will be to maintain friendly relations with other African states and that Nigeria will co-operate fully with all the member states of the O.A.U. for commercial and industrial growth in Africa, and for the general development and progress of the Continent.

This is quite excellent, but what are our answers to the following questions? First, in Nigeria to-day, are we mutually united towards this serious fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world?

Secondly, without being friendly in Nigeria, can we—

And it being 5.45 p.m., the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to six o'clock.

House of Representatives Debates

1023

[Sittings of the House]

9 APRIL 1965

[Sittings of the House]

1024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 9th April, 1965

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times:—

From 9 a.m. till 12 o'clock noon and

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.

I am moving this Motion in order to give the opportunity to Members who have not spoken on the Budget to do so. I do not want to make Members feel that we want to rush them. Therefore, the whole of this morning I propose that Members should be able to speak and that Ministers who want to make Ministerial Statements may also do so. Then, in the afternoon, if there are still Members anxious to speak, they can do so until about 4 p.m. Then I propose to reply to the Debate at about 4 p.m.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Research (Prince A. Lamuye) : I beg to support.

Mr A. Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, no quorum has been formed and I wonder whether—(*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : We have formed a quorum.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Will the Sergeant-at-Arms ring the division bell ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I do not really understand why the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) wants to have the House divided as to whether there is a quorum or not. I have information from the Government Deputy Chief Whip that the House is in order. If my hon. Friend, the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) is here for

mischievous making, he might as well say so. My information as the Leader of the House to this House is that the House is in order.

Mr Speaker : Before I give a ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*), I would like the strangers in the Gallery to withdraw first. This is in accordance with the Standing Order.

Mr Fasanmi : I am still pressing. Where are the 80 Ministers in the House ?

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I think the quorum is formed and we can now proceed with the Business.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I am really very grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance for his kind generosity in bringing forward this Motion. Really, many Members have not spoken or contributed to the Debate and we are very anxious to do so. I am praying hon. Members to endeavour to come in the afternoon in order not to embarrass the Government so that all of us may contribute to the Debate and do the duty for which we are here for.

I beg to support.

Mr Fasanmi : I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) in thanking our hard-working Minister of Finance for extending the time for the Debate of to-day. It is true that many Members would like to speak, but I would like to make one appeal. The Minister of Finance has styled his Budget the "Rededication Budget." If we want to rededicate ourselves to the services of the nation, we must find time to come into this House and at the appropriate time.

I beg to support.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am very grateful to my hon. Friend the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*). The trouble always with that section of the House is that Members there do nothing than to preach holier-than-thou sermons. Where are the nine ? Perhaps, in the words of Jesus Christ, where are the nine ? Where is the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Mr Onabanjo*) and where are the rest ? Tell them to come this afternoon because I am going to tell them something.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : I rise to support this Bill.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! There is no Bill yet. We have not come to the Bill yet.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times :—

From 9 a.m. till 12 o'clock noon and

From 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I beg to move—That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Wednesday, 21st April.

I feel that my hon. Friends will agree that again this is a welcome Motion. But I want to join the respected hon. Deputy Chief Whip, Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai, and my hon. Friend the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) in appealing that all Members should endeavour to be here this afternoon.

A number of issues have been raised by several Members in this House, some of them fundamental, which I must reply to on behalf of the Government. I think it is important that Members should all be here to hear my replies especially to those who have made very scathing remarks. They should be prepared to take the brick bat.

Prince A. Lamuye : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till the 21st April.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING (31ST MARCH)

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

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) who was speaking continue his speech.

Mr Ede : My second question is, without being free in Nigeria, how can we achieve the maintenance of friendly relations with other

African states which is the policy of Nigeria ? Thirdly, with all the present distorted publications against the Nigerian Government and our leaders by a respected Nigerian in a foreign magazine, can there be unity towards the fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world ? Fourthly, can there be any unity towards our fight for racial equality when the craving intention of the minority is solely to dominate the majority in the country ?

There can be no implementation of any effective fight for racial equality and justice throughout the world if there is no institution of unity in our country. Recent events in this country led the outside world to believe that Nigeria is on a slow march towards maturity.

Thanks to the ingenuity, political sagacity and the determination of our able Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, but for him, the country could have been in chaos. The fight for unity is uppermost in the mind of our respected Prime Minister. It is a bad omen for a house where hens only crow and cocks do not. In Nigeria to-day, the only devastating and panic stricken voice which is usually heard far and wide as a destroyer of unity in this country is the voice of the minority groups. The 1962 census, the recent electoral controversies and other such events flickered through the country. All these resulted from the machinations of these tiny groups. I shall keep my further observation on this topic of unity in abeyance and shall come back to it later.

It is very encouraging to hear that the Government will not only promote the development of water resources so as to provide urban and rural water supplies especially in the drier parts of the Federation but will also assist the Regional Governments in their bid to ensure that water is supplied to every nook and corner of this country. Any assistance given by the Federal Government in this field will be highly commendable as it precisely will meet the needs of many people in Benue Province, particularly in Idoma Division where scarcity of water has greatly affected many lives adversely.

No doubt, agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. To-day, with the spread of education, fewer and fewer youngmen are content with pursuing the pattern of life of their fathers. To-day also, we are faced by a

rapidly increasing population. If this situation is left to drift unarrested, we shall find ourselves unable to provide enough food for all the people demanding it.

While pursuing the objective of industrialisation at all costs, we must never neglect our agriculture and then resort to importing essential foodstuffs in order to be free from starvation. Schemes such as farm settlements and farm institutes which have been established by some Regional Governments need the backing of the Federal Government. These schemes, if properly implemented, will lessen the unemployment difficulties of our teeming school leavers.

Benue Province is a fertile land which is quite suitable for a well-modernised and improved type of agriculture. As I said earlier, agriculture dominates our economic pursuit in this country. Such an industry as the Bacita Sugar industry which will be useful to the local communities will be suitable also for Makurdi in Benue Province where sugar cane thrives very well.

Farmers need more encouragement from the Governments of the Federation. The Marketing Boards are required by law to purchase our export crops such as cocoa, ground-nuts and palm oil. These Boards in all the Regions should be subsidised by the Governments so that they may not be discouraging the industrious farmers by downgrading the high quality grade of their agricultural products.

The Government should see that problems of transportation do not have an adverse effect on the export of agricultural products. If the gap between the producer and the consumer is not bridged, progress in trade between them will be hampered. Good roads are needed in Nigeria as a whole because progress or development depends largely on these.

I commend the Government without any reservation for the expansion and modernisation of our army. The Nigerian Army is alive to its responsibility for our security. Both the Army and the Nigeria Police did a remarkable humanitarian service in Benue Province where they quelled the Tiv riots engineered by the oriental confusionists who used Indian hemp to induce the people to commit the acts of lawlessness. The only unnecessary appendage to the good reputation

of our Army which the Government should eradicate is the system of recruitment which leaves much to be desired.

In the recruitment of soldiers, high qualification should be the deciding factor. Many school leavers who appear for recruitment into the Army and who have got nothing with which to grease the palms of the recruiting officers were disappointed while those with lower qualifications who went with a lot of grease were recruited. As we want nothing but efficiency in the Army, I would suggest that recruitment of soldiers should be done by the army officers who are above corruption.

I am happy that the Nigeria Airways have expanded their services as they now operate both domestic and inter-African routes with modern aircraft.

The fact that everybody likes to enjoy the luxury of air travel is undisputable, but there is a tendency to scare away people through exorbitant fares imposed on passengers. Travelling from Enugu to Lagos by air takes only one and a half hours but the fare of £14-10s is prohibitive. The Government should do something to remove this cog in the wheel of progress of this Corporation.

I would like to congratulate the Nigerian Railway Corporation for extending the line to Bornu Province in the North. This has made travelling to the far North, and the transportation of agricultural export products of the far North, very easy.

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has on order many locomotives and wagons, according to the statement of the Minister. I think it is high time the Corporation tried to replace with new ones the smoky trains with unwholesome wagons which travel only between Kaduna and Port Harcourt. After all, we are all Nigerians and I do not see any reason why the transport system should vary from Region to Region. Uniformity of the transport system is what we require in the country.

I now want to speak briefly about the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. This Corporation is to be highly praised for being dynamic and for being no respecter of personality. Its sincerity in relaying current news greatly projects Nigerian personality and reputation to the world. That is commendable. The Corporation's present

[MR EDE]

useful service to the nation must continue in spite of useless threats from the minority groups.

The Nigerian Television Service is now firmly established, but it will fail in its service to the nation if the people in the rural areas are left out entirely. The Government should do all in its power to extend its service to the rural areas which contribute largely to our development programmes.

It would be unfair if I did not pay tribute to the Minister of Works for the effort he is making to see that many roads of importance in the Federation are tarred. However, I want to direct the attention of the Minister of Works to the ugly condition of the Trunk "A" Road from the boundary of the Eastern and the Northern Regions to Aliade in Benue Province. This road is all broken, thus creating many pot-holes which constitute great dangers to cars and lorries that ply it. These pot-holes have also caused a high number of fatal accidents. This road should be retarred along with the stretch of thirty-four miles of the road from Aliade to Makurdi.

I would now like to speak briefly about the homeless children in this country. Homeless boys and girls should no longer roam the streets begging for food and seeking for shelter. The Government should provide suitable homes for all homeless children in this country. Indeed, their welfare and their future should become the responsibility of the Federal Government.

I now want to say a few things on the question of unity in this country. It is true, of course, that unity cannot be forced upon a country; it either comes as a result of peace after war or by a special bargain. To achieve unity, we must be able to recognise the forces which are inimical to it.

There is no provision in the Nigerian Constitution for a broadly-based Government. Dr Okpara said in his electioneering campaigns last year that the UPGA would either form the Federal Government alone if it won or stand as an Opposition if it lost—

Mr N. N. Anah (Awka Central) : On a point of formation, you, Mr Speaker, have ruled times without number that Members should confine their speech to the fiscal policy of the Government and not to wander away from it.

Several appeals have been made on this as there are many Members itching to speak. Yet the hon. Gentleman wants to talk about everything under the sun.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Gentleman who has the Floor please note my earlier ruling ?

Mr Ede : If at all I want to speak on anything under the sun, I think I am rightly covered by the Budget Speech. We are assembled here to discuss matters that affect the Government and people of this nation.

As I was saying, I wonder why it was that immediately after the results of the Federal Elections which turned out to be a defeat of the U.P.G.A. by the N.N.A., Dr M. I. Okpara hurriedly came to Lagos to vie for political office from the N.N.A.—

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) please refrain from attacks on other parties.

Mr Ede : It is not my intention to attack anybody, but what I am saying is a fact and nothing but the true fact. It is what actually happened.

Another aftermath of the last election occurred on the 24th of March, the first day of this meeting of Parliament. One U.P.G.A. thug whose name was given as Oluwole Joseph hurled stones at the Prime Minister's car, and nearly smashed the windscreen of the car.

Mr N. N. Anah rose—

Mr Ede : I am not yielding. This thug was among the U.P.G.A. crowd that lined the Prime Minister's route when he was on his way home—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I did say that the hon. Gentleman speaking should refrain from political references. We are discussing the Government's financial and economic policy.

Mr Ede : It is a pity that I am not being allowed to conclude what I want to say on this issue. However, whilst Nigeria deprecates acts of hooliganism and lawlessness in Ghana, it is heart-rending to note that certain disgruntled elements in Nigeria are on ready call to attack honest citizens without any justifiable reason.

House of Representatives Debates

1031

[Appropriation (1965-66)

9 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

1032

When the criminal behaviour of that stone-hurling thug is deeply considered, one is not very much surprised in view of the recent merger of the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group, now known as U.P.G.A.—(Interruptions).

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of information, I simply want to warn the Members on the other side of the House to be very careful, since we have very little time left to speak on the Appropriation Bill. When they continue to raise incessant points of order—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! The Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) should please continue with his speech.

Mr Ede : It is appalling that when any Member starts to make his contribution on the Floor of this House, hon. Members on the other side of the House become rather rowdy and try to attack those of us on this side, even though they too are fond of attacking others. What I am saying is that the Action Group, as everyone knows, trained thugs in Ghana—

Mr Speaker : Order ! It seems that the hon. Gentleman speaking has nothing more to contribute to the economic policy of the Government. As such, therefore, I would like him to reserve his detailed comments until we come to Committee stage, when I intend to give all Members sufficient opportunity to speak in a detailed way.

Meanwhile, it will be better for the House if the Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) discontinues speaking, and may I ask the Minister of Establishments to make his speech.

The Minister of Establishments (Mr J. C. Obande) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill which the Minister of Finance has so ably presented.

My own particular interest in the Bill, I must confess, lies in the fact that by its passage into law, I as the Minister in charge of the Civil Service, am assured that our 52,000 established civil servants and a host of unestablished employees are well provided for, and that being so, they will be in a position during the ensuing twelve months to work in a state of general contentment. If the Bill becomes law, I am also assured that our 25,000 pensioners, both Nigerians and expatriates, will continue to enjoy their retirement days in peace.

Members of this House will agree with me that under the system of Government which we have accepted, the Civil Service constitutes the main, if not the only machinery, upon which we must rely at all times for the effective implementation of our policies. In fact, without the Civil Service we the law givers and policy makers merely float in a vacuum. That this Government was able to operate successfully during the last financial year, in spite of the shocks and strains which it experienced, reflects great credit to the members of our Civil Service. You will therefore join me in expressing disapproval of the wanton and irresponsible attacks which some people, at certain times, take delight in levelling on our Civil Servants.

Speaking generally about the Estimates now under consideration, the determination of the various establishment numbers and the assessment of the gradings of all posts appearing therein are the responsibility of my Ministry. In discharging this responsibility, we have kept constantly in mind the need to exercise economy. Thus, we have contributed our own quota in controlling overall expenditure by approving for inclusion in the Estimates, only those posts which are very essential.

We have also endeavoured to relate the gradings of posts in the various Ministries in order to produce a balanced service with equal opportunities and prospects for all. On this important issue of grading, Members are no doubt aware that as a result of the agreement reached last year by the Tripartite Negotiating Body (popularly known as the Okotie-Eboh Negotiating Body), a team of experts is currently examining the existing gradings of posts. I am hopeful that their efforts will yield satisfactory results.

Speaking about my own Ministry in particular, its very name suggests at once its chief problem. It is how to satisfy all and sundry within a Civil Service where too many people want preferential treatment for themselves or for their clerks. Sometimes in our effort to maintain a balance and to ensure fair and equal treatment for all, we become unpopular with particular groups or categories.

Thanks, however, to the Whitley Councils, members of which have not only developed a high sense of responsibility, but have also

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

displayed maturity in their deliberations with the result that many demands which would have proved embarrassing have been discussed and settled in an atmosphere of calm; even where they are rejected, Government's points of view have always been appreciated.

In spite of these problems and difficulties, the Federal Public Service continues to operate on the basis of justice and fair play, and above all, it is blessed with an impartial Public Service Commission. It was indeed an open acknowledgment of these qualities of our Civil Service when a leading trade unionist, during the Tripartite Negotiation to which I have already referred, and of which I am a member, said that he was quite prepared to persuade his followers to accept a general reduction in their salaries and wages, if only the Federal Government would agree to assume control of the staffs of all the Statutory Corporations.

We have achieved a very satisfactory Nigerianisation of the Service. Although in my answer to an Oral Question some days ago I said there were 669 expatriates in the Service, I was able to explain that their retention was inevitable.

Our expanding activities and our commitments in connection with the Six-Year Development Programme require the services of technicians and professionals of high calibre and wide experience; until we are able to produce sufficient number of Nigerians with both the initial qualifications and reasonable experience, we must depend on outside recruitment to some extent.

The fact that out of 669 expatriates, 522 are on contract terms explains that these appointments are not of a permanent nature and that the expatriates must be replaced immediately suitable Nigerians are found. The 147 expatriates still serving on pensionable terms constitute a "dying race" and are retained in fulfilment of an obligation which we accepted before the achievement of independence. It is the policy of the Government not to allow any of these officers to remain longer than is absolutely necessary.

The pride of any service lies in the strength and character of its Executive and Secretarial Classes. Here I am happy to say that what we started as an experiment in 1960, in the

building of an executive cadre, has now developed into a class consisting of 813 Executive Class Officers of all grades with a Service structure which provides satisfactory career prospects for all. The Class has been fully Nigerianised.

In addition to providing the backbone of the Service, it also serves as a good training ground for capable officers for promotion to the Administrative Class and the Professional grades of the Accounting service.

As recently as 1957, we could not boast of 10 Nigerian Secretary-Typists in the entire Federal Public Service. To-day, apart from only 25 expatriates, our Secretarial Class consisting of 41 Personal Secretaries, 192 Secretary-Typists and 245 Stenographers consists of Nigerian men and women. Our training schemes aimed at producing Secretarial Officers have yielded marvellous results.

Our Federal Training Centre in Lagos now trains Secretarial Officers for the Governments of Tanzania, Liberia, Gambia and Basutoland as part of Nigeria's Technical aid to other African countries. Members of both Executive and Secretarial Classes are to be found in all the Ministries and Departments of the Federal Government but to ensure that Government derives the full benefits of their services, they are centrally controlled and deployed by my Ministry.

I do not intend to make a long speech and so I shall not proceed to narrate in details the achievements of my Ministry during the past financial year. Suffice it to say, however, that we have managed to preserve the best traditions and the efficiency of the Civil Service despite the great threat to its corporate existence which the nation-wide strike last year presented.

We have been told by the hon. Minister of Finance that this year is one of dedication. It is my earnest hope that the entire Civil Service will dedicate itself towards enhancing the progress of this great Republic.

The more one sees the immense attractions which private and quasi-public organisations offer these days, the clearer it becomes that those who man our Civil Service need to develop an outlook which is guided by a sense of mission and patriotism in order to enjoy their work.

To achieve this, our Civil Servants need the encouragement and sympathy of the public in general and of their political masters in particular. It is therefore my prayer that in the great task of nation building upon which we have embarked, our Civil Service should remain always faithful and loyal to the country; the country in turn, should show its appreciation of the loyal and faithful service given.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadawe)

I rise to support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill, so ably moved by my worthy Colleague the Minister of Finance Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. Before I proceed to outline the policies of my new Ministry for this year, I would like to pay tribute to the work of my predecessor in office, the hon. Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima who had responsibility for the combined Ministry of Commerce and Industry before the present split into the Ministries of Trade and Industry.

In contemplating the problems facing me in the Ministry of Trade, I have come to see the advantages in the present division. It offers one opportunity for focussing undivided attention to the problems of each Ministry. I believe that it was a realisation of the need to give more effective drive to a Ministry of so great importance to our economic development that led the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister to decide to split it.

It is therefore a great tribute to Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima that he was able to hold the Ministry of Commerce and Industry single handed during the period of rapid expansion which was characteristic of the past five years. Hon. Members know what ovations had been accorded Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima on several occasions in this House in appreciation of his performances both at home and abroad.

In assuming therefore, the responsibility for the portfolio of Trade, I wish to assure the House that there would be no falling off in standards and that I will give added impetus to the policies already enunciated and which are being pursued in the Ministry. In this connection, I have chosen as the motto of my Ministry the slogan "Unity through Trade".

I believe we can achieve greater unity in this country if everybody, every businessman and

every citizen has a greater opportunity to increase his earning capacity and his income through gainful employment and trade. There will be greater contentment and there will be greater amity and love.

I am sure that there is room in the economic firmament of Nigeria for all the tribes and peoples of Nigeria. I believe that we can improve and increase the volume of trade of this country substantially so that greater wealth will accrue to the coffers of every individual in this country. If we achieve this, there will be less bickering, and dissatisfaction.

We have a saying in my part of the country that it is the inability to acquire wealth that makes a man to twist his mouth. In other words, poverty is the source of bitterness and hatred. We can make Nigeria rich, and with her, all Nigerians, if we all work together in unity and a sense of fairplay.

As I have said earlier, a lot of ground work has been done by my predecessor to stimulate trade. During the past year, Nigeria participated in the United Nations conference on Trade and Development, the objective of which was to stimulate the trade of developing countries, to such an extent that they would no longer constitute a danger to world peace.

Nigeria played a very prominent part in this conference. One of the officers in my Ministry was appointed the Chairman of one of the committees. Nigeria's voice was given a prominent place in all the committees. As a result a United Nations Board of Trade is being set up.

If the United Nations Organisation appreciates the importance and significance of trade in eliminating bitterness among nations, it is even more important in a country such as ours that trade should be used to forge a chain for binding this country together in Unity. This will be my objective.

To this end, therefore, I propose to streamline the external trade policy of my Ministry in a manner to give greater share of our trade, especially the retail section, to the indigenous businessman. The Government proposes to give life to the work of an *ad hoc* committee being set up on retail trade. I will ensure that within a reasonable time we should receive a report in this House on how progressively to give a greater share of the retail trade in our country to our indigenous businessmen.

[MINISTER OF TRADE]

I do not intend by this pronouncement to scare away the business houses who have over the years built up this trade. As a matter of fact, I intend to have the fullest consultation on this matter with the Chamber of Commerce and such bodies in order to ensure a healthy transition which can only come about through their co-operation and by drawing from their experience and expertise.

I have already touched upon Hire Purchase when I spoke on a Private Member's Motion on the issue. May I reiterate here that it is the intention of the Government to lay a Bill before this House during this session, and I am sure that hon. Members would be satisfied with the efforts of the Government in this regard.

A Hire Purchase Bill of the type I envisaged will ensure both to the hirer and to the owner some security in his business. Credit sales in a developing country are an important means of generating economic activity among honest businessmen.

It would be suicidal for us as Government to kill this goose that lays the golden eggs for transporters, small entrepreneurial classes and licensed buying agents by making the conditions too liberal as to enable irresponsible hirers not to fulfil their obligations.

On the other hand, Government will be failing in its duties if it does not ensure adequate protection to the struggling honest businessmen who had hitherto fallen a prey to the sharp practices of unscrupulous owners and financing houses. There is no doubt in my mind that the hire purchase system is one of the modern ways of assisting small businessmen to develop their trade. All we want to do is to improve and perfect the system.

Another effort of the Government for the promotion of our trade to which my Ministry has given the fullest support is the negotiation between Nigeria and the European Economic Community for a special type of association agreement. If successful, we hope that the agreement will also enable our sensitive products of timber, cocoa, vegetable oils—that is groundnut oil, palm oil and kernel, to enter free of duty, up to a certain quota which will be agreed, into the markets of the six European countries forming the European Economic Community, that is Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg.

I need not dwell long on this matter as I am sure hon. Members understand the importance of our trade with this Community. Sir, we have a rapidly growing trade with the Community. At present it constitutes one-third of our total trade. But while seeking to protect this one-third of our trade, we must ensure that we do not jeopardise the other two-thirds.

In this connection, we shall seek to improve our trade with the Commonwealth. We shall intensify our efforts to expand our markets in the Eastern European and far Eastern countries.

Nigeria's external trade has continued to present the picture of a rapidly expanding economy. The total value of trade during the first half of 1964 was £225.1 million. This marks an increase of £33.2 million over the corresponding period of 1963 and exceed all previous records.

The increase in the value of imports was the result of growing demand for particularly capital goods required for both industrial and other development projects associated with the Six-Year Development Plan. The rise in exports was partly due to improvement in quantity and quality of our produce and partly to the greater vigour with which my Ministry pursued the promotion of our exports through trade fairs and by opening Trade Missions overseas.

Talking of Trade Fairs, I will recall the 1962 International Trade Fair. We shall work for another Trade Fair to enable our people this time to exhibit the products of their factories and prove to the world the quality of "Made in Nigeria" goods. We propose also to participate in at least five Trade Fairs this year; Milan in Italy, Frankfurt in Germany, Zagreb in Yugoslavia, Vienna in Austria, and the Commonwealth Exhibitions and Trade Fairs in London.

The Sterling Areas shared the general upward trend that marked the overall external trade during the first half of last year as the value of trade with the areas rose by £8.6 million to £91.9 million.

Very significant expansion was made in the trade with the non-Sterling Areas which rose from £94.7 million in January-June 1963 to £130 million during the same period of 1964.

Trade with the six countries of the European Economic Community increased from £52 million to £67.4 million and the outstanding feature of this trade was the great rise in exports which far exceeded imports. Western Germany took the place of the Netherlands as our leading customer among the Six as the value of our exports to that country rose from £7.8 million in the first half of 1963 to £15.4 million.

Nigeria imported more from the United States of America and Japan although exports to them declined. These two countries were chiefly responsible for the large trade deficit which we have with the non-Sterling Areas.

A marked improvement was made in our export earnings which rose from £95.8 million in the first half of 1963 to £108.5 million during the same period of 1964, a substantial increase of £12.7 million. The principal export commodities except groundnuts and raw cotton yielded increased foreign exchange earnings.

Cocoa retained its leading position with £26.2 million during the first six months of last year; coffee exports reached a record level, rising from £.1 million to £.7 million. Groundnuts dropped in value from £17.1 million to £16.5 million; palm kernels went up in value by £9 million to £10.1 million and rubber rose slightly from £6.1 million to £6.2 million.

Foreign exchange earnings for mineral products showed appreciable increase; columbite from £.3 million to £.6 million; tin from £4.2 million to £5.4 million; and crude and partly refined petroleum from £9.3 million to £12.3 million.

The brief survey of trade during the first half of 1964 shows that the problem of Nigeria's balance of trade is not yet solved. This, however, is a problem which is common to all developing countries, and even some developed countries find themselves in the same predicament.

Ours is therefore not unique and it has been the experience of all countries which depended on foreign investment and imports of basic manufactured goods both consumer and capital goods for development. The balance of trade difficulty of developing countries is made worse by falling prices of primary products which are the mainstay of their economy.

All efforts directed towards our export promotion, import restriction and establishment of import substitution industries are designed to arrest the trend and stop it from getting out of hand.

As hon. Members are probably aware, measures have been taken by my Ministry and the Ministry of Finance to combat this problem of trade imbalance. In some cases, prohibitive duties have been imposed so as to make it undesirable to import certain consumer goods. In others, licences have been imposed with a view to achieving physical restriction in the volume of trade thus reducing our total expenditure on imported consumer goods and yet in a number of cases both measures have been applied simultaneously. We have also in the case of Japan gone so far as to establish an Embassy with a trade bias in that country.

Hon. Members will recall that because of the current trade imbalance with Japan, Japanese textiles were placed under licence in August 1963 for it was the largest single item of import from Japan. In 1964, licences worth £17.9 million were issued for this commodity.

In order to encourage import substitution, my Ministry also placed the following commodities under licence in 1964, namely, blankets, enamelware, meat and meat preparations, butter, grape fruit (fresh), grape fruit juice and fresh lemon. Again, because local manufacturers of cement assured us that they had the capacity to supply Nigeria's requirement of this commodity, my Ministry experimented on a total ban of this commodity.

With the exception of cement required for Government projects which involved external financing and special brands of cement which are not locally manufactured in Nigeria, no licences were issued in 1964.

One important lesson which we learned since independence and which was brought forcibly during the recent cocoa crisis is that we cannot afford to act unilaterally in trade matters especially where two or three other countries and interests are involved.

International trade involves giant cartels and powerful Government interests which can easily thwart the efforts of poor developing countries. It is for this reason that my Ministry will continue its policy of participating actively in various international conferences ranging from commodity agreements

[MINISTER OF TRADE]

to the United Nations conference on trade and development which I have already mentioned.

We shall therefore continue to play our part in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade sessions at Geneva. We shall maintain our support of the Cocoa Producers Alliance. We shall promote and ensure the success of Groundnut Council, and we shall co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organisation of African Unity in bringing about the establishment of an African Common Market.

In matters of trade and commerce among the regions and Lagos I propose soon to hold a symposium on trade through which I hope to ascertain the thinking of men from various walks of life: University men will be given full latitude to display their economic theories acquired in universities and transformed into practical realities for the common good of all. Practical businessmen will have an opportunity to demonstrate their experience gathered from the School of Commonsense.

I look forward to a greater co-operation with my counterparts in the regions. This I wish to achieve through frequent consultations with them and all interested bodies.

Our Company Law is obsolete. Government has set up a Committee to revise the law and bring it up to date. My Ministry will ensure that action on this is expedited and that the new law will provide for the increasing participation of Nigerians in the equity capital and the operation of undertakings set up in Nigeria.

Our objective here is to offer security to overseas investors in Nigeria, while at the same time ensuring to the Nigerian a fair share in the fruits of his fatherland. Such an amalgam, I am sure, will lessen friction and racial misunderstanding.

One of the significant resolutions passed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the decision to assist the developing countries in every way to increase their invisible earnings through insurance, shipping, and above all, through tourism. I hope during the year to unfold Government's plan for stimulating the tourist trade in Nigeria in order to boost this important source of earning through foreign exchange.

I am convinced that the coconut beaches of Badagry, the hunting fields of the Bauchi Plateau, the boating facilities around the placid lake Oguta, the temperate climate around the lolling hills of Obudu, the elephant walks in the forests of the Mid-West, could be developed into attractive tourists centres to ensure a steady flow into the country of overseas visitors. Why cannot we turn Tarkwa Bay into the Coney Islands of Nigeria?

During the last Parliament, Government declared its intention of setting up a National Insurance Company. My predecessor has completed the ground work. We must now press forward with the project. Insurance business is a capital generating institution in all countries. A government such as ours which needs capital for development cannot therefore remain idle in this field.

One of the most important institutions of this country of which we can be justly proud is the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company which is responsible for marketing 80 per cent of our export produce. This company which, by its operation, controls the life blood of the economy of this country is very much, in its present set up, detached from the Federal Government and tends to operate in isolation. As the agent of the Regional Government Marketing Boards, it is an autonomous institution. But its operation must come within the ambit of co-operation in the field of external trade.

I do not propose to engage in any controversy over the issue. Our common objective is to maximise the earning of Nigeria through a progressive and forward-looking sales policy. It is therefore the plan of my Ministry to seek avenues of closer co-operation with the Company. As in the past, Government will seek to consult them on practical matters concerning external trade. We must ensure that neither of us is out of step in our march to promote the economic interest of this Federation.

The Government proposes to set up as a counterpart to the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company, a Bulk Purchasing and Supply Organisation. It is hoped that such an organisation will enable Government to save in foreign exchange and to effect savings generally. I propose, therefore, to mount a study of known organisations of this kind in friendly

countries such as India, the United States and Great Britain.

I would like on this chapter to recall to mind a statement which was made by President Lyndon Johnson during his inaugural address on January 20, to the American people, which applies completely to our own situation to-day when he said :—

In a land of great wealth, families must not live in hopeless poverty ; in a land rich in harvest, children must not go hungry ; in a land of healing miracle, neighbours must not suffer and die unattended ; in a great land of learning and scholars, young people must be taught to read and write. For more than thirty years that I have served this nation, I have belief that this injustice to our people, this waste of our resources, was our real name. For thirty years or more with the resources I have had, I have fought against it, I have learnt and I know that it will not surrender easily.

Mr Speaker, this applies to the wealth of our country, to its resources—human and material—and I am confident if utilised well, if the men that matter, the know-how, are brought into its operations, it will be a good thing for this country.

Mr Speaker, allow me to leave trade for the moment to turn to the subject of the unity and the people, without which national economy would be meaningless. National unity in this country transcends every other thing. With it, we are safe, without it we are lost. Let us not only acknowledge and demonstrate that we are one nation and one people ; our fate and future rest not upon one citizen, but upon all citizens of this country. That is the majesty and significance of this moment.

For every generation, there is destiny. To-day, our destiny is in our hands and it depends what we make of it. Unity can be fashioned and enduring, depending upon our philosophical outlook. I have heard many hon. Members during this Budget meeting discuss the philosophical outlook of this country. Is it socialism ? Of what nature ? Is it communism ? Of what nature ? Is it capitalism ? Of what nature ? These are philosophical theories.

Our cause is clear and definite. We, on our part, believe in African Pragmatic Socialism.

But, Mr Speaker, the operative word is “pragmatic”—analytical, realistic. If it is pragmatic, it means it is analytical, and if it is analytical, we must know what it is and what it is to become. We cannot dismiss that there is capitalism. We must recognise that the individual initiative, combined with communalism and collectivism of a community put together, gives you what you want—each in noncompeting aspect of life. In other words, we must recognise that these things in our society are no longer competing with one another ; they must combine. It is clear that each must come together because any society which cannot protect the poor (who are many), cannot save the few that are rich. It is good for them to combine, otherwise the revolutionary impetus of one will kill the other except they co-operate.

When we talk of capital in Nigeria, I laugh. Who is a capitalist ? Do you call men who have nothing but change capitalists ? What we have here is nothing but change. People call a few thousand pounds, which women in Hollywood use in painting their finger nails, capital. (*Prolonged laughter.*)

We are the generation to create the climate for our people to rise in that sphere. We are just beginning. The problem of capital and influence cannot be solved in a hundred days, nor in a thousand days, but the most important thing is : let us begin.

Therefore, there should be no competing interest. There should be no dissension. Our path is clear. We believe in African society—I am my brother's keeper. The feeling and the welfare of the others must be paramount to any social institution especially a country beginning very late in the day.

If this is the mounting philosophical outlook of a nation, let us proceed. It is in that context that people talk about Constitution. Some say, will the Constitution be reviewed ? This is not the question of the hour. Constitution is made for man and not man for the Constitution, and when the time comes for man to determine the review for its upward progress, nothing stops it from being reviewed. Oh yes, nothing whatever.

When we talk about it as changeless, is the Constitution changeless ? Is it ordered ? But

[MINISTER OF TRADE]

let me say this : if we must live under a well-ordered Constitution, nobody should make up his mind that he will be the saviour of this country. That is the danger.

It is not the review of the Constitution that matters, it is the spirit and the method of the review to which we must curb ourselves if we must succeed. The objective must be the national unity of this country—to give what gives us the balance of a great nation.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : Is all this still a Ministerial speech ?

Dr Mbadiwe : I am contributing to the debate on the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. (*Applause.*)

If any one group will come up in this country and represent that it is the saviour, that without it nothing can go, we will fail even before the Constitution is reviewed. Let us come with an open mind. If it is the N.P.C. that will produce what will save this country, we accept it ; if the N.C.N.C. can produce it, we accept it ; if it is the Action Group, we accept it ; and if it is the N.N.D.P., we accept it.

'Pragmatic' is analytical. If you pretend that what exists does not exist, you are deceiving yourself. It is the realisation that it exists that will make you surmount what has existed.

So, Mr Speaker,—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, some few days ago, an hon. Member was speaking here, and people on this side of the House accused him of being a dancing Minister. Now the Minister of Trade is not dancing ; he is galloping.

Dr Mbadiwe : If we approach our constitutional review with that spirit, we shall go far towards the objective of national unity. We are so loose—each in his separate outlook, isolative sphere. Let us know what we leave to the generation after us. That is what matters, and I hope that the forthcoming constitutional review will be approached in that spirit—the spirit of an open mind.

No one should come to it as having known all, or claiming monopoly of wisdom. We know what to do. That spirit will be resented because man is man—an organic reality. Kindness begets kindness. Just as one light lighteth another and does not grow dim so

nobleness enkindleth nobleness ; courtesy reciprocates courtesy. And when you ask a man, 'Who art thou ?' he will reply back 'I am something.'

I will underline the two things which have worried our country. One of them is tribalism. What is tribalism ? It is a concocted, artificial machinery set up by microscopic political group in order to hypnotise the masses who, themselves, have nothing to hide, have nothing but love in their minds. It is the few men that want power in a microscopic way, men who cannot sell their ideas before the nation, who go through an isolated space—a separatist space—in order to enthrone themselves. That is tribalism.

Let me tell the young generation to-day in our country that no person with tribalised outlook, be it a political party, can ever rise to the ascendancy to rule Nigeria. Any leader with tribal inclination sitting in the seat of Government of this Republic will collapse in less than two months.

Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is a link, a tiny link, holding and welding together separatist forces—a tyrant nation, each pulling across itself. He is a gift of the first order to this country. Born in the North, the North had given him over to Nigeria, and when the history of this chapter and this century is written, it will stand out as one of the great contributions of the North to this country. (*Applause.*)

How can you reduce me to a tribalist for me not to recognise that there is H.O.D., who had made his contribution in this country ? How can I fail to see the dynamism and the republican tendency of the Eastern Region, for me to ignore its existence ? Am I not to recognise the mellowing and the softening diplomacy of the Western Region ? Is it for me to ignore the delicate, manipulating, administrative nature of the Northerners ? Or is it for me to ignore the bravery of the Kanuris, the Tivs and the Binis, the artistic nature of the Efiks and the Tshekiris in their own artistic setting ?

How can I be deprived of this great combination of forces of nature which I admire and believe is the great power in Nigeria ? I feel sorry about this, but all the same, I am happy that there is one thing in our country. This country has enjoyed great men and greatness, in spite of tribal differences.

Let me warn, as the late President Kennedy warned the Americans when he was speaking to them about unity and liberty :

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or evil, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend or oppose any foe, in order to assume the survival and success of liberty.

Let me, therefore, venture in this great auditorium of the Nigerian Parliament to tell the tribalists that in view of the greatness of this country, their survival is but a thing of time. We shall wage a relentless war from every hamlet, from every village against tribalism because we are dedicated to keep this country united. It has been destined by God that we should do so, and so we shall fight from all quarters against any interference in that unity.

We said that the white men should go, and we have driven them away and have now entrenched ourselves into power. But, Mr Speaker, what do we see? Since the exit of the white man, our people have started doubting if we had sincere motives in sending away the white man. When the white rule existed in this country, there were Westerners in the Eastern civil service, in the Northern civil service and *vice versa*, but to-day, the position is different. We have a block regionalisation.

Let every youngman begin to think about how we are going to solve this problem. It is a living problem with us. It is a challenge. What are we going to take out of life? At the age of seventy we are more or less gone. Why are we worrying ourselves just for to-day and not for tomorrow? It is better for us to lay solid foundation so that our generations would not be shaken by forces through our frontier walls.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West): On a point of information, I want to tell the hon. Minister that Easterners are still working in the Northern civil service. It is only Northerners that are not working in the Eastern civil service.

Dr Mbadiwe : On the question of unity, I believe that unity must begin with us in this Parliament. But above all, the Prime Minister of this country, Sir Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, has a responsibility of calling together his brother Premiers and let us see a generation of brotherly feeling amongst them. It is a

duty they owe to this great nation. When the generals unite, similarly the common man will take his inspiration. All we give to humanity is nothing but inspiration. We do not feed people in their houses? The people of this nation have surrendered their power and liberty and entrusted them to us. Why can the leaders not generate a feeling of want for all?

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North): On a point of information, we approve of what the Minister is saying, but we want him to put it into practice.

Dr Mbadiwe : The Prime Minister and the Premiers should meet, not only on political and constitutional matters, but on a social platform to exchange views. They should leave constitution and politics alone for once and play gulf, swim, talk, and eat together. At least, those who cannot swim can eat. This situation is long overdue.

Based upon that social platform, we have men. If we had not the men, I could have gone away in sorrow and anguish.

Besides the Prime Minister meeting with his fellow Premiers, His Excellency the President of the Republic—a man of influence and reputation—should meet with his brother Governors. With this sort of meetings, the foundation of brotherhood will be laid and then our humble selves in this Parliament will follow suit. The various leaders of the Parliamentary groups will also meet. Then young Parliamentarians will desist from making speeches at cross purposes—flimsy and unstudied statements.

This is a great opportunity that Parliamentarians have. The greatest opportunity anybody can ever have is to be among the 312 Parliamentarians representing a population of about 55 million people. But what use are we making of this opportunity? It is not a question of anybody rushing into this House to make speeches at cross purposes without any clear indication of where he is heading to. The contributions of hon. Members should be lasting and concrete so that immediately they start to speak, Ministers will take note of what they are saying. Members of Parliament should guide the Ministers. But if they see us confused each in his own way, what do we expect them to do? They will equally be confused.

[DR MBADIWE]

I hope on our return for the next meeting that we shall meet to lay a new foundation for this great Parliament, then the speeches that go out of this place will be speeches of wisdom. We are all dukes in our own rights. If a constituency of 150,000 to 200,000 people can ask a person to represent them, then that person is a duke in his own right. What he says are words of wisdom, and he should never be careless about his statements.

I am too confident about our future because there are still living men and women who will manipulate our course to the right direction.

There are two things that have been said on the Floor of this House which I think I should put on record for correction. When people are kind to us, let us not ridicule them. We have said that expatriates come to this country, collect money and go, that they have no sympathy for us. Why then is it that when they begin to turn their sympathetic ears to us, we turn back to abuse them?

Not long ago, the Shell BP Company in London made to the London Committee of Ojike Memorial Hospital a donation of £80,000. Therefore, it is misleading and confusing for the Member for Ijebu North-East (*Mr Odulana*) to make the statement which he made in this House some days ago. I know that he might not know the implications, and so I grant and concede him that. But let us never ridicule those who do good to us. It is very demoralising. Never in the history of philanthropy in this country has any group donated the sum of £80,000. And instead of praising the Shell BP for so doing, we are scaring them from doing more. I think that this House will not accept such a situation.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, a statement I made in my speech two days ago about an oil company donating £80,000 to a certain appeal in this country on the eve of our Federal Election, is what I consider "being too kind". There are other appeals, like the Red Cross Society, in this country and none of these has ever received such a donation. I said that the reason for £80,000 to be donated to an appeal on the eve of our Federal election, should be scrutinised by the Prime Minister through the Director of Federal Audit. I am still firm about this and I am standing by it.

Dr Mbadiwe : I made reference to this issue when I was speaking thinking that people who have conscience will repent and say the right thing. But when people are hardened and continue to persist in irresponsible statements, they will be told so with all certainty.

Mr Speaker : You have to wait until the time comes.

Dr Mbadiwe : This honourable House, I am sure, is grateful.

Then I would like to say that there have been too many depredations and too many allusions to Ministers in this country. It is not from outside but from Members when they speak here in this House. Ministers come and Ministers go but the Institution remains. Members should keep to the Institution which they have founded.

The post of Minister is not hereditary. Any person can be a Minister any day. There are so many people who did not know that they would be Ministers who are Ministers to-day. When we have an institution, the protection we give to that institution from this honourable House will radiate elsewhere. Some of us take Ministers like penny pieces and so everybody to-day speaks of Ministers. And of late, the judiciary is jumping and shouting on Ministers.

Let me say that we, in this honourable House should get it straight that Ministers are our own making and that they will remain to be the embodiment of that part of the Institution on which revolves its greatness.

If you tell a person everyday that he is irresponsible he becomes irresponsible. But if you tell a person that he is responsible and encourage him by giving him his responsibility he becomes responsible. Our people are turning the Institution of Ministers into rags and depredating it. That is not encouraging and this honourable House should resolve to protect the Ministers and when they go wrong, impeach them.

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : On a point of order, the Minister has been speaking for the past 45 minutes.

Mr Speaker : Will the Minister please wind up.

Dr Mbadiwe : That is the only suggestion I want to make. Another note I would like to sound is on the office of the President of the Republic. Sometime ago one or two Members in this House had occasion to make reference to the President of the Republic of this Nation. The Speaker had to call them to order.

I would like to suggest that we must assist the Speaker. We are expected to show good example. The Institution of a nation, the embodiment itself, cannot be attacked by Members without attacking themselves and the country whether they say it in a humourous tone or not. This point should never be mentioned again in this honourable House.

I do hope that the various Parliamentary Leaders will take it upon themselves, when we return from our recess to guide the new Members in this House. This place is where they will become the Churchill of Nigeria, this place is where they will become the Younger Pitt, it is here they will become Eric Moore, it is here they will become Adeniyi Jones, it is here they will become the President of the Republic of Nigeria.

Here, hon. Members have the opportunity and the platform on which to stand and rock the world. What more would Members expect in life from their country, that out of 55 million people in this country they have been singled out to be honoured. This is the greatest tribute your country can give to you. I hope that from now on our Parliament will take a new turn of responsibility through dignity to the country and to the whole world.

Here we are sojourners in Nigeria, proud in the consciousness that we belong to a mighty people and a formidable area and territory, people who have registered their time in the medieval ages, from the avenues of Maiduguri, converging in Katsina to found the Universities of Timbuctoo that reigned supreme in those days.

With all its force and greatness, with all its triumph and past vicissitudes, I love Nigeria because I love to belong to it. It is a mighty nation. I believe in it.

The Minister of Education (Mr R. O. A. Akinjide) : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill ably moved by our indefatigable Minister of Finance, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh.

Although I have just assumed office as Minister of Education, I have spent the last few days studying the records of the Ministry of Education and the proposals embodied in its estimates. Here, to-day, I intend to direct the attention of the House to the new policy developments which I propose to follow vigorously and to give Members an idea of the shape of things to come.

Members are fully aware that Nigeria has been undergoing phenomenal educational developments in the past decade—developments that are internationally acknowledged as second to none on the continent of Africa.

To-day, throughout the Federation, there are no less than 3,000,000 children enrolled in our primary schools. There are also over 200,000 children enrolled in our secondary schools while our universities have already passed the 5,000 mark. What is more, by the establishment of a National Manpower Board we are able to keep under progressive control not only the development of high-level manpower, but also the training of technical and vocational personnel.

Nigeria invests not less than £30 million on education every year. It is the greatest industry of our land. We are convinced that this investment in future manpower will yield a great deal of dividend. These developments impose on us a great deal of responsibility for increased educational productivity.

It is for this reason that the Federal Ministry of Education in co-operation with the other Ministries of Education throughout the Republic is embarking on a scheme of educational research to improve the content of education in our school, increase the utilisation of modern equipment and promote the adoption of economy measures so that our educational practice may stand excellent comparison with the best the world has ever known.

Members will probably be surprised to hear that in June this year about 2,339 will be graduating from institutions of higher learning at home and abroad. In association with the Ministries of Economic Development and Labour, the Ministry of Education with the Manpower Board will do all in its power to ensure that this cadre of high-level manpower is absorbed in gainful employment to raise in a significant way our gross national product.

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

I should also like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the role which external aid has been playing in the educational development of this country. Of all developing African countries, Nigeria must count herself as one of the most fortunate. Our friends are many. They extend from the North to the South Pole, from the East to the West.

The countries of the Commonwealth with which we have been associated for many years provide us with vital assistance to develop our education at every level. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, centred in Paris, has placed in Nigeria the largest team of experts ever sent to any other country throughout the world. The United States Agency for International Development has, for many years, helped our educational development at all levels.

In particular, I must mention the excellent service which the United States Peace Corps have rendered to our secondary schools. The philanthropic foundations, notably the Carnegie Corporation and the Ford Foundation, have nurtured our higher institutions and always answered our call for aid. Many friendly countries in Europe, America, Asia, Australia and Africa have been of considerable assistance to us by throwing the doors of their higher institutions of learning open to Nigerians in search of knowledge.

All our higher institutions are receiving external aid. Our teacher training institutions are also being upgraded through generous assistance from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Modern technology has been brought to our schools through the use of audio-visual aids as well as the mass media or radio and television. These generous provisions we owe to the Ford Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Only quite recently the International Development Organisation, an associate of the World Bank, approved the sum of \$20 million to assist our technical and secondary education. I could go on almost indefinitely recounting the generous assistance which our friends overseas have given to us in recent times. This is a suitable occasion for me to place on records of this honourable House our grateful

thanks to all those who have assisted our educational development.

Members are aware that African countries have been highly concerned in the development of regional educational efforts. After the historic Educational Conference of 1961 held at Addis Ababa where the overall plan of educational development in Africa was drawn under the auspices of the UNESCO and the Economic Commission in Africa, great strides have been made by African Ministers of Education to forge out an instrument of educational liberation.

The culmination of this endeavour can be found in the setting up of the Educational and Cultural Commission of the Organisation for African Unity. Although great developments are yet to emerge, I would like to assure this House that Nigerian contribution towards the development of regional educational efforts in Africa will be second to none. (*Hear, hear*)

Let me now say a few words about the established system of education in the Federal Territory of Lagos and in the country at large. I say "the country at large" without any apology because Nigeria is one Federation. The welfare of the East and the West, of the North and of the Mid-West, of the townships and the villages and of the Federal Territory of Lagos, is the concern of us all.

The fathers of our Constitution in their wisdom have regionalised education. Since its regionalisation, however, great strides have been made throughout this Federation. Every moment and every hour the Federal Ministry of Education is deeply engaged in consultations and discussions with all the regional Ministries so that somehow Nigeria may be able to speak with a united voice and maintain a national standard of development at every level of education. Primary education in Lagos is, of course, our concern, even though active consultation with the rest of the Federation continues to take place.

During the current year, the number of class-rooms will be substantially increased in order to ease the congestion now being experienced in all our primary schools. The migration of children from the Regions to Lagos has increased the enrolment in Lagos schools to such an extent that until some 2,000 additional class-rooms are erected, the situation will continue to be critical.

I am glad to say that Government is fully aware of this situation. In addition, I would like to assure this House that Government will leave no stone unturned in order to achieve a lasting solution to the problem.

In the field of secondary education, Lagos is also developing fast. This is partly due to the explosive growth in the population of the Federal Territory and partly to the migration of pupils to the Federal Capital. Unfortunately, substantial assistance could not be received from the World Bank to assist in the development of secondary schools in Lagos. Our avenues are, however, being actively explored in order to ensure that secondary educational development in Lagos will be something of which we can all be proud.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to note that our conception of secondary educational development is slightly different from that to which we are used in recent years. In order to accelerate the rate of our economic growth, technical and vocational training must be given to our pupils so that they may be able to make effective contribution to our economy.

In order to increase our competence in providing technical and vocational education, a teacher training college for science and technology will be opened in the nearest future. Generous assistance has been promised for the project by the International Development Association and the UNESCO is already exploring how to bring technical assistance to our aid. It is our belief that progress can only be made in this field when competent teachers become available.

For many years people in this country have criticised the falling standard in our educational system, especially in the field of primary education. I am glad to announce that all the Ministries of Education in Nigeria are collaborating to raise the standard of attainment in all our schools. In particular, primary school teachers are being upgraded through higher training.

To-day, no uncertificated teacher can secure employment in our Lagos school system. Many of those who have gained experience through the years are now undergoing re-training. Even grade three teachers are no longer being trained and unless they are upgraded to grade two, those already in our schools will soon become redundant.

New colleges for the training of grade one teachers are being set up. Science is being included in the curriculum of training colleges and a new breed of teachers is being nurtured in our Advanced Teacher Training College. They will be awarded the National Certificate of Education after three years of training received, on the completion of their secondary education. By this arrangement it is hoped that the standard of attainment in our school system will be increased.

I would like to add that adults and those who have already left school are not being left uncared for. A revived attack on adult and further education will be launched during the current year. All those adults who were unfortunate not to complete their primary and secondary education will have the opportunity of remedying the situation through attendance at evening classes.

As I am speaking at this moment, some 500 teachers' applications are being considered with a view to appointing some of them as teachers in adult evening classes. They will give technical and vocational training, enrich the leisure of the adults and prepare them for full citizenship, fill the gap in the educational attainments of adults and rectify some of the wrongs which many adults have suffered in their youthful days through causes outside their control.

A few minutes ago, I spoke about higher education in Nigeria; about the part which the Federal Government is playing, about the degree of sophistication that has been brought to the study of high level manpower and about the forecasting of the future needs of our Federation. Members are aware that there are five universities in Nigeria to-day all of which are turning out high level manpower greatly needed by the nation. It is unfortunate that one of these universities has been the cause of considerable concern during the last few weeks. This is the University of Lagos.

I have not the slightest doubt that Members of this House will agree with me that Nigeria can ill-afford a situation in which one of our universities has to be closed. What is most distressing in the whole business is that one expatriate individual, headstrong, tactless and cantankerous, has fouled the fountain at our institution of higher learning and spread the spirit of rebellion not only among the expatriates but also among a section of the students.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, I think yesterday there was a ruling on this when expatriates were attacked here.

Several hon. Members : Sit down !

Mr Mbah : I am referring to a ruling given by the Speaker yesterday. I am sure there was a ruling yesterday when an expatriate was attacked. If I can go into record, it was said that we should not use the platform of this Parliament to attack expatriate lecturers or professors who have no chance of defending themselves here. That was the ruling on this yesterday. I think we should hold to that. I want your guide, Mr Speaker.

Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu (Aboh): On a point of information, the Chief Justice of Lagos has warned that matters referring to the University of Lagos should not be commented upon. May I draw the attention of this House to this particular warning.

Mr Akinjide : Neither the Council nor the Government will abdicate, or relinquish its responsibility in this matter. Worst rebellions have been organised before but they have always passed away with the departure of the evil genius that promote them.

It is important, very important, that our students should be brought up in an atmosphere in which they will have the utmost respect for constituted authority, in a surrounding in which true scholarship can flourish in an institution in which the noblest and best in academic traditions can be nurtured to full maturity.

Those whose responsibility it is to preserve what we have and guard our evolutionary destiny must uphold the provisions of our law and sacred Constitution. Those who now preach the gospel of confusion and irresponsibility are doing no justice to their cause. In fact, they are wiping off the sympathies they originally evoke. Let us all hope that they will think again and not ruin forever, the future of the men and women committed to their charge.

Government is prepared to make generous allowance for undergraduate exuberance; (after all, I was once one myself), but if people will allow themselves to continue to extol chaos and confusion they would be the losers and history will note it to their everlasting shame.

On March 1st, this year, the Prime Minister told a delegation of Lagos University Students—

"I am sorry I cannot help you, but tell your members not to take the laws into their hands. The appointment of the Vice Chancellor is the responsibility of the Provisional Council".

I say that in short, this is the policy of my Government on this matter.

Let me now say a few words about some of the innovations of scholarstic services embodied in the Estimates before you. Members will notice that a substantial sum has been provided for educational broadcasts. The Ministry of Education is embarking on television broadcasts to bring science to the primary school system of Lagos in order to enrich the content of education. The broadcasts will also include lessons in French so that we may be able to communicate with our French-speaking neighbours.

A new mathematics will also be taught in which students in the primary schools will be introduced to new ideas which a few years ago were regarded as fit only for University students. African history known only to a few teachers will be brought vividly to the classrooms through television.

Our Art and Music will also be explored and brought to the screen. Through generous aid from the Ford Foundation and the U.S.A.I.D. a Scholarstic and Aptitude Testing Unit is being set up at the West African Examinations Council. The unit will develop new techniques for selecting pupils for training in the fields for which they have the greatest aptitude.

Last year, some 4,000 school children in Lagos were fed in a Pilot Feeding Programme. This year, the number will be increased to nearly 10,000. One square meal per day, dietetically balanced, rich in protein and vitamins, will be available to school children in selected schools. If the experiment proves successful, and there is every indication that it will, this service will be extended more and more until all the school children in Lagos have the benefit of taking one dietetically balanced meal per day.

A new revivification of extra-curricula activities in schools have also been started. Groups of Nigerian students are taken on tour of our French-speaking neighbours to live with

their counterparts in other countries of West Africa. We all hope that when these children grow into adults, the friendships they have forged through these exchanges will enable them to form a truly united Africa.

Hon. Members will also be glad to know that a Child Guidance Clinic for perturbed children is to operate in Lagos where experts in educational psychology will be engaged to diagnose the causes of mental disturbance in children of school age. I should also like to add that a big effort will be made during the current year to review the curriculum of our schools so that our children may be taught what an independent Nigeria needs.

Members are aware of the dissatisfaction which many people have expressed about the content of instructions in our schools. The Federal Government has voted a substantial sum of money for a review of the school curriculum.

External aid is also expected in substantial amounts to enable the exercise to be carried out. Members will also notice that a substantial amount has also been voted for educational productivity and research and for an Advisory Council on Technical Education and Industrial Training.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I hope hon. Members on the Government Bench who have developed the idea of sitting down and shouting at Members on this side of the House will not complain if we decide to heckle in that way. If I am making a point, I think at least I have the right to make my point.

The hon. Minister is talking about external aid ; on the reference made to the University of Lagos, attacking expatriates and with reference to the statement made by the Prime Minister, the Minister says he has nothing to add. In other words, the Minister has nothing to say, in spite of all the disturbances in the University, and in spite of all the threat even to withdraw aid. The issue of the University of Lagos is of far reaching consequence and there can be no partisan politics about it. A commission of inquiry should be instituted by the Prime Minister himself. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, I do not like the idea of interrupting Ministerial Speeches because

hon. Members will have the opportunity when we come to Committee Stage to criticise the various Ministries. I do not think that I will allow any other comments on this issue.

Mr Akinjide : May I assure the House that only this week I met some representatives of the nations giving us aid and may I reveal that they are willing more than ever before to give us more aid. And, some of these countries, are looking with disfavour to the antics of this expatriate in this country. There can be no question of the University of Lagos crisis affecting the issuance of aid to this country.

Mr Mbah : When the expatriates resign they will not come again. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, I do not need to appeal to the hon. Member to learn to be patient.

Mr Akinjide : I hope I will be in a position to tell this honourable House in a few months time that I have been able to increase the amount of aid that will flow into this country.

Our educational activities have now reached a stage in which results of modern research must be brought to bear on every detail of our activities.

Again, in recent months, many learned societies have started to grow in Nigeria. They look after the sciences, technologies, the arts and the culture of our people. Many more are still willing to come and many more are still willing to give us aid. Accordingly a provision is made for the encouragement of learned societies, so that they will flourish and contribute to our educational development.

Finally, I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay tributes to the teachers in our schools who have contributed by their sweat and labour to the achievements we have up to date.

Last year my predecessor, together with his colleagues, inaugurated the National Negotiating Council for the conditions of service of teachers. I am aware that the Council, under the chairmanship of Justice Adefarasin, has done a remarkable piece of work. The Governments of the Federation are giving their Report a very close study. I am sure, that after these studies have been concluded, the teachers of Nigeria will be satisfied that justice has been done to their case in the light

[MR AKINJIDE]

of the overall conditions existing throughout the Federation.

I beg to support.

Mr P. Ejukwa (Ikom) : I rise to support the 1955-66 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance deserves unreserved thanks for his thought-provoking Speech properly christened the "Rededication Budget". It is a budget designed to inspire fresh hopes in the minds of the frustrated millions in this country.

The Minister has quite frankly stated the factors that have in the past contributed to the awkward financial situation of the nation. The measures which he intends to adopt so as to improve these conditions should receive the support of this honourable House.

All of us here and the entire millions of people whom we represent are required to rededicate ourselves anew to the task of building a nation free of want, united and progressive in outlook, with faith in one another irrespective of status, region of origin, tribe, creed or political party. It is in this way that we shall be able to earn a heritage for the coming generations and thus gain the world's respect.

The sum total of what the Budget Speech seeks to do is to make sure that all of us, no matter our situation in life, should have enough to eat, a roof over our heads and health with which to enjoy a happy and prosperous life. In other words, it is meant to ensure that no one in Nigeria need have any anxiety about the basic needs of life.

In order, therefore, to achieve maximum results with the minimum of delay in all the sectors of our Development Programme during the ensuing year, we must recast our Six-Year Development Programme where there is need to do so. It must be accepted that no programme, however good, can remain static. It must have some bad and good features—al depending upon the degree of responsiveness from the individuals of this country and that of foreign investors.

In this context, the measuring rod in determining the success or failure of the Development Plan within the first half of the period is the impact it has so far made on both urban and rural communities of this Republic.

From a critical analysis of the present situation, one would be correct to say that for

rural areas it is still an under-development programme because the Federal Government has not been able to supply the basic needs of those in the rural areas.

In effect, the inhabitants of the rural areas are suffering from a sense of frustration. It does not matter whether one is a Minister or a Floor Member, the people in the constituencies we are representing are only interested are only interested to know what the Government is doing for them and not so much about the personal status of hon. Members.

Apart from that, it should be admitted that not every hon. Member here can be lucky to have a share in the spoils of office. The only satisfaction one can derive from being a Member of this House, is to see that the Federal Government embarks upon laudable programmes designed to develop our country, so that the teeming millions of the people we are representing will benefit.

On the question of establishing an African Development Bank by the member-nations of the O.A.U., one feels satisfied with the maturity demonstrated by our African leaders in establishing this Bank.

The Minister of Finance deserves an unreserved praise for his appointment as the first Chairman of the Bank. We hope that God will continue to help him to use his experience, intelligence and ability in conducting the affairs of the Bank on a sound basis, in order that the bank might win for itself a world-wide reputation.

We are all living witnesses to the fact that the wealth of African countries has long been plundered by the European nations that had no scruples in dismembering the continent under the pretext of efficient administration and development. To revive our lost glory, independent African states must stop suspecting themselves. Subversion and wicked utterances are not conducive to harmonious relationship and should be stopped. Every member-State should pay up her quota promptly so as to enhance the Bank's position.

I would like to add that in the past, African Leaders had spent too much time in reconciliations and arbitrations. For instance, in the Congo we have been wasting our energy, time and money, yet so many lives continue to be lost because of her internal unrest.

House of Representatives Debates

1063

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

9 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

1064

This type of thing is a terrible deterrent to progress. We must all prevent unscrupulous and greedy elements coupled with corrupt agencies from exploiting any situation on this Continent with a view to enriching themselves at our own expense. This warning must also apply to individuals in every African State and to Nigerians in particular.

The struggles by African States to achieve independence have, when realised, led to a lot of chaotic practices in some independent African States. The ruling parties in these States have, by and large, treated the opposition parties with disdain and contempt. Consequently, assassinations, death by torture and imprisonment have been the fate of most African opposition party members in recent years.

Here in Nigeria, no sane person would underrate the high intelligence and political maturity of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who is still deprived of his liberty.

I appeal to the Prime Minister, the President and the political parties to have a change of heart and see to it that he is released from prison, in order that he might join hands with other nationalists to help build a prosperous and stable Nigeria.

On the question of external trade, I would say that it is shocking to see that Nigeria's trade with Japan continues to be one-sided. One would have thought that our tropical products would have found a ready market amongst the innumerable industrialists of that Island. It might well be that there is no effective or adequate publicity being given to Nigerian products in Japan.

This conservative outlook on the part of Japan must change, otherwise, I would ask the Federal Government to launch an organised boycott of her products in this country. After all, Japan's products were regarded as inferior some years ago, but it baffles me when I see a number of Nigerians running helter-skelter after Japanese goods. I would strongly call on the Federal Government to boycott all Japanese goods if they continue to disregard our products.

With regard to the question of our balance of payments, it would be unfair to quarrel with the position as it is, at this stage of our intensive development.

Imbalance of trade conditions has existed in many other developing countries of the world, and Nigeria is not an exception. What we should do, however, is to discourage the importation of such consumer goods as luxuries, and we should encourage the importation of those consumer goods which are really necessary. The idea of purchasing certain luxury goods on hire-purchase terms has tended to give impetus to consumers to spend more, and in effect there is a big drain on our financial resources to overseas countries.

On the question of cocoa, one should look into the situation affecting the cocoa producing countries of the world to-day. One would certainly see that Ghana comes foremost, followed by Nigeria, then by Brazil, and lastly by Ivory Coast and Cameroun. Around 1953-54, when the production of cocoa was lean, the price of cocoa was £550 per ton. Now that cocoa is being produced on a large scale the price has alarmingly gone down. This is a big hit on farmers in a very bad way.

If one looked at the cocoa producing conditions in West Africa, one would see that at the moment Ghana is the only country which has the best preserving conditions. Despite the fact that Nigeria's cocoa is being produced on a larger scale, our producing conditions are very poor. The use of chemicals by cocoa farmers is now improving the quality of cocoa. I dare say that if our storage conditions can be improved, as the use of chemicals is now so much good to our farmers, the quality of cocoa produced in this country will be immense, as I think the price will continue to deteriorate.

Meantime, I think the price of cocoa is about £170 per ton. If cocoa is increasingly produced and something is not done to arrest such a situation, it will surely come to a time when a ton of cocoa may cost £20. It would be a heavy blow upon farmers who are already exerting so much energy in planting cocoa, both in Western and Eastern Nigeria.

So, my appeal to this Federal Government is to co-operate with the Cocoa Producers Alliance to explore possibilities of getting new markets, of encouraging local consumption of cocoa and of establishing cocoa industries in places where cocoa is produced in abundance. In this regard, I would like to say that the Western Region and Ikom (my constituency) in Eastern Region deserve such industries.

Minister of State (Mr A. Oshodi) : On a point of order, there is a Russian in this House ! (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker : The hon. Gentleman in question is only wearing a Cossack cap.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, what the Minister of State, Mr Oshodi, wanted to say was that there are two Russians in this House !

Mr Speaker : I think they are Russians. (*Laughter*.)

Mr Ejukwa : As I was saying, my constituency, Ikom, is one of the largest cocoa producing Divisions in this country, and if the Federal Government would be good enough to think in terms of establishing cocoa industries or any other industries that would make use of cocoa, it would be an encouragement to the thousands of people there who leave primary schools year in and year out to use their talents for that purpose.

On the question of industries, the number already established is rather encouraging, but as long as such industries are concentrated in certain areas, particularly in large towns, employment opportunities are only open to those who have influential men amongst the people in charge of those industries. Apart from that, better consideration is given to the indigenous people of the area in which such industries exist, and consequently a lot of applicants from rural areas, particularly in the minority areas, are never attended to no matter their qualifications. Rural areas should be considered also for industries, because this will in the end absorb the large number of unemployed people in the rural areas.

I would also like to point out to this Federal Government that the Obudu Cattle Ranch, which the Federal Minister of Trade mentioned this morning, is one of those places which are making very great progress in Nigeria. On this Ranch, there is abundant supply of animal products, and these are available in constant supply. The climate of that place is very congenial. Manpower is also available in that place, and fortunately, too, the Eastern Government has constructed a very beautiful meandering route to the top of the plateau. This particular spot invites the presence of foreign visitors.

I think this Federal Government should consider it wise to establish a canning industry there or assist the Eastern Government in establishing it. It will be of very great importance to this country. It will also help us to export our animal products to other countries, and will help to reduce the type of imbalance of our trade which is now existing.

I dare say that before any of those industries would come to that part of this country, electricity being very important, and now that Kainji Dam is being constructed, the Federal Government should have in mind the construction of a sort of a subsidiary dam on the Cross River. The Cross River is one of those rivers which are of long standing commercial importance, and it is almost falling into disuse now because the Government which could have taken a keen interest in developing it (by dredging the Cross River) appears to be unwary. If a subsidiary dam is constructed in the Cross River, it will help in a very great way to ensure an intensive use of the extensive basin of the river for agriculture and the supply of electricity would be assured. If it so happens that the Kainji Dam breaks down, the Cross River Dam can always help to see that power supply is obtained in the country.

I should also point out that a place like Abakaliki or Ikom has salt ponds, and if the Federal Government would like to have a bit of interest in this part of the Republic and encourage the establishment of a salt processing industry there, it would also help to increase the wealth of this nation.

Of recent, one would be embarrassed about the situation regarding the purchase of beer in this country.

When one goes out to a shop to buy some beer, one is always asked to deposit an amount of money for bottles. This can be very embarrassing to a gentleman who, after having sent a chap or a servant just with the amount of money for a bottle of beer, maybe to entertain a visitor, the chap goes there only to find that he is being asked to pay an extra amount of money for the bottle, with a warning that the bottle is to be returned after one has finished drinking the beer, possibly to get back the money deposited. I feel that this is very inconveniencing. What is the idea of saying that we have a bottling industry in the country ? I feel that this is an indirect way of increasing

the price of beer and not a question of depositing money for bottles.

I personally would crave the indulgence of this Government to see to it that the bottling industry in the country begins to manufacture bottles in good numbers so as to increase the number of bottles in order that we may feel that the price of beer is stable and that it has not been increased.

Now, the idea that the Federal Government will give grants to the Regional Governments in order to enhance their work of farm settlements is most welcome and should receive the support of this very honourable House. In carrying out this scheme, I pray that great care be taken to consider giving more aid to the Regions to help the rural population in undertaking more gigantic agricultural programmes.

This reminds me of the various agricultural schemes being pursued in the East, such as cocoa improvement scheme, palm oil rehabilitation scheme, rubber, cotton, cashew, *et cetera*, in which the Regional Government subsidises the farmers who establish plantations on the directives of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Extensive community farms have also sprung up in order to take advantage of the Government subsidies, and it is my belief that if the Federal Government should make some generous grants to the Regional Government, these communities would continue to work harder in order to transform the agrarian outlook of this nation. Primary school-leavers will also be assured of employment.

The next question I wish to discuss is that which has often been repeated in this House. I am really very sorry to go into it, although very briefly. This is the question of tribalism. It is true to say that the minority groups in Nigeria are fed up and badly scandalised over the bickerings amongst our major tribes. There have been too much of character assassination and mud-slinging amongst these major tribal groups. In their plot or ambition to monopolise all the top places in Government, civil service, corporations, business, institutions of higher learning, there have been mounting disaffection and bad-blood amongst the major tribes. As a result tribe now seems to be the criterion for a job instead of merit and efficiency. If this state of affairs is not nipped in the bud, then the minority groups would have no hope in the Republic.

Mallam Sule Abba Biu (Biu) : On a point of order, I think, Mr Speaker, that if you allow the hon. Member to continue with this type of comment on the political situation in the country, in reply we shall do worse than he is doing.

Mr Ejukwa : As I said, if this state of affairs is not nipped in the bud, then the minority groups in this country have no hope in the Republic. We shall continue (I say *We* because I happen to come from a minority area) to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. Our fate shall be likened to the Roman plebians of old, who toiled and moiled for their over-lords.

I make bold to say that in the projected review of our Constitution—

Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I cannot understand the hon. Gentleman saying that they may continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water in Nigeria, which implies that the minority groups are now hewers of wood and drawers of water. This is not true; it cannot be true because people from the minority areas are holding important posts in various walks of life. Some are Ministers and some are senior officials. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Really, we cannot allow debates on tribalism and Constitutional Conferences when we are discussing the Budget.

Mr Ejukwa : To conclude this particular point, Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence to say that when our Constitution is to be reviewed, minority tribes should be accorded a place of respectability in this country.

I am beginning to feel very strongly that there are too many political parties in Nigeria. Some of them are easy-going hooligans and some have practically no programmes for this country. I feel it was high time that a lot of these microscopic political parties, including the party of the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) and that of the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) were banned in this country.

Mr S. O. Kamson (Ikeja North) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking should not direct his speech to one of the Members of this House. In any case, the Member for Lagos North (*Chief Benson*) has

[MR KAMSON]

no party in this country. He is a member of the Nigerian National Alliance.

Mr Speaker : Is he not an independent U.P.G.A. ?

Chief T. O. S. Benson (Lagos North) : I am not a member of the U.P.G.A. I must say categorically that I may be anything but a member of the U.P.G.A.

Mr Ejukwa : It is a pity that anybody who comes into this House should refuse to belong to any political party. In that case, one must have come into this House by a very fraudulent method because any hon. Member who has come into this House must have passed through the electorate with the aid of a political party with a programme. Therefore, anybody who came into this House without a programme must have done so fraudulently.

Mr Speaker : Surely, this does not help our finances.

Mr Ejukwa : Now, I wish to say a few words about our eastern border. Most visitors to parts of Ogoja Province sometimes wonder whether a place like Ikom forms part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at all. Apart from the Post Office and some scattered Police Posts here and there, there is hardly any development project being carried on by the Federal Government since the Western Cameroun severed connections with Nigeria.

It seems to me that since the Western Cameroun severed connections with Nigeria this particular Government appears to be angry with the people of the eastern border of which Ikom forms an integral part. I am saying this because the trunk 'A' road from Yahe through Ikom to Mfum, a distance of only sixty-eight miles, which was to be tarred when the Western Cameroun was still with Nigeria, came to an abrupt stop when these fellows seceded. Since then, the Federal Government has not listened to the Members of this House who come from this area.

The Member for this constituency in the previous House, prince Takon, pleaded with the Government to tar this road about nine years ago, but nothing was done. I too appealed to the Government in the last House, but the Government did not do anything about it. All the Minister said was that the road

would be tarred as soon as money was available. Now that the Budget has been raised to a little over £78 million, I do not know whether the Minister will consider seeing to it that this particular road is attended to. After all, this is a Federal Government road, which leads to the customs along the Cross River.

We have quite a lot of plantations in Ikom from where we gather produce, which are carried by heavy lorries. This road is on the border and anything can happen there at any time. We have the police and the soldiers patrolling this road every time to arrest any situation that may arise.

Ikom is in a very pathetic position at the moment. A few years ago, the Federal Minister of Finance signed an agreement with the American Government for a loan of £3.5 million, to construct a road from Calabar to Ikom, and later from Ikom to Obudu and then to Northern Nigeria. There is also a road linking Ikom with the Camerouns. This is an international road. Therefore, there is no doubt that Ikom occupies an enviable position, and the Federal Government should come to its aid so that the people of this area may have the opportunity to increase the wealth of this nation, by their hard-work and industry.

A careful examination of matters connected with this area revealed to me that from 1961 to 1963 the sums of £9,4,000; £10,000; £16,4,000; £16,2,000 and £17,8,000 were spent on the maintenance of the Ikom road. This mounting cost can be reduced if the road is tarred. Surely, if the road is not tarred, the cost of repairs will continue to rise until it comes to a stage when the Government will be fed up and the road will have to be closed completely. I am sure that the Government does not intend to be so wicked to the people of Eastern border as to close this road.

I would therefore like to plead—

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, honestly, the Member for Ikom (*Mr Ejukwa*) has exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker : Will the Member for Ikom (*Mr Ejukwa*) please wind up.

Mr Ejukwa : I realise that I have to give way for other Members to express their views on the Budget Speech, so I would like to conclude by saying that now that we have had a

House of Representatives Debates

1071

[*Appropriation (1965-66)*]

9 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

1072

new Cabinet with a large number of Ministers, it is necessary for the hon. Members of this House to know what the functions of all these new Ministers are. I abhor the idea of having Ministers without portfolio. I think the interpretation one can give to this is that these are Ministers without specific duties. I am however subject to correction. This is not the time when Nigeria can afford the luxury of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries without specific duties. I hope the intention is not to increase the number of dignified clerks in the Ministries.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Member for Ikom (*Mr Ejukwa*) has exhausted his time.

Mr Bukar Machina (Bornu North West): I rise to express my thanks to the Minister of Finance for his excellent Budget Speech. The speech is comprehensive, self-explanatory and most welcome. I must however, pray the Minister not to forget Bornu North West in the scheme of things in this country.

In contributing to this debate, I have some points to make. The first thing I want to say is to appeal to the Federal Government, through the new Minister of Transport to increase the number of railway wagons to enable us rail more cattle from Nguru to Lagos or to Ibadan. All the Members know that there is no road transport facilities to convey our cattle from the North to the South.

I would also like to appeal to the Minister of Aviation to consider building a rest house at Wachakal Air-strip at Nguru.

The next point I want to make concerns the Railway Corporation. This Corporation is losing quite a lot of money through the delays in the transportation of goods from Northern Nigeria to Lagos. I strongly appeal to the new Minister of Transport to see that something is done to rectify the situation in good time.

I also want to appeal to the Minister of Works to see to it that the Nguru-Hadejia road is linked with the Trunk 'B' road at Kano. This road is very important, and people are finding much difficulty in using it during the rainy season. By linking this road with the Nguru-Hadejia road, the Government will be improving trade in this country.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I want to make my own contribution to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill 1965-66. First of all, I want to say that I do not want to indulge myself in any arguments about socialism, communism or capitalism. All these have been well handled by the hon. Members who have spoken before me.

I would like to say, in fairness to the Government, that looking at the economy of Nigeria during the past five years or more, a lot of changes have taken place and that the Ministry of Finance has a lot of the credit because of the very nature of the man who is in charge of the Ministry—his vivacity, sagacity, wisdom, and the ability to make contacts with the outside world.

But, I would also like to say as I did last Teusday when I was moving a Motion on rural development that much of the hope for economic survival of Nigeria hinges on a successful execution of the current Six-Year Development Programme and, therefore, I am going to base my contribution on the analysis of this Programme.

National survival everywhere in the world depends on national determination. There is no magic about it, no accident about it and there is no aesthetics about it.

History has not recorded a nation which has grown to great heights by sheer accident. There is none in the history of mankind. Rather, history has recorded many nations that have grown great through rugged determination, by fighting their way through, and often by their own people fighting to the top. For example, we have countries like America, Russia, Germany and Britain to mention but a few; there is even China of our own day and other countries like Israel. These are no cock and bull stories. They are no ancient histories.

Therefore, if Nigeria must grow, Nigeria must be prepared to pull itself up by its own good stuff. Appeals to foreigners may help, but foreigners are foreigners. They have their own problems in their own countries and the little they can give is an extra after they have satisfied the problems of their own nations.

I am not judging the Federal Government. I am just stating the matter as an economist. Perhaps one of the biggest problems we have

[DR NZERIBE]

in Nigeria to-day, vis-a-vis the people of developed countries, is that the gap between the *per capita* income in Nigeria and the *per capita* income of those countries is very wide, and if we look at the statistics of world economy since our independence, we will surely find that even though apparently we are making progress, the gap between the income of a Nigerian and that of an American, a Briton, Russian or an Israeli has been growing wider and wider during the past five years.

Therefore, this gap is a gap of frustration because poverty *per se* means nothing. Poverty is a relative term. Forty years ago our people did with almost nothing, but to-day even in the midst of bicycles, cars and better houses, we still agitate. We can see from this that the problem of Nigeria cannot be solved economically unless we bridge the gap between the *per capita* income of the man in the so-called developed countries and the man in Nigeria.

This is worse, Sir, when we compare the development schemes going on around Nigeria with what obtains in other countries. This psychological gap of frustration will continue to affect the people of Nigeria for as long as it continues to widen, and that is why economic development is almost compulsory in a country like Nigeria if we are going to have political stability and national survival.

So, Sir, you see that the gap can only decrease if we are determined, more determined than ever before, to re-examine the whole of our national economy in the areas of capital mobilisation and national investment. And these areas are crucial. Capital is a bag of tools and any farmer, trader, palm wine tapper or fisherman who has no bag of tools is bound to be frustrated.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): What about the smuggler?

Dr Nzeribe: The smuggler too must have a bag of tools, otherwise he cannot smuggle enough.

Our economy, therefore, should be consumption orientated rather than production orientated. In the Six-Year Development the combined public and private investment is £1,850 million, £677 million of which the Government expects to come from the private sector. This means a *per capita* investment

expectation of £7-10s per head of the Nigerian population. Compared with other West African countries, this is only a modest investment.

For example, during the same period, Sierra Leone has launched an annual *per capita* investment of £10-10s. That is small Sierra Leone, I am sorry to say; but that is the estimate for the same period. Sudan is planning for £12-10s *per capita* investment during the same period vis-a-vis Nigeria's £7-10s. Tanganyika of yesterday is budgeting for £13-15s *per capita* during the same period. Ghana, our next door neighbour is budgeting for £20 per head; so that Ghana's budget is almost three times that of Nigeria.

Unless we realise economically the supreme importance of capital formation, we will be wasting our time in economic analysis and economic development programmes. As I have said before, if we compare Nigeria's *per capita* investment, which is less than that of the smallest among the countries I have just enumerated, with those of other countries, the annual growth of Nigeria's capital development is only about four *per cent*. That is, if the Six-Year Development Programme succeeds, the growth of our economy will only be four *per cent* which is the minimum anywhere, and is very, very small. In fact, it is one of the smallest in the world to-day.

If we consider the four *per cent* of Nigeria with that of Japan which is nine *per cent* at this particular moment, Western Germany which is seven *per cent*, Israel and the U.S.S.R. which are 6.5 *per cent* each and America's five *per cent* even though they reached the second stage of their economic development a long time ago, we will find that Nigeria is still at the bottom of the rock.

Yet, we have not reached the second stage of our development, and unless and until we reach the second stage, it is impossible to harness the resources for the economic development of Nigeria.

This again goes to reinforce my argument that without a well planned programme of capital mobilisation and capital investment, all the talks about economic development is a child's play.

Nigeria, therefore, is being out-distanced in the process of growth so that instead of catching up, we are lagging behind. This is

yet concealed, but it will begin to show itself during the next year or two.

Mr Speaker : Order ! It is twelve o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! The Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) should continue his speech.

Dr Nzeribe : I am trying to say that it is a wrong idea that economic development is a fetish and a sort of magic. It is even an apparent lack of realisation that economic development means, above everything, national determination. In this determination, nobody should be left out. No sector of the economy should be left out. The days of unbridled capitalism are gone for ever, so also are the days when the classical economists wrote about the invisible hand, when God governed the economy of the country. This time, man determines his own fate as far as economic growth is concerned.

I was saying that the country budgeted on a very, very small *per capita* average for development purposes. Now, our Government has begun to realise that the foreign aids expected to be about half of the required capital investment over the six years are not forthcoming. This is not because the foreigners are wicked, not because they do not like Nigeria, not because they want Nigeria to perish economically. It is simply because of the simple law of economic growth. There is no philanthropy in business.

Some people say that foreign investors should train Nigerians, that foreign investors should plough back their profits into Nigeria's economy and so on and so forth. This is babyish. If the investors are really philanthropic, why should they leave their country ?

America is supposed to be at the fore front of economic growth in this country. But there are areas in America that are worse than the rural area in Nigeria. Every large city in America has a huge population of backward or under-developed or undeveloped areas. In fact, one of the writings in an American magazine shows that over ten million people in America are more or less regarded as economically under-developed. And if Americans are

supposed to be philanthropic and lovers of mankind, they should start in their own country.

The same is true of England. Some of us who have been to England know that there are in England some rural areas worse than those inhabited by people living in the back woods of Nigeria. So the idea that foreigners should come here with the spirit of missionaries and god-fathers and protectors to develop Nigeria and train us and hand over everything to us on a platter of gold should be dismissed. It is not a true idea.

The hard fact of investment in a country, whether it be a young country or an old country, is that investment must pay its way. Even the ancient philosophy that capital goes where there is political stability—and that that is the only criterion—should be dismissed. It is not true. Latin America is notorious for political instability, and yet a recent analysis of American foreign investment indicates that most of it goes into Latin America which enjoys what we do not enjoy ; yet that is one of the most politically unstable areas of the world.

The idea that we can find a panacea by giving them a tax holiday is false. Once we give them a tax holiday, they cannot come. There is one fact about that which we must bear in mind. If an American investor or a British investor makes a huge profit in Nigeria and is exempted from profits tax in Nigeria, this is no guarantee that when the profits are sent home to his own country he does not have to pay tax on the profits. There is no way that our Government can compel the American Government or the British Government not to tax the profits being repatriated from Nigeria to America or England.

This should not, however, be discontinued. I am merely trying to say that we should not pride ourselves in the belief that the moment we give them a tax holiday or the moment we give their infant industry protection that is how the game is done. There are certain fundamental economic considerations. Unless profit is guaranteed the foreign investor cannot invest. Others may come in. To-day, in America, the opportunity for profit making is still higher in many areas than they are in Nigeria. The same thing is true of England. As a matter of fact, right at this moment, capital is moving from America to England and

[DR NZERIBE]

from America to West Germany. This is simply because the prospect of making higher profits is higher than they are in Nigeria. If the case becomes the reverse, they will come to Nigeria to invest.

I am saying this to demonstrate that we should realise that if foreigners do not come to invest in Nigeria, they do not do so because they hate Nigeria or because they want Nigeria to be economically liquidated. It is simply because the stark realities, the grim forces of economic life, make it impossible or less desirable for them to move into Nigeria.

Therefore, the requirement is that there should be domestic belt tightening. When Ghana budgeted for their six-year development programme, they anticipated that one-third of the required capital would be coming from outside. Sudan did a similar exercise and anticipated one-fourth, Tanganyika about one-fifth. Nigeria is hoping for about a half to come from outside, and if the half does not come we must look for alternative sources. Therefore, I want to address myself to the suggestions I would like to give.

Before giving those suggestions, however, I would like to postulate that if our economy would catch up with the growing demand of the people and the rapid growth of the population, it should grow at least at the rate of between 6 per cent and 8 per cent per annum. This will make it possible for the demand of the people to catch up with the supply at least for the next two generations. This will require an increase of between 50 per cent and 100 per cent in the present volume of investment.

This can be mobilised from two sources ; one is we either change the tax system or we revise the existing tax rules in Nigeria. At present the contribution which personal income tax makes to the Nigerian Governments' revenue is appallingly low. From 1959 to 1960 and from 1963 to 1964 the contribution in this country of personal income tax to Nigerian Governments' revenue was about 6 per cent. If you compare this with other developing countries in the world, like Pakistan, India, Ghana, and the rest of them, you will see that our own is the least.

In Pakistan during the same period, personal income tax constituted 11 per cent of the Government's revenue. In Ghana it was 12

per cent ; in India it was 13 per cent ; in Ceylon it was 13 per cent, and in Malaya it was 13 per cent also. These countries, on basis of economic development, are almost at the same stage as Nigeria. But ours was the least. These countries are not more developed than Nigeria ; they are not worse nor are they better economically than Nigeria. In advanced countries, the contribution of income tax to public revenue is high : 30 per cent in Canada, 40 per cent in Europe, 55 per cent in America.

Scientific taxation requires that people should be taxed according to their ability to pay. In Nigeria, as I said last Tuesday, there is still in existence a very primitive and *ante-deluvian* system of taxation. Poll tax and capitation tax are still in vogue. This means that a person is taxed whether he has an income or not. It is primitive and should be discontinued. According to the science of economics, the formula ought to be that those who have more should pay more. If the necessary measures are taken in Nigeria, income tax should be double or treble its present magnitude in the foreseeable future.

For instance, if you look at our tax laws, two things simply stare you in the face ; the first is that the tax laws are verbose. I do not think that somebody who has had an exercise in public finance for two or three years can understand the Nigerian income tax laws. They are so verbose that even those who interpret them cannot understand them.

Moreover, there are very many escape clauses in the income tax laws. There are many riders so that practically anybody who wants to escape from income tax assessment can do so without remorse. This is true of the Federal income tax laws as well as those of the Regions. If you look at them one by one you will see that they are almost the same thing. They are difficult to understand ; they are verbose and they are too liberal.

For example, with an annual *per capita* income of about £30 an allowance of £200 is granted to a married man in Nigeria and £40 is granted on every child up to three children if the children are resident in Nigeria. If a child is overseas, you have an exemption of £210 in this country. This does not happen anywhere in the civilised world. The result is, again, a slant against the poor people because a Nigerian who has an appreciable income can afford to send his son to England or America

and then claim an exemption of £210, which means that the State is indirectly subsidising the training of the child. There is no justification for this kind of imbalance in social justice. Such allowances are non-existent in civilised and progressive countries.

Also, there are certain discriminations since a poor man on, say, a salary of £100 *per annum*, a farmer for example, pays his whole tax on that income because he is known and there is no escape for him. Even after the allowances, those in the middle and upper classes pay much less than we would pay if we were earning an identical income abroad. For example, income tax on taxable annual income of £500, after allowances have been deducted, in London would be £193-3s, and £205 in Washington. Compare these figures with £30 in Lagos and Kaduna; £31-15s in Ibadan and £28 in Enugu. These are on the same income after all the necessary allowances have been allowed. On an income of £3,000, income tax in London would be £1,156-10s; in Washington it would be £1,540, almost the same thing; in Nigeria it would be £600 in Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna. This is less than one-third the figure for countries abroad.

Therefore, actually the poor are getting poorer through our tax system and the rich who should subsidise development in the country are getting richer and richer because of this type of discrimination. As a matter of fact, in Nigeria, it is the wealthy people who enjoy social amenities, not the poor. This is so in all phases of things: in education, medical care, indeed in everything. It is the rich man who enjoys more amenities than the poor man.

The poor man has no protection. If he goes to the Police Station life will be harassed out of him. He pays while the rich man does not. The rich man does not give bribes but the poor man does. We know this happens in this country. Let us face it.

Company income tax in this country must be looked into. The Federal Minister of Finance is justifiably afraid that if he raises the company income tax, investors, both indogenous and foreigners, will run away. But this is not true. What these people want is an opportunity to invest and if the market is wide they will make high profits and also pay high tax to the Government. These people are no longer as wicked as we think. The idea of the economic

man—of the businessman always calculating in terms of his profits only is over. He now thinks of other things and that is why some investors would prefer to go to America where there is a bigger market.

At present, in Nigeria, the rate of income tax is 8s per head per profit. In Ghana it is 9s, in Pakistan it is 9s-10d, in Ceylon it is 9s-2d, in India 9s-6d and in Japan it is 10s-3d. Each of these countries, according to statistics, attracts more foreign investment than Nigeria; therefore the notion that it is high tax on profits that scares them away cannot stand the test of economic analysis.

There are also, as I said before, so many areas that could be taxed which are not at the moment taxed in Nigeria. For example, look at our airports and seaports, people come in and go untaxed. If you travel to any foreign country like England or America or Israel or Ghana you will see that you pay something extra at the airports. It is almost painless because it is the psychology of man that once, for instance, the air rate is cheap, the extra one or two pounds one pays at the airport will not prevent one from travelling.

In Nigeria last year, 8,000 passengers left through our airports, and if we had imposed a *per capita* tax of one pound per trip, this could have brought into our coffers some £8,000, and this could have meant a lot to us. £8,000 is no chicken feed in a country like Nigeria. At the same time if we had imposed this painless tax of ten shillings per head on all passengers that passed through Nigerian ports, we could have raised something close to a quarter of a million pounds from that alone.

Ghana tax 10s per head at the airport; London 7s-6d; France 10s-6d; Holland 7s-6d; in America £1 and then you pay an additional 2½ *per cent* on the cost of your ticket. In America, even if you travel by bus, you pay a tax. The people have become used to it and, as a matter of fact, one thing about taxes is that you become used to them as soon as you begin paying them.

In 1929, for instance, there was a women's riot in Nigeria because people did not want to pay tax; but the more the tax is paid, the more you become used to it, just like going to church. The more you go to church the more you become used to going to church.

[DR NZERIBE]

So, without a stringent financial measure the rate of economic growth cannot appreciably increase in Nigeria and, as I said earlier, the emphasis ought to be on capital accumulation because capital is a bag of tools without which you cannot produce.

Before I wind up I would like to say something about other resources. The supreme commonsense in economic growth is that the nation as well as the individual involved must make absolute use of all the resources within the economy. Unless you sweep with a sharp broom—you sweep all the corners of your house, including under the carpet—you cannot sincerely say the house is clean. Therefore, you have to tap all the resources you have, mobilize and put them into development.

In Nigeria to-day, experts believe that in the first two years of the Six-Year Development Plan the biggest bottleneck, apart from capital, is lack of technical, administrative and managerial manpower. The solution does not lie in importing foreigners from all over the world. Here again, the cure lies in mobilizing the potentials of this country.

Everyday, in this country, you hear of students in the universities—Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello, Ife, Lagos and Ibadan—being dismissed because of lack of money to pay their fees. Budding engineers, doctors, and scientists are being dismissed for thirty or forty pounds a year; and it is the same country that goes about galling and importing engineers, doctors, *et cetera* into Nigeria. Is this not a shame? You do not have to go to Cambridge or Harvard or Oxford to learn that this is a plain lack of commonsense, that our economic potentials, our manpower—the wealth of a nation—should not be allowed to languish away. Yet, we go and import foreigners to come and do the work which these boys, given the training and opportunity, can do within a period of two years or so!

I do not want to cast any aspersions because I have many friends overseas—in India, America and other places. But consider for a moment this simple case of importing science teachers from India and Ceylon by the hundreds every month in a country where you have no less than four to five thousand students finishing their secondary school courses and passing their school certificate examinations every year

with a bias for science. Could these boys and girls not be trained in three or four years' time to become science teachers and be paid £700 *per annum*, thus saving the money that leaves Nigeria by the millions in paying the transport fares of these Indians, *et cetera*?

Do we have to go to Rome or to the highest schools in the world to learn this simple wisdom, that the Federal Emergency Science School can be converted into an emergency science graduate centre, and in another two or three years time Nigeria can have many thousands of science teachers?

The same thing is true of foreign aid. Hon. Members know that America is my second country. I love America; it is America that made me great. But if the American Government is prepared to put in two or three billion pounds in sending out a Peace Corps into this country, why not use that money to import into Nigeria those eminent American science teachers and professors and let them teach our own children, so that within the next year or two they can take over the teaching of science in this country?

Does this require going to Mars or Jupiter to learn a simple commonsense? Instances can be multiplied indefinitely of mis-allocation of resources, and I do not want to go into all these details. So, on this question, I would like to add that although the attitude of our Government is changing, there is still in this country an institution that seems to bend towards anti-intellectual prejudice.

The Government—well, some of the spokesmen of the Government have now stopped talking ill about theorists and practical men, and it is no longer as common as before—but they must realise that an intellectual is an asset to a country, if he is productive; and of course any intellectual that is not productive is not an intellectual. He is a negative intellectual. I agree that there are some perverted intellectuals; I agree that there are some pseudo-intellectuals; and I agree that there are some hypocrites in the field of intelligence. But when intellectuals are discovered, tested and proved good, this country has the bounden duty to tap the intellectual to the last.

I want to mention one or two cases. Take the Nigerian Ambassador to the European Economic Community. Last week or two

every Nigerian who read the newspapers, knew that this youngman had made it possible, through a positive application of his intelligence, for millions of pounds to come into the economy of this country during the following two or three years. Through the efforts of one youngman we read about this gladdening news; and there are many others like that. Even in this House, you find that there are some people who did not contest the elections but who have come into Parliament because of their intellectual prowess, and are making contributions—

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Gentleman please wind up.

Dr Nzeribe : This country should encourage our people in all walks of life—in education, in business, in all fields of learning, and in politics.

That brings me to the final thing I want to say. Just yesterday, the Minister of Finance sounded a clarion in this House against the latest development on the part of the West African Conference Lines on their intention to increase freight by ten *per cent.*

I want to say that there are many indigenous Nigerian shipping lines, an example of which is the Okafor Shipping Lines. Why should the Okafor Shipping Lines, or any other indigenous shipping lines not be given the opportunity to take over the shipping business of this country; why should foreigners be encouraged, at this most psychological moment, when the banks are over-lent, when our imports are exceeding our exports, when internal savings are very low in Nigeria, when our invisible imports are rising, when our cocoa prices are falling, when they would only come here to increase their freight rates?

Why should this Government not take over the business of these foreign shipping lines and hand them over to indigenous firms (and I say once again) like the Okafor Shipping Lines and many others.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Where is this Okafor Shipping Lines? Is it in Onitsha or Owerri?

Dr Nzeribe : It does not matter where it is. The Okafor Shipping Lines is a Nigerian shipping company as well as a public company. Any Nigerian is safe to invest his money in

the company. What I am saying is that this is just one of the so many cases where opportunities should be given to Nigerians who have proved ability and willingness to take economic risks.

M. Abdulkadiri Sarkin Dukku (Duku-Kwali): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Budget Speech presented by the blessed and able Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh is very interesting, comprehensive and thoughtful. It is a great joy to have such a man in our young Nigeria.

One cannot but give credit and thanks to the Government for the improvements proposed in the speech of the Minister of Finance. I do not think Members who spoke before me left any corner unturned but the few words which I would like to add might help in strengthening the comments and observations made by my colleagues.

If Nigeria is to continue to grow as a united and great nation, there must be internal stability as well as national unity. The attainment of these two things should be our main objective. We must, all the time, preach as well as practise national unity.

Turning now to agriculture, I must say that the intention of the Government to create a revolution in farming methods is most welcome. It is a matter for regret to see that, in these modern days, farmers still use the old, stone-age method for tilling their lands. This method is out of date, and would not even attract the attention of the young generation and make them go back to the farms.

Mechanised and modern methods of farming are needed if we want to increase our productivity to meet the needs of the growing population of our country.

I appreciate the proposal of the Government to evolve special programmes for the eradication and control of diseases in this country. Every Member of this House will agree with me that the worst enemies of this country to-day are four main diseases, namely, small-pox, leprosy, malaria and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

These four diseases are the cause of the depopulation of this country. These fatal diseases gain mastery mostly in the rural areas where educational facilities and rural health

[M. ABDULKADIRI]

schemes are lacking. I therefore pray the Federal Government to take more interest in the distribution of medical services to rural areas where, at present, medical facilities are very inadequate.

Another point which I would like to touch on is the plan by the Federal Government to encourage the development of water resources so as to provide urban and rural water supplies to the country as a whole and to the dry parts of the country in particular. I wholeheartedly welcome this plan, and as I come from a part of Bauchi Province—Gombe Division—I am sure that Members from Katsina and Bornu Provinces who know that they will benefit from this new plan, will join me in welcoming the decision.

A brief review of our Government activities will reveal that rural areas are lacking in growth and development. The regional governments of this country are responsible for the provision of amenities to rural areas but all their attention is concentrated on the development of townships rather than the development of rural areas.

I would not like Members to think me selfish for limiting my references to a particular region of the country or a particular part of a region. My attitude is based on the fact that the area to which I limit my references is the place I know well and can explain things about.

In some parts of Northern Nigeria water is very scarce and this constitutes a great problem, making men and women in the drier parts of the region travel as long a distance as eight miles to get water. In such places people store water during the rainy season but very soon after the season this water finishes and the people have to move to the river banks with their cattle and wait there till rain comes again.

These people are actually home dweller and not nomadic Fulanis but they are compelled by necessity to keep moving about. I do not think that one can expect any reasonable economic progress in this area when the people spend most of their time in fetching water. I therefore appeal to the Federal Government to eradicate this disease—scarcity of water—throughout the Federal Republic.

I would also like to say something about our roads. When we consider what part communication plays in the economic development of this country and when we realise that roads play an important part in communication, we shall all agree that roads therefore play an important part in the economic development of Nigeria.

I observe that the Federal Government is not doing its best to construct Trunk 'A' roads all over the country. There are many important Trunk 'B' roads which should have been regarded as Trunk 'A' roads. I can mention one of these; the oldest inter-provincial road which runs from Adamawa through Gombe, and from Gombe through Abba on the River Gongola and through Bauchi to Kano, Potiskum, Gashuwa and some parts of Bornu Province.

I appeal to the Minister of Works to consider taking over this very important commercial road and up-grading it from Trunk 'B' to Trunk 'A'.

I beg to support.

Mr M. E. Ogundare (Ekiti South I): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill read by the hon. Minister of Finance in this House a few days ago. But I would like to point out certain things in the Minister's speech. I shall start on his attack on socialism. I think that after the views of some Members of this House which the Minister of Finance has had the opportunity of hearing, he has probably changed his mind for he would now have discovered that it is too late in the day to impose on this country a decaying capitalism.

I would like to say that the definition of the Minister of Finance on socialism shows clearly that the Minister either does not understand what socialism is or is giving a false picture of socialism—

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): The hon. Minister of Finance is not only a leader of the so-called socialist U.P.G.A. people, but he also studied in Czechoslovakia where communism thrives. He is therefore a greater authority on what pragmatic socialism is. Yet having known what pragmatic socialism is, the Minister of Finance rejected it.

Mr Ogundare : Incidentally, the hon. Minister of Finance studied chiropody in Czechoslovakia and not socialism. Furthermore, one finds it rather difficult to know whether the Minister of Finance is still in the N.C.N.C. or not, but be that as it may, one can only say that—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : On a point of information, the Member for Ekiti South I (*Mr Ogundare*) is talking about U.P.G.A. There is only one party in my region—the N.C.N.C. There is no U.P.G.A. there. The whole of my region is now N.C.N.C. Everything has been concluded to-day.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : Now that the hon. Minister has defended himself, I would like to point out that he is U.P.G.A. whenever it suits him. He attends meetings of U.P.G.A. leaders. I have even attended meetings with him. The Minister should not lie to achieve popularity.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am a loyal member of my party. If I am nominated by my party to hold a meeting with the U.P.G.A., or by whichever name the organisation is called, I shall be prepared to represent my party.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) : If the Minister is really loyal to his party he should not come to the Floor of this House to preach capitalism instead of pragmatic socialism which his party believes in.

Mr Speaker : Are we not tired of hearing these empty quarrels ?

Mr Ogundare : I think I will only leave the Minister to his conscience. He knows fully well that he is only in name in the N.C.N.C. but he is heart and bone outside that party, and is undoubtedly necessary for the N.P.C. to take the cue from what he said that there is only the N.C.N.C. in the Mid-West to-day. He has gone round and swallowed the allies of the N.P.C. in that region.

Mr Speaker : Has the hon. Gentleman no contributions to make to the economic policy of the Government ?

Mr Ogundare : The hon. Minister did mention something about nationalisation in his speech. I would like him to realise that the essential services of this country are already state controlled and that not the assurance

given by the Minister will help any tendency towards nationalisation. It is the spirit of the investors themselves that matter.

The idea of some foreign firms in this country appointing Nigerians glorified chief clerks under the name of managers without any functions, will only help to speed up the call for nationalisation because if there are investors who come here not to invest genuinely in the development of the country but to exploit the masses, such firms cannot complain when the people rise up to take over the business of the firm themselves.

We have the practice under the guise of Nigerianisation, of quite a lot of these firms creating managers and all you see is a table, telephone and some papers and no policy making function at all. If Nigerians are capable of managing successfully our civil service in this country, I cannot see why they should not be entrusted with the policy making functions of the various firms that operate in this country. I think it is not merely coming here to say there will be no nationalisation that will be the solution.

There must be a change of heart on the part of the investors themselves. It will help no one to come here and say that Nigeria is not for socialism. One thing is certain. If we are going to be socialists, then let us be socialists. One finds that even in countries outside Nigeria which have embraced socialism, even in the Iron Curtain countries, we see millions of dollars being poured into them by Americans. They are not scared away because they see that their investments are secure. So, what is essential is the security of the investments and not the ideology of the country.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Will the hon. Member tell us now what he believes in, communism or socialism ?

Mr Ogundare : I believe in democratic socialism, if the Minister wants to know.

I would now like to speak on insurance. Nigerians pay the highest insurance premiums any where in the world, and we have the greatest difficulty in getting ordinary claims passed by the Insurance Companies. I think it is time the Government looked into this insurance business, and either set up a national insurance company of its own, or took over the insurance business in this country.

[MR OGUNDARE]

These insurance companies only collect the huge sums of money they make in this country and go out of the country with millions of pounds. They never invest any part of this money in the country. I think the Government should do something about this.

This takes us to the question of hire purchase. The Minister of Trade has told this House that in due course a legislation will be brought before this Parliament on hire purchase. I do hope that the Minister will do that soon because there is no doubt that a lot of transporters have been ruined in this country by the harsh terms of the hire purchase agreements we have in this country to-day.

These agreements are always one sided, and they are always in favour of the so called owners. I would like to be brief because I know there are other Members who would like to speak and that the Minister of Finance would also like to reply to the many points made. But this I have to say, that the Government must have to pursue a more virile economic policy. The idea of deficit financing by issuing Treasury Bills must stop. We want to know our true financial stand.

I beg to support.

M. Ma'aji Uwaisul Karni (Dikwa North) : I rise to support the Second Reading of this momentous Bill. The Bill covers all the vital points and I do not find anything to quarrel with in it. For this, I wholeheartedly congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance.

Many hon. Members have spoken on almost all aspects of the Bill, and I do not intend to bore this House, therefore, I must be brief.

At the moment the great problem that faces our Federation is the road problem. The innumerable amount of loss and economic ruin that Nigeria still suffers as a result of bad roads cannot be adequately expressed. We all know that good roads are vital and its vitality is two-fold.

Firstly it helps to speed up transportation, and secondly it presents less trouble to vehicle owners especially as it prevents unnecessary damages to vehicles and consequent repair costs, and, therefore, instead of spending their money on repairing the vehicles as a result of bad roads, they use the money to improve themselves and the nation.

A friend told me the other day, that in the Eastern Region almost all the roads have been reconstructed, and this makes travel and transportation very easy and less expensive in the Eastern Region. This also prolongs the lives of vehicles in that region.

I now move over to the question of national unity. Nigerian unity is unshakable. Everybody knows that we Nigerians are united and we will remain united for ever. If anybody has any doubt about the unity of Nigeria, let him go to Lokoja and see how the two vital rivers, Niger and Benue, are indivisibly joined together. If nobody can separate these two rivers, then nobody can destroy the unity of Nigeria.

I would like to warn those people who make themselves advocates of tribalism, and say that by so doing they are doing more harm than good to the unity and solidarity of this nation. Let these advocates of tribalism in Nigeria know that the ethnic groups for whom they pretend to speak are now aware of the fact that they have lost a lot of their fair share of the amenities in this country because they are resident in rural areas.

Cities and big towns have robbed them of their equitable share of hygienic conditions and other luxuries such as pipe borne water, electricity, *et cetera*. These luxuries are all confined to big cities and towns while the people in the rural areas who really make up the Federation of Nigeria are just used as outskirts agencies to keep up the important centres. Although it will mean a great financial burden for any government to bring the rural areas up to the level now envisaged, I think it would, as well, be a good idea to accelerate the development around them.

The proposal contained in the Budget Speech for the setting up of farm centres, agricultural schemes and for the boosting up of local industries as a method of embracing rural areas is a step in the right direction, but I must say that we Members of this honourable House believe in action and not in words.

Talking about the Foreign Policy of the country; I would like to say that I want the present policy of non-alignment to continue but at the same time, I must issue a note of warning to this country because the world at large is looking, watching our steps with great expectation.

They know that Nigeria's natural resources are buoyant, and that is why the outside world is watching us with great hope; and with smaller nations springing up, seeking equilibrium with bigger nations and the bigger nations lacking economy and trying to regain power through neo-colonialism, Nigeria's prestige must be guarded jealously.

Finally, I must not end this contribution of mine to the Budget Speech without saying a few words about my constituency which is Dikwa North, and which was formerly part of a Trust Territory. Everybody must have heard of the heroism which we displayed during the plebiscite. I think this alone is enough to attract the Federal Government to invest large sums of money in our area. Among the amenities we lack, the most important ones are good roads, telecommunications and electricity. Apart from these amenities, we have border problems although it is said that customs houses will soon be built. But if I may ask, of what use will these customs houses be when there are no means of easy communications?

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Minister of State for the Army (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): In supporting the Appropriation Bill moved by our financial wizard, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, I would like to seize this opportunity to review briefly the activities of my Ministry.

In the speech which I made during the consideration of the Budget Speech last year I said, *inter alia*, that by the end of the year the Army would be under the command of a Nigerian. I am proud to say that the promise has been fulfilled.

Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi was appointed General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army in February this year. With this appointment, two of the three Armed Forces are now headed by Nigerians.

The Air Force, which is still in the development stage, will also have a Nigerian Commander as soon as Nigerian Officers receive the necessary training and experience for command positions.

In fact, Nigerianisation has been pressed forward so vigorously and relentlessly throughout last year that, apart from a very few

expatriate officers whose terms of engagement expire very soon, the Army, for all practical purposes, is completely Nigerianised.

The Navy has to retain the services of expatriate officers as a result of loss, through dismissals or death, of some very senior Nigerian officers. As soon as officers with the necessary qualification and experience can be found, expatriates will be replaced by suitably qualified Nigerians.

The question of Nigerianisation does not arise in the case of the Air Force, as all the personnel are Nigerians working with the advice of a German Air Force Assistance Group. So much about Nigerianisation.

Commendable developments have also taken place within the last year in other sectors in our determination to consolidate, expand and modernise, as resources permit, our defence systems and organisations.

As stated in the Speech from the Throne, a number of Nigerian pilots who trained overseas have completed their courses and returned home. Flying has commenced in Nigeria with both light and medium transport aircraft, and a sub-base planned for Oshogbo is to be built this year. Another important development in the Air Force is the establishment of a maintenance and servicing unit in Nigeria to ensure regular inspection and servicing of aircraft and to undertake minor repairs.

Apart from affording opportunity to train Nigerians generally in the art of aircraft maintenance, the establishment of such a unit is less costly in the long run than transporting aircraft to overseas countries for maintenance purposes.

In the case of the Army, new weapons purchased last year will form the basis of training to ensure that our forces keep pace with modern developments. The expansion programme of the Army has been progressing with a number of additional companies being formed within the existing battalions. The formation of the Sixth Battalion as an entity has however had to be delayed as the necessary accompaniments, for example, vehicles as well as accommodation for its independent existence as an effective military unit cannot, as yet, be made available. It is hoped that it will not be long before a fully operational battalion is formed.

[ALHAJI IBRAHIM TAKO]

The welfare of the Armed Forces' personnel and their families has been kept constantly in mind. Construction of better and modern offices and living quarters has been progressing satisfactorily, with the result that almost all the old Army buildings inherited from the colonial days have now been happily replaced. It is intended to replace the remaining ones in due course.

Work on the permanent buildings of the Nigerian Defence Academy is expected to commence this year. At present, the Academy is housed in the former Nigerian Military Training College which has had to reduce its scope of training courses for young officers due to accommodation difficulties. As stated last year, the Academy is intended to provide for all pre-commissioning training for our Army and Naval personnel initially, and for the Air Force in due course. The Navy has unfortunately suffered a few setbacks through the loss of some of its very senior officers. This has entailed a readjustment of its development programme, but, on the whole, satisfactory progress is expected during the year and our first Naval Frigate, N.N.S. "NIGERIA" now under construction in Holland, is expected to be commissioned in October this year, thus affording better and more modern facilities for the training of our Navy. The opening of an advance Naval Base at Calabar in November last year was intended to facilitate the operations of the Navy, especially in anti-smuggling duties in the Eastern waters. The role of the Nigerian Navy in this regard is commendable as evidenced by the success of the anti-smuggling operations jointly undertaken with the Customs Department.

Ordnance Factory buildings will be completed this year and already installation of machinery has begun in the completed parts of the factory. It will be recalled that the House, during its August session, passed a Bill providing for the setting up of the Defence Industries Corporation to manage the ordnance factory. The Corporation has already started work and production of tooling weapons and ammunition is expected to commence this year.

On the whole, the developments projected in my last year's Budget Speech have been accomplished—thanks to the efforts of all those concerned in their executions. Where, the

projected target could not be attained, it was due to unavoidable circumstances or to austerity measures imposed on all departments.

I beg to support.

Mr D. D U. Okay (Port Harcourt): I beg to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

In doing so, I wish to shower my congratulations for the able manner in which the Minister of Finance has presented his Rededication Budget. It was a display of a mature mind, a disciplined intellectual effort, a financial and budgetary masterpiece and an exhibition of a commendable economic wisdom. He has proved that all things being equal, an African can excel other races in many spheres of human activity.

This Budget was aimed at harnessing all our resources—human material, financial and moral—in order to accelerate our economic progress, improve our standard of living and experience industrial and agrarian reorientation in our lifetime.

The Minister must be commended for his present progressive Banking policy. The increased powers given to the Central Bank in order to guide the Commercial Banks and to organise the control, expansion and contraction of credit so as to preserve the country's monetary equilibrium, are praiseworthy.

The Central Bank must closely watch the liquidity ratios and interest rates because the successful completion of the 1962-68 Economic Development Programme depends largely on the activities of the Central Bank in financing all the projects in the programme.

Inadequate monetary measures will lead to an inflation—an economic cankerworm militating against a country's balance of payments and standard of living. I am happy that the Minister of Finance is tackling energetically our balance of payments problem. It requires a dynamic and realistic approach if we are to solve the problems of imbalance of trade.

It is a good thing that the Minister of Finance has made the Central Bank to perform its statutory functions. I think the liquidity ratio of the Central Bank is 25 per cent. I would respectfully appeal to the Federal Government to reduce the liquidity ratio to 15 per cent so that a large sum of money will not be tied

down in the banks. This is a developing country and we want our business men and women to have money to do business. If the liquidity ratio is reduced from 25 *per cent* to 15 *per cent*, there will be more money for the Commercial Banks to give out on credit or overdraft.

The current National Development Plan will soon reach half way of its life expectation. The already overdue second progress report has just been distributed to Members of Parliament. The report is more disturbing as the first showing little evidence of our ability to execute a development plan effectively and on time.

The 1962-68 National Development Plan is likely to be a failure. The Minister of Economic Development admitted in his statement when giving account of his stewardship that there would be no money to enable him implement the Development Programme one hundred *per cent* and that certain major projects had been abandoned. I would like hon. Members to read page 59 of the Progress Report.

Nigerian planning experience since 1956 has not been anywhere near a success story. While many structural faults can be pointed out in the present Plan document, it is becoming clear that the more fundamental causes of failure in the fulfilment are the same old political ineffectiveness and administrative incapacity. Whatever the fortune of the present plan, it is imperative that the country must now begin to think seriously about the character of the next Development Plan in a way that will overcome the old problems.

We believe that actual concrete work in this direction should be mounted within the next current year. The proper starting point is an immediate reform of the country's planning machinery. The simple truth is that we have no machinery at present for the proper formulation and execution of comprehensive National Development Programmes as a strategy of continuous social progress. On the political front, we have no clear notion of what planning is supposed to do, what it involves and what are its limitations.

Attractive political slogans are no substitute for carefully defined objectives of planned social development, and without the political

integrity and dedicated leadership that can truly inspire the people, planning is bound to become sterile and ineffectual.

Our planning machinery has been described as federated, not national. In spite of the tremendous potential for economic leadership from the centre, the Joint Planning Committee and the National Economic Council, have been little more than reflection of regional power groups. A succession of uneasy compromises among vested personality and local interests at the top, is no way to get realistic planning; either we have true planned development with all its implications or we stop deceiving ourselves.

I would like to offer some suggestions. Administratively, I believe that our development planning should be organised as a two-way sequence—from above as well as from below. It must be highly integrated at the top while simultaneously every citizen in town, factory or field, high or low, must feel truly involved in the process of decision making. Ideally, we should have as many trained and competent economists as possible at every decision level and for every activity sector. In practice, the actual planning manpower of Nigerians available is far from adequate, even for the most basic requirements; yet we must insist that the whole exercise be executed by our own nationals.

One answer is to have a crash training programme in quantity and quality, especially at the intermediate manpower level and the other is the administrative logic of having the greatest possible concentration of available high-level planning personnel at the points where they could make the most effective impact on policy formulation.

One of Nigeria's major economic problems is the unemployment and under-employment, not only of its abundant ordinary labour, but also of its scarce ability, capital and other things required for production. Ordinary unemployment of labour is so well known that it hardly needs mentioning. There is also a great deal of seasonal unemployment among farmers who would be eager to earn some extra income during the dry season, and in fact, a considerable number of farmers in Nigeria migrate long distances for seasonal jobs after their harvests are in. Many other people who are not completely idle are under-employed

[MR OKAY]

for example, the large number of persons who earn their small incomes by performing occasional jobs at the docks, the market or wherever occasional amounts of money may be earned.

It is important to realise that the country's scarce factors of production—capital goods, skilled and supervisory labour and managerial talents—are also under-employed. These factors of production, already organised and ready to produce, are under-employed because most firms in Nigeria are producing substantially less than they are capable of producing. When a firm produces at a fraction of its capacity, all of its factors of production are under-utilised. Small industrial firms and handicraft producers—for example, the shoe-makers—are often idle because of lack of a market.

Nigeria's under employment should be thought of, not only as a problem but as an opportunity. The opportunity exists for increased production and growth through fuller use of under-employed factors of production. The opportunity is to make use of the under-employed factors of production in order to increase significantly the country's production of economically useful goods and services, and its rate of economic growth.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to express my gratitude to the many hon. Members who have made valuable contributions to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, during these few days, and to reply to a number of points which have been made.

Many Members have referred to the remarks which I made in my Budget Speech on the subject of socialism. From their observations, two things are very clear to me. Firstly, there has been a widespread misunderstanding of my own views and position, and secondly, those hon. Members who have attacked me most vehemently are themselves insincere.

The socialism to which my criticisms were directed is the foreign imported brand of socialism, which my attackers so readily espouse and pervert to serve their own selfish ambitions. These bearded doctors and chemists—(*Prolonged laughter*).

The Minister of Trade (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : On a point of order, if the Minister of

Finance were a lady, to marry him would be a difficult proposition.

Mr Speaker : Even for timbers ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If I may repeat carefully, and if hon. Members will please listen, these bearded doctors and chemists who, in some way understandable only to themselves, lay claim to being farmers leaders, overlook a key sentence in my Speech, because for them it is a most inconvenient one.

I take this opportunity of reminding them that I said that we need men with practical ability, men who will preach what they truly believe, and practise what they preach.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, but all these were not in the Minister's Budget Speech. The Minister is now shifting ground.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I am not. What I am saying are all there in my Budget Speech. My hon. Friend ought to be fair to me.

As I was saying, we need men who will preach what they truly believe, and practise what they preach. It is this that the Member for Ijero (*Mr Fasanmi*) and his friends are unable to do. If they were sincere in their beliefs, they would, as doctors or chemists, make their services available free of charge in their communities.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, if the Minister of Finance, due to perhaps some back-door pressures, is shifting ground, it is welcome. But it is clear in his Speech that he was attacking democratic socialism and progressive socialism, inconsistent terms as they are, and democratic socialism is the fundamental tenet of one of the partners of U.P.G.A. of which he claims to be a member, except of course he is not a member.

Mr Ayo Fasanmi (Ijero) : On a point of order, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether he sells his shoes at the Omimi Shoe Factory free, or gives his houses free to tenants. Actually I did not know that the Minister was going to raise a controversial issue. I have been reminded that—(*Interruptions*).

Chief G. B. A. Akinyede (Ekiti East) : On a point of information, I think the Minister of Finance will not be fair to this House or to

House of Representatives Debates

1099

[Appropriation (1965-66)]

9 APRIL 1965

Bill : Second Reading]

1100

himself if he says that what he attacked was a foreign form of socialism. I will quote his exact words. Let there be no mistake about it. I read—

Mr Speaker : The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) has had his turn, and he will please allow the Minister of Finance to reply.

Chief Akinyede : But the Minister interrupted us a lot when we were speaking.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ekiti East (*Chief Akinyede*) and his colleagues are privileged to interrupt me too. After all, I am not in their fold. I am going to say exactly what I said in my Budget Speech. My hon. Friend can preserve the page he wanted to quote. I shall be quoting my own pages soon, if he will only wait.

Perhaps my hon. Friend thinks this is his law court, where he can mislead people.

I repeat what I said earlier : if they were sincere in their beliefs, they would as doctors or chemists make their services available free of charge in their communities. But they cannot practise what they preach, for it is but a means to an end. They see the support they hope to gain by false pretences, as a road to personal power, and we may be sure that when they achieve this, for instance when they become Ministers or secure appointments to public boards, they will soon shave their beards. (*Prolonged laughter*). Not only shaving their beards, they will ride in larger cars and send their children even to the moon as soon as it is possible to study there.

I do not grudge any man his success if he has won it openly and honourably. Let him ride in his car, prestige car for that matter, and educate his children overseas. It is the meanness and deceit of those who seek power by a pretended sympathy with the less fortunate that I condemn, and I am sure all right-thinking Members in this House will do so.

I leave the hon. Member and all those who think like him to take the following quotation to heart as their memory gem :

Envy not a man who, by his toil, has achieved a better condition in life, nor covet his belonging, nor seek his downfall—a condition by toil achieved.

Let us have no more of this cant and humbug about socialism. The socialism preached by

these bearded false prophets is an alien, imported heresy.

But there is a true African political philosophy, which I like to call indigenous communalism, and which I believe the leader of a major political party (not a faction) called pragmatic African socialism. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This is not a mass meeting.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of information, Chief Okotie-Eboh is the national Treasurer of the N.C.N.C.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : This is a very different growth from what I called rabid socialism. It is deep-rooted in our way of life, related to our local conditions and concerned with practical optimum results for our national interests. This socialism, or African reformist philosophy, is in no way the same thing as deceitful revolutionary Marxist Communism, unmelting by the experience of time and the peculiar circumstances of African society. It is evolutionary.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, I do not think the hon. Minister of Finance should get away with this. What is the difference between what he is propounding and democratic socialism? Let him tell us.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : One is revolutionary and the other is evolutionary.

Mr Briggs : Mr Speaker, I am sorry that I have to get up again, but the Minister is either completely ignorant of what he is talking about or he is misleading the House. How can something that is democratic be revolutionary? This is no time for *wayo*.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Let me explain myself. The fact of it is that it depends on the type of person who is propounding the philosophy and the meaning he attaches to it. What I am saying is that those who talk about democratic socialism know why they had to qualify it that their own socialism is democratic. Democracy in itself is a political philosophy of its own and socialism is another philosophy of its own. How can the two be put together?

Mr Briggs : On a point of information, since the Minister cannot answer my question, I must tell him that by democratic socialism we mean socialism attained democratically through the ballot box.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Where are the ballot boxes? Does the hon. Member mean his *wayo* ballot boxes?

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I think the time will be more usefully spent if the Minister leaves what he does not know and talks about the fiscal policy of the Federal Government, otherwise, we will have no debate until it is six o'clock. He cannot convince anybody here; he is playing *wayo* capitalism.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The craftiest bird in the forest is the parrot, and when the parrot starts telling somebody about *wayo*, it means the end of the world is at hand.

I make no apology for my round condemnation of the foreign brands of socialism and of those unprincipled power-seekers who propagate them, for they do a great disservice to this country, and perhaps most of all to those whose support they seek by their false promises.

As I have so frequently said, there can be no economic growth without investment. The more massive the investment, the more rapid will be the growth. Lacking the capacity to provide savings for investment on an adequate scale ourselves, we look to the investment in Nigeria of the savings of other countries. The Member for Ijero (*Mr Ayo Fasanmi*), and those who think like him, seek to drive away foreign capital. If they succeeded in this, they would succeed also in condemning the very people whose cause they pretend to espouse to a weary uphill struggle for survival.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, as previous speakers have rightly pointed out, it is not socialism or any ideology that is turning away foreign investors, but the innate corruption in our system.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The initiators of 10 per cent in Nigeria know this. I am not one of them.

Mr S. Sobowale (Epe) : The Minister of Finance is afraid that we are going to nationalise the Omimi Shoe Factory. That is why he is scared. And again, it was only in January that he became a member of the Zikist Movement. The members of the Movement will be very much ashamed that the Minister is scared of beard because most of them grow beard.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I became a member of the Zikist Movement because I believe in the philosophy. Zikism is "live and let live" and I was surprised that a man from Oguta Lake, like myself from the Rivers, said that he was metamorphosing because he no longer believes in the Movement. So, I said, all right, I will replace him. As soon as he retraced his steps, I came back to the Zikist Movement and became the patron.

Fortunately for Nigeria, the noise made by these self-styled socialists is in inverse proportion to their numbers.

Mr Briggs : Why does the Minister have to bother about these people?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If these self-styled socialists were defeated like Dr Otegbeye, I would not have bothered; but some of them are hon. Members in this House. I cannot let things continue unchallenged. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Really I should not allow so many interruptions.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I feel sure that the Member for Owerri South-East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) voiced the feelings of the overwhelming majority when he asked, "Why are we afraid to accept that we Nigerians are by nature capitalists?" and welcomed our private enterprise mixed economy.

The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) in the course of his speech on Wednesday alleged that the Omimi Shoe Factory is competing with the new Owerri Shoe Factory.

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, I have said it here before that the Omimi Shoe Factory is not part of the Ministry of Finance. I wonder why each time people talk about the Omimi Shoe Factory the Minister of Finance gets up to reply. Is this a way of advertising Omimi Shoe Factory?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : When I finished, the Member for Ijebu South-West will understand why I am mentioning it. And I am bound to mention it. Those who brought a Motion about it to this House advertise it.

I have been asked by a Member to declare my interest. I would like to say that not only was my interest declared but that it was

declared on the Floor of this House when the Member was still in the Law School.

The Member for Owerri North alleged that the Omimi Shoe Factory is competing with the new Owerri Shoe Factory by making things difficult for the later factory. I am quoting his exact words. He went on to express the hope that I would not use my position :

"to obtain all major government contracts for the Omimi Shoe Factory at the expense of the new Owerri Shoe Factory."

The hon. Member made a grave insinuation that I may in some way use my position to discriminate against the Owerri Shoe Factory. This is an insinuation which is entirely untrue and without foundation.

The Member spoke indeed as if there were only two shoe factories in Nigeria and that the only competition the Owerri Shoe Factory has to face is only from the Omimi Shoe Factory. Nothing could be further from the truth for there are no less than twenty-one factories known to the Federal Government which make shoes of one kind or the other ; leather shoes, plastic shoes, canvas shoes or rubber shoes. These factories are those that are paying excise tax and I am going to name them. These are—

1. Nigerian Shoe Company Limited, Kano.
2. Bata Shoe Company (Nigeria) Limited, Ikeja.
3. Nigerian Leather Works Co. Ltd., Kano.
4. Metalloplastica (Nigeria) Ltd., Apapa.
5. Bata Leather Footwear Ltd., Apapa.
6. Omimi Shoe Company Limited, Sapele.
7. Salvi Nigeria Limited, Ebute Metta.
8. Passat Industries Ltd., Lagos.
9. H.M.C. Britind Footwear (Nigeria) Ltd., Ijora (Lagos).
10. Nigerian Perfecta Shoe Co. Ltd., Lagos.
11. Polymere Industries Ltd., Mushin.
12. Niger Shoe Company Limited, Onitsha.
13. Metropolitan Industries Ltd., Lagos.
14. Modern Shoe Industry Ltd., Owerri.
15. Utrilon Industries (Nigeria) Ltd., Apapa.
16. Eastern Shoe Industry, Aba.

17. Tomsu Shoe Manufacturers, Maiduguri.

18. Okwuba Commercial Syndicate Beach Sandal, Onitsha.

19. Akinsanya Shoe Factory, Ibadan.

20. Co-operative Shoe Makers Society Ltd., Benin.

21. Technoflex Company Limited, Mushin. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Really some of the new Members should by now have observed that old Members like the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) make so much interruptions. I do not think this worth while.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have been aware for sometime of a campaign or propaganda against the Omimi Shoe Factory after the last political crisis. I can now locate those who are responsible for it. I do not believe in washing—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I have made my statement and I have been listening in silence to the Minister's explanation but I think that for the Minister now to go to the extent of saying that people organise a campaign against his Omimi Shoe Industry and trying to associate me or the people of Eastern Region with it is most unfair.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) should wait because I am going to say more now. I do not believe in washing dirty linen in the public but it is true that the hon. Member received a sum of not less than £6,000 from a certain source at the time of the general strike to assist striking workers.

Mr Mbah : I think that the Minister of Finance is not only a Cabinet Minister as well as a distinguished Minister, he is also an officer in my party the N.C.N.C. If he is making an allegation about receiving money I would be very happy if this could be said at our party meeting or outside so that I can be free to challenge it. This is because it is most untrue and this type of propaganda which he is initiating may have no end because we all have our own sources of information about people.

I am just appealing to the Minister to desist from this course of action. If he feels that as a fellow party man I have really received money

[MR M^BAH]

from another source to help workers during the strike, well, he should mention the source. I want him to mention the source from where I got the money.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Apart from doing this, he used the money for buying his nomination as a candidate for the recent general election and establish a sales organisation for selling building materials, *et cetera*. This is the new Socialist from Owerri !

Chief V. O. Onabanjo (Ijebu South-West) : On a point of order, it is not only members of the public who are absent here that grave allegations have been made against but also this evening we are having allegations made against a Member of Parliament.

I would have thought that Members making allegations either against members of the public or Members of Parliament should do all they can to substantiate such allegations. It is true that we have the privilege—(*Interruptions*). We know ourselves.

Mr Speaker : Please we do not want you to tell us about yourselves.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I know myself and those of us from the Eastern Region know me very well. All party leaders from head to toe know me very well. I do not mind somebody coming here to make a correct allegation against me. I am challenging the Minister to mention the source (because this is very damaging) from where I got the money.

I am not a trader ; I am a trade unionist but I have no shop selling any materials. I do not want the Minister to use his position to castigate me. Let him mention the source of his information and I will be able to defend myself.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : If the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) decides to take the matter to our party and he mentions the source of his information about the purported influence which I wanted to use to kill the shoe factory in Owerri, I will mention my own source of information.

Mr Mbah : I would like the Minister to mention it here.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Member did not mention the source of his own information or did he mention it ?

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Really the debate is getting very hot and in hot debates the normal thing is for Members to be collected and calm, otherwise it is going to be very difficult for us to go on with the proceedings.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : As I said in my Budget Speech, Nigeria needs thinkers, planners and practical men. Let us search our hearts before we attack others as capitalists and consider whether we have benefited our country as much as those we attack.

I assure hon. Members that there is a great satisfaction in using the earnings of one's own enterprise and initiative for the benefit of the community, a satisfaction which can never be experienced by those who preach socialism, and who are those referred to in Shakespeare's *Kingdom of the Honeybees* as "lazy, yawning drones".

Mr W. Briggs (Degema West) : On a point of order, once more, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Finance—I did not speak during the Budget Speech else I would have told him—that the kingdom of the honeybees described by Shakespeare, which he is very fond of quoting, is the feudal society from which we have moved far, far away.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The father of the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) was a feudal lord. He thinks I do not know. He is talking of a feudal lord while he is a product of feudalism.

I wish now to turn to some points raised during the debate. The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Mr Onabanjo*) has attempted to throw a lot of mud about land and buildings—

Mr Mbah : On a point of order, I want to confess this before this honourable House. Before the Minister goes on to another subject. I want to admit here that every party member is entitled to help during election time and I really received help from my party for my own election.

I have challenged the Minister to name the source of the money he alleged I received but he has refused to do that. He is going to another item. I want him to mention it.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Mr Onabanjo*) has attempted to throw a lot of mud about land and buildings. The hon. Member seems to know too much but I am sure that he must know that what is good for a parrot is not meant for Parliament. (*Laughter*) I do not know of any village on Awolowo Road.

I can hear the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Mr Onabanjo*) asking me not to talk about it but I must reply to the point raised there.

Chief Onabanjo : On a point of order, the owner of the village on Awolowo Road is, unfortunately, away from the country, trying to atone for his wrongs, otherwise I would have mentioned his name.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu North-East) : On a point of order, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Mr Onabanjo*) did not defend the Press when they were being attacked here but he is now defending a trade unionist.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The only village that I am aware of is a village popularly known as Maryland Estate. If the hon. Gentleman knows one village and I know another village, is there anything wrong in that ?

Chief Onabanjo : On a point of order, the owner of Maryland Estate is dead and I think that the Minister will be decent enough to leave the dead alone. If he goes further than that, we may never end this debate.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The hon. Members also referred to the Lion Building deal, clearly implying that there was something scandalous about it. There is no mystery and no scandal about the acquisition of Lion Building. The owners were unwilling to sell to Government. Valuation of the property was carried out by experts for the owners and for Government, and the Government of the time was satisfied that the fair market value of the property was paid.

The hon. Member is surely abusing the privilege of this House in referring to the Lion Building in the way he did. He and his friends published a scurrilous report of the transaction in the Press, and were sued for libel. Before the case went for trial, the defendants agreed to settle out of court, and,

besides paying token damages of £500, published an apology in the Sunday Express of the 5th of April, 1964.

Chief Onabanjo : I think the Minister is deliberately misleading the House.

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Onabanjo : I first wrote about the Lion Building and when I wrote about it my fact were correct and the man involved never at any time attempted to sue me to court. It happened later that a reference was made to the Lion Building deal in a way that was partially inaccurate. I was not here then. Neither the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Lagos Affairs nor all the members involved in it had the gut to sue me because they knew that what I wrote was a fact.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The trouble with my hon. Friend is that he thinks that he can bring his cleverness and ingenuity in the "Aiyekoto column" to this House and throw us out. What I am telling him is practical parliamentary practice and procedure and not newspaper work. I may be wrong, but whether the man wrote it or not, the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) is his God-father. He taught the boys his art and craftiness.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : The hon. Minister of Finance is entitled to hit back but he should not depart from the parliamentary procedure. He should address the Speaker and not individuals.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Mr Speaker, Sir, the dress of the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is just like that of a capitalist that is why he is talking sense.

Chief Onabanjo : Instead of the Minister dealing with the "Lion Building", I would have liked him to deal with the "Sapara Building" along Broad Street which was acquired within three months for—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, really, we must avoid pettiness particularly on the Floor of this House.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : In view of this public apology, it is astonishing that the hon. Member should have raised the matter again.

The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) suggested that monetary expansion during 1964, with the accompanying increase

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

in the banking system's credit, was not connected with the rise in imports, but rather was due to a flight of capital. I regret that the hon. Member may be knowledgeable in journalism but here for once, he is exposing his ignorance of elementary economics in making this suggestion.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : Where did the Minister learn his own economics ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : By burning the mid-night oil.

Mr Briggs : When the Minister was doing chiropody ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I would have made money in chiropody as the Member for Degema West (*Mr Briggs*) would have made from law. The hon. Member stowed away to England.

Mr Briggs : I went to the United Kingdom to study law in an aeroplane. People do not stow away in aeroplanes.

The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima) : Only yesterday, a labourer from England stowed away in a Boeing 707 to America and he very nearly died of cold !

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) said it was not the consumers who borrowed the additional £24.4 million from the banks and that therefore this increase could not have contributed to the rise in imports. I am surprised, that the hon. Member should apparently be ignorant of the fact that an increase in the money supply is a result of increased economic activity, and that this, by putting more money into circulation, inevitably results in an increased demand for consumer goods—

Chief Onabanjo : I think we are getting to a more serious point in the debate and I do not want to interrupt the Minister unnecessarily, but he is definitely misquoting me. I admit that I am not an economist and neither is he ; but those who wrote his speech for him are economists.

I never said that it could not have been due to increase in imports. What I said was that I did not believe that that was all the reason, and

wondered if we could not find another reason in the probable flight of capital from this country. That was what I said.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : In the hon. Member's words, if a man does not believe then he disbelieves, and if he disbelieves, the obvious thing is that my enunciation of the particular monetary system is not valid and, my duty, therefore, is to puncture the hon. Member's argument and to substitute it with what is elementary in economics.

The hon. Member also said that "people wrote my speech". He should come to my Ministry and see my speech being prepared. I am not like him writing an editorial from Ibadan for the *Daily Express*. My hon. Friend will be surprised that I work very hard on my speech and I know what I am talking about.

I am surprised, that the hon. Member should apparently be ignorant of the fact that an increase in the money supply is a result of increased economic activity, and that this, by putting more money into circulation, inevitably results in an increased demand for consumer goods, since the additional money finds its way into the pockets of consumers. It is the "multiplier effect" of which I have spoken on a number of previous occasions.

It is almost axiomatic that increased money supply means increased demand for goods and services and that in an open economy this results in an increased demand both for imported and domestically produced goods.

Chief Onabanjo : Who got the money from the banks ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) said he liquidated the Merchants Bank although he did not get money from the bank. The hon. Member can only get money from the bank if he is credit worthy. If he is not credit worthy, he cannot get money from the bank. That is why someone has defined a bank, as a man who gives an umbrella when the weather is clear and fine but asks for the umbrella back as soon as there is going to be rain.

The Member for Ijebu South-West (Chief Onabanjo) rose—

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Bici, please let me finish my speech.

Chief Onabanjo : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir, the pronouncement of my name by the Minister of Finance is wrong. I have corrected the Minister once that I am Bisi and not Bici.

In any case, the only question I want to ask the Minister is this. The increase in the credit facility from the bank is more than £20,000,000. I ask, would this sum, which is more than £20,000,000 have been taken by ordinary consumers or by the big firms from the banks ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : As a matter of fact, I shall be replying to that later, but may I say now that if credits are given by the banks, they will be given to either big firms or small firms as long as these firms are credit worthy.

Chief Onabanjo : That is elementary.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I know that this is too elementary, but what the hon. Gentleman is trying to insinuate, I cannot take from his mind, unless he can come out clearly. May I know if he is trying to suggest that this Bank should not give loans to people, if required, or does the hon. Gentleman want us to have what is called a "credit squeeze" in the country ?

Chief Onabanjo : I will be the last to suggest that we should have a credit squeeze in this country. All I am saying is that the Minister of Finance is hiding the facts from Parliament. There has been considerable flight of capital.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : There has been no flight of capital. If there had been anything of this sort, I would have been in no position to tell the House, as I did, that the performance of the capital account, with a net inflow of nearly £49 million, was much better than in the two previous years.

Now, how can there be any flight of capital ? I do not know with what mathematics he can have such increase and say it is minus in his Algebra. I do not think that this is algebraic equation.

The hon. Gentleman further said that I "grudgingly admitted" in my Budget Speech that the Government was engaged in deficit financing to the extent of £26 million, through the Central Bank's holding of Development Loan Stocks. There was nothing "grudging" in my statement, nor was I "admitting"

anything. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman has not studied what has been said on a number of occasions in the last three years concerning the mobilisation of resources for the Development Plan. If he had done, he would know well enough that it was understood from the very beginning that the Central Bank would hold up to £40 million of long-term Government Stock. There is nothing to hide about this, and nothing has been hidden. And there was nothing "grudging" about my statement that the Central Bank now holds some £26 million long-term Loan Stock.

The hon. Member also tried to make play with the facts of the Treasury Bill issues, and suggested that the fact that £31 million of Bills were outstanding at 31st December was a reflection of a shortfall of revenue, and that we must have ended the year with a deficit.

I can assure the House that the hon. Member is utterly mistaken, because there is no direct connection between Treasury Bills and revenue. They are poles apart. The revised estimate of revenue for 1964-65 exceeds the revised estimate of expenditure by over £11 million. This is a true surplus, and no amount of clever argument by the hon. Member can turn it into a deficit.

Chief Onabanjo : I just want to correct the point made by the Minister of Finance. The Minister has told us that there was no connection between Government revenue and Treasury Bills. The Minister himself in his own statement gave us the connection between the issue of Treasury Bills and Government Revenue. I am sure the Minister of Finance will admit that there is connection between the two.

The other point I would like to make is that the Minister said that I would be mistaken in saying that there was a deficit in Government revenue. What I would like to say is that, personally, I would like to give an explanation on this, because the Minister would be right in saying that I would be wrong in saying that there is connection between the two. But the Minister ought to explain to the House what is the total amount of Treasury Bills being held by the Bank at the end of the year.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I think he is confused as to the true nature of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, into which both the recurrent

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

revenue, whence the surplus eventually accrues, and the proceeds of Treasury Bills are paid. It is a *Consolidated* Revenue Fund, to which are credited various kinds of receipts, of which recurrent revenue is only one. The hon. Member asked what was the total of Treasury Bills outstanding at the end of the Financial Year 1964-65. This information is already available, and I would refer the hon. Member to column 311 on page 13 of the *Hansard* for 31st March, 1965, where it is on record that I told the House that a total of £35 million Treasury Bills was on issue, of which £4½ million was on-lent to Regional Governments. Have I hidden anything?

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I have done my duty. (*Hear, hear.*) The hon. Member should not, therefore, imply that I am concealing something, that I am reluctant to give the House full information about the Treasury Bill position, when the very information he now demands was given in my Budget Speech.

Referring to the Development Programme, the hon. Member again accused me of concealing facts from the House, this time in relation to drawing down committed external loans. He suggested that a major obstacle to drawing on these loans has been inability to provide our share of the project costs.

There is no shred of truth in this. I can say quite categorically that on no occasion has drawing on a loan been delayed for such a reason. Whilst I have always stressed the need to mobilize domestic resources to the limit, to ensure that we shall never be in the position of being unable to accept an offer of a foreign loan for inability to meet our own share of the total cost, I assure the House that such a situation has not arisen.

The Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) has got his figures mixed up, not for the first time, in his reference to the Accountant-General's Report for the year ending 31st March, 1964. Indeed, the hon. Member seems to be adept at misquoting and distorting figures to suit his own argument.

For example, he compares the external loan drawing in 1963-64, amounting to £870,000, with estimated drawings of £56 million. He really must try to be more accurate. This

figure of £56 million was the estimate of total receipts from all sources. The estimate of receipts from external loans was almost exactly £30 million less than this.

The hon. Member asks, what were the facts regarding the contribution from revenue to development and drawings on external loans, in 1964-65. He will, I hope, realise that, nine days after the close of the year, it is not possible to give final figures, and that I cannot give him the "facts", which seem so dear to his heart.

Chief Onabanjo : Why?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : How can I give him? The hon. Member thinks, as he can sit in his bedroom and write editorials, that that is how finance is done. He must therefore be content with the revised estimates of receipts in these two categories. I have indeed already announced in my Budget Speech that the contribution from revenue surplus to the Development Fund in 1964-65 is now estimated at no less than £10 million. (*Hear, hear*)

Chief Onabanjo : The Minister of Finance has accused me of misquoting figures. We have got the Report of the Accountant-General for the year ended 31st March, 1964, and on page 7 it was put down that the external loans estimate for 1963-64 was £26,287,540. I suppose that was what we were expecting from external loans. And the "actual", according to this Report was put down at £670,000. All I am saying is that the Minister told us—

Chief Benson rose (*Interruptions*).

Chief Onabanjo : But will you sit down, Chief Benson.

Mr Speaker : I would like to remind hon. Members that only one point of order can be raised at a time.

Chief Onabanjo : All I have said is that the Minister of Finance made a lot of play about the expenditure on Defence and Security, and all I sought to show when I spoke was that we have this short-fall in revenue, both from what we expected from external loans and even what he said we were going to raise internally. All I have pointed out to him was that the short-fall in revenue was responsible for the deficit we had in our Capital Estimates. That was all.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend is confusing a lot of things and bundling them together. He is talking about short-fall, about estimated amount of loan that we expected to receive from outside, about the actuality of our realisation and about our own estimated revenue to-day.

All I am saying is this. I made it quite clear in my Budget Speech that if loans are promised, they need not be drawn just because they are promised, when the purpose for which the loans are made are not yet complete. I went further to cite an example in respect of the Second Lagos Bridge loan. What else am I expected to do ?

My hon. Friend has also sought to make capital out of my frank, straightforward and unbiassed account of the cocoa crisis, and yet again accuses me of concealing facts from the House. Mr Speaker, with your permission, I quote what he said :—

Firstly, if hon. Members go through page 9 of the Minister's speech, it is only by deductions that they will come to discover that it was the Western Marketing Board and not the Federal Produce Company that was owing about £20 million. Why this reticence ? (P. 33 COL. 568 OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES OF MONDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1965, PARAGRAPH 6).

I have studied page 9 of my speech with close attention, and I am quite unable to see how the hon. Member came to this deduction, for on page 9 the Western Nigeria Marketing Board is referred to ten times, whereas the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company is not mentioned even once. It is plainly stated that the Board at 12th March still owed the Central Bank over £13.3 million and the Federal Government £6 million. What could be clearer than that ?

I am forced to conclude that it is the hon. Member's own deviousness that leads him to suspect a similar lack of candour in others.

Before I wind up, I would refer rather more briefly to other points raised by hon. Members. The Member for Owerri North said that he understood that an offer of £73 million was made by China, and that it had been refused. He asked for clarification of the circumstances in which it was refused. I wish I could help the hon. Member. But the truth of the matter

is that I am quite unaware of any such offer, whether from Communist China or from Nationalist China.

As is well-known, the Federal Government's policy is to welcome offers of assistance from any country, so long as they are not tied with unacceptable strings. So, I shall be very glad of any further information that the hon. Member may be able to give me about the alleged offer.

The Member for Owerri South-East, speaking about encouragement of industrial development, referred to one specific case, the Oshinmi Company Limited, where he understood that import duty on empty bottles was crippling a promising small industry manufacturing industrial and office gum. I have investigated this case, and I find that an application for import duty relief is currently under consideration, and that a recommendation for the Council of Minister's decision is expected to be made very soon.

The same Member spoke on the subject of the Central Banks currency backing, and suggested that this was maintained at an unnecessarily high level. I referred only briefly to this subject in my Budget Speech because I have made my policy clear on numerous other occasions. The hon. Member considered the matter only from the viewpoint of the possible inflationary effect of a reduction of the external reserves held as currency backing. But this is only one side of the problem.

I believe that the maintenance of adequate external reserves—of which the currency backing forms a part—is essential if we are to maintain our position in the world as a trading nation, free from the strict controls which stifle enterprise, create scarcities, and deter investment. A sound level of external reserves is the best, perhaps the only, evidence a country can provide that she is in a position, and intends to maintain herself in a position, to meet her international commitments.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba-Soouth) : What about the £77 million ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I said in my Budget Speech that the position will improve, and, in fact, I do not see what is wrong with that. I hope hon. Members would not bother me and

[CHIEF OKOTIE-EBOH]

drag me into unnecessary brickbats again, because they know that, as a matter of fact, the Nigerian pound can be quoted in world monetary markets, and it is sometimes higher than the British sterling. My hon. Friends know that as a result, our backing is not only in convertible currencies but also in solid gold deposited in the Central Bank here.

So, when Nigeria is speaking about the state of her currency she is speaking as the only country perhaps in this part of the world that can boast of a buoyancy of the state of her currency. As a matter of fact, traders who go outside Nigeria can sell a Nigerian pound for as much as 30s-0d or 35s-0d in other countries of the world, and we should be proud that Nigerian currency is a convertible currency anywhere in the world.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : The hon. Minister of Finance cannot be blowing hot and cold. He has just told us that the strength of our currency depends on our external reserves.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I said that would be one aspect of it.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The main aspect, if the hon. Minister of Finance pleases, has been reduced to £77 million up to the end of December last year, and we are getting into a serious stage, because in most countries where they have not got external loans the loans owed by the Governments are owed to the indigenous citizens of those countries. But most of the loans we are raising are from outside.

The danger is that if we lose the £77 million we have now, then our own currency will fall very sharply, so that it would not be worth what the Minister of Finance is now proud of.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I can understand my hon. Friend. His own personal currency has no backing. The fact is that, on Nigerian currency backing, the reserve we are talking about is one aspect of it. I certainly indicated that we even have gold in our own vault here as part of our backing. We have other convertible currency as part of our backing. So, the state of our currency is known all over the world, and it is quoted in international monetary institutions.

So, he should be proud of this as a Nigerian. What else does he want and why should we not do it like that when we are developing at such a pace?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The same thing happened to the South American countries which received loans from all parts of the world, with the result that to-day there is chaos all over the place. This is going to happen to us because a time is coming when we are going to be incapable of paying the interest on all these external loans. If the Minister is raising these loans from indigenous Nigerians, it will be quite different.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) should know that we have been raising loans from the indigenous Nigerians as well and I have just dealt with that in my speech here.

As regards the position in South American countries, although I do not intend to attack my brothers in South America, the hon. Member should know that the type of loans raised there was for other purposes. The ones we are raising here are self-productive loans for developing self-liquidating enterprises. Therefore, as we are not going to shoot guns to kill ourselves here, we are not going to raise loans for that purpose. In a nutshell, the reserves are essential to confidence.

The hon. Members for Ilorin East and for Eket South-West, both referred to the question of repatriation of profits, the former calling for legislation to compel a minimum re-investment. This is a subject where emotion tends to get the better of reason, and I hope that hon. Members will strive to set aside prejudice and consider the matter rationally.

There seems to be a wide-spread impression that there is no control whatsoever on the repatriation of profits. This, of course, is not so. No profits can be transferred except with the permission of the Exchange Control.

Some people are asking what happens to the U.A.C.; I think they drove the U.A.C. away. As a matter of fact, the U.A.C. people are here and they are investing more and more in the country. They are establishing industries. This is a fact and we should not play with these things. They are here, they are doing more and investing more money in the country. They are giving technical

know-how to Nigerian industries; they are promoting Nigerians and they are doing well. Hon. Members are also asking about the John Holt. John Holt is their "baby" and they know what has happened to it.

Mr M. A. Bashua (Lagos South-Central) :
What of the £60 million ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : Has the Member for Lagos South-Central (*Mr Bashua*) ever seen £60 million in his life? Can he ever see £60 million till he dies?—a lean lawyer like him who can never eat well, to talk about £60 million !

Mr Shitta-Bey : On a point of order, I think the hon. Minister should address himself to the fiscal and financial policy of the Government. He should not seize this opportunity to malign our most honourable profession—the profession of law.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I will be the last man to malign the honourable profession of law. The fact of it is that I am praying to God to help me not to get into the hands of lawyers in this country. That is my only prayer. I do not want to get into their hands until my daughter comes back to join them.

There seems to be a wide-spread impression that there is no control whatsoever on the repatriation of profits. This is, of course, not so. No profits can be transferred except with the permission of the Exchange Control. But an investor makes his investment with the object of making profit, and he will be very hesitant about committing his money to an investment in any country which, without very good reason, seeks to restrict his freedom to dispose of his profit as he sees fit.

It is in recognition of this basic fact that the Federal Government has maintained its policy of permitting free transfer of profits, subject only to the production of satisfactory evidence that all obligations, and in particular all tax obligations, have been met.

That is not all. We want to persuade investors to reinvest their money here, and this is what we are doing. But what I am saying is that it will not help us as a developing country now to legislate on it.

If the time comes, we might do it, but at the moment it has not come. So, we should not precipitate any crisis. It is too early.

Mr Onabanjo : I wonder whether the Minister is telling us that there is no legislation now to prevent repatriation of profits, or he is telling us that he suspended the clause dealing with the repatriation of profits? Is that what the Minister is telling us ?

Chief Okotie-Eboh : What I was saying is that there is Exchange Control and that it is the policy of the Government to allow repatriation after all the conditions have been met. There can be no condition without legislation. The type of legislation that we have is different from the socialist ones that some of the Members are advocating.

I have no doubt at all that this policy is responsible for the relatively satisfactory level of capital investment evidenced by the net inflow of funds on capital account to which I have already referred. There are black sheep, as I am well aware, but I have no doubt whatsoever that the positive gains from our present relatively liberal policy far outweigh the loss from the small number who abuse it.

I hope I have in this speech covered all the major points which have been raised by hon. Members in the course of the debate, and, accordingly, Mr Speaker, I beg to move, that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

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

Committee—upon Wednesday the 21st of April, 1965.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH).

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On this Motion, I should like to raise an important matter. It is a matter which concerns all the Members of the House of Representatives and the Nigerian Senate.

[ALHAJI MOHAMMED MUHTARI]

It is about Parliamentary tours by Members of Parliament.

Year in and year out, provision is made in our Estimates for Members to tour Commonwealth and other countries in order that they may acquaint themselves with Parliamentary procedure and practice. But as far as I know, for the past four years no such tours have been undertaken by Members of Parliament.

Now, with the birth of the new Parliament, I think it is only right and appropriate that Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate should be given the opportunity of touring overseas countries, especially African countries, so that they may know what is going on in other Parliaments.

I think that if all Members are acquainted with Parliamentary procedure and practice, it will be absolutely unnecessary for Members like the Member for Ijebu South-West (*Chief Onabanjo*) to raise unnecessary points of order.

I hope that the Minister of Finance, in consultation with his colleagues in the Cabinet, will make all necessary arrangements to see that Members are given the opportunity to undertake these Parliamentary tours.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : My hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) knows very well that last year Members of the old Parliament visited Moscow, U.S.A., Canada and Russia, and we have in mind that this year, even next week, the first Parliamentary Delegation will be going to Dublin.

I am not against Parliamentary tours, but I want to make it very clear that these tours have

to be arranged, and if they are arranged we have to select people who will go from different political parties.

I have told Members what we did last year and what we hope to do this year. But if what Members are saying is that we should charter one plane to carry the Members for Degema West and Ijebu South-West (*Messrs Briggs and Onabanjo*) respectively to Russia, God bless this country by the time they return !

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema West) : I understand what the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) is saying. I do not think he is referring to Inter-Parliamentary Union tours which are sponsored by a group organised overseas. What he wants is something sponsored by this Parliament and deliberately directed to give Members Parliamentary experience.

The Minister of Industries (Chief M. A. Akinloye) : On a point of order, the Member for Eket South-West (*Mr Bassey*) is wearing a Russian cap which is intended for a very cold climate.

Chief Okotie-Eboh : I must confess that this is a matter that is beyond me as the Leader of the House to give a ready answer on. I am sure that Members will agree with me that this is a matter for the Prime Minister, and I can assure them that I will put the matter to him for necessary action.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn until Wednesday 21st April.

Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to six o'clock.