



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

*FIRST PARLIAMENT*

**THIRD SESSION**

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**Nigerian Contractors**

**O.211. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, to state the number of Nigerians who were awarded contracts from each Region and Lagos, the nature and value of the contracts between 1st January, 1960 and 31st December, 1961.

**M. Usumanu Maitambari** : The following major contracts were awarded to Nigerians between the 1st January, 1960 and 31st December, 1961.

In the Eastern Region 10 contracts were awarded to the value of £397,341, whilst in the Western Region a total of 16 contracts were awarded to the value of £257,980. In the Northern Region 26 contracts were approved in the sum of £421,865 and in Lagos 14 contracts in the sum of £438,010.

With the exception of three contracts in the Eastern Region totalling £303,710 which were in respect of road and aerodrome projects, all other projects were general building contracts. These figures only relate to contractors included in the list of registered federal contractors and do not take account of the award of numerous minor contracts to Nigerians for amounts below £1,000.

**CUSTOMS AND EXCISE****Waterguard Officers**

**O.212. Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Minister of Finance, how many Waterguard Officers were recruited from January 1954 to October 1961, and how many of them come from each Region of the Federation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : 248 Waterguard Officers were recruited between January 1954 and October 1961. Their Regions of origin were as follows :—

Northern Region 1, Western Region 97, Eastern Region 148 and Federal Territory 2.

The numbers originating from each Region are fortuitous, as it is the policy of the Board of Customs and Excise to select recruits according to their suitability and without regard to their Region of birth.

**Idiroko Revenue**

**O.213. Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Minister of Finance, what was the total revenue collected by the Customs and Excise Department at Idiroko during the year 1960.

**Prince T. A. Lamuye** : During the year ended 31st December, 1960, the total revenue collected at Idiroko was £67,859.

**Smuggling at Idiroko**

**O.214. Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Minister of Finance, how many cases of smuggling were taken to court from Idiroko in 1960 and how many of the accused persons were convicted.

**Prince T. A. Lamuye** : In 1960, 43 cases of smuggling, involving 45 accused persons, were taken to court from Idiroko. All the 45 accused persons were convicted.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether any of these people is a native of Idiroko ?

**Prince T. A. Lamuye** : I cannot say whether these people are people from Idiroko, but they are Nigerians.

**Mr D. Senu-Oke** I beg leave to ask Question 215 of the Minister of Finance.

**Prince Lamuye** : For the information of the House, Sir, Questions 215, 216 and 217 will be dealt with by my Colleague the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

**Mr Speaker** : I understand that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are prepared to answer the Questions.

**Government Hotel**

**O.215. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether there are any plans to build a Government owned Hotel in order to minimise the vast sums of money being paid by Government to private hoteliers in respect of Government guests.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): The Federal Government has no plans to build a Government owned hotel. It has, however, made it a policy to encourage the development of the hotel business throughout the country. To this end, the hotel industry has been declared a pioneer industry.

The hotel trade is not entirely without some Government investment, and it may be of interest to hon. Members to know that the Federal Government is a shareholder of the Nigeria Hotels Limited, which owns and operates the Ikoyi Hotel in Lagos and the Central Hotel in Kano, manages the Bristol Hotel, Lagos and the Airport Hotel, Ikeja, and provides catering services for the International Airport at Kano and for the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

**Chief D. N. Abii**: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell this honourable House why the Government has not gone into partnership with the owner of the Federal Palace Hotel?

#### Assistance to small-scale Businessmen

**O.216. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if Government will consider granting financial assistance to small-scale businessmen.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: Government financial assistance to small-scale businessmen is already available through the mechanism of the Federal Loans Board. The legislation under which this institution was established has been progressively amended to liberalise the availability of finance for small-scale development throughout the Federation.

Provision has been made in the First National Plan to increase the present funds by a further £500,000.

#### Federal Loans Board

**O.217. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing an Industrial Bank to give credit facilities to farmers and industrialists on more liberal terms than does the Federal Loans Board.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: Provision has already been made in the Development Plan for the establishment of a National

Development Bank. The Bank, for which £8 million has been set aside, will aim to provide for the expansion of existing industries and the development of new industries which can contribute directly to economic growth. It will evaluate proposals on the basis of commercial principles, and will be primarily concerned with the development of large scale enterprise, though it will be in a position to assist other desirable projects whose risks make them unattractive for private financing. It is hoped that the Development Bank will have the support of other international development institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

It will not be a function of the Development Bank to provide credit facilities to farmers. For this purpose, a separate Agricultural Credit Institution with a capital of £3 million will be established. The role of this institution will be the provision of medium and long term credit for agricultural operations.

These institutions will supplement the credit facilities hitherto available from the Federal Loans Board which will continue to provide loans for the establishment or the improvement of small-scale locally owned businesses.

#### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### Immigration

**O.218. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many immigrants and of what nationality entered Nigeria during the year 1961, what was the purpose of their visit, how many have since left; and how many are still in Nigeria to date.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs** (M. Aliyu Zungun): The answer to this question is rather lengthy and statistical in nature. With the approval of the Speaker, it will be published in the Official Report of the House for to-day.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): Would the hon. Minister tell the House, how many of these immigrants are of negro race?

*The answer is as follows:*

In the year 1961, 51,302 immigrants entered Nigeria. They are nationals of most countries of the world such as Dahomey, Togoland,

Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Guinea Republic, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somali Republic, Chad Republic, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Britain, America, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Germany (East and West), Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Canada, Australia, India, Japan, United Arab Republic, Lebanon, New Zealand, China, Israel, Cyprus, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, Switzerland, Korea, Argentina and Mexico.

2. They were employees of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, Statutory Corporations, Commercial Companies and other Established Bodies. They either entered Nigeria to assume duties or have returned from vacation leave to resume duties. Wives of some of the above-mentioned category of people invariably came to join their husbands and were usually accompanied by children. Experts, as Agents of the United Nations or other International Organisations, came on missions to implement the proposals of such Organisations. Others came for sports, holidays, business surveys, missionary and teaching duties, diplomatic and military services.

3. A total number of 51,914 foreigners had since left Nigeria in the same period and this is a larger figure than the one which shows the numerical strength of those who entered in the same year. But up to date there are about 11,481 foreigners who are still in the country.

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### Registration of Companies

**O.220. M. Yusha'u A. Muhammed** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if in view of the increasing number of unregistered companies operating in the country he will take steps to check this evil practice.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry** (M. Usman Angulu Ahmed): The Minister is not aware that an increasing number of unregistered companies are operating in the country. A suspected case of non-registration of a business establishment is being investigated with a view to prosecution. If the hon. Member will provide data, the Minister will cause a

thorough investigation to be made into such instances as may be brought to his notice and ask for legal action against such unregistered companies.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Accident on H.M.S. "Nigeria"

10.25 a.m.

**Minister of State** (Mr M. T. Mbu): Sir, on Friday the 6th of March, the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr E. A. Mordi*) raised, on Adjournment, the question of the gratuities that are payable to the dependants of the Ratings who died as a result of an accident that occurred on board the H.M.S. "Nigeria" sometime last year. The hon. Member also raised the question of the neglected state of the graves of the deceased. Hon. Members will be reminded that sometime last year, the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) raised a similar question.

The accident which occurred on board the H.M.S. "Nigeria" on the 23rd of July, 1961, which resulted in the unfortunate death of five Ratings, had been the question not only of a Navy Board of Inquiry but also an Inquest. The Board of Inquiry established that the accident was due to a serious error in operating the boiler. The proceedings of that Board of Inquiry are secret, and it will not be in the public interest to disclose its contents or its findings.

The Inquest on the death of the five members of the crew, which was held in Calabar last September, showed that the death was due to misadventure. The proceedings of the Inquest of course, were published and there is no objection to anybody making reference to them.

Now, about the graves; the five deceased gentlemen were buried in a cemetery at Calabar which is under the control of the Calabar Town Council. Neither the Ministry nor the Navy Board has received any report that the graves had not been attended to. I am very grateful to the hon. Member for drawing this regrettable fact to my attention. I would like to assure him that immediate action would be taken by the Board to put the graves in proper state.

**Gratuities.**—As to the question of gratuities that are payable to the relatives of the deceased, the position is that full facts were put to the Pensions and Gratuities Section of the Ministry of Establishments last year, not long after the accident occurred. The calculations are still being worked out, and are the subject of checking—

**Several hon. Members :** Shame ! For how long ?

**Minister of State :** If hon. Members will listen to me, I think I will satisfy them.

The calculations are still being worked out and are the subject of checking by the Federal Audit Department. A payment voucher for the sum of £694-10s-8d has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Establishments—to be precise, this was sent on the 22nd February, 1962—for payment to Mrs Rose Ozegbe, the wife of one of the deceased. Already the sum of £50 has been advanced to Mrs Ozegbe, pending the full payment of the gratuity. The gratuities in respect of the remaining four are still being worked out by the Ministry of Establishments, and will be forwarded to the Federal Administrator-General as soon as possible.

The gratuity payable to the dependants of the deceased are worked out in accordance with a formula laid down in the Pensions Ordinance. The amount payable depends on the salary at time of death in relation to the length of service. Only one of the deceased had a lengthy service : namely, Paul Ozegbe, who had served for 25 years. The remaining deceased had only been in the Service for a few years : one for three years, two for two-and-a-half years, and the other one for eighteen months ; and gratuities therefore will be paid proportionate to the length of their service.

Regarding the £17 alleged to have been paid to some of the deceased dependants by Mr Mordi, it will be interesting for hon. Members to know that a month's salary was paid to the relatives of each deceased out of the Navy Welfare Fund within a few days of the disaster. It may be that those ex-gratia payments have been mistaken for gratuities alleged to have been paid by Mr Mordi.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** Much as the Ministerial Statement is not subject to debate, I would like to ask the Minister whether, apart from the pensions and gratuities payable to these deceased, they are covered under the Government's Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. The Minister should make a statement to this House that, apart from the fact that they receive pensions, the deceased's relatives will be paid whatever is their entitlement.

**Minister of State :** If the Pensions Ordinance under which the deceaseds' relatives are entitled to receive some gratuities also entitles them to other gratuities under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, every penny will be so paid. But I would like to remind the hon. Gentleman that the Ratings concerned belong to a disciplined force and may not be governed under the usual regulations binding on the civilian service.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL  
(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY) : ADJOURNED DEBATE  
ON SECOND READING (29TH MARCH)

**Mr U. U. Eko (Obubra) :** Sir on Saturday before the House adjourned, I spoke of the need for the Government to take over education. If Independence must have any meaning to the children of Nigeria, it is imperative that they must have free primary education. The Federal Government, as usual, must leave the beaten track. I therefore appeal to the Government to think seriously of giving grants to Regional Governments to promote free primary education as it has done in the field of agriculture by granting the princely sum of £25 million for agricultural expansion in the Regions.

The Government must stop putting up palatial buildings for our secondary schools. Simple buildings such as can be found in common places should be built. In this way, the Government will save quite a good deal of money which is so badly needed for development projects. Nigerian workers should realise now that they are working for Nigeria and not for the white man. They should therefore give of their very best for the good of their fatherland.

[MR EKO]

The workers in Lagos are groaning heavily under high rents. The Government should step in to help the workers. An attempt, a bold one at that, must be made to control rents. Government workers should also have a housing scheme. A housing scheme is a sound investment which would yield good dividends in the long run to the Government.

Foreign insurance companies have dominated insurance business in this country, and it would, therefore, be a welcome relief for the workers if Government takes over insurance. The Government should not be satisfied with the establishment of an insurance company mainly for export business, but it should also take over the whole business in order to save the people of this country from economic exploitation.

I would like to remind the Government that the rural areas form part and parcel of the Federation. Speedy and efficient means of communications are essential for economic development. People in the rural areas need good communications, too. I would strongly appeal to the Minister of Communications to provide telephone facilities for Obubra Post Office, and I suggest that the Postal Agency at Ugep, which is incidentally 34 miles from Obubra, be changed to a Sub-Post Office to cater for the 63,000 people of Southern Obubra who at present have very little means of communication.

Geological surveys should be carried out in Obubra Division with a view to tapping the mineral potentialities there.

Last but not the least, the Cross River should be dredged to make it navigable for all seasons and provide good communication for the people as a whole.

I beg to support.

10.33 a.m.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : I hope to have an opportunity during the proceedings of the Committee of Supply to deal specifically with any points that hon. Members may make regarding the activities of my Ministry. I have thought it appropriate,

however, to take the opportunity during this Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to give a general review of what my Ministry is doing and what it proposes to do in the future. The most important direct activity for which, as Minister, I am responsible is that of the Trunk Road "A" Development Programme.

Most hon. Members, during the course of this debate, have referred to the urgent need to develop our Federal Trunk Road system so that it can carry the traffic that the increasing economic progress of Nigeria brings to it. This is an aim that I heartily support and am doing my utmost to achieve. It must, however, be clearly appreciated that the main limiting factor is finance.

The debate on the Government Development Programme has recently been concluded and, hon. Members have, therefore, been in a position to understand the tremendous task that the Government is facing in allocating all available resources to the best means of furthering the economic progress of our country. It will be noted that the Government has felt bound to give greater priority than hitherto to agricultural and industrial development : this need, and others equally important, have of necessity left a smaller allocation for road development than I or any of my colleagues would like to see.

It will be noted, that under the Heading *Land Transport System* a total of just over £35 million has been allotted for roads and bridges during the Programme period. This may seem a substantial sum, but when I say that my Advisers, on the basis of a careful assessment, have calculated that, to bring the whole of the present Federal Trunk Road system to a standard that would adequately meet the traffic needs of 1972, a total sum of over £190 million would be required, this figure dwindles to one of only a modest size.

When I further point out that out of the £35 million some £11 million will be required for continuing works, namely, the Niger Bridge, the Shagamu-Benin Road, the reconstruction of the Tegna-Daura sections of Trunk Road A. 1, and improvements to the Sokoto-Jerade and the Funtua-Gusau Roads, the amount of money available for new projects is reduced still further.

I must also point out that the construction of the second Mainland bridge an essential, I repeat essential, improvements to the highways in Apapa and in the immediate vicinity of Lagos will require nearly £10 million, and hence the amount that is left for new projects in the rest of Nigeria is of the order of only £14 million.

I have dwelt on the broad financial aspects at some length since I wish to explain quite clearly how circumstances make it impossible for consideration to be given to the taking over of Regional roads into the Federal Highway network. Indeed, in order to reduce the programme to enable it to fall within the allocation, there has been no alternative to eliminating many proposals for road reconstruction that are regarded as of high priority.

I should now mention briefly the progress on the more important of the continuing works.

I am pleased to say that the work on the Niger Bridge is not only satisfactory, but is well up to schedule and I have every confidence that this good progress will be maintained.

As regards the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road, work is proceeding in a satisfactory manner between Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode itself and east of Otu. In the section, however, between Ijebu-Ode and Otu complications have arisen owing to unexpected difficulties regarding the stabilisation of cement with the local materials available, but it is hoped that these difficulties will shortly be overcome.

Work on the Tegin-Daura road has been continuing at full speed during the recent dry season in three separate localities. One team has been working from the road junction 12 miles north of Kano to the City and again immediately south of Kano. A second team is working northward to Zaria, and the third from Kaduna to the Mando road.

The reconstruction of the Sokoto-Jarede road which started some months ago, should be completed during the current financial year.

Work is also proceeding satisfactorily on the Funtua-Chafe-Gusau road and approximately 24 miles have been reconstructed; much of this work is not visible to the travelling public a new route close to the railway is being followed from Mai Ruwa to near Chafe.

I now turn to new projects. It has been possible to allot funds for the reconstruction of part of the Lafia-Akwanga-Bukuru road. It is intended to widen all the bridges to take two lanes of traffic and to open up a new and shorter section of road between Akwanga and Fadama Karshe. These long needed improvements will, I am sure, be welcomed, although I regret that sufficient funds are not yet available for bituminous surfacing.

The provision allotted to the Onitsha-Ihiala road will permit the reconstruction of this road with a 24 foot wide bituminous surface, a necessary improvement since it is anticipated that traffic will increase considerably once the Niger Bridge is opened.

It has proved possible to allot some money for a partial reconstruction of the Yelwa-Kontagora road and to provide new bridges wide enough to carry two lanes of traffic, Unless additional funds are made available it will not, however, be possible to provide a bituminous surface on this road.

On the Aliade-Makurdi-Lafia road it is intended to reconstruct all bridges to make them wide enough to carry two lanes of traffic.

Our international link with Dahomey is likely to be of increasing importance and funds have, therefore, been provided for the reconstruction of this road from Sango Otta to Idiroko; this will include a new bridge at Ajilete.

Work is proceeding on the survey of the Bauchi-Gombe road and plans are being made to reconstruct it to provide a 12 foot wide bituminous surface. Survey work is also going ahead on the Gombe-Numan road and designs are being made for a road having a 12 foot wide bituminous surface.

It has also been decided to include provision for the important Beni Sheik-Maiduguri road. Careful and detailed soils investigations have been taking place for some time past in order to find out the best way of reconstructing this section of road which happens to be particularly troublesome: the local material, known as *jigilin*, is not strong enough on its own to stand up to the weight of traffic and it is almost certain that it will be necessary to stabilise this with cement in order to provide adequate strength. I refer to these special investigations since it is not often realised what

[MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS]  
 detailed surveys and soils investigations are required before visible road building can actually start: we are proud of the efficiency of our laboratory work both at Headquarters and in the field and those concerned deserve this special mention of the value of what they are doing behind the scenes.

I now come to the Second Mainland Bridge. A special team within my Ministry has been engaged over a considerable period in preparing designs both for the bridge and for its approach roads. This project introduces particular complications and a tremendous amount of detailed work has to be done. Briefly, the proposal is that the bridge should cross the Lagos Harbour from opposite the end of Apogbon Street to the coal wharf on the Mainland. It will be connected with Oba Adele Road on Lagos Island by slip roads, and it will continue at high level over the valuable industrial premises at Ijora and join the causeway leading from Iddo to Apapa.

The rapidly increasing traffic in the Lagos area makes it essential for a second carriageway alongside the present one to Apapa to be constructed and for this to be extended to the end of Western Avenue, which itself will be provided with a second carriageway. In order to avoid the present serious delays caused by the level crossing where the Apapa Road crosses the Apapa-Ebute Metta railway line, it is intended to put a bridge over the railway at this point. As regards other roads near Lagos, it is intended to reconstruct the existing Agege Motor Road and provide dual carriageways as far as the northern boundary of Mushin near the C.F.C. factory. This should help to reduce substantially the present very heavy congestion.

The Yaba-Ikorodu road is an extremely busy one and has, unfortunately, bad records for serious accidents. It is intended to provide a second carriageway from Yaba Roundabout to Ikorodu, which incidentally will involve particularly difficult engineering problems in crossing the swamp sections.

In concluding this list of road projects, I should refer to the intention to provide a dual carriageway at the Port Harcourt end of the Trunk Road leading to that important and busy port and to build a second bridge over the Imo River.

Hon. Members will, I am sure, welcome the provision of £1 million for the replacement of sub-standard bridges. It is intended to start as soon as possible on replacement the more dangerous of the sub-standard bridges and, furthermore, it is proposed to construct or reconstruct bridges over the Donga River and the river at Mayo Belwa on the Yola-Takum Road; this work has been held up owing to the necessity to measure carefully the effect of flood waters in the river, an aim that was made impossible last year owing to the fact that for the first time for a considerable period there was insufficient water to be measured.

I should add that preliminary investigations and designs for other new major bridging projects on the Trunk Road A network will be started; in particular, the feasibility of a bridge crossing over the River Benue at Numan, and also possibly over the Atimbo River near Calabar.

Now to turn to that vital subject—water. My Ministry is responsible for the Lagos Water Supply and we are doing our utmost to keep the supply in line with the expansion in consumption caused by industrial development and increased population. As compared with the figure of 8 million gallons a day in 1957, the water supply has already been expanded to a daily consumption of approximately 15 million gallons. The first phase of the Expansion Scheme that was begun in the last Development Programme has now been completed and it is proposed that further expansion should proceed without delay. These include new piping to carry the raw material to the sedimentation and filtration plant and a number of other important improvements both to the pumping and distribution system.

It is estimated that between 30 million and 40 million gallons a day will be required by 1970 and the proposed expansion scheme should be able to meet this demand. I should also add that the need to plan still further ahead is recognised and that a detailed hydrological survey has begun in the Ogun River basin in order to investigate alternative sources of supply.

In passing I should mention that the recent lack of water suffered by those on higher floors in tall buildings in Lagos, such as the Victoria Island Flats, has been due not to inadequacy



of water supplies, but to the stopping of electric pumps in these buildings due to cuts in electricity.

Some publicity has been given to the closing of the Ijora Sawmills and I should like briefly to mention this matter both by way of explanation and in order to pay a public tribute to the staff. After the most careful investigations, which have included advice from expert sources, it was recently regretfully concluded that it was essential to close the Ijora Sawmills and the associated furniture workshops. These have been working at a loss for some time and substantial capital expenditure would be necessary in the immediate future if the Sawmills were to continue operation. It is quite clear that Government has no justification for continuing this drain on its resources, particularly in view of the fact that separate industrial development in this field is already sufficiently advanced to meet requirements.

The closing down of the Sawmills will release, in due course, a very valuable area for development in this congested city. My only regret is that it means that many employees will be leaving my Ministry who have served the Ministry and the former Public Works Department loyally for a very long period. Everything is being done, however, to find them alternative employment and to treat them fairly and I am pleased to say that we have received the full co-operation of the Union in this matter.

A most important aspect of the activities of my Ministry is the building work we undertake on behalf of the Federal Government. Since we act for other Ministries in this matter, it is not appropriate for me to comment, even if I had the time, on individual projects.

I should however, like to say that I am very proud of the volume and the quality of the building work that my Ministry undertakes and to emphasise that the amount of work involved is not generally appreciated. Between the time that the requirements for a particular building project are decided upon and the date on which contractors can be invited to tender, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. This work does not just involve architectural designs on paper; it includes the most

detailed working drawings, the preparation of bills of quantities and the detailed examination from a structural engineering point of view.

When my Ministry is criticised for building delays, I often feel tempted to suggest to those who criticise that they should spend a few hours in the buildings Branch of the Ministry to see what work is actually undertaken. If they did so, I am sure that they would come away in a more appreciative frame of mind. We are doing our utmost to reduce building costs and among the plans we have in mind is the creation of a special Development Group, that is a design and research team within the Ministry, to examine and advise on new design methods and uses of materials.

Before I close this section of my speech, I should refer briefly to the design work for the new Parliament Buildings. We have engaged as consultants an international firm of the highest repute and already preliminary work has begun under the general supervision of the Acting Assistant Director of Buildings, a senior and experienced Nigerian architect, who has had the opportunity to make a special study of parliament buildings. Although it will not unfortunately be possible for Government to allot funds for the construction of the Parliament Buildings in the National Economic Programme, at least the designs and full working drawings will have been prepared. As hon. Members are aware, there will be full consultation with the Legislature through the Committee of which you, Sir, are the Chairman.

I now must turn to the work performed by the Surveys Division of my Ministry. This Division has the task of carrying out all survey work in the Federal Territory, of undertaking national framework surveys and, in conjunction with the Regional Surveys Divisions, with mapping at standard scales the whole of Nigeria to modern standards. This task is a great one, for there is still so much mapping to be done, although progress has been rapid over the last few years and will be even greater in the future.

Carrying out mapping by modern methods is a highly complex, technical and expensive affair, and, furthermore, Nigeria is not an easy country to map; cloud and harmattan make aerial photography difficult and ground surveys are laborious and expensive. Nevertheless,

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a determined effort is being made, and, as will be observed from the allocation under the Development Programme, the Federal Government is giving a high degree of priority to surveys.

The Division is, however, still very much understaffed and is losing many of its senior and experienced officers. We are, therefore, making full use of contractors to supplement the work of the Surveys Division itself. These contractors will obtain aerial photography, carry out ground surveys and the compilation by photogrammetric methods to produce maps of the highest standard under the general supervision of the Surveys Division. It is hoped that in the six years of the Development Programme, 100,000 square miles in Nigeria will be mapped through these means. Most valuable help has been given in this direction through Technical Assistance projects, and I am glad here to pay a grateful tribute to the work of the United Kingdom Directorate of Overseas Surveys which has already done so much to help us. This help will continue through the new Department of Technical Co-operation and the United Kingdom will cover about 44,000 square miles of work in the Eastern and Northern Regions. I also express my grateful thanks to the Canadian Government which is carrying out, through efficient Canadian firms, the aerial photography and mapping of about 28,000 square miles in Central Nigeria. I am most impressed with their efficiency.

The Surveys Division itself has a large mapping project based on Makurdi in addition to the extension of the geodetic levelling network. In Lagos, it is hoped that by the end of the present year, the whole of the Federal Territory will be covered by a new series of large scale maps based on new control put in by the Division.

In conclusion, special attention is being given to the training of staff and I hope that Nigerians will realise that, in Surveys, they have the opportunity of a worth-while and interesting career.

I cannot close without a brief reference to the general staffing position in my Ministry. Owing to the retirement of so many officers, both pensionable and those on contract, the immediate staffing problems are acute. This introduces many difficulties and the strain

on those officers, both Nigerian and from overseas, becomes increasingly great. Great though these difficulties are, I yet look forward with confidence. My Ministry has been fortunate in the expatriate officers it has had, and they have helped to lay a firm basis for the future. I thank them for their services and wish those who have gone or are going shortly all success.

I and my senior officers have, however, realised for a long time that it is essential that the Ministry be placed as soon as possible on a firm Nigerian basis, and that the Nigerian senior staff should only have their efforts supplemented by qualified officers—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Gentleman who is a Parliamentary Secretary, is wearing an ordinary shirt; he is not properly dressed. Let him stand up and you will see him. (*Alhaji Koguna stands*).

**Mr Speaker**: He is ostracised. (*Laughter*).

**The Minister of Works and Surveys**: Sir, as I was saying, I and my senior officers have realised for a long time that it is essential that the Ministry be placed as soon as possible on a firm Nigerian basis, and that the Nigerian senior staff should only have their efforts supplemented by qualified officers recruited on contract from overseas. Despite all the difficulties and the fact that we have in no way slacked our output, I am proud and pleased to say that great progress has already been made.

A Nigerian will shortly take over for the first time as my Permanent Secretary, and as regards the Works Division, both the posts of Assistant Director are held by Nigerians, one in a substantive capacity; in a few months it can be anticipated that the duties of Head of the Electrical and Mechanical Branch will also be performed by a Nigerian. There are, of course, many other Nigerians in senior and responsible positions, in all three Divisions of the Ministry and many more in training or recently recruited.

We have great tasks ahead of us but I look forward with confidence to tackling them, and perhaps I may also, with some justification, look back with a sense of achievement at what my Ministry has done in the past.

*Federal Parliament Debates*

1141

[*Appropriation (1962-63) Bill* : 9 APRIL 1962

*Second Reading*]

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**M. Abdu Kirim** (Muri East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Federal Government's proposal for the Development Programme, 1962-68, and in doing so, I must congratulate the Prime Minister and his colleagues for working out such a wonderful Programme for the development of our great Nigeria. Through the leadership of these people who forgot their petty differences and jealousies and came together to work for the good and well-being of Nigeria, we have already attained high reputation in the eyes of the world.

Turning to the question of roads, I think the Minister of Works has just spoken about his programme. He laid emphasis on opening up the country by building good roads to link up every nook and corner of this country. In doing this, I would suggest to the Government that the greater portion of this programme be deployed in developing rural areas, especially places like Adamawa Province which have seen no change whatsoever since. There are only two roads linking it with Nigeria and on these two roads there are three ferries which only operate during the day time.

I was happy to hear a few minutes ago from the Minister of Works' speech that Donga-Takun-Yola bridge will be constructed soon to link the Province with Eastern Nigeria. River Takun and Katsina Ala from the northern side of the Province, the Road from Yola-Numan-Gombe, Jos-Kaduna and the Ferry on River Benue at Numan, these are the three rivers which cut out Adamawa Province from Nigeria.

Also, throughout the length and breadth of this Province, not an inch of the roads is tarred and the roads are rough and dusty. I am not exaggerating if I say that this Province is cut away from Nigeria from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Towns and villages could only be visited during the day time. The people of this Province are suffering from isolation and feel that they are neglected. For instance, when His Excellency the Governor-General was touring the country, he went everywhere, but could not reach Adamawa Province. It is quite understandable that our roads are not good, and we can not risk our Governor-General having to wait at least one hour or more for crossing ferries.

Another thing is that the purpose of His Excellency's tour was to meet the people of that particular area and to inspect development projects that are being carried out in that area.

Throughout the length and breadth of this province, there is only one hospital and not another single institution of any kind so that it is not worth a visit by our leaders. Even the construction of a railway line which started at Zungeru stopped at Gombe.

Another thing is that nobody comes to trade with us as such. For all the goods we obtain, we pay three times as much as it is paid for in any other Province. I respectfully appeal to the Ministers concerned to give priority to opening up this isolated province on the border of the Cameroun Republic, especially to the construction of bridges on the rivers. This will be of material benefit to the Government for security purposes.

Before I conclude, I would like again to remind hon. Members of the concern of the people at the Government's present attitude of concentrating all its plans in developing certain areas alone. This I think is not fair. Identical treatment should be given to all, so that no part of this country is over developed. If this could be done, we would not have the problem of people leaving their localities to look for employment elsewhere, and there will be jobs and happiness for everybody everywhere in Nigeria.

This reminds me of an opinion once sounded in this House and that is the present Government's policy of putting all her eggs in one basket—that is Lagos. Why not distribute them throughout the country so that when there is a war our enemies cannot destroy them? As it stands now, if a bomb that could destroy the whole Lagos is thrown, Nigeria will have to surrender for we shall have nothing left in the country.

I therefore appeal to the Government to put aside anything having to do with the already opened up areas of this country, and take up to opening up Provinces like Adamawa in which I believe there are many resources.

For instance, there was a time when the Federal Government sent a team of geological surveyors to Muri Division in Adamawa

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Province. This team carried out a survey in Manang, Zina, Pantisawa, Old Muri, Districts in Jalingo Muri Division in Adamawa Province.

Our people were extremely happy about this keen interest the Government have for once shown in opening up this areas. But the most disheartening thing is that up to now nothing is heard of the result of the survey. I am appealing to the Ministers concerned to let us be in the know of minerals discovered and how soon they will be worked upon.

May God bless our country with unity and understanding, peace and prosperity. I beg to support.

11.07 a.m.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. It is customary at this stage for Federal Ministers to give an account of the work of their Ministry during the previous financial year and in past years my Ministry has always buttressed these accounts with a wealth of statistics which, from year to year, have shown a steady increase in the number of patients treated in our medical institutions.

But, alas, these statistics have not stemmed the growing tide of criticism directed against our medical services. I therefore crave the indulgence of the House to make a departure from this well-tried routine in order to build for you a picture of our Health services as they are now and as we hope they will be within the next few years when our Development Programme is completed.

I think it is necessary that the House should know the complexities of the problems we face in the organisation and administration of our medical services. This is necessary if Members of this House are to give that measure of understanding and sympathy which our medical services require at this time, just when we are embarking on far-reaching changes which are bound to affect the future of the practice of medicine in this country. I wish to stress that in no other sphere of governmental activity is this understanding and sympathy more important for success than in the administration of our medical services.

The personnel of our medical services are daily facing human problems in their most baffling and sometimes in their most tragic

forms. And I wish honourable Members to know that some of their pronouncements in this House very often do make the difference between life and death for some unfortunate individuals. (*Some hon. Members: How some?*) This is the truth. By our pronouncements we can engender confidence in the patient and thus help him to take full advantage of the services of our medical institutions, and so recover. On the other hand, an injudicious statement can produce such panic and fear that patients who might otherwise have been helped, would stay away at great risk to their lives.

The history of our medical services goes back to the early days of the British occupation of this country, when a medical service based on the Royal Army Medical Corps was established for the treatment of both the civilian and military officers of the British administration. The service itself was rigid, top-heavy and ill-suited for treating a large civilian population. But this is still the pattern of our medical administration to this day.

When one goes to a hospital in Britain or in America, one does not go to see a "medical officer". Medical practitioners are called "doctors" or "consultants" all over the enlightened world. Here, we have "medical officers", "senior medical officers", "senior health officers" and we used to have a "director of medical services". We even went to the ludicrous length of appointing an "Inspector-General of Medical Services."

This service is financed from public funds and is supposed to be intended primarily for the treatment of the general population. But by the very nature of its organisation it has never fulfilled this role adequately, nor did the originators of this service seriously intend it to fulfil such a role as will be seen from the following extract from section 2 of what used to be called Medical Departmental Orders, but which happily, is now defunct. I quote:—

*"Government hospitals are primarily intended for the care and treatment of the general public of the areas in which such hospitals are situated, but preference will be given to government officers and employees"*.

As a result of this ambiguous statement, in practice, even when the doctor had a queue of patients about fifty yards long, his attendant picked out for special treatment those who were

employees of P.W.D., P. and T., Customs, Police, etc., and of course, when these people happened to belong to what used to be called the Senior Service, which in those early days meant mostly expatriates, they just walked into the doctor's consulting room and demanded immediate treatment, which they invariably got. When we recall that in many Government medical stations like, say, Akure or Zaria, with populations of about a hundred thousand people, usually with one doctor and half-a-dozen nurses, and a limited supply of drugs, we will appreciate how little of the services available were shared between all the inhabitants of the area after the "government officers and employees" were treated.

It is necessary for me to paint the true picture of the services as they were when we took over before I go on to say what changes we intended to bring about. I have, myself, for over ten years, been a persistent critic of the organisation of our medical services, and I am completely unrepentant. I still believe that in such a system as we inherited, the patient is often an unwanted product in an institution in which he should be the focus of attention.

The service was never adequate, even for government employees, to say nothing of the general population. And with the growing demand being made upon it from our increasingly enlightened population, it is now strained to breaking point. This inadequacy, coupled with an archaic system of administration, is the root cause of the persistent and often bitter criticism to which the medical services in this country have for so long been subjected.

We hear of allegations of favouritism, malpractices of several kinds, and the like. But I would like to remind hon. Members that the men and women who man our medical services are human beings with human weaknesses like any Member of this House. They are Nigerians like ourselves, with attributes and moral values neither greater nor less than those possessed by any Nigerian. No-one can claim perfection for them, but the truth is that our medical services are at present hopelessly inadequate, and when a commodity or service is inadequate, there is bound to build up around it a black market. All too often, the rich and the affluent want to 'jump the queue' and secure for themselves a greater share of the rationed commodity. In such an atmosphere, even a Bishop might be corrupted.

I wish to assure the House that we are determined to deal ruthlessly with those of our officers who are found to be exploiting the present shortage to their private advantage. We are processing as vigorously as possible, plans designed to end the present inadequacy. In fact, the Federal Government has given very careful consideration to the organisation of our medical services and has come to the conclusion that the organisation of health services inherited from the colonial regime is unsuited to the present stage of the country's political and economic development, and has decided that it should be replaced by a greatly expanded and more flexible and progressive organisation.

The twin pillars on which the concept of our medical development programme for the period 1962 to 1968 is based are :—

- (1) A sharp increase in the provision of qualified medical and para-medical staff.
- (2) The establishment on a firm basis and expansion of existing facilities, particularly those dealing with preventive medicine.

This emphasis on the provision of medical staff and the strengthening of preventive medicine is reflected in the allocation, between various projects, of the £10.304 million at the disposal of the Federal Ministry of Health for the six-year period. It is estimated that about fifty-three *per cent* of the total capital expenditure on health will be devoted to the training of doctors, nurses, and other medical auxiliary staff, and about twenty-seven *per cent* to the expansion of preventive medical work. The other twenty *per cent* is shared between various other medical projects.

It is obvious that the basic need of our medical services to-day is the provision of more doctors and nurses, therefore, the allocation of more than half of the total expenditure towards this goal requires no formal defence. It is only by producing more doctors to man the greatly expanded medical service that some of the abuses in our present system could be removed. The emphasis on preventive medicine is also necessary because it is much cheaper to keep a person in health than it is to cure him when he is ill. The ancient Chinese had an admirable system: they paid their physician when they were in good health and stopped the payment when they were ill. There can be no doubt that when the battle against the

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preventable diseases at present prevalent in this country is won, it should be possible to reduce recurrent expenditure on our medical and health services considerably.

There are thirteen different health projects to be undertaken in our six-year development plan :—

(i) We plan to expand the existing facilities at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, at a cost of £2.050 million to allow approximately one hundred students *per annum* to undergo clinical training, from October 1965. There will also be expansion of the intake of student nurses into the University College Hospital Nurses' Training School, so as to provide the necessary nursing complement for the increasing number of doctors we hope to produce.

(ii) We plan to complete all the phases of Lagos University Teaching Hospital at a cost of £2.820 million. This hospital was originally planned to provide much needed expansion of the hospital facilities in Lagos.

It will provide this, and more, because it will be used for the training of medical students. Already, the first phase of the new hospital is completed and that phase consists of 350 beds, together with the services required for a full 800-bed hospital. It is now the teaching hospital of the medical school of the University of Lagos. When the development of the medical school itself is completed, it is hoped that 150 doctors and 50 dentists will be trained there annually.

(iii) It is proposed to build a nurses' hostel at a cost of £.500 million. One of the principal problems in Lagos is the recruitment, training, and accommodation of student nurses to supply the ever-increasing need for nurses in our expanding hospital service. This problem will assume greater dimensions with the enlarged plan for the medical and health services. At present there is a Preliminary Training school in Campbell Street which has accommodation for a number of nurses, but as soon as they are posted to the General Hospital, or other units such as the Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, there is no accommodation for them. This has resulted in a high wastage rate among nurses-in-training who are obliged to find accommodation in the town. Accommodation in Lagos

is expensive, unsatisfactory, and hardly suitable for these young women, and it is considered essential that there should be a well-designed nurses' hostel which will be clean and salubrious.

(iv) The Lagos General Hospital is to be rebuilt and modernised at a cost of £1.269 million. The first stage of this project is now under way, and consists of the clearing and reconstruction of the area facing Broad Street. It comprises a new two storey out-patient department and clinics, a new kitchen, laundry and auxilliary services. When the whole project is completed, at the end of the plan period, it is hoped that the hospital will contain about 700 beds, a new and up-to-date pharmacy, casualty rooms, X-Ray departments, operating theatres, and other services.

(v) It is planned to spend a sum of £.650 million on improvements to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. This hospital serves all parts of Nigeria and cases are referred to it from the Regions. It is proposed to develop the hospital ; to enlarge it by adding four new ward blocks, as well as operating theatres, a new laundry, kitchen, a new limb workshop, and stores accommodation. This development will enable the hospital to keep pace with the demands made upon it as a result of the increasing number of road accidents.

(vi) Provision is made for the building of a 200-bed children's hospital at a cost of £.800 million. Members will recall that only last Friday, the 6th of April, the Massey Street Children's Hospital was officially opened. Our experience since the few weeks in which hospital has been in operation emphasises more than anything else, the need for more facilities for the medical treatment of children, of whom there are approximately 200,000 in Lagos. It is planned to site the new hospital on the mainland of Lagos, where it will also afford facilities for the training of medical students in paediatric medicine.

(vii) A 360-bed mental hospital, sited at Oshodi, will be built at a cost of £.800 million. The only Federal mental hospital facilities are at present provided by the Mental Home at Yaba, which is grossly over-crowded and

inadequate. The building of this hospital will result in the alleviation of mental health problems in Lagos.

(viii) The smallpox vaccine laboratory at Yaba is to be expanded at a cost of £.075 million. This laboratory is a project which is considered to be of very great importance, not only to the Federal territory of Lagos, but also to the whole country. It is the one revenue-earning project which my Ministry controls. Recent discussions with officials of the World Health Organisation concerned with smallpox eradication have revealed that the World Health Organisation hold the Yaba freeze-dried vaccine in very high regard, and has said that if production can be increased there will be a ready market for it. It is intended that during the plan period this project will be extended, to enable an annual production of 20 million doses of vaccine to be made available. I should mention that my Ministry is actively engaged on preliminary work leading to a vast project for smallpox eradication in the whole of Nigeria. We think this is immediately feasible because it is known that when over 70 per cent of the population is vaccinated, the chain of transmission of smallpox is broken and the disease ceases to be an epidemic problem. The success of the project will depend, among other things, on the availability of the dry vaccine from our laboratory.

(ix) A sum of £.200 million is earmarked for the expansion of the Dental Service in Lagos. This service provides not only dental treatment for the people of Lagos but also provides facilities for the training of dental technologists and dental hygienists. The school of dental technology has room for only twenty four trainees and the school of dental hygiene for twenty trainees. Students come from all over the country to attend these schools and it is intended during the plan period to expand these schools in order to give more room for students from the regions.

(x) It is proposed to expand the chemistry division of my Ministry, and also to establish a public health laboratory at an estimated cost of £.125 million. Before discussing in detail the proposed expansion of the chemistry division, it might be as well to state briefly the nature of the work being carried

out at present. During the three years ending with the financial year 1958-59, the chemistry division carried out 31,000 chemical and bacteriological examinations for various departments of Government. Requests for such examinations came in from various parts of the Federation and have steadily increased over the years. There is no doubt that with increasing industrialisation of the country there will be increasing demands upon the type of chemical and bacteriological work now being done by the chemistry division of the Ministry of Health. The intention is that the chemistry division should expand into a full Federal chemistry service. In addition to expanding this division, it is proposed to develop a public health laboratory service which will be used by the health centres to be built under this plan. These public health laboratories are essential to the successful working of the health centres.

(xi) It is proposed to start, at an early date, at a cost of £.150 million, an institute of preventive and social medicine. It is my belief that preventable diseases should be attacked on a nation-wide basis. Consequently, the proposed institute should be national in outlook, and it is hoped that it will conduct research into the incidence of various preventable diseases, test the efficacy of each preventive measure, and give direction to all the efforts being made to eradicate these diseases. The proposed institute will be run by research and field workers and will have up-to-date laboratory facilities for investigation purposes. The institute will be closely allied to the medical school of the University of Lagos.

(xii) A post-graduate nursing school is proposed at a cost of £.150 million. At present there is no opportunity in the whole of Nigeria for post-graduate training of qualified nurses. This has considerably slowed down the pace of training tutors to man our nursing schools. It is proposed that a post-graduate nursing school should be started in relation with the University College Hospital, Ibadan, or the Lagos University medical school.

(xiii) During the next plan period we intend to build at least one health centre in each of the wards into which the municipi-

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 pality of Lagos is divided. In fact, we have made provision for the expenditure of half-a-million pounds on some of these health centres in the current estimates. When these centres are built and functioning, they will cater for the health needs of all the people of the wards in which they are situated. Medical services will be available day and night. The present practice of closing a dispensary at 2 o'clock in the afternoon is highly unsatisfactory as well as being wasteful, because the buildings put up at such high cost are under-utilised. The Federal Government believes that by building these health centres within reach of the inhabitants of Lagos, much of the abuse associated with the medical services at present would be considerably reduced.

Quite naturally it is not possible to start all these new projects during the 1962-63 financial year. However, the following projects have been proposed for inclusion in the Capital Estimates for the 1962-63 year :—

	£
1. Vaccine production: 1955-1962 programme .. ..	25,000
2. Blood transfusion .. ..	1,000
3. Lagos General Hospital .. ..	260,000
4. Health centres .. ..	500,000
5. Lagos University Teaching Hospital .. ..	300,000
6. Vaccine production: 1962-1968 programme .. ..	75,000
7. Mental hospital .. ..	25,000
8. University College Hospital, Ibadan .. ..	100,000
Total .. ..	£1,286,000

When our health programme is completed a sound foundation will have been laid for the expansion of health services throughout the Federation, because trained personnel will begin to come out of our training institutions, and Lagos will have been given the most comprehensive health service of any town on the continent of Africa. The Lagos medical service would indeed be a model which the Regions and other developing countries might well copy.

However, it is obvious that any proposal which seeks to increase the level of existing medical services presupposes an increase in the

annual budget of the Ministry of Health. In the last financial year we spent the sum of £2,408,000 on medical services for Lagos, which worked out at just under £7 per head of the population of the Federal territory of Lagos. Viewed in isolation, this is an impressive figure, but compared with the Regions where the corresponding annual expenditure per head on medical services averaged 5s-0d, the expenditure in Lagos must be regarded as staggering.

If we are to have an expanded medical service, it will be morally indefensible to expect the Federal Government, in a struggling country like Nigeria, to spend more than it is currently spending in providing medical services for the people of Lagos. The population of Lagos is among the most enlightened in Nigeria and the demand for medical services is incessant and insatiable. This is so because Lagos is the meeting place of all peoples of the Federation and the majority of its inhabitants have long ago discarded their beliefs in traditional remedies in favour of scientific medicine.

Therefore, if we are to expand the present services in the way we have planned, the increased expenditure necessary for financing the expanded and modernised medical services must be found by the people who will directly benefit from these services. That is why, in the Speech from the Throne, His Excellency said :

*"Plans will be laid during the coming year for the introduction of a contributory Health Insurance Scheme in Lagos."*

The Scheme will establish a health insurance fund which will provide free health services to all insured persons. To this fund the Federal Government will contribute an amount equivalent to its present expenditure on the Lagos medical services. All employers of labour will contribute, and all employees and the self-employed will contribute in proportion to their incomes.

The proposed contributory health insurance scheme has several advantages. In the first place, it will utilise hitherto untapped sources of revenue to enable the much-needed expansion to take place. In the second place, the scheme will ensure that employers fulfill their obligations under the Labour Code to provide medical facilities for their employees.



At present the Federal Government is subsidising all medical treatment of almost all employees of large commercial firms operating in Lagos because only a very few of these firms provide the standard of medical care for their employees required by our Labour Code. Finally, since the scheme is based on the principle of mutual aid, contributions will be on the basis of income and benefits will be on the basis of need; therefore the richer members of the community will help to subsidise the poorer members.

All this will require careful planning and a great deal of hard work. We are bringing about the necessary changes as rapidly as is humanly possible, and I appeal to the House to bear with us. The medical service is made up of human beings dealing with human problems. Unlike a mechanical device it cannot be taken to pieces and put together again overnight. That the services require overhauling is admitted. How smoothly and how painlessly this operation is carried out will depend on the forbearance of the House and the co-operation of the people whom we seek to serve.

11.37 a.m.

**Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar):** During this meeting of Parliament, many hon. Members from this side of the House have spoken in praise of the various Government plans laid before the House, particularly in respect of the Economic Development Plan and certain aspects of the Budget. Consequently, suggestions have been made, particularly in the course of various interjections by certain Members of the House from the other side, that we, of the Opposition, are trying to compromise our position in order to curry favour with the Federal Government.

I want to assure this House that, whatever the imagination of certain inconsequential people in this House, when it comes to the interest of our dear nation we will continue to support such Government measures as are compatible with the establishment of a democratic, socialist welfare state which we profess and practice. We see the Federal Government gradually adopting policies enunciated by this side of the House on several occasions in this House. It is because of this that there appears to be a change in our attitude towards Government policies at this time. But, as long as we

discover a change in Government measures detrimental to the national cause, so long shall we lend criticism to such measures.

I want to stress at this juncture that the economy, foreign affairs and defence of a nation are, or at least should be, above the usual extremes of party politics which the nation cannot sometimes afford. When Government does truly practice acceptable economic, defence and foreign affairs policies, then it is the duty of every reasonable citizen to lend support to those acceptable portions of the policies concerned, and to criticise constructively and make alternative suggestions in respect of any controversial aspects of such policies.

This is how it should be; and that is the essence of parliamentary practice. It is not therefore our duty to continue to criticise or oppose relentlessly just because we are labelled *the Opposition*. For example, Mr Gaitskell's acceptance of Britain joining the European Common Market does not make him a fellow traveller of the Conservative Party Government, nor does it compromise the Labour Party policies.

This year has seen many changes in Government policies for the good. The Budget Speech—unnecessarily lengthy as it has in it some useful substance and, barring the provision to make Nigeria a perpetual borrowing country without showing that we shall make good these loans, one would have seen nothing controversial in the Budget. So much, however, has been said on this issue and it is only enough to support the important issues made by the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*). I will now deal with a few of the issues which arouse my interest. I will make some reasonable recommendations which I hope this Government will see fit to accept.

I think that Government has not done enough to encourage art and culture in this country. We have seen on several occasions countries like Western Germany and the United States and various other countries in Africa sending dancers and musicians to come and play in Nigeria. There is no justifiable reason why our Government should not do a similar thing by sending teams of our dancers

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and singers, native dancers and high-life dancers, and dancers of various kinds, to overseas countries to advertise Nigeria.

We are happy to hear that Government intends to establish an Air Force. This is what Government should have done long ago. The main handicap of this Government is lack of sense of priority on the part of certain Ministers in this Government. If Government really intended to form a real Nigerian Air Force, the best thing is for the Government to have started the training of the personnel years ago. Even before independence we had a Nigerian Government. What will now happen is that while the Air Force will be called a Nigerian Air Force when it is established it will, like the Army and Navy, be dominated by expatriate officers, particularly British.

The time has come when Government should start seriously to Nigerianise all the heads of the various units of the Army and the Navy. In addition the time has come when we should have a Nigerian head of the Army. If the strifetorn Congo could successfully turn over-night a sergeant-major and a journalist as general and Army Chief-of-Staff, then what prevents us from turning the only Nigerian Brigadier into the head of the Army at even a smaller, a much smaller salary, instead of appointing an out-moded, demobilised British soldier at great expense necessitating the recruiting visit of the Minister of Defence to London. Why could not the Minister pass instructions to the High Commissioner in London to do the recruitment on his behalf. In any case, the time has come when Government should recall the Military Adviser to the High Commissioner in London to come and understudy the present head of the Army with a view to taking over from him in the immediate future.

The job of a Military Attaché or Adviser can be successfully carried out by a Captain or a Major or any other rank. The age-long talk by Government of its intentions and continued intentions to Nigerianise the various ranks of the Army no longer holds water and does not receive the support of this House since it is a mere empty promise. Government should now start reposing confidence in the Nigerian officers by placing them more and more in their deserving positions.

We are glad that two or three Nigerians have so far been given key positions but that is just not enough. The present number of expatriate serving officers in our Army compares too badly with the number of Nigerian officers. Some of these British Captains, Majors and other ranks are retired Sergeant-Majors who have been seconded to us from the British Army.

It is a good thing that Government has thought it wise to plan the establishment of a Military Academy. But in the interim, arrangements should be made with various countries east and west to train our personnel for the armed forces. In this respect attempts should be made also to train most of the armed forces personnel in Afro-Asian countries. Soldiers trained in European countries tend to Europeanise themselves and some of them start adopting that expensive British mentality in their civilian dress and their food and other ways of life. This should seriously be discouraged.

I would also like the Government to effect drastic changes, in fact improvements, in the conditions of service of our soldiers. The armed forces have no trade unions. Their trade union leader is the hon. the Minister of Defence, but when anything escapes his observations the Members of this House should play the role of the Army's trade union secretaries by demanding for them things which in a normal Government department should have been demanded by the trade unions. I have in mind in particular the question of improved housing and quarters, particularly for those soldiers with many wives and who under the present conditions—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna): Why cannot the hon. Member from Jembar (*Mr J. S. Tarka*) leave that until we come to the Committee Stage? He is just on defence, defence and defence.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be more audible please.

**Alhaji A. A. Koguna**: The hon. Gentleman is just speaking particularly on the Ministry of Defence. Why cannot he leave it until we come to the Committee Stage. He can speak on the general policy of the Government.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I do not think he is the first to be irrelevant on those lines.

**Mr Tarka :** In any case, I am not speaking only on Defence, I am speaking on other subjects as well. If only the hon. Parliamentary Secretary (*Alhaji Koguna*) will listen he will hear the voice of wisdom. I said in particular the question of improved housing and quarters for those soldiers with many wives who under the present position have only one room and parlour to themselves—

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** Sir, lectern reading is only a privilege accorded to an appointed Minister of the Government and not to shadow ministers.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order. I think the same provision made for the Government benches is also made for the front benches of the Opposition. I am sure that the lecterns are intended to be used.

**Shettima Ali Monguno :** I was in fact trying to say that the hon. Member was reading.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Well, I will keep a clear look-out for that.

**Mr Tarka :** It has also been generally alleged, that junior expatriate officers tend to ignore orders given them by Nigerian superior officers. This is a thing which the Minister should cause investigation made into and have the situation remedied at once.

Generally, the role of our soldiers particularly those in the Congo is most commendable. Gone are the days when people looked at the army as a thing for people who cannot get any jobs. This brings me to the question of the plight of Nigerian ex-servicemen who are grossly neglected not only by this Federal Government but by other Governments of the Federation. If however the excuse is that they served in a colonial army, then Government should make representations to the British Government to pay bonus to these ex-servicemen and to make special grants to the various Governments of the Federation to establish various industries in the rural areas so as to employ these drab and starving ex-servicemen, who though defending the British Empire, were as well advertising Nigeria in countries wherever they saw service.

The present arrangement for the establishment of fourteen new industries which will only absorb 4,700 people as stated by the Minister of Commerce and Industries out of a million unemployed people in this country is very good but inadequate. Unemployment is not seriously felt by Government because most Ministers come from rural areas where farming is the chief industry and therefore unemployment is unknown in the areas.

The problem of the influx from the districts and villages to big towns in quest of jobs is a serious situation. Government should therefore, see to it that the new industries are sparsely situated in the various provinces to encourage job seekers to work in their home areas.

Another question which needs immediate looking into is the issue of beggars and disabled persons swarming our streets, particularly in Lagos. Visitors who pay casual visits to this country may tend to judge us by the look of these beggars, blind men and lepers. The question of healthy strong men begging in our streets rather than working hard to earn a living is most disgraceful and ought to be checked both by the Lagos Town Council and by this Government.

It is not true that most of the beggars come from the Northern Region. This is most untrue. Some of them come from the West or are even Lagosians themselves. But the majority come from the North because of the strong and commendable action taken by the Northern Regional Government to discourage professional begging, so these lazy men come to Lagos to beg.

The question of blind men is understandable, and so is the question of lepers who beg in our streets in Lagos. Therefore the Government should establish more blind rehabilitation centres and expand the existing one in Lagos and also start a leper clinic in Lagos, and any leper or blind man found on the streets begging should be sent there at once.

As for the beggars, they should be sent to their respective homes at once, whether they come from the North, East or West. And the Government should try to discourage people who beat drums on the streets and molest people and try to take money from them by force.

[MR TARKA]

One other aspect, Sir, is that we are happy that the Government has cleared the air on the issue of Nigeria holding controlling shares in the proposed Oil Refinery. As we all know, "black gold", as oil is popularly known, is the chief cause of political unrest in the Middle East, and various other countries, through attempts by imperialist powers to control the economy of those countries. In the initial stage of this industry, the Government should block all loopholes in this venture and see to it that we have not only the controlling shares in this important future economic mainstay, but that we also control the directorate positions in the industry. Oil industrialists in this country must at once realise that it is in their own interests to train Nigerian personnel to hold key positions in the industry especially in the technical side of it.

Government's ultimate objective should be planning ahead to take over completely this industry when funds are available. This should also apply to the Tin Mining Industry in the Plateau areas. The tin miners on the Plateau have made no attempt whatsoever to plough back any part of their big gains into the areas concerned. They have built no hospital and no schools and they have provided no roads for the area. Compensation for land acquired by the miners is very low compared with the everlasting loss of farmland incurred by the landowners in the areas. This is coupled with cheap labour. And, worse still, no attempt is made to train Nigerians technically or administratively, except through the meagre efforts of our Government. But some of the fault lies with the African miners who refuse to group themselves into strong companies and receive Government encouragement to tap the mining resources. The indigenous African miner should be encouraged by the Government to come together rather than operate as individuals, which position does not now pay them.

The question of our roads has already been dealt with by the hon. Minister of Works. He has made an attempt to take the wind out of our sails on this issue. Since bad roads tell adversely on the economy of the nation, it is essential that every Member who speaks in this House should try to mention, briefly, the roads leading to his area or to other important areas.

Our road traffic dilemma is worsening day in, day out. Our roads need re-alignment, *i.e.*, widening and re-surfacing, and we are glad that the Minister has given us the reassurance that the Government is doing everything possible to improve the present position.

But we are not satisfied with the various promises made by Ministers on the Floor of this House which are not carried out. Some of these promises are carried over from one development programme to another. We read in the present estimates and in the development programme that most of these things which are said there have been carried over from the past development programme. We do not blame our Government for that because we understand the financial position of the Government, but more should be done to see to it that the promises made on the Floor of this House are not merely promises to satisfy the ambition of Members; they should be promises made to be implemented by the Government.

In the past, lack of planning on the side of expatriate engineers has resulted in narrow roads and bridges and, while thousands of pounds are lost in traffic congestion, apart from loss of life in road accidents, these retired engineers are enjoying fat pensions! The Government should embark on serious traffic planning in Lagos and also start widening and re-surfacing all trunk A roads.

We are disappointed that when the Minister listed the number of roads which he is going to have re-surfaced, he did not mention roads like the Eliede-Jos Road. He only mentioned that he was going to widen the bridges and try to improve the position near Akwanga. That is not satisfactory at all. Furthermore, a Member on the other side of the House, from Adamawa Province has rightly said that the road from Eliede to Adamawa Province and from Yola to the Northern Cameroons or the Sardauna Province is grossly neglected by this Government, as if Members from that area do not pay tax or are not entitled to amenities.

We would like the the Minister to remedy the situation at once and see to it that all trunk A roads in this country are tarred at once, particularly the roads leading to international boundaries, like the road in the Northern Cameroons. Roads under construction at present should now come in for readjustment from the old methods. We should also have

permanent concrete surfacing to replace the uneconomic bitumenous surfacing which, in years to come, will accumulate costs which will outdo the cost of permanent concrete surfacing.

We are all very glad that gradual progress has been made in the Bornu railway extension. The time has come when Government should implement the suggestions from *this* side of the House to install giant refrigerators in our railway trains to convey fresh rich beef from Ndama cattle and fresh goat and sheep meat from Bornu and other parts of the Northern Region to the Southern provinces where the people will be able to enjoy fully the discarded goat meat from parts of the North, particularly Bauchi, whose inhabitants do not eat goats because of the superstitious belief that goat-eaters contract leprosy.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): Point of Information. That statement is untrue. The hon. Member is not from Bauchi, nor am I; but that statement is untrue.

**Mr Tarka**: I have worked in Bauchi for eight years, so the information is for the hon. Member for Gwarzo East who has never been to Bauchi himself.

**Mr Speaker**: The point of information was directed to the Chair and does not call for any subsidiary debate.

**Mr Tarka**: Fresh refrigerated meat would help the country economically by stopping the growing consumption of imported chilled beef and other meat, apart from making it possible to have more nutritious meat by other means than the present inhuman process of marching cattle on foot to Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt and Enugu, during which march the cattle become bony and lean and unfit for human consumption.

The time has come when the Government should give more pronounced and realistic accent to its African affairs policy. We are supposed to give a lead to the entire African continent, black and brown alike. But, while France was reportedly planning another Atom test in the Sahara (a thing which previously rightly broke the Franco-Nigerian diplomatic ties), our Minister of Information was busy telling the world of our Government's intentions to reinstate diplomatic relations, in a

manner which portrayed us as begging for it. After all, in our national pride, we do not need to beg France and similar countries who have no respect for world opinion. This is entirely ridiculous!

Furthermore, we claim to champion the noble cause of the great freedom fighters in the Central Africa Federation, and we claim to support the cause of African nationalism in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa.

But what is this talk about the Prime Minister planning to visit South Africa and Sir Roy's Central African Federation at the invitation of those self-imposed imperialist Governments, at this particular time? Worse still, while we support Kaunda, Nkomo and Dr Banda against the continuance of Sir Roy's pet Federation, we have foolishly and, perhaps blindly walked into British shoes by inheriting her recognition of the Central African Federation through our acceptance of Sir Roy's Envoy soon after Independence.

This is in fact one of the obligations which were mentioned in Viscount Head's letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, and a portion of which reads as follows (I quote with your permission, Sir):—

*"Nigeria undertakes all obligations and responsibilities of the Government of the United Kingdom which arise from any valid international instrument, in so far as such instrument may be held to have application to Nigeria"*.

Now, the cheek of it all is not merely the diplomatic recognition alone, it is the fact that Sir Roy Welensky is sending a stooge of an African to sell his dirty Federation to us. What price patriotism! Honestly, as soon as this man lands in Lagos, Government should politely ask him to go home.

As things now stand, we have on this issue and on the issue of the legal Algerian Government put ourselves in a position of being dubbed as traitors to the noble cause of African nationalism. While France has changed her attitude towards the Algerian Government our so-called Government has failed to recognise the legitimate Algerian Government.

We know that our Government has no territorial ambition to the extent of refusing to talk about Fernando Po in a more realistic

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 way; but we Nigerians have territorial ambition. Our territorial ambition is the general emancipation of Africa from all forms of colonialism, the promotion of African nationalism and African unity. Nobody stops the Prime Minister from going anywhere he likes, but the money which is intended to be spent on his impending visit to South Africa should be placed at the disposal of the nationalist movements in those areas. (*Hear, hear.*)

A lot has been said in support of the Government's economic measures and some of its adverse effects on the man in the street. For once, I associate myself with the compliments paid to the Minister of Finance, but I want to say that these compliments should not go to the Minister of Finance, alone, because anything done by him is the collective responsibility of the whole Cabinet.

I agree that something should be done to re-examine the tax on petrol, diesel oil, engine oil and trucks or goods lorries. Government should also set up the common man's shops, since we all understand that the lower income and the upper income groups of workers all buy from the same market, whereas their salaries are not the same.

I would at this moment invite the attention of the Federal Government to the general question of individual liberty in all parts of the Federation, and while I do not mention names and areas, I think that the Federal Government—

**Mr D. O. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : On a point of Order, Sir, the hon. Gentleman has read for more than 30 minutes.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I draw the attention of Members to Standing Order 31 (2) which vests in this Chair the final opinion as to how long any Member has spoken.

**Mr Tarka** : While I do not mention names and areas, I think that the Federal Government, in the course of the preservation of the democratic principles which we profess, should work with all the other Governments of the Federation to preserve and practise the principles of Fundamental Human Rights as entrenched in our Constitution.

Sometimes it is the Police and sometimes it is the so-called *constituted authority* in their pretence to preserve law and order that clamp

down on individual liberty—and the legal process in Nigeria is so long that by the time one is free, one might have been detained arbitrarily for a reasonable period.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with your permission, I quote the talented Thomas Paine who said of the People's Government, in setting down his criterion of the right adjustment of the social system, that :—

*"When it can be said by any country in the world—*

**The Deputy Speaker** : I do not know for how long the Member for Jembar (*Mr Tarka*), proposes to go on, but I think he should wind up within two minutes.

**Mr Tarka** :

*"When it can be said by any country in the world, My poor are happy : neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them : my jails are empty of prisoners' (meaning innocent prisoners) : 'my streets of beggars : the aged are not in want ; the taxes are not oppressive : the rational world is my friend, because I am the friend of happiness.' When these things can be said, then may the country boost its constitution and its Government."*

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to the Government to see to it that the complicated processes of the 1962 Census are made less complicating and interpreted into the various important and written languages of Nigeria and widely publicised. In the present world, apart from the economic and political application, the importance of any nation is determined by its population.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : I must straightaway shower my congratulations for the able manner in which the hon. Minister of Finance had presented his "Mobilisation Budget" ; from the "Peoples" Budget to one of "Responsibility" then to one of "Stability" then to one of "Sovereignty" and now we have the "Mobilisation Budget".

This Budget was aimed at harnessing all our resources, human material, financial and moral, in order to accelerate our economic progress and improve our standard of living and experience an industrial and agrarian re-orientation in our life-time.

Those who think that Africans could not manage their own affairs, would be ashamed of themselves, if they were present when the hon. Minister of Finance was delivering his Budget Speech. 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—(*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order ! There are far too many interruptions. Would Members who feel like going out please do so with decorum ?

**Mr Chiedozie :** The Minister of Finance has proved that, all things being equal, the black man can excel other races in many spheres of human activity.

Let me now deal with items raised in this very important Budget Speech :

The Minister must be commended for his present progressive Banking policy. The increased powers given to the Central Bank in order to guide commercial banks and to organise the control, expansion and contraction of credit, in order to preserve the country's monetary equilibrium, are praiseworthy. The Central Bank must closely watch the liquidity ratios and interest rates, because the 1962-68 Economic Development Programme will become a futility and ultimately prove a fiasco if the Central Bank fails to maintain monetary stability. Inadequate monetary measures will lead to an inflation : an economic cankerworm militating against a country's balance of payments and standards of living.

I am happy that the hon. Minister is tackling energetically our balance of Payments problems. It requires a dynamic and realistic approach if we are to solve the problems of imbalance in foreign trade. Let the hon. Minister look round again, and search for many other imported goods which are becoming conventional necessities and luxuries. He should apply his economic hammer, and prevent importation of these goods.

Doctors all over the world have testified that smoking causes various heart diseases and weakens the mental resources of those who smoke. Why should the import of cigarettes into this country not be considerably diminished ?

Importation of opium is illegal in this country but it is being said that cigarettes and opium perform similar debilitating effects on human physiological organs. Also to improve our export drive the Government should give an ultimatum to Japan. If they failed to buy our goods up to the same quantity that we buy from them, then there should be utter boycott of Japanese goods. An embargo should be laid forthwith on Japanese goods.

We cannot continue to depend on imported goods. Protection should be given to home industries. In this connection, I will appeal to the hon. Minister to consider, in due course, the advisability of waiving excise duties on home manufactured goods. Import duties on petrol, motor tyres, and motor parts should be revoked.

Also, we must open up trade with such countries as India, Russia, China, *et cetera*. In this connection, I must congratulate the indefatigable Zanna Dipcharima, when he said that in the International Fair to be held in Nigeria this year Russia, China, *et cetera*, will be invited. China has a population of 500,000,000 people, and it will serve as a very big market if our cocoa, palm oil, palm kernel, groundnuts, *et cetera*, are exported to China.

I must again congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry for his recent announcement about the formation of a West African Cocoa Alliance in order to increase the price of cocoa in the world market. This is what we want. Nigeria must proceed beyond her frontiers if we are going to achieve economic hegemony at all in Africa. Isolationism is one of the most dangerous diseases that can damage a country's industrial, economic and agricultural potentiality.

We must lead in Africa in the present race for economic unification. We hear of the European Common Market. We hear of the European Free Trade Area. We hear of the European Economic Community. We must have a West African or, if possible an African Common Market. Nigeria must lead in making this proposal a practical possibility. The countries in West Africa will suffer economic strangulation if they fail to unite now economically in this 20th century race for international economic leadership.

Our investments overseas must be repatriated. Many local councils or Native Authorities still have their assets lying overseas. It is

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indeed economically absurd for an under-developed young country like Nigeria to have her assets lying overseas, while her people clamour for foreign capital. We must infuse economic dynamism into our future financial activities.

Internally, we must carry out an effective co-ordination of all organs that supply capital in this country. Marketing Boards, Development Corporations, must be made to have all efforts geared to one common purpose: that of consolidating our internal economy and of accelerating our economic, industrial and agricultural productivity. The Marketing Board prices must be co-ordinated with the overall Federal monetary policy, in order to achieve stability and avoid a diminishing standard of living.

In the sphere of wages, I support the hon. Minister of Finance, that wages must be increased side by side with increases in productivity. There must be a narrowing down of the gap between the incomes of the low paid and high paid. If there is a wide gap in the inequality of incomes there will be a corresponding degree of maladministration and maldistribution of the nation's economic resources.

In this country the salaries of workers in the low income group still require to be increased particularly in view of house rents, prices of foodstuffs, *et cetera*, which have sky-rocketed in recent times. In fact, if tariffs are levied on luxurious commodities enjoyed, by the well-to-do and more fortunate persons in order to increase the nation's wealth, efforts must be made by our Government to see to it that there is no general rise in the prices of necessities which affect the poor workers' livelihood. Otherwise the object of tariffs on luxury goods will be defeated.

The rich man will be richer, and the poor worker will continue to be poorer.

See what is happening at the moment! The austerity tax measures are now hitting the low paid harder. The prices of important consumer goods are soaring already. Prices of yam, gari, oil, pepper, salt and meat have risen. I want to appeal to our Government to pass a law making profiteering an offence. Let there be a realistic effort to control prices of imported goods. If this is done the prices of home produced goods will be more easily controlled.

The sellers in the markets do not understand what is meant by increases in the duties of imported luxuries. They take increases as increases, and only a wide publicity by the Government can help to reduce this degree of ignorance. The Government can appoint Price Inspectors who will be visiting markets in order to ascertain the tempo of price increases.

I come now to saving. If some of these anomalies affecting low income earners are eradicated, there is no doubt that people will save tremendously. In fact, even Nigerian workers are prepared to save. But no one can save if he is unable to meet the basic necessities of life. Apart from the desire to save, there must be ability to save. Our workers to-day are prepared to save, but in view of the economic forces militating against their existence, they have no surplus to save.

I support the present Government measures to effect savings through the issue of savings certificates and Premium Bonds. There must be national savings campaign. In economic parlance, saving generates capital formation, and a nation with considerable capital has built up enormous potential assets which will make future consumption possible, because no nation will ultimately survive if it continues to live on its own capital.

Surely, an under-developed country like Nigeria must try to save in order to make future production possible. In this respect, again, I must praise our hon. Minister of Finance, for his considerable economic wisdom in this direction. There is another aspect, about which I must congratulate him, and it is in connection with his battle against smuggling, and those who smuggle the goods.

Smuggling accentuates our balance of payments problems, and distorts our national economy. The Government must support the hon. Minister of Finance in his commendable efforts in this direction. Those who smuggle must be heavily punished.

Then there is the question of Investment in the Public Sector. Nowadays, the economic activities of Government are increasing but there is no doubt that our Government is doing its best to encourage investment in the public sector. I only wish to appeal to our Government to give more loans to our men in the private sector of our economy.



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The Federal Loans Board is doing well in this direction in its functions to subsidise small industries. I will appeal to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to see to it that more loans are given to industries catering for oil mills, groundnut mills, cotton, kola, *et cetera*, which are the mainstay of our economy. It will increase our export drive, and reduce our trade imbalance.

I wish now to discuss the implications, of the budget in its relationship with the various economic activities of the country.

Before I continue, I must congratulate the Prime Minister for the way and manner he had steered the ship of state in the past year. If we are going to succeed in the 1962-68 economic development project, we must relate our success to the meritorious services of the Prime Minister in seeing to it that Nigeria passed through one year of independence, under a tranquil, stable, peaceful and progressive administration.

I used to call this administration the *Abubakarian* administration because Sir Abubakar, our Prime Minister, has succeeded to implant in this era a statesmanlike administration, a cautious administration, a progressive administration, a dynamic administration, a democratic administration and above all, a peaceful, administration.

Search your hearts. Look round Africa and elsewhere the world over. Is there any country that can carry out a good economic programme without internal peace and good government? One of the results of this is that various international conferences are now being held in Nigeria because of her peaceful outlook. Tourist industry should be developed in this country. If this is done, the revenue to be derived from it will reduce the imbalance in our invisible trade. A country like Switzerland lives on her tourist trade. Our Government should now embark on a realistic approach to the promotion of tourist industry in Nigeria.

Before I leave the Prime Minister, I must say that his most recent plans to help the Dahomeans who are now stricken with famine and hunger are most commendable. It is only by a sympathetic approach to the problems of other countries around us that Nigeria can win universal admiration in Africa. Let the Prime Minister, therefore, go ahead. We are behind him in this direction.

I come now to another aspect. In order to continue to achieve peaceful economic progress, our Government must continue its commendable policy of improving generally the conditions of the Police as, without them, there can be no internal peace. But, much more improvements are still needed. At the moment, many police lance corporals, corporals, sergeants and even inspectors who have served between 15 and 25 years have no hope of promotions, even though their services are exemplary. Let there be investigation into these ugly promotion anomalies.

I suggested last year that there should be a system of continuing annual increments for all policemen, so that a corporal or lance corporal who had served for, say, 25 years without being promoted will continue to receive increments annually in view of his long service and experience. This is the practice in the United Kingdom, and it should be followed here, otherwise a lance corporal with 25 years' service will remain on the same salary for many years, and that will be a grave injustice to the people concerned.

Let there be a dynamic change in the psychological and humane approach to the rank and file of our Police Force. After all, concerning efficiency, our police have surpassed their counterparts in other African countries. In the Congo, for instance, they have displayed a marked mental, physical and disciplinary superiority over others. At the moment, we need more Nigerian Police Commissioners. There is no doubt that a Commissioner like Mr Edet is doing excellently well.

In the sphere of women police, we must praise our Government for its commendable efforts to encourage our women police officers. There is no doubt that they are discharging their duties with praiseworthy efficiency.

It is indeed opportune to tell the hon. Minister of Communications that his Department is doing well. Nigerianisation in that Department is almost coming to its final fruition and I want to urge the hon. Minister to hasten the transformation processes.

I wish to remind the hon. Minister, however, that no effort has been made to build the post office at Ogbete in Enugu which had been approved by the Government two years ago. Let the hon. Minister look into this

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matter very soon. There is much congestion in the Enugu Post Office, and a Post Office at Ogbete will serve the heavy population there and thus relieve this congestion. The land had been surveyed and all plans completed, yet the Post Office has not yet been built. The P. and T. will earn more revenue if this Post Office is built. Let the Minister of Communications hurry up and do this.

I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Defence, Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, and the Minister of State in charge of the Army, Hon. J. C. Obande, on their hard work and zeal to improve the conditions of our military forces and so to improve our defence strategy.

I have noticed that half a million pounds contract has been awarded for the completion of building reconstruction in the Enugu Army Barracks. This is excellent. In the same way, efforts should be made to cater for the education of the children of the Army officers. At the moment, for instance, in Kaduna there is no elementary school where these army officers' children can receive education. At Enugu, there is one built by the Municipal Council. If the education of the children of these army officers is well catered for, I think it will draw more people into the army.

I have also noticed that the hon. Minister of State in charge of Naval Forces, Mr M. T. Mbu, is infusing dynamism into the Navy. No more second-hand or obsolete ships are to be purchased. This is very progressive. I suggest, in addition, that Nigerians should be sent to countries like Germany, Japan, the U.S.A. for naval training, and not only to the United Kingdom.

In the sphere of education, I want to tell the hon. Minister of Education, Mr Aja Nwachuku, that we appreciate his efforts to accelerate intellectual freedom in Nigeria. It is a token of broad-mindedness on the part of the Government to transfer the Regional Branches of the College of Technology to the Ife University, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the University of the North respectively. This is a magnanimous and patriotic achievement by the hon. Minister of Education.

The envisaged building of Inter-Regional Colleges to promote one Nigeria is very commendable. The free-primary education

up to Standard Six in Lagos is also commendable. The advancement of the University College, Ibadan, and the bringing of educational experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to Nigeria to assist in our educational progress is most encouraging. I want to suggest that a big college like the King's College, Lagos, should be made to produce 150 students annually with West African School Certificates. The great amount of capital poured into it must reflect a corresponding increase in output.

All efforts must henceforth be directed to technical education in Nigeria. This is the age of technology and mechanisation, and without technical education, there will be no trained personnel to handle the industrial and agricultural machinery.

I want to say a little about our foreign relations. I am one of those opposed to the idea that we should go all out to acquire Fernando Po, and I must praise our Government's avowed policy of non-aggression towards all countries, big or small. The indigenous inhabitants of Fernando Po have a right to self-determination and, sooner or later, it will be left to them to achieve their own independence and determine their future relations with Nigeria and other countries for that matter. The policy of our Government had eloquently been stated over and over again—that Nigeria will not, because of her size and population, seek to dominate, acquire, or attack any other country, however big or small. We must adopt the same attitude towards Fernando Po, otherwise we will let down many other countries of Africa which look upon Nigeria as the bastion of democracy.

I must congratulate our Minister of Foreign Affairs on his brilliant performances at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. There is no doubt that Nigeria is gaining world-wide respect and admiration.

I must also congratulate the Minister of Information on his efforts to publicise Nigeria abroad. I want the Minister also to see to it that the recently installed television service in Lagos plays its part creditably. I am one of those who believe that there should be one over-all television service throughout the country. The East has its own television, the West has one, the North will soon have one, and now the

Federal Government has one. If there is no co-ordination between all these distinctive television services, I am afraid that the whole thing will amount to economic waste, especially in these days of austerity measures.

I have nothing but praise for our Judiciary. Our judges are absolutely independent and impartial in their dispensation of justice. Surely our Judiciary is a pride to all of us. If one looks round somewhere in Africa one will behold a sorrowful spectacle of how justice has been trampled to the ground and its dispensation shamefully based on political and personal considerations. In Nigeria it is not so at all, and I must wholeheartedly congratulate our Prime Minister on his present stand that the administration of justice must not be tampered with and that the hands of the law must be allowed to move untrammelled and unpoluted.

I now come to labour. Our Minister of Labour needs wholehearted commendation for the way he handles labour affairs generally. I support his stand in the way he is handling the affairs in connection with the Nigerian labourers in Fernando Po. I agree that all is not well there. But even in Nigeria, is it all well with our workers? Why do we cry wolf about Fernando Po? If the conditions are as bad as reported, why is it that thousands of Nigerian labourers continue to move to that place?

In the last parliamentary delegation to the Fernando Po, some arch-critics in the Opposition like hon. E. O. Eyo, hon. P. E. Ekanem and others were in the team. None of them returned to confirm that everything in that Island was unsatisfactory. I challenge them to tell the country what they saw there, otherwise critics must allow sleeping dogs to lie.

Economically, certain geographical factors are always responsible for mobility of labour. Labour moves to places where there are incentives to higher earnings, greater rewards and profitability. Our labourers move to Fernando Po because the conditions there are fairly favourable to them. Let our labourers go over to Fernando Po in hundreds and if possible to naturalise there. In fact it is said that Nigerians constitute 80 per cent of the total population. I also understand that the Bubis, the original owners, love Nigerians and would like to socialise with them. In due course the people's independence will be determined by the majority of the population.

While I admit that some criticisms are well-meaning, I also believe that some critics simply want Nigeria to go to war with Spain! This must be resisted by our Government.

The National Provident Fund established by the hon. Minister of Labour is one of the greatest achievements of this Government. There is no doubt that the Government is doing its best to alleviate the sufferings of the workers.

Let the hon. Minister see to it that the rift in our trade union front is finally settled. In this connection I must congratulate our respected Speaker and Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe and others who are doing their best to bring peace on our labour front. It will be a national calamity, in fact a national disgrace, if we continue to advertise to the outside world that our trade unions are not disciplined and are chaotic and full of factional bitterness.

I must also appeal to the Minister of Labour to probe into the conditions of workers in the Federal Palace Hotel. There is racial discrimination, there is victimisation, there are all sorts of anomalies going on there. Let the Government acquire this Hotel, if possible, and remove that image planted at the gates of the Hotel, as it does not reflect Nigerian dignity. Let a beautiful black image be placed there instead of the present white one.

While I congratulate the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, I wish him to see to it that the condition of houses of the Prison Warders is improved. The Warders' dwelling houses at Enugu are very old—there is no ventilation, no adequate accommodation. A person with a family of six or eight lives in quarters comprising only a room and a narrow verandah. Let there be a dynamic progressive housing policy for these Prison Warders.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I remind the hon. Member that in all dynamism he should wind up in three minutes?

**Mr Chiedozie :** I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Mines and Power in his efforts to make indigenous participation in oil industry a feasibility. The controlling shareholding in favour of Nigeria in the proposed oil refinery to be built at Port Harcourt is most commendable.

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In conclusion, I like to say that the progress so far made by our Government in all spheres of activity is most encouraging. The Government's fiscal and monetary measures are progressive. The 1962-68 economic development plan will place Nigeria on the first rung of our economic revolution. We must be proud of these achievements of a country which first won her freedom barely one year ago.

I beg to support.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I remind the House that with the vast number of Members who want to speak, I do not think that a fair proportion will be able to speak if those called upon insist on using up the whole of thirty minutes.

12.33 p.m.

**The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

A vitally important and extremely interesting stage has been reached in the progress and development of the Ministry of Communications which is now poised between two major Development Programmes, the one which has extended over the past seven years, 1955 to 1962, and the other which will extend over the next six years, 1962 to 1968. It is therefore a convenient and opportune time to survey the achievements of the past and to consider our hopes for the future. I should like, therefore, to take the opportunity presented to me in this debate to acquaint the hon. Members with the achievements of the past seven years before proceeding to a general outline of my policy intentions for the next six years.

My Ministry's main responsibilities lie in the field of Postal and Telecommunications Services. As hon. Members will recall, our Postal and Telecommunications Development Policy for 1955 to 1962 was detailed in Sessional Papers 4 and 8 of 1957. These papers ushered in a period of development without precedent in the history of the P. and T. Division; development which cost the huge sum of approximately £14 million. Before the commencement of that programme, an expert commission appointed to look into the affairs of the P. and T. Division had indicated that the organisation of the P. and T. Division and of P. and T. Services was in such a parlous state that, and I quote,

*"It was extremely surprising that the whole P. and T. Services of the country had not collapsed"*.

The report went on to say that much of the equipment was out of date, buildings were substandard in many cases, overhead lines were suffering from lack of maintenance, and the standard of staff efficiency was extremely low. This was a very serious state of affairs which required drastic and radical action to rectify. It was for this reason that the Federal Government in 1955 embarked on a major programme of re-organisation and development of Postal and Telecommunications Services in Nigeria.

As a result, there has been a dramatic improvement in these services over the past seven years. This has been particularly apparent in Telecommunications services where there has, for example, been achieved an increase of no less than 520 per cent in the trunk channel miles. This great expansion in the trunk network has been achieved mainly as a result of the establishment of the VHF main line trunk system which now forms the backbone of our national telecommunications trunk network. Trunk development on this impressive scale has made it possible to achieve a threefold increase in the number of exchange lines and telephone instruments in use and a fourfold increase in the total number of trunk calls made *per annum*. During the Programme a total of 124 telephone exchanges were completed including twelve major automatic exchanges. In addition, a number of important new techniques and facilities have been introduced, such as subscriber trunk dialling between Lagos and Ibadan, rural carrier systems and rural automatic exchanges, a high-speed torn tape relay system to expedite telegraph transmission, and telex services both internal and international.

During the same period great improvements were made in postal services including the opening of 27 new Post Offices of full departmental status, 27 sub-Post Offices transacting a full range of postal business and 373 Postal Agencies. The introduction of the sub-Post Office system in 1957 to bridge the gap between the Postal Agencies and normal departmental Post Offices has been a complete success and has proved very popular with local communities.

It is significant and, I think, praiseworthy that these improvements in postal and telecommunications services were effected at the same time as the implementation of an effective policy of Nigerianisation by the P. and T. Division, and hon. Members will be pleased to note that during the seven years under review there has been a fourfold increase in the number of senior posts held by Nigerians. In 1956 60 per cent of the senior staff were expatriate; now only 20 per cent are expatriate and 80 per cent are Nigerian.

Apart from a very few projects which, owing to financial stringency and a lack of executive capacity will have to be carried over into the next programme of development, where they will be given priority, all the objectives of the 1955-62 Programme have been attained. I think hon. Members will agree with me that the achievements of the past seven years reflect considerable credit on the P. and T. Division.

Although the achievements of the past have been impressive and the telecommunications and postal services of to-day are so much better than those of 1955, it must be frankly admitted that our present Postal and Telecommunications services have still not yet attained that standard which is necessary to meet the stringent and growing demands of the modern Nigerian economy. We certainly cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

Even the considerable increases in postal and telecommunications services during the last seven years have not been sufficient to keep pace with Nigeria's growing demand for these services, and this demand must be met otherwise Nigeria's economic programme and development will be seriously hindered.

Therefore the future calls for even greater efforts on the part of the P. and T. Division. Fortunately, as a result of the achievements of the past seven years, we are well placed to mount the next programme, and we have a very firm basis upon which to build.

However, I wish to be perfectly frank with hon. Members and make it clear that, until the effects of the new Development Programme begin to be felt, there will be a difficult period when our already over-stretched telecommunications system will have to carry an even greater load. My engineers are constantly studying methods by which our present system

can be utilized to the maximum capacity and I have taken steps to cut off many telephones in the houses of Civil Servants and thus release more telephones for the use of the business community. (*Hear, hear*).

I am also, with the co-operation of my colleagues, bringing in measures to reduce the large number of trunk calls being made by Government Officers during the peak hours of 8 a.m. to mid-day; it is estimated that over 40 per cent of the trunk calls being made during this period are made by Government Officers. This is far too high a percentage and must be reduced if the commercial life of the country is to be adequately served.

I should now like to turn to consideration of our policy proposals for the development of postal and telecommunications services during the next six years. The Federal Government during this period proposes a capital expenditure of nearly £30 million upon these services of which £27.4 million will be spent on telecommunications and £2.3 million upon postal services.

Expenditure of this magnitude is essential in order to expand postal and telecommunications facilities sufficiently to cope with the rapidly growing needs of Nigeria. The expansion of the national telephone system is of particular importance to economic development and it is therefore proposed to instal 60,000 new telephone exchange lines during the period which will permit of the connection of over 100,000 additional telephones by the end of the programme. Major emphasis will be placed on the expansion of telex services, both internal and international, and on the extension of subscriber trunk dialling facilities to all the major commercial and industrial centres.

The initial phase of the programme will involve expenditure of £7.4 million. A major project to be included in this phase of development is the conversion of a national trunk telephone system from V.H.F. radio transmission to U.H.F. which is a very modern technique providing a much greater trunk capacity than can be achieved under the present V.H.F. system.

The existing V.H.F. equipment will not of course be wasted but will be used on feeder trunk routes linking with the main trunk system. Other development during this initial

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phase will be concentrated upon major urban areas where commercial and industrial needs are acute and where the inadequacy of telecommunications could seriously endanger the success of the Government's Economic Programme on the whole.

The development proposed during this initial phase is of vital importance as it is an essential pre-requisite to the general expansion and improvement of telecommunications services throughout Nigeria, including those serving rural areas, on the tremendous scale envisaged during the latter stages of the 1962-68 Programme.

As regards postal services, it is proposed to continue to develop and expand these services during the next six years. The new programme involves the building of about 40 new Post Offices and the extension and modification of many others. The establishment of more sub-post offices and postal agencies will be encouraged so that postal facilities can be made readily available to as many people as possible. It is of course recognised that postal services must always be capable of meeting the needs of commerce and industry and to cope with the demand resulting from the rapidly growing literacy rate in this country.

Hon. Members will appreciate that at this stage only a broad and rather general indication of my development proposals can be given.

I and my staff have for the past few months been busily engaged in collecting data and information for the preparation of a detailed development plan covering the next six years. This is a formidable task which will not be completed for many months. However, it is my intention at the August meeting of this House to put before the Members a White Paper which will set out in some detail my development proposals for the 1962-68 period.

I can assure hon. Members that these proposals will be based on a most careful assessment of postal and telecommunications needs throughout Nigeria and in this connection I am proposing to undertake an extensive tour of the Northern Region and to visit all regional capitals in order to gain first hand knowledge of the requirements of the Regions. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Members will be aware that I have recently paid official visits to a number of overseas countries. These visits have enabled me to obtain much information which will be extremely useful in the preparation of the Development Programme. I have learnt how countries with problems somewhat similar to ours are developing their postal and telecommunications services. I have also taken the opportunity to examine various types of telecommunications equipment which we are not familiar with in our own telecommunications system.

As hon. Members will know, over the past years we have concentrated upon the use of British telecommunications equipment in Nigeria. This equipment has served us well, but there is no reason why we should restrict ourselves to one source of supply; we should, I am convinced, regard the whole world as our market and we should endeavour to drive the best possible bargains we can in the purchase of our telecommunications equipment. (*Hear, hear.*)

I have also taken the opportunity, whilst in these countries, to study the organisation of their postal and telecommunications services and have gleaned many careful ideas which I hope to introduce during the course of the next Development Programme here in Nigeria.

I propose to expedite the preparation of detailed plans for the Development Programme by calling upon the assistance of international telecommunications consultants who will work under the direction of our senior Nigerian telecommunications engineers in the preparation of a detailed survey of our requirements and the drawing up of the necessary technical plans and specifications. It is necessary to utilise the services of consultants because the task of planning the £30 million Development Programme is far beyond the technical manpower resources at the immediate disposal of the P. and T. Division.

The P. and T. Division will certainly have to face a very difficult staffing problem during the period 1962-68. It will be extremely difficult to find sufficient staff of the right calibre and to meet the requirements of the capital development programme and also to meet the rapidly expanding recurrent commitments. Some use will be made of technical assistance personnel from foreign sources but their contribution though significant, will be of a marginal nature.

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There is no doubt that the P. and T. Division will have to meet its staffing requirements almost entirely from Nigerian sources and this will involve a very heavy training commitment, requiring a major expansion in the training programme of the Division. Fortunately, this need was anticipated when the new block of buildings was erected for the P. and T. Training School at Oshodi during the 1955-62 Programme and this will be adequate to meet most of our training accommodation needs during the forthcoming development period. Moreover, territorial training schools were established in the Regional capitals during the last programme which will help to carry some of the burden during the next few years.

The training of technical officers is of great importance in view of their highly skilled and specialised duties, and during the course of the next Development Programme the training school at Oshodi will have to produce approximately 560 fully trained technical officers each of whom will have had a 3-4 years' course of intensive training in various aspects of telecommunications maintenance. In addition P. and T. training schools will have to cope with an annual intake of 800 technicians for various courses ranging from four to 13 weeks duration designed to familiarise them with the techniques essential to their duties. A variety of courses will also be run for postal staff, telephones, telegraph and telegraph operators.

The expansion of training envisaged will necessitate a three-fold increase in the training capacity of the P. and T. Division; and the gearing of the training schools to meet this commitment will involve a major reorganisation of training facilities in which particular emphasis will have to be placed on the Nigerianisation of the instructor cadre.

There will be very important developments in Nigeria's international telecommunications services in the 1962-68 Programme. The Federal Government has already decided that it is both politically and economically necessary for these services to be subject to effective governmental control and discussions are being held between the Ministry of Communications and the present operating company Messrs Cable and Wireless Limited, with a view to the transfer of the responsibility for Nigeria's international telecommunications services as

soon as possible to some suitable body in which the Federal Government will have a controlling interest.

The recent Conference of African and Malagasy States and also discussions with individual West African Governments have revealed a strong need and desire for the improvement of telecommunications facilities between Nigeria and certain adjacent and nearby African countries. This is a matter of considerable political and economic importance which will receive priority attention in the forthcoming Programme.

Priority will also be given to the expansion and improvement of telecommunications services with overseas countries generally; Nigeria's participation in world affairs, both politically and economically, will be seriously hindered if these services are neglected. Provided they are developed wisely, they are capable of providing a fruitful source of revenue.

I am particularly anxious that the Post Office Savings Bank should play its full part as a convenient and safe repository for small savings during the forthcoming development programme. Certain steps have already been taken to improve the attractiveness of the Bank for potential savers and I intend to introduce further measures in consultation with my Colleague, the Minister of Finance, to improve the facilities of the Bank. These measures will include the raising of the limitation on the amount which may be deposited during any one year in a personal Savings Account. I am, however, convinced that the Bank cannot be operated successfully unless steps are taken to improve its organisation and management. This matter is under careful consideration at the moment and I hope I will be in a position to introduce necessary measures within the next few months.

There is one final matter I should like to mention concerning the P. and T. Division. The Division, although a department of Government, is nevertheless a quasi-commercial organisation providing a range of services necessary to all sections of the community, and of particular importance to commercial and industrial interests. I and my advisers are convinced that the Postal and Telecommunications Services cannot be properly developed

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to meet the requirements of the Nigerian economy and that proper standards of courtesy and efficiency cannot be achieved unless the P. and T. Division is operated on sound and progressive commercial lines. I have therefore accepted this as a major policy objective during the forthcoming Programme, and, as it is a matter of such crucial importance for the future, I propose to introduce a White Paper before the end of this Budget Meeting containing a detailed policy statement on the adoption of commercial principles in the Division of Postal and Telecommunication Services.

In conclusion, I should like to turn briefly to the affairs in the Meteorological Division of my Ministry. This is a small Government Department which has no direct contact with members of the public and so as a result rarely gets any publicity or recognition for its services which are literally of vital importance particularly to international aviation.

Let me place on record here and now my thanks to those who provide these services—a group of small but efficient officers and I would go so far as to describe them as dedicated personnel.

During the forthcoming Programme Meteorological Services will be expanded to provide additional services for aviation and particular attention will be given to the provision of information for the purposes of hydrology and agriculture.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that the African Regional Association of the World Meteorological Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations Organisation, has recommended that a training school for Meteorologists should be located in Nigeria based on our Meteorological Training School at Oshodi to serve the needs of African countries in this part of Africa. This, I consider, pays a high tribute to the standard of our Meteorological Services in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support.

12.59 p.m.

**M. Umaru Gela (Mubi)** : On behalf of the entire people of Sardauna Province, I congratulate the Federal Government on its achievement since the present Government came into power. It is also my responsibility to speak on the problems and requests of the people of my constituency.

I wish to speak on the problems facing us in this new Sardauna Province with respect to agriculture, communication, transport, education and health. I am sure hon. Members and you, Sir, Mr Speaker, are aware of the problems facing us in that part of this great country.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mallam Umaru Gela (Mubi)** : I wish to remind you, Sir, and hon. Members of this House of the reasonable, well-thought out, well presented and highly exciting plan for the development of our great country, the cornerstone of the continent, presented to us recently by His Excellency, the Governor-General. We all know the problem of development which confronts this country, and we must solve that problem on a national basis.

I intend only to speak for my own constituency, albeit in the hope that thereby, I may render some slight service to my province and my country.

I wish to call attention to the following matters of concern to the people of my constituency. There is a dire need for the establishment of agricultural research facilities in my province, so as to determine most definitely the best means to work for the progress of my people and the country. I would like the Federal Government to establish a survey mission in order to determine the ways and means by which such an agricultural research programme may be put under way.

The people of my constituency suffer gravely under the terrible agricultural handicaps imposed by soil erosion. The North Regional Government is fully alert to the problem of preventing this natural disaster, and, as is well known to you, Mr Speaker, as well as to hon. Members of this House, it has already undertaken certain investigations into the ways of redressing this calamity. It is my belief that the onslaught of soil erosion is a national disaster, and I respectfully suggest that the Federal Government should take over from the Regional Governments the task of arranging to eliminate this local and national evil.

There is an acute need for the precise determination of the boundaries of the Sardauna Province. There remains a question in my



mind as to whether the present-day boundaries of the Province are as they were in the past. I suggest that, in the name of justice and national righteousness, a Federal survey be instituted to redress errors or to still the fears of iniquities in the current boundary demarcations.

I humbly suggest that the Federal Government should institute programmes to enhance the quality of veterinary service in this great nation. This is of considerable concern to me and to my people, as Members know in this House. My Province has contributed greatly to the quality and quantity of cattle-rearing and the supply of beef to the Eastern and Western Regions of Nigeria as well as to some other areas in and about Lagos. The welfare of these cows is of no small concern to me as a representative of the people of Sardauna Province.

I further suggest that, with the proper care of our cattle herds, there will be little need for the importation of Argentina beef, as was condemned by the hon. Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) a few days ago.

I wish to point out that my great Province, if given a proper veterinary service, will be in a position to make Nigeria self-sufficient in beef products. I wish to call the attention of this House to the fact that the progress of the nation in this regard depends to a large extent on access to markets and on provincial and inter-regional road communications.

I wish to enlist the co-operation of the House in the realisation of national progress. I believe that progress will be made and the nation will be well served by the building of roads as follows: Bama-Mubi road *via* Gwoja-Madogali-Miciku, Damaturu-Mubi road *via* Little Gombe. Another road from Mubi-Maiha Sarau Bellel to connect Nigeria with the Camerouns Republic at Garuwa—the nearest road to Mubi from Cameroun Republic.

As we have observed often, and as His Excellency the Governor-General's Message to this august body so ably pointed out, education is a vital need in our country. Educational facilities mean progress for our people, and to have educated people is a resource of the nation second to none. Educational facilities in my

Province are lacking both in quality and in quantity. I therefore appeal to the Federal Government to take steps to help the Sardauna Province to improve its educational facilities. If a detailed survey of this is carried out, then the education needs of my people will be brought to a higher level commensurate with the needs of the nation predestined by history and geography to become the leader of Africa, if not the world.

Despite my previous remarks as to the importance of education as a national resource, I must admit now that a second aspect of society's state is at least equal in importance to that of education. The health of society, the eradication of disease, and the teaching of better health habits are of vital concern to all thinking people, and it is so in my province, in Nigeria, and to everyone in the whole world. The facilities for the promotion of health and for the prevention of disease in Sardauna Province are meagre indeed.

There are but three General Hospitals in the whole area, and the clinics and dispensaries are few and far between—far too few to serve effectively the needs of people. I appeal to the Government for its sympathy and aid in giving us additional clinics and dispensaries in the Sardauna Province.

I beg the indulgence of this august body for mentioning one additional matter of considerable concern to me. It is industrialisation in the Province. It is undoubtedly well known to you that the Sardauna Province abounds in the growing of pepper. What is the sense of importing large amounts of foreign pepper if we have the advantage and proper facilities for refinement and preparation? We can produce the commodity ourselves. (*Hear, hear*).

I appeal to the Federal Government to help the Sardauna Province by helping to establish a pepper factory at Mubi, as well as banking facilities through which to finance and serve the growing industry if brought into being.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot-Ekpene South): The Prime Minister should tour the whole Federation, because of the proverb which says that charity begins at home.

[MR AFANIDEH]

I would like to say that many of the Ministers have the tendency of leaving their places instead of remaining in the House to listen to the debate and the contributions of the Members. They have the tendency to disappear. I feel that they should stay here and listen to the points raised by various Members. This helps the Government to know the various points raised by Members before they consolidate their plans together and implement their policies.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) :** On a point of information, even though some Ministers may not be here, it will interest hon. Members to know that everyday Ministers go through the *Hansard* and know what each Member has contributed to the debate.

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** Further to that point of information, I think that the Parliamentary Secretary should be ashamed of himself for suggesting that Members should come here to speak to empty Bench. When Ministers are not here how can they consider all the points raised ?

The Prime Minister, who is the head of this Government, is here already but the Ministers under him are not here. Are we joking with this gigantic Programme of Economic Development? The Leader of the House is here. Will he tell us the reason why Ministers are not here ?

**Mr Speaker :** Is the hon. Minister of Finance raising a point of information or a point of order ?

**The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House :** I am raising a point of information, and my hon. Friend has yielded. Quite honestly the Member for Ijebu South who had been hibernating for a long time, has come again with one of his mischief making. He knows quite well that we have collective responsibility on the Government Bench, and that whether my other colleagues are here or not, at least at the time of speaking I have here my hon. Colleague and Friend, the Attorney-General, right with me and, apart from that, I have my colleagues the Parliamentary Secretaries as well as the Government Chief Whip. They are all here.

Therefore I think that my hon. Friend can say why the Leader of the Opposition has vanished from this House. He has vanished from this House for days now, and we hope that he will resurrect on Wednesday.

However, I am sure that my Friends on the Opposition will appreciate that the Government is quite aware of its responsibilities. My colleagues have other duties to attend to, and besides, I have implicit confidence in the ability and brains of the supporters of the Government here and there to reply to any points raised.

*Several Opposition Members rose—*

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I think we have taken enough of Mr Afanideh's time.

**Mr Afanideh :** I am sorry that they have wasted my time. Before I proceed with my speech I have a few observations to make.

First of all, I want to elucidate some of the points made by the Members of the Government, that the Opposition Members are pouring words of encomiums on the Government. It must be understood that during the 1960-61 Budget Session the Leader of the Opposition and many other Members of the Opposition reiterated on the Floor of this House the importance of forming a national economic programme, and I think it was this suggestion put forward by the Opposition that spurred the Government into taking this step.

If we are to give praise to the Government therefore the first praise should go to the Opposition, and at the same time the next goes to the Government. We must say that we are prepared to criticise the Government if they go wrong and to praise the Government if their policies are conducive to the wishes of the majority of our people in Nigeria.

One of the things which make us commend the Government is the production of the Economic Programme, and we must call a spade a spade and not an agricultural implement. Hon. Members are aware that many Members had not been given the opportunity to speak and so I am calling on the Government to suspend the Standing Order, so that Members may be able to have time to present the wishes of their constituencies.

I hope that Members will agree with me that the obnoxious order of the Ministry of Communications, that 24,000 units should be the volume of work to be produced from any postal agency before it is fit for consideration should be amended, because many rural areas have not been privileged to benefit by these postal services. I am calling on the Government to amend this.

I hope that distance should not be the criterion of a consideration; rather I think that when the people have the need for postal services it should be very well understood that they should be provided with these amenities.

There is another point that I want to bring to the notice of the Government. It is the question of radio communication, that is, radio licensing. The Minister has laid it down that everybody who owns a radio should pay a sum of ten shillings every year. I think this is a complete failure, because only very few people pay this, and this is a loss to the Government. This law is nothing. It is very sad that it does not help the Government to realise the revenue which it envisages.

Therefore, I suggest that this should be left in the hands of Local Councils, so that as soon as they collect this they will pay to the Divisional Treasury for onward transmission to the Government Treasury. A sub-committee should also be formed in each of the district or divisional headquarters, and perhaps a few policemen should be employed to do this job.

We are happy that the Government has listened to the wishes of our people, and is prepared to encourage Agriculture in rural areas. I would like to warn that wherever the Government sees that an area has enough land, they should go to establish a farm settlement there and not play politics with it. Let us remember that we are all Nigerians.

Also in our National Anthem we say that we want to build a nation where no one is oppressed; but I want to say that at the moment we are trying to follow a policy where the rich is becoming richer and the poor is becoming poorer. We must try to eradicate this.

We are happy to see that the Government has done a lot for the Lagos area. The people of Lagos enjoy a lot of amenities. They have free primary education and many other amenities.

Those of us from the provinces are not jealous of them, but rather we hope that the Federal Government would co-operate with the Regional Governments to see that they extend equal benefits to the areas under the Regional Governments. It is gratifying to see that the children in the Federal territory of Lagos are receiving free Primary Education.

**An hon. Member :** Unlike the East !

**Mr Afanideh :** In the Eastern Region the parents of school children are suffering. I am sorry to refer to this Mr Speaker. I hope that I will not be ruled out. I am only doing so in order to advance certain points which will help me to substantiate my point.

In the Eastern Region children in Standards V and VI pay £8 a year while children in Standards III and IV pay £5. The parents of these children find this very difficult to do as they also have to pay their taxes.

**Mr Speaker :** This is a matter you should raise when we reach the Committee Stage. At this stage we just want general talks on the financial policy.

**Mr Afanideh :** The aim of the National Economic Programme is to mobilise agriculture and industry; to accelerate the diversification of our economy; to extend employment opportunities; to strengthen community development spirit and to strengthen the present structure of our economy. We are very grateful to our leaders who were responsible for its formation. But we shall go a long way if our leaders will unite and see to it that they have the same educational policy in all the Regions of the Federation because I do not think that the unity of Nigeria is at the moment complete since the various Regions have different educational policies. I urge our leaders, therefore, to see that this error is corrected. We shall be very grateful if they do so.

Loans should be given to the people irrespective of their political affiliation. I will go on to say that whatever money is given to the Regional Governments by the Federal Government should be used by the Regional Governments to help the people in their regions by way of loans.

The Government should establish a *gari* industry in the Eastern Region because there is a lot of cassava in that Region. The establish-

[MR AFANIDEH]  
ment of such an industry will provide employment for a lot of our youths there and they will be able to earn their living in that way.

I want to suggest that there should be more excursions among our secondary and teacher training colleges throughout the Federation. This will give birth to the formation of a national educational council for the entire Federation and the beginning of unity among our people.

Adult education should be encouraged in all the rural areas. A higher teacher training college where secondary school subjects are taught should be established in each of the twelve provinces, if possible, so that our Grade II teachers could be trained to become efficient tutors in our colleges.

It appears that Teachers' Certificate examination results are delayed. I appeal to the Government to see to it that the results are released much earlier to enable candidates who might be unfortunate to be referred to have enough time to prepare for a second attempt.

The proposed University of Lagos is very much appreciated. I associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by many speakers who have spoken before me. But I hope that this University is intended to be second to none in Africa and, if possible, in the whole world.

I wish to talk a little about Lagos. The people of Lagos must be very happy that God made them to be Lagosians who have enough of amenities. I want to say, however, that Lagos has become a place where hooligans and people who have no trade have come to stay. These people do not pay tax and it appears that internal revenue collection in Lagos is not effective because many people except those working in offices do not pay tax.

**An hon. Member :** How do you know that ?

**Mr Afanideh :** It is a fact and if the Inland Revenue Department carries out an extensive and effective investigation it will find that many people except the working class have not paid their taxes. Such people should be taken to court and prosecuted.

Many hon. Members have already spoken about this question of the Federal Palace Hotel. It was my belief that this Hotel belonged to the Federal Government. I do not know why the Ministers who were respon-

sible for the matter allowed A. G. Leventis to possess it. Such an action is not certainly in the interest of this country and I think that the sooner the Government takes it over the better it will be. If they had named the hotel A. G. Leventis Palace Hotel, it would be understandable but I do not know the interpretation attached to the present name. Was it so named to deceive visitors that the hotel belongs to Nigeria when it in fact belongs to A. G. Leventis ?

I want to speak briefly on defence. I am happy that the National Defence Council has been formed. I appeal to the Government to ensure that Ex-servicemen have their representatives on the Council. After all, they are the people who can help to defend this country, more effectively than those of us who are hon. Members. Not many of us can run ; most of us are too big ; and we cannot even defend ourselves. (*Hear, hear*).

I want also to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that some of our soldiers ought to be posted to the border towns in our Federation like Calabar because I think that we are not very well protected. It is a fact that Nigeria is not an aggressive country but we should be on the alert. One of the ways in which this could be done is by posting our soldiers to our borders.

I think that the training of our soldiers should be intensified and I have, at the same time, to thank the hon. Minister of Defence for the efforts that have been made to improve the conditions of their service. I hope that this will help to entice some of our secondary school leavers to join the Army.

I would like to say a few words about commerce and industry. The people of the rural areas have suffered enough in this direction and I think that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry should try as much as possible to see to it that industries are established in the rural areas. Many hon. Members have also spoken in this vein. It is not only Ibadan, Lagos, Onitsha, Aba, Umuahia, Kaduna, Kano, Zaria and other big towns which make up Nigeria. In actual fact, a lot of the hon. Members of this House are from the rural areas which are also part of Nigeria. I urge the Government to extend amenities to people in the rural areas because they also pay tax.

of these local government institutions which all over the country whereby local farmers  
virtually provide the basis for contact in the should be drawn in to learn modern devices

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The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry should also try to visit Ikot Ekpene. There is a very good *rafia* industry which has been going on there but owing to lack of funds the industry is not faring well. This *rafia* industry could be one of the ways by which Nigeria could project its personality and advertise itself to the outside world. One needs only to see the articles produced to be convinced that they are of very high quality and that the people deserve some kind of encouragement as they are doing a lot to project the Nigerian personality.

I would like to say a word about the vocational schools. I hope that when the Government will consider the question of establishing a vocational school it will consider Central Annang as one of the important areas. There is water supply from a big river and I am sure this will provide electricity for some of the neighbouring towns.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that one of the things it must do for the citizens of this country is to raise the prices of their produce. One of the products I want to emphasise is the palm produce. Our palm oil is not sold for a good price. Therefore, I would like the Government to see that the prices are raised for oil, cocoa, groundnut, *et cetera*. At the same time, I want to say that the buyers of palm oil in the East have a method of buying it—they deceive the women by rejecting good oil and saying that it is bad and persuade the women to throw it away. I do not know into which river they throw the bad oil. But these buyers go to buy the good oil they say is bad and sell it for a higher price. I want the Government to see that this practice is stopped.

Last year, I said that there was a great need for providing the people of the old Calabar Province with a railway line. I think it is better for the Government to extend the railway line from Aba to Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, Abak and Oron to link Calabar because this will help trade and industry to improve.

I would like to say a few words about the Ministry of Information. I hope that after the forthcoming census the Government will be able to know the number of people from the various tribes who reside in Lagos. I think there are many Efiks in this town, so I want to

urge the Minister of Information to see that these people also enjoy the news in their own vernacular. This means that if possible Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation should extend the time for the news broadcast so that the illiterate citizens may be able to enjoy this privilege too.

My next point is about the supply of electricity which is proposed for Ikot Ekpene next year. I would like to tell the Minister of Mines and Power that we would very much appreciate it if this amenity could be extended to the neighbouring towns such as Uyo, Abak, Opobo, Eket and Oron.

I wish to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Police to the fact that the police quarters in Ikot Ekpene is very bad and the offices are old and need to be rebuilt. It is high time the Government provide the Police Post in that area with a land rover so that the police may be able to use it as their local transport.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. All this is not speaking on the general financial policy.

**Mr Afanideh :** I congratulate the Minister of Finance for the Budget Speech which he has presented and I say that it is the Opposition that is responsible for such a good budget speech.

I beg to support.

3.43 p.m.

**Mr N. N. Onugu (Nsukka East) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was ably and eloquently moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. One does not need to be a trained economist to see the great future that lies ahead if this grand idea of the Government becomes a reality. On the other hand, the failure of the plan is bound to bring disaster and untold hardship to the millions of people in this country.

The purposes of the Government are shown in both the speech of the Minister of Finance and that of the Minister of Economic Development. These are to raise the national output and make our nation prosperous and great. It is also the intention of the Government to distribute the national income in such a way that some people are not excessively rich while

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): I wish to support the Appropriation Bill ably presented by Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, the Federal Minister of Finance. In doing so, I will like to take advantage of the undertaking which he gave to this House, that those Members who had no opportunity of contributing to the debate on the Speech from the Throne would be privileged to do so during the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

Various Members have paid tributes to the Government, and I cannot do otherwise but to follow suit. In doing so, I will like to start from our Prime Minister under whose reign this country is living in peace, without victimisation and deportation. People have given causes in this country to be deported, and if things were to go as in some other countries, I am sure that many people would have been deported. As we are still living in peace in this country, I think that all honour and glory should go to the Prime Minister. As I have always said, the ambition of our Prime Minister is not to build a financial empire around himself; his aim and ambition is to see that this country is united (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order. There are far too many interruptions to be tolerated. I think that Members should co-operate in this respect. There should not be any more interruptions.

**Chief Okunowo**: The Prime Minister believes in contentment, which is next to Godliness. It is share waste of time trying to tell the world what sort of a Prime Minister we have, but as far as I am concerned, I believe that he is doing his best. He is the one who is going to bring these people together to live in peace and harmony.

On this occasion, I must speak about the Speaker of the House for his sense of humour and impartiality. But I think that the time has now come for the order by which we speak in this House to be amended. When this House started some two years ago, we know the number on the Opposition Side; but now, the number is going down because there have been so many carpet-crossers who have deserted *these* seats. I think that what we should now do is that there should be a ratio or proportion by which we speak, so that there should be two speakers from *this* side as against one from the

Government side. At the moment, if we allow things to go in this order, no Member of the Opposition will have any opportunity to say anything.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): This ratio will come into force when people have stopped crossing the carpet. They have not stopped yet.

**Chief Okunowo**: I cannot but also pay tribute to the Members of the Civil Service, Public Boards and Corporations for their services.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Very honestly, this is the Budget Speech and not the Speech from the Throne, and the hon. Chief is completely out of order by pouring praises on people who are not in the House.

**Chief Okunowo**: The members of the Civil Service have also contributed their quota towards the smooth running of this Government and on an occasion like this, I do not think that we should leave them untouched. I think that they deserve the praise of this House for the services they have done.

I must also pay tribute to our Defence Forces, the Ministry of Defence, the Navy and the Police, and in particular our indefatigable Inspector-General of Police who, we understand from the Press, will be leaving this country very shortly. I am sure that the whole House will wish him well in his retirement.

I also like to mention the members of the Diplomatic Service abroad. They too, wherever they are stationed, are also contributing to the smooth running of our Government, and on an occasion like this, we must remember those at home and abroad.

I also like to thank the Prime Minister for appointing Senator Majekodunmi as the Minister of Health. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr K. Giadom** (Ogoni West): Will the Opposition Members, especially the front benchers, allow the hon. Gentleman to speak and not to have him mortgage his conscience.

**Chief Okunowo**: I also like to mention the Minister of Economic Development. When one listens to the Economic Programme of the Government, one sees that there is a lot of substance in our Minister of Economic

reading his speech. Could he show good examples?

**Mr Speaker**: I have already asked hon.

Council Headquarters. Since the establishment of the University two years ago, there has been increase of communications in the academic and social fields. There have been sessions of international

Development and also in Senator Majekodunmi. These two Gentlemen are the right men in the right places. One sees that the Minister of Economic Development is a pure businessman who knows much about business. In the same way, one sees from the Ministerial Statement by the Minister of Health that he knows what he is talking about with regard to the Ministry of Health.

I appeal to the Prime Minister to ensure that our Ministers do have regular consultations with their counterparts in the Regions. We have started to see the beauty of consultation which exists in the Economic Programme. *United we stand, divided we fall.* It has a lot of beauty that commends itself to the House, and I would like the Government to intensify these consultations.

Also, we have heard the policy of our Government to be that of non-alignment. As I said two days ago, I would like this policy not to be on paper only but to be something practical. We say that we do not hate people abroad. I would go further to advocate that we open our doors to people, but not at the expense of our sovereignty. In the same way, I like to ask our Government to insist that this policy followed not only in words but also in deed. The Government has not given us the reason why they did not invite Eastern Germany and Russia to participate in our exhibition. We would like to have all countries.

When we say that we have no animosity against anybody we must prove it. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to see that these people are allowed to participate in our exhibition. After all we can trade with any country. Even now, it seems to us that the people whom we are fighting for are not appreciating it.

Western Germany, for example, gave us more money than Great Britain that we have served for almost one hundred years. We should open our doors to those who are willing to be our friends. And we should not force ourselves to only one nation all the time. We should go to Czechoslovakia to see the Bata Shoe Company there.

I would like to appeal now to the Government to reconsider our relations with France. We sent them away from this country. And now that things are changing we should reconsider our stand. We must consider the stand now taken by General de Gaulle on

Algeria. General de Gaulle is now fighting for Africa, and as such we should be able to show to the French people that, since we now see that they are friends to the African people, we too are prepared to be their friends. If we think that the French are going to apply we should not lose sight of the fact that they may not, for prestige reasons. We sent them out and if we feel that they are doing what we like we should recall them.

**An hon. Member :** But they have been here. Do you want to go and beg them ?

**Chief Okunowo :** We are not begging. It is a friendly issue.

I would also like to appeal to the Prime Minister to ensure that all the Ministers in charge of public boards and corporations take a more vigilant attitude about the boards and corporations under their Ministries. I remember very well that when the Prime Minister was the Minister of Transport he discovered that something bad was going on in the Ports Authority and he never allowed any public inquiry to be held in that corporation. He took immediate action which made it unnecessary for a public inquiry to be conducted.

There can never be smoke without fire. At the moment we hear hon. Members attacking some Boards and Corporations. I feel that there must be something wrong somewhere. They are not doing that for the fun of it. The Minister in charge may defend the Board on the Floor of this House, but I feel that there must always be something there.

The Prime Minister should tell these Ministers: "Look here, you are in charge of Ports; you are in charge of the Railway, and so on. You must go and see that there is no complaint. When people begin to complain about your Ministry it shows your inefficiency". The Ministers should follow the example of the Prime Minister by ensuring that there is no cause for Members of the House to be calling for an inquiry into the affairs of the Boards which they are responsible for.

I do not know whether what I am going to say now will be to the dislike of my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, but I cannot help it. On this particular occasion I must pay special tribute to the Prime Minister for taking the bold stand which he took when there was a

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false rumour that law and order in the Western Region had broken down. But for the Prime Minister there would have been more troubles.

If on that occasion he believed that law and order had actually broken down, there would have been more trouble. It is indeed a good thing that the Prime Minister stood by his conviction that he was not going to do anything about the rumours.

I now want to turn to my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance. We all know that the man that is commonly criticised in this House is the Minister of Finance. I think that one of the reasons why people criticise him so much is because not many people knew him before he became the Minister. But he should not expect everybody in this world to like him. I am sure that as a Christian he should have known that some will hate him while others may like him. He must try to sift some out and look above them.

In this world people criticise a person, whatever he may do. People might have been thinking that since Chief Okotie-Eboh is the Minister of Finance he controls all the money of the country and as such stands to be attacked every now and again. But once his conscience is clear he should carry on with his work and I am sure that the Government is always behind him.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** Is the hon. Gentleman supporting him or what ?

**Chief Okunowo :** I am supporting him and he will continue to have my support.

**Chief A. F. Odulana :** My hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief E. O. Okunowo*), said that quite a number of us did not know who Chief Okotie-Eboh was before he became the Minister of Finance. But I happen to have known him since 1950. He has not changed ; he still retains his usual size. But I can assure him that if we go into the ring I will give him a technical knock out !

**Chief Okunowo :** I think that the hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) is confirming what I said earlier about the Minister of Finance. He has known him for many years and, according to him the Minister has not changed. So he remains to be the good man that he has always been.

I would now like to make some few suggestions to the hon. Minister of Finance. Many things have been said about smuggling and false declarations to the Board of Customs. But if there were no buyers there would be no sellers. Now we should ask the Government to legislate that if anybody is found in possession of smuggled goods, both the smuggler and the receiver of the goods smuggled are equally guilty.

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of information, if the Government were to adopt Chief Okunowo's suggestion on smugglers and their agents, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) would not be here !

**Mr W. O. Briggs :** On a point of order, I protest at what the Minister of Finance has just said ; it is very unparliamentary.

**Chief Okunowo :** It seems that the people engaged in these bad practices have been let off with fines that are not creating any repressive effects on them. I would suggest that if a man were to be found in possession of smuggled goods the Government should seize those goods and in addition ask him to pay something which would be ten times the value of those goods. If he has got ten houses it should be assumed that those ten houses are ill-gotten ones. But when they know that when they are caught it is not only the goods found in their immediate possession which will be seized but also that what they had before will be confiscated, I am sure that they will think twice before they engage themselves in this bad business.

Furthermore, the people who deal in the business of smuggling should be given long term imprisonment. If, for example, a man has made a business of £10,000 and was caught and sentenced to three months imprisonment he will just consider that when he is discharged he will come back to meet his £10,000 safely. Thus, he will say that it pays him to go to jail for three months rather than give up the money. The Government should therefore see to it that these people are asked to pay heavy fines and in addition serve a long term of imprisonment.

I can assure the House that this is the only way to rid this country of this bad business of smuggling. Giving them three or four



months' imprisonment will not suffice. The Government must put its feet down to drive this bad practice away from this country, and it must be eradicated despite the fact that it is a chronic disease which has eaten deep into the root of our economy.

There is another practice going on in the Customs. Take the case of alcohol; items 1 to 4 were not dutiable, items 5 to 8, and so on, were dutiable. So people knew when they were importing items 1 to 4 that they were not dutiable and they declared on the invoices those undutiable items. It is only quite recently that the Minister of Finance changed those items, but there are still some anomalies of that nature that I would like the Minister of Finance to pay attention to and to see that they are removed.

Not only that; the question of examination in the Customs leaves very much to be desired. Some people will order curtains and declare that they are second-hand and by that they get away with the customs duty. The Government should not allow Customs Officers to stay longer than is necessary in any one station; the longer they stay there the more they get into bad practices. (*Hear, hear*).

Coming to this question of profiteering, I am afraid I cannot agree with the statement made by the Minister of Finance. If there is any cause for profiteering the Government started it. Four or five days before the announcement was made, no boat was allowed to come alongside the wharfs, so business people knew that, by these boats not coming to the wharfs, something was going on. So Government started the profiteering by not allowing these boats to come alongside the wharfs!

Now coming to the people taking advantage of the new increase in prices, I disagree entirely with the Minister of Finance. Some five or six years' ago, Customs duty was raised by 50 per cent. I paid £5,000 then—this is a thing that happened to me personally. Two or three days later Government reduced the duty by 50 per cent, in which case I lost £2,500 immediately; thus I could be undersold by my competitors by £2,500. Now I went to see Mr Hall, who was then the Director of Commerce and Industry. He said "It is

unfortunate you know, but you have got to bear it. Suppose the Government had increased the duty, what would be the position?" Now they have increased the duty, why do they now interfere with the business people? They should leave them alone; they have suffered in their own time and this is the opportunity now for them to make their own profits. Government should not interfere, for they are supposed to protect both the interests of business people and not only of the consumer. The Government never protected our interest when they increased the duties—

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of information, the hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) forgets that Mr Hall has gone.

**Chief Okunowo :** There is a limit to which the Government can interfere with the business people. There are the times when they have had their bad days. I am not suggesting that people should make profits at the expense of the people, or squeeze the blood of the people, but if they make their profits, if the Government can keep the boats at bay and not allow them to come in, then this was meant tenable the Government to have more revenue on the boats already in the country. Why does the Government interfere with what they do? The Minister of Finance cannot dispute the fact that he never ordered that no goods should be—

**Mr D. O. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West): The hon. Gentleman from Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is encouraging bad practices.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think you have properly heard him.

**Chief Okunowo :** On Commerce and Industry, I think I have also words of praise for our Minister of Commerce and Industry. He is a man who has got courage of his convictions, and I believe he is the right man in the right place. Although the Zana the hon. Dipcharima is a Northerner, he knows no North, no East, no West, no Lagos; all he is concerned with is the progress of this country. (*Hear, hear*) I have had a lot of transactions with the Ministry and I can testify that he is the right man in the right place.

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I think the Ministry of Economic Development needs expansion; it requires a lot of expansion to carry out the Development Programme before us. And in the same way there should be expansion also in the Regions. The Minister must engage himself actively now in touring the whole country to enable him to assess the requirements of each and everyone. He must go to the East, he must go to the North and I will give him accommodation if he comes to Ijebu-Ode.

Talking about the Development Bank, I would like to associate this with what people have been calling 'window-dressing directors'. I do not know of any Member of this House who, if he is called upon one day and is made a director of a company, and is paid £2,000 without him doing anything, would refuse.

Let us be frank with ourselves. It is one thing to criticise people becoming window-dressing directors. There is always one thing in this country: if you are going to take one thing from your daughter, you must give her something in substitute. What substitute is the Government making? If we say that we do not want people to become window-dressing directors, what are we going to give them?

We cannot just rise up on the Floor of this House and say that these Europeans are exploiting us, we do not want people to become paperweight directors; we must give them something concrete.

On the issue of this Development Bank, there are a lot of good business people in this country. What we want is capital: we are short of capital, we have not got money to do business with. When the Syrians first visited this country a long time ago we saw them along *Ereko*, they were just selling small wares. But when the banks trusted them and gave them advances they were able to develop their businesses. But here now the banks in existence will not give us such facilities. Therefore we must start a Nigerian bank.

**An hon. Member:** The Central Bank!

**Chief Okunowo:** No, a National Development Bank to entrust people with money.

We have all been praising the Government for the good work they have done. No one will claim that he has been a Minister before. We have made an experiment and we are

making a success of it. In the same way we should make experiments by giving our people money to work with and see what happens. You cannot just rise up and criticise that they are paperweight directors. Give them facilities to work; if they fail it is our common failure; if they succeed it is our success. But to rise up on the Floor of this House and criticise blindly is wrong. If we do not want them to be directors, we should give them something else to do.

I still maintain that we require the services of some expatriate firms in this country. I will refer to U.A.C., John Holt, U.T.C., P.Z., Olivants, S.C.O.A. and, last but not least, C.F.A.O. If you look at the number of Nigerian employees that these firms are carrying, it is enormous. So when we say that we are going to drive them away from the country, we are going to nationalise, what is meant by nationalisation? Is this Government out to rob people of their possessions? That type of nationalisation I do not subscribe to.

**An hon. Member:** We give them compensation.

**Chief Okunowo:** What kind of compensation?

**Mr T. S. Tarka (Jemgbar):** I am beginning to agree with the hon. Member from Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) that some Members might cross the carpet from this side—I see Dr Chike Obi in reverse!

**Mr Speaker:** I do not think that Chief Okunowo has declared for the Dynamic Party!

**Chief Okunowo:** It seems that the hon. Member from Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) is trying to seek trouble where none exists. If anybody were to cross the carpet, I think the hon. Member from Jemgbar would be the first. I am one of the founders of the Action Group and I will see that Mr Tarka goes to that side; I will remain here and if I—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** The hon. Member from Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is an obedient boy of the British Empire.

**Mr Speaker:** We all belong to the Commonwealth. The hon. Member (*Chief Okunowo*) has exhausted his time. Order, order! With so many Members wishing to contribute to the

debate and with the time left, I think it is advisable that Members should avoid repetition of what they have said or what other Members have said and also avoid introducing irrelevant matters. There are certain matters that can be referred to the Committee Stage because as the Constitution states detailed observations of the various heads are better left for the Committee Stage and I think, to save the time of the House, I shall be rather strict on the orders.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On the representations made to me by the Government Chief Whip and Whips, and after consultation with some of my Friends of the Opposition, I have had consultations with the Prime Minister as to the desire of hon. Members who have not had time to contribute to the debate for some kind of prolongation. But in view of the fact that we feel that by the end of the month the House should adjourn, the Prime Minister has agreed that I should move a Motion later to have night sitting on Wednesday. If that is acceptable to the whole House I will move the necessary Motion later so that we can have night sitting on Wednesday to allow hon. Members to speak.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. The hon. Minister of Finance has only raised a point of information and unless you are raising a point of order, I do not think you should be given opportunity Mr Briggs.

4.32 p.m.

**Mr K. Giadom** (Ogoni West) : It is only natural and a normal thing to do, not minding the frailties of human nature, that after a person has done a nice piece of job that person should be congratulated in order that he will be encouraged and spurred for more and better achievements in the future.

The Minister of Finance has worked very hard to get this Budget out for us. So, he deserves the cheers that have been pouring out from both the Opposition Members and the Government Bench for this epoch-making Budget. These cheers are indications of acceptance and appreciation of the Budget now before this honourable House. (*Interruptions*)

**Mr Speaker** : Order. I have a message from the Reporters that they cannot hear what

the hon. Member is saying due to hon. Members conversing loudly, many of them forming a large volume of noise.

**Mr Giadom** : I was just saying that the hon. Minister of Finance deserves cheers from both sides of the House for the good work he has done in producing the Budget.

We have what we call "collective responsibility" in our Cabinet system of Government. This is so, because all Members of the Cabinet work together like a body or a team. It is therefore proper that I congratulate the Cabinet as a whole through which the Minister of Finance has worked out his Budget for the nation. If co-operation and the spirit of team work were lacking among the Members of the Cabinet, I am sure that the Minister of Finance would have been demoralised and frustrated and would not have been able to present such a master-piece of job as we have before us to-day.

We have just accepted with great enthusiasm and applause the Government White Paper on the Development Programme of this great country of ours for the years 1962 to 1968. The Development Programme and the Budget now before us are so inter-related that it is difficult to see how any orator can talk on one without referring to the other. I have been looking for an opportunity whereby I can say 'thank you' to the Minister of Economic Development and the team of experts that worked with him to get out for us *The most ambitious exercise which this country has ever undertaken* as our Head of State, the Governor-General described the Programme in his Speech from the Throne. So, may I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the young and dynamic Minister of Economic Development and all those who worked with him to produce the White Paper.

In our Government, the Prime Minister may be likened to the head of the body and the other Members of the Cabinet, the neck of the body. The questions are, the head and the neck, which is more important in their functions? Can the neck survive without the head on it and *vice versa*? One may be tempted at first sight to say that the neck is more important than the head when one sees the neck turning the head to whatever direction

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it wishes. The answer is that the head is more important, because if the neck has not got a cool head on it to make judicious judgments, the neck will not exist. So I would say at this juncture that we are proud to have such a cool-headed Prime Minister at the head of the Government that has given us this Budget of hope that we are considering to-day. I wish him more of God's wisdom for the great task he has for the nation.

The last but not the least is that all the hon. Members of this Parliament have every reason to be proud and to congratulate themselves for being part of the Government that has formulated the fiscal policy embodied in the Budget this year for our nation. To have their names written in the present chapter of our national history is something to be proud of.

The budget is called "The Mobilisation Budget". In mobilising all our resources in order to make the Budget and the Development Programme work, the Minister of Finance has adopted certain fiscal measures. No human being is perfect. Perfection can only be attributed to God.

The Minister of Finance has imposed and increased duties on several commodities as a measure to raise funds. Austerity measures have also been taken. These are all good steps to take. But if the aim of the Budget and the Development Programme is primarily to improve the lot of the common man in this country and also to promote certain economic activities that will lead to a higher standard of living among our people, I have seen three dead flies in the ointment that make the picture of the ointment not so good. For the first dead fly in the ointment may I refer to two publications. The *Daily Times* of Saturday, March 31, 1962 on its front page has this to say and with your permission, I quote :

*"The 'Mobilisation Budget' presented to Parliament on Thursday by the Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh, is easily the best budget we have had in this country for many years. It is dynamic, it is realistic, it is far-sighted. Side by side with the six-year Development Plan, it should place Nigeria on a sound economic structure.*

*"Just two points in its disfavour : the increase in the prices of commercial vehicles, petrol, motor tyres and tubes and spare parts, added to the recent increase in motor licence fees, is bound to affect the cost of living of millions of people who eat gari, vegetables, rice, beans and many other local foodstuffs.*

*"Secondly, it is an error of judgment to have increased the excise duty on locally brewed beer. This should have remained as it was to encourage local industry while duty on imported beer could have been increased much more than what the Minister did."*

These articles speak for themselves. I think it is going too far, raising duties on petrol and motor spare parts after we have just increased licence fees.

We all see that the running of schools is a non-profit making project. It is what we call a humanitarian project, to serve humanity. Therefore, I do not see any reason why duty on laboratory equipment should be increased. Just recently the principals of the country's schools, especially in the Eastern Region, complained against this. As a school teacher myself I do not see why duty should be placed on laboratory equipment when we are seeking improvement in scientific studies in this country. So I think the hon. Minister of Finance should look into this matter and see that duty is not imposed on scientific equipment for our laboratories.

The second dead fly I refer to here is in connection with the Niger Delta Development Board. In the budget speech the Minister of Finance said, and with your permission I quote :

*"The Plan offers great opportunities for us and for all who come after us. It does not hold out the promise of a better future as a sort of birth-right or gift to be achieved without pain, sacrifice, toil or preparation."*

By "The Plan" here, I understand the Minister of Finance to mean the Government Development Programme for 1962-68. I am going to say how the Niger Delta Development Board included in the Plan affects our budget. If we refer to the statement on page 10, paragraphs 34 and 35 in the White Paper, we see that a lot of stages have to be passed before the Niger Delta Development Board can be implemented. From the Governments obser-

vations on this Niger Delta Development Board we see that investigations have to be made and the building of staff quarters carried out before the actual projects of the development of the area can be carried out.

I think the Government is wasting more money and time by passing through all these stages. I do not think that when we had the Lagos Executive Development Board and other Boards in the country, these stages were gone through before the Boards were put into operation. So, I think that quarters for the staff could be hired in a place like Port Harcourt and the work could then commence instead of building quarters and making several investigations before the work of the Board is begun.

Moreover, if this Development Board is, as I understand, a temporary one, that is the more reason why permanent buildings should not be put up before the Board commences its work. Hired quarters should be used for the temporary measures. Even if the Board is to be a permanent one, it would be wise for these quarters to be built in the area concerned so that the buildings will add to the physical development of the area. Why saddle Port Harcourt which is already developed according to our standards, with an extra project, while the whole area concerned suffers? It is, in my estimation, robbing Peter to pay Paul. I think Port Harcourt is fully developed, according to our standards, and if any quarters for this Niger Delta Development Board are to be erected, they should be in the area concerned.

As I said, our policy for the year is sound but there is one thing we will have to look into. There are a few cities in the country which have gained Government attention and I think it is time the Government started to look to the rural areas. After all, ninety-five *per cent* of the population of the country is in the rural areas and whenever we talk of any fiscal measures in the country or the development of industry we talk in terms of Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu, Port Harcourt, as if only these places constitute Nigeria. There are other places in the country which should be given more attention.

At this point I think I should be mortgaging my conscience if I do not say anything about the point I am going to raise now. We are

in the year of austerity and it is the general responsibility of all Nigerian citizens to do all they can to make the sacrifices required for the development of the country. In this respect one of our Ministers saw that supplies were being wasted in the Cafeteria meant for the Members. In doing his duty and trying to mobilise our resources he told some people whom he found there and who were not Members of the House, to please leave the place so that tea, coffee and other supplies would not be wasted as we spend money in getting these things. Unfortunately, some members of the Press were among those whom the Minister was addressing, what happened the next day? We saw the newspapers the next day attacking the Minister and saying all sorts of things against the Members. They went so far as to say that Members of this House did not understand the Bills they were passing.

These are the people who accuse the Government of extravagance and yet when a Member of the Government tries to conserve our resources and some members of the Press happen to be affected, they retaliate by abusing their privileges and attacking the Government. We have seen from the pages of Lagos newspapers where the Government is attacked and some even go so far as to try to incite the citizens against the State. I would say that it is time the members of the Press realised that they are Nigerian citizens. It is also their duty to work for the country. They went as far as saying that Members spent money on cars, and gave the impression that Members were given car free. I want everybody to understand that Members paid for these cars; they were not given free. Also, the impression created now in the country is that whenever we talk in terms of waste, Members of the Legislature are the first target. There are some who think that hon. Members will not be able to eat in their lives if they do not come here. I can tell those people that there are thousands of Nigerians who have a lot of money and who are not Members of the House, and that there are Members here who can become what God has written for them to be without becoming Members of the House. I can see the point in the Press—anything they write is meant to incite the public against Members of the Legislature. We pay our tax; we pay for our petrol—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I think the hon. Member has wondered rather too far away from the Economic Policy of the Government.

**Mr Giadom :** Thank you, Sir. The Minister was trying to do his duty in order to uphold the idea of mobilization and austerity, and because some members of the Press were affected, they used their newspapers to incite the public against the Government and the Members of this House. I do not think that is the proper thing to do. The Press should try to co-operate with the Government and see that we reach our goal.

The last point that I want to make is in connection with the revenue and expenditure of our country. It is true that once a person has contributed to the revenue of any organisation, that person must want to derive some benefits from the organisation. We have seen that the history of our country will not be complete without reference to what our mineral resources contribute to it, and to-day, I can say that whenever we talk of our mineral resources, one of the first things which come to mind is the mineral oil, which contributes a lot to the coffers of the companies. It is true that this mineral, according to our Colonial Mineral Ordinance, belongs to the State, because in those days ordinances were enacted in the interests of the colonial masters. That is quite true. But we should also remember that the owners of the land in which this oil is found have been displaced, and even though they are compensated for their crops, we should understand the basic fact that the land itself has also been taken away from the owners. Something must therefore be done for them because their land now contributes so much to the coffers of the companies and the Government. In this wise, I am saying that the Government should please think of the people from these areas and resettle them in a division where they will be able to live in harmony in their country and as Nigerian citizens.

Mr Speaker, I think that the Budget we have before us is very gigantic, ambitious, and comprehensive, and I do not think that any expert brain can say here that he is able to attend to every point raised in it. All that he can do is to contribute whatever he thinks he can in some aspects and that is exactly

what I am trying to do now, since criticising every point in the Budget means reproducing another budget, and we have no time for that. I therefore join the rest of the House to welcome the Budget and to thank all those responsible—the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Minister of Finance, *et cetera*.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Mahammadu Sagir (Katagun West) :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I wish to make some observations.

The step taken by the Federal Government to set up an Insurance Company of its own is a step taken in the right direction, and I hope that when this company is set up people will realise its importance and patronise it by insuring in the company.

I also welcome the idea of repatriating our foreign investments in order to finance our six-year development projects.

In his speech, the hon. Minister of Finance mentioned about internal savings by introducing saving certificates. This is a challenge to the low-income group which, I hope, they will willingly accept.

The greatest achievement of the present Government, to my mind, is the setting up of our Central Bank. This has greatly helped in controlling our economy, and all I would like the Minister of Finance to do is to see that similar banks are set up all over the country side by side with other foreign banks.

Generally speaking, I welcome the new tax measures, especially as far as they fall on luxury articles. But there are certain aspects of these increases which I feel will bring suffering to the ordinary man in the street. My inference here is the increase on petrol which has automatically made foodstuffs to cost more. I would like to suggest two solutions to the Minister of Finance. The first is to scrap the duty on petrol, and the other is to devise a means whereby the cost of foodstuffs will be controlled.

Turning to the other Ministers, my congratulation goes to the Minister of Defence on his timely decision to expand and improve the Nigerian Army and the Navy. In his speech, the Minister of Defence mentioned the setting up of a Nigerian Air Force. It is necessary for

every independent country to have its own Air Force, Army and Navy equipped with modern weapons so that she can defend herself in time of aggression.

And to the Minister of Economic Development, I say "bravo". The idea of improving our agricultural industry is of great significance, and the Minister's decision to revolutionise our agricultural system is a most welcome measure.

My views on our Civil Service, as I pointed out last year, have not changed. The gap between the so-called super-scale officers and the junior civil servants is too wide. This gap is like one to a hundred. Nobody can find such wide and fantastic gap in the salaries of civil servants in any civil service in this world. After all, Mr Speaker, those who are holding these high posts in Nigeria climbed there automatically because of Nigerianisation. I want the Minister of Establishments to find ways and means of narrowing this wide gap.

Another point is about the payment of rents by the senior civil servants. In the General Orders it is said that any officer occupying Government quarters should pay  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of his salary, and a limit is made by providing that an officer should not pay more than £150 a year. This means that whatever an officer is earning, he cannot pay more than £12-10s-0d a month as rents. I feel, Mr Speaker, that that part of the General Orders should be amended so that any officer should pay  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of his salary, without any limit. It is not logical at all to make such a limit. If it is to be  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, let it be  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent throughout. As it is at the moment, some are earning more and paying less while others are earning less and paying more.

Before I go far in discussing the affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have to mention this one important point first. I have seen in the Estimates that an Embassy will be opened in Cairo, in the United Arab Republic, but we have learnt that one country, through the influence of another country, is insisting that this Embassy should not be opened unless and until Nigeria opens an Embassy in their own country.

Last year, Mr Speaker, we made an appeal to this House that the United Arab Republic should be endorsed in our passport, the reason being that this country is in Africa and

at this moment we are still talking about Pan-Africanism. How can we come together with such barriers as are existing now between us? If there is any fault which the United Arab Republic has with us, let us tell them; but it is not good at all, just because the United Arab Republic is not in good terms with a certain country, to deprive them of our friendship. I hope, Mr Speaker, that whenever these Embassies will be opened, and even before they are opened, we should consider including the United Arab Republic and endorsing it in our passports.

Turning to the Foreign Ministry itself, I would like to say that since the present Minister took over this Ministry from the Prime Minister, its affairs are continually degenerating, the reason being the high-handedness and lack of co-operation of the Minister. Firstly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs must realise that, like any other Minister he is an elected public servant. This being so, he should realise that in a democratic society—to be specific, in a democratic Government like our own—he has his portion of duty to perform and the officials, big or small, have their own portion of duty to perform.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): It is out of order for the hon. Gentleman to be discussing the conduct of the Minister of Foreign Affairs as it is not part of the Bill.

**Mr Speaker**: In accordance with the ruling given earlier this afternoon, hon. Members should make more of general remarks and leave detailed and concentrated discussions on particular Ministries until the Committee Stage.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir**: I think I am making a general remark about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I am discussing the general welfare of the Ministry. In this modern and democratic world, nobody can say that he knows everything and that he can do everything himself alone and that, therefore, there is no need for him to require help or to take advice from anybody. We cannot agree to leave anybody to do what he likes or what he pleases with the public assignment which has been entrusted to him to perform simply because everybody is small before his eyes. As a Minister of Foreign Affairs, he usually represents Nigeria abroad,

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such as at the United Nations and in the present Seventeen-Nation Disarmament Conference and some other important conferences like that. It is from his utterances and activities that the outside world judge Nigeria's prestige and dignity.

**Mr Speaker :** A ruling has been made on that point. I appreciate that it is difficult to get away from set and fixed speeches, but I will appeal to the hon. Member to kindly modify the terms of his speech to be in keeping with general remarks.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir :** I will reserve some of my speeches until we come to the Committee Stage. But, anyhow, I have to say that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the demonstration of the Minister signifies that he is always dictating to people and expects them to take this dictation. Even senior officers who have specialised in their divisions have to take dictation on their initial and routine duties. If they give routine advice, it will not be taken.

**Mr Speaker :** Do I understand the hon. Member to persist in discussing exclusively the Minister of Foreign Affairs? If this is the case, I have to appeal finally to him to desist from this. Will the hon. Member please turn a new leaf.

**Several hon. Members :** Fire ! Fire !

**Mr Speaker :** Will hon. Members please refrain from making things difficult for the hon. Member.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir :** Mr Speaker, I ask your indulgence here to allow me to explain in detail the misunderstanding which exists between our Southern brothers and their Northern counterparts who have joined the Federal Public Service. Most of our Southern brothers assume that any post that the Northerners get in the Federal Public Service is given to them because they are Northerners. That is not true at all. The Northerners get any post because of their hard work. If our Southern brothers could look back and trace history, they would see that they were in touch with Western education fifty years ahead of the Northerners. But, that long period notwithstanding, we are able to work shoulder to shoulder with them. I think they will realise that we have done very well.

I know that Mr Speaker, a Northerner, has no degree, but he has a sense of duty and a sense of responsibility and he can work shoulder to shoulder with any of his Southern counterpart. I would like to cite two examples, even in the foreign Ministry, to show that we can work shoulder to shoulder with our Southern counterparts. The two examples concern two gentlemen—Aminu Sanusi, the Chiroma of Kano, who is the Head of Research Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Isa Wali, who is the Head of African Division in the Foreign Ministry. These two gentlemen, by hard work and with their won knowledge and experience, have proved to be among the best in the Ministry.

**Mr P. O. Akpan (Uyo South East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, under Standing Orders 63 (3)—

*"After the motion for the second reading of the bill has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than two days and when resumed shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government's financial policy...."*

The hon. Member has not been discussing the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government's financial policy.

**The Deputy Speaker :** If the hon. Member now speaking has departed from the Standing Orders, I am sure he is only following a beaten track, and the less we carry on with this sort of point of order, the more time there will be for others to speak. I would appeal to the hon. Member to kindly endeavour to lift up his jaw a little better, so that others in the House can enjoy the beauty of his speech.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar :** I wanted hon. Members to inquire how these two gentlemen are doing, and also to inquire how the rest of the Northerners who are in the Federal Public Service are doing. It will be found that they are doing well—as well, if not better than their Southern counterparts. Therefore, our Southern brothers should not assume that Northerners are ignorant, or that they are taken into the Federal Public Service only because they are Northerners. To have a degree, without experience, hard work and a sense of duty, is nothing.

When a Northerner is given a post here, the Southern papers begin to say that the man has no *this*, that he has no *that*; therefore he cannot



do the job. I can remember the post of a Passport Officer which was given to a Northerner recently. The Southern papers criticised it by saying that the man has no *this* and no *that*. After all, what is there in the work of a Passport Officer which calls for a degree? Is it not checking and signing documents? What is the magic in that, which a Northerner cannot do?

Even in this House I can cite one example among many where a Northerner, although not a lawyer, is able to discharge his duties efficiently—this gentleman is the Speaker of this House. Even among our Southern brothers there are those who have never been to a university and who have no degree, but who, by their hard work and experience, are able to do better than those who have degrees—I refer to our able Minister of Finance. It is obvious, therefore, that the possession of a degree or the fact of having graduated from a university means nothing without hard work and experience and a sense of duty.

I am appealing to our Southern brothers to study us carefully before criticising. We are naturally and culturally a quiet people, but that does not mean that we are not intelligent. We do not boast and we are not selfish people. If we Northerners join the Federal Public Service only because we are Northerners, things will not be as they are now in this Government, because we have every right and power to be many in the Federal Public Service.

Because of our quietness and shyness, our Southern brothers think that we are unwise and think also that we do not know the sweetness of anything. We only follow these fine cultures so that we will not be accused; but in spite of all that, we are accused. So I think that the time has come when our Northern leaders here will come out frankly and openly to help their Northern people in every aspect of this Government, as the Southern leaders do.

After all, the Easterners have their Government in the East, the Northerners have their Government in the North, the Westerners have their Government in the West and the Mid-Westerners will soon have their Government in the Mid-West; but the Federal Government is the Government of all of us, in which the Northerners, like any other tribe, have every right to have a fair share. Our quietness and our shyness are dooming us,

and we must drop that part of our culture so as to suit the modern times. We need to cry and demand everything for our people.

One day I visited the Foreign Ministry, I went to enter the lift, but I was told by the operator that I must not enter, because he had been instructed by the Minister that nobody should use this lift between one and two o'clock—that is the time when the Minister uses it. I am not quarrelling with a Minister having a lift of his own in his Ministry, but—

**The Deputy Speaker:** I think we are having a bit too much of this Foreign Ministry affair! If the hon. gentleman cannot continue his speech without reference to the Foreign Ministry, then I think he should find a more convenient way of concluding it.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar:** I am speaking generally of this Ministry, because it is the most important Ministry in this country; but I will reserve my point until we come to the Committee of Supply.

Before I take my seat, I wanted to ask a question. I wanted to know which of the two black *Cadillac* cars belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Is it LG 222 or the other one?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Under Standing Orders you can table a Question, whether for written or for oral answer, on any matter affecting the business of the House. And please take note that under Standing Order 34 a ruling from the Chair can only be challenged by a substantive Motion, and unless you are willing to comply with the ruling so far given, I am afraid I may be obliged to ask you to resume your seat.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar:** We know how these cars are bought, and therefore I call upon the Prime Minister to use his strong hand to put things right, if necessary by a reshufflement of the Cabinet.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is the hon. Dada in his seat?

**Mr G. K. Dada (Ekiti North West):** Yes.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am afraid that according to the seating arrangements, Mr Dada is not sitting in his correct seat, and therefore he cannot be called upon.

5.10 p.m.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): The Minister of Finance in his Budget has tried to buttress himself with sufficient arguments, so that the criticisms levelled against him might be to no avail, but like a man—

**Mr G. K. Dada** (Ekiti North West): On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I have been sitting here since last Session. I think the Clerk of the Parliament knows about it as well as the Chief Whip. This is my seat, but it may be that the change has not been entered in the record.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order! Your point of order is noted. If perhaps some discrepancy has occurred in the recordings, the error is regretted. It is noted, but in the meantime, Mr Ajasin is to continue his speech and we will find another opportunity for you to speak.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin**: I was saying that the Minister of Finance had forestalled all criticisms in the way he presented his Budget Speech. I would say that he is just like a man who puts on a coat of mail in an effort to make himself impregnable to any attack; but he forgets that there are openings for ventilation, for breathing, and for sight. Through these openings, he could still be attacked.

The Budget Speech, in a way, can be described as progressive and for that the Minister of Finance should be congratulated. But he must have to accept also that many of the proposals he has put forward had come from the Opposition in the past. The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech gave a long talk on the Six-year Development Programme, and I would like to refer briefly to that.

In the Development Programme, what we have is a general and broad outline. I would like the different Ministries to submit a White Paper to this House which will be debated later on. It is necessary that every Ministry connected with the Development Plan should submit a White Paper putting down what they will do within the period of six years. For instance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry told us here a few days ago that it would not be until the year 1970 before the Iron and Steel Industry would be in operation, whereas it is put down in the Development Programme that it would come into operation between 1962-68.

I would like the Ministry to submit a White Paper setting out the number of industries that the Government would undertake during that period and also the places where these industries would be sited. It would be necessary, as has been suggested by many hon. Members, that these industries should not be sited in the urban areas of the country alone, and that the rural areas should not be forgotten.

The same thing applies to the Ministry of Mines and Power. We have been told that there is going to be a Niger Dam which will supply electricity all over the country at a cheap rate. We would like to know the number of towns that will be benefited by this Dam. It is not sufficient to say that it will be spread all over the country and, after all, to find that the proposed supply of electricity is spread to only few places. If the Minister of Mines and Power, at the next meeting of the House, will submit a White Paper stating where the electricity will be installed during the period of six years we shall then be able to debate the paper.

The Minister of Communications also puts down that 42 post offices will be built during this period. Where are these post offices going to be? We want to know. We would like to know where the automatic telephone exchanges that he has proposed will be built. All these are contained in the Six-year Development Programme, and we would like a White Paper to be submitted to this House so that we may know where these things will be located.

The Minister of Finance also gave a long speech about the Central Bank of Nigeria. The Central Bank is just performing its function. All that the Minister of Finance has told us—

**Mallam Garba Turakin Paiko** (Minna South): On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am compelled to raise this point of order because I do not know how Mr Deputy Speaker arrived at that ruling—

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order! If the hon. Member wishes to make a point of order, he should refer specifically to the Order he is trying to cite. I am afraid that if he feels rather uncomfortable with any ruling from the Chair, he is at liberty to table a Motion. He can continue with his point of order if he has any point of order to raise.

**Mr Ajasin :** I say that all that the Minister of Finance puts down in his Budget Speech about the Central Bank is just the usual function that a Central Bank should perform. All that we could say about that is that it is a good thing that the Minister of Finance has made the Central Bank to perform its statutory function. There is nothing extraordinary in this; this is not different from what a Central Bank should do. The Bank is just performing its statutory function.

I would say something about the banking system; this concerns the liquidity ratio of the commercial banks. The Minister of Finance told us that the liquidity ratio is just 25 *per cent*. I would say that the liquidity ratio should be reduced 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 businessmen 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. The work of the Central Bank is to control the fiduciary notes. In England, the liquidity ratio of the Commercial Banks is between 6 *per cent* and 8 *per cent*. If there is no Central Bank, we can agree to a 25 *per cent* liquidity ratio, but we have one now. The Central Bank will come to the aid of the commercial banks if there is a run on any of them. We should be able to reduce the liquidity ratio to 15 *per cent* so that much money should not be tied down.

The next point about the banking system is that the Minister of Finance proposes that, in the future, before one can start a new bank one should be able to provide £250,000. I think that that amount is rather too high. Very few Nigerians at present can afford that sum to start a bank, but if the Minister of Finance insists on that, it means that he wants the banking operation in this country to go into the hands of the foreigners. I think he should leave it as it is at present.

If one can start a business with the sum of £10 and make a success of it, why do we say that not until that person has got the sum of £50 can he start the business? It is too much to ask a Nigerian to have the sum of

£250,000 before he can start a bank. Once that is done, the banking business is being transferred to the hands of foreigners.

We should know that foreign banks do not give credit as much as our own indigenous banks give to our own people. We hear people talking about Syrians and Lebanese in this country. They have been able to get on very well because the foreign banks give them credit; whereas they do not give our own people. It is our own banks that can extend credit to our own people. If we raise that amount before a bank can be started, that means putting an embargo in the way of our businessmen.

The next point I want to talk about is the decimalisation of our currency. It is over five years now that the question of the decimalisation of our currency was first raised in this House. When I say this House I mean the former House of Representatives when the Central Bank was about to be established. Hon. Members at that time suggested that we should change our money to the decimal system because of its convenience and because it agrees with our own traditional way of reckoning.

The Minister of Finance only mentioned in his Budget Speech that he is going to pursue the matter. It should be vigorously pursued. Sierra Leone is going to start using decimal currency soon and the British Government is going to adopt the decimal system too. We should not wait until we see that England or Sierra Leone has started it. We should get the economists in the Ministry of Finance to start work on it right now and we should provide the few thousands of pounds that will be required to change the currency we have now into the decimal system. England and Sierra Leone are preparing to do so now and we should not wait until they have done their own. It is a long time that we have been talking about it and the Minister of Finance should take it up right now.

I will speak also on the different methods by which the Federal Government proposes to raise internal loans. They are all very good but I want to say something about saving certificates. The people in the rural areas should be encouraged by allowing savings bank facilities to be provided at many of the postal

[MR AJASIN]  
agencies and post offices where they do not exist at present. There are many postal agencies and post offices all over the country without savings bank facilities. If we want these saving certificates to go round, if we want people in the rural areas to buy them the Ministry of Communications should allow savings bank facilities to be provided in many of the postal agencies and post offices in the country.

The officers in the postal agencies and post offices should be warned not to be indifferent or rude to the members of the public because these people can be scared away. They should encourage members of the public to buy these saving certificates and a lot of money will be realised by the Government. All those who are going to handle the sale of these saving certificates should also be told the uses of these saving certificates so that they can tell the people who are going to buy them. They should be told right from the beginning that their main job is to encourage the public to buy these saving certificates.

The Minister of Finance also mentioned in his Speech the question of pegging wages. It is a good thing that wages should be pegged but there is a group of workers whose wages I think should not be pegged at present. Their salaries and conditions of service should be reviewed. This set of workers are the teachers. Teachers have not been well paid at any time. Looking through the Government Economic Programme one finds the amount of money voted for the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and other Government projects but one finds nothing about the review of the salaries and conditions of service of teachers. Almost all the recommendations of the Ashby Commission Report have been adopted. The Ashby Report however, stressed the importance of paying teachers well and yet in all these programmes and arrangements nothing at all has been said about the condition of service of teachers.

Still on the conditions of service of teachers, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the pension constant of teachers. The retiring benefits that teachers get are not as high as those paid to civil servants. The pension constant of teachers is calculated at the *ratio* of one over ninety whereas that of a civil servant is calculated at

the *ratio* of one over sixty. This makes the retiring benefits of teachers very poor indeed. I would like the Federal Minister of Education in collaboration with the Ministers of Education in the Regions to see to this and see that there is improvement in the salaries and conditions of service of teachers.

The Minister of Finance also spoke about the diversification of our exports. He mentioned that articles are now being manufactured from our agricultural products and are being exported and, that would more or less lead to the diversification of our exports. I would say that some other products should be found for export in this country. Before the separation of the Southern Cameroons from Nigeria we had banana as one of our exports. Now that the Southern Cameroons is no more part of Nigeria we should grow banana in this country in commercial quantity in the Delta and Calabar provinces and in the Lagos area. This will help us regain what we have lost by not exporting banana any more. The growing of coffee for export should be encouraged. By doing this we will be diversifying our economy and not depending only on cocoa and palm products.

I learnt that some valuable drugs can be produced from yams. If our Research Departments can look into it and find out the type of yams that produce these drugs it will add to the export of this country and will be another source of revenue to this country.

*Mr Speaker in the Chair.*

The Minister of Finance said that there will be new markets; he also talked about geographical diversification. With regard to that, I do not quite agree with him that there is anything like geographical diversification—that is, the carrying of some of our products to other countries; that should come under what he puts down as new markets. I think that that is not diversification. I would call that diversion—that is, we divert our export products to other countries. I would say that the diversion should be to places like India, Russia, Japan and China. China has a very large population that can consume a large quantity of our cocoa. If there is an agreement with China, with India and with Russia, arrangements would be made in this country whereby they would be able to buy large quantities of our cocoa for consumption.

That is what I would call for diversion of products to these countries.

The Minister of Finance made a plea for enterprise and inventiveness. It is a beautiful saying that we should develop the spirit of enterprise and inventiveness. I think we should agree with him in what he says. But I would ask : what has the Government done, in any way, to encourage this enterprise and inventiveness by our people? Look at the whole of the Development Programme. There is no one place in it where scientific education is mentioned. Technical education is mentioned, secondary schools are mentioned; there should have been at least a paragraph indicating that scientific education would be developed, and that so many laboratories would be built, and encouragement would be given to the teaching of science in the schools. But there is nothing like that in that Programme.

No mention has been made of high schools. Even the Emergency Science Training School in Lagos is going to be converted to a National High School. You may have the National High School teaching little or no science. The encouragement should be mentioned in that Programme. It is necessary we should have something definite about the teaching of science. Only very few schools at present are able to teach science. I think the Minister should have been able to mention that we would go all out for the production of science teachers for these schools. What we have at present is expatriate teachers on contract for a year or two teaching science in the schools. There is no continuity in the teaching; the teaching therefore, is not as effective as it should be.

We should remember, that Russia in 1917 was just a race of poor, primitive peasants; but through the study of science within a generation, they are able to go to the moon. And we see the great things that Russia can perform. We can do the same thing in this country. The encouragement should be given to the teaching of science in this our Programme. It should not just be mentioned that there will be secondary schools, that there will be technical schools, but that definite steps would be taken in the production of science teachers for our secondary schools.

The Minister said that economics is not an exact science. I think that is true; and that is the reason why the Minister, perhaps with the advice of the economists in his Ministry, has raised the duty on petrol which he did not expect would affect the common people.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : On a point of Order. The speaker has exhausted his time.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Order. He has in fact. Will the hon. Member therefore resume his seat.

*And it being 5.45 p.m., Mr Speaker interrupted the Business pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed—Wednesday.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

5.46 p.m.

**Mr D. O. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : Quite recently rumours have been circulating that there is a move in certain quarters for the formation of a national government, in which the Action Group Opposition will have to participate. This issue featured prominently in the last General Conference of the Action Group in the Western Region; and immediately after that Conference, the National President of the N.C.N.C. was confronted with a series of press interviews on the matter as a result of which he made this statement—

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Order. If the hon. Member will please speak as loud as he can, I think we shall be able to hear him better.

**Mr Ahamefula** : I was trying to say that quite recently, rumours have been circulating that there is a move in certain quarters for the formation of a National Government in which the Action Group Opposition will participate. This issue featured very prominently in the last Conference of the A.G. in the Western Region; and immediately after the Conference, the National President of the N.C.N.C. was confronted with a series of press interviews on the matter for which he made a

[MR AHAMEFULA]  
statement. Newspaper speculation notwithstanding, in one of my week-end holiday camps last week, there was a heated argument between me and some of the top members of the Action Group, in which the latter strongly maintained that arrangements for this have been concluded; they went further to say that the recent visit of the N.P.C. National President to Lagos was to give it the final touch.

**Several hon. Members :** Sit down !

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order !

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) :** If there is any necessity for a national government, it is up to the Leaders of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. and not for the Members of the Opposition—

**Mr Speaker :** Order !

**Mr Ahamefula :** I would therefore like the Prime Minister to make a statement on this issue.

**The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :** Two hon. Members, I think from the Government side, asked leave to raise this matter. I allowed them so that I would take the opportunity to tell them that this is none of their business. This is a matter for the Prime Minister, and if I feel, in the interests of this country, as I felt in 1957, that a National Government will be better for the country, I shall have a National Government.

I think people should at least trust my judgment, and these rumours should not be circulating. I do not do these things in secret. I would not be expected to be discussing National Government or things like that in secret. If I want to do it, I will come out to the country and do it. It is not the business of any hon. Member. It is my business, and if I intend to have a National Government, and if anybody does not like it, he can get out of it, because this is my business. I hope these rumours will not continue to be talked about in this House.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSED AFRICAN TOUR

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** It is with the greatest sense of responsibility and anxiety that I wish to bring before this hon. House the very important and sudden news that our beloved Prime Minister is intending to

visit Southern Rhodesia and South Africa at the invitation, firstly, of the assassin and murderer, Mr Welensky, and, secondly, at the invitation of the worst negrophobist known in history, Dr Verwoerd, and great is my fear of the consequences of his visit.

**Chief M. A. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) :** Point of order. I am very much surprised. Are they not members of the same Government? Why are they trying to talk things in this way?

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

**Mr Muojeke :** Mr Speaker, this is my anxiety, because of the consequence of the visit. For one thing, Mr Welensky and Dr Verwoerd are people who take delight in murdering Africans. Is there any guarantee, to put it bluntly, that the life of our beloved Prime Minister will not be in jeopardy? In the circumstances, may our beloved Prime Minister assure this hon. House that the proposed visit to these countries will not adversely affect the high prestige which we hold on the continent of Africa?

**The Prime Minister :** I do not know how people read their newspapers. Perhaps they sometimes read them upside down, because I think the newspapers reported that the Prime Minister of the Rhodesian Federation invited me to visit the Federation. Well, it is true that I was invited, and I have accepted the invitation in principle.

Not long ago, during the present meeting of this House, this Parliament passed a Resolution that the Prime Minister should visit all the countries of Africa, South Africa included. I must say that I am not afraid to visit South Africa or the Rhodesian Federation.

I think that it will be a wrong policy for the Federal Government to follow if, simply because we do not agree with the policy of others, we do not try to change them. As the *West African Pilot* of to-day put it, the idea is that because we have differences of opinion with Governments such as that of the Rhodesian Federation we should not exchange representation with them. I think that is wrong, because exchanging representation does not mean that we agree with the policy of the Government at all.

We have also got other Governments' representatives here; it does not mean that they all agree with all our policies, and in spite of this we will continue to have many ambassadors from the different parts of the world.

I am quite prepared. The House endorsed the Resolution here that I should visit every part of Africa. If I have the opportunity I will visit every part of Africa. But this, I hope, should not be regarded as changing my attitude towards things which we do not like at all. Our views on racial discrimination and the policies in South Africa are well known.

One hon. Member, I think from the Opposition side (though I think he was told to cross soon to this Side, I think it was Mr Tarka) was saying that he could not understand this question of the Prime Minister visiting Rhodesia or South Africa. Of course, why not? I have not got the time yet. If I am invited to South Africa, I will definitely think of going if I can spare the time.

If I am invited to any part of the world, I will go if I can spare the time, but this does not mean that, because I go, I have completely changed my views on these things. Perhaps, if I could, I might be able to contribute something towards those countries changing their policies.

I think, that when we read newspapers we had better try to read them properly, because

even the newspapers, for once, seem to put it clearly as I said it, that I did not say that I was going, but that I received an invitation from the Prime Minister of Rhodesia. I have never received any invitation from the Prime Minister of South Africa. But if I receive the invitation, I will consider it.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): After one week's absence from the House Mr Briggs has come back with a changed coat.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): The hon. Minister of Finance is wearing a blue *agbada* for the first time. He must have got it from Southern Rhodesia.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jembar): We have listened on this side of the House with interest to what the Prime Minister said about his impending or proposed visit to South Africa or Central African Federation in the event of an invitation.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki): On a point of order, I do not understand what the hon. Member was speaking about. He said "impending". The Prime Minister did not say that he was going to visit those countries, so there is no question of an "impending" visit.

*And it being 6.00 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).*

*Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 10th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEFENCE

U.N. Nigerian Soldiers

O.221. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Defence how many Nigerian soldiers serving with the United Nations Organisation in the Congo have been reported dead or missing to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (M. Ibrahim Tako) : I have to refer the hon. Member to my answer to a previous Parliamentary Question No. O.89 on the same subject which appeared in the *Hansard* of 27th March, 1962.

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

National Shipping Line

O.222. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport if he will state when the National Shipping Line will operate Mail Boat services.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) : A similar question was asked sometime ago and my hon. Friend's reply then was that the resources of the Nigerian National Line have so far been directed towards the profitable development of its fleet of marine cargo liners. This has clearly been the most prudent policy to adopt since it satisfies an urgent need of a sovereign Nigeria and can be fully justified on strategic and economic grounds.

The passenger trade is more fickle, however, particularly since a tourist trade to West Africa has not yet developed and the capital and recurrent cost of the modern passenger liner are very considerable. Nevertheless, the Nigerian National Line is not unmindful of the value to Nigeria of an efficient passenger service and the possibility of the company participating in this sector of the shipping trade is being examined.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye : Is the Minister aware that the question referred chiefly to the carriage of mails and whether the carriage of mails would not be more profitable than even the cargo that he spoke of.

Mr Offor : No, Sir, it is not more profitable than cargo.

Extension of Railway Line

O.223. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Transport, whether the Government has any plans of extending the railway line to Katsina.

Mr Offor : There are no plans for extending the railway line to Katsina at the present time.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed : Does the Minister assure us that the Federal Government will in future consider extending such a railway line to Katsina ?

Mr Offor : If funds become available.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : There is no question of undertaking any further extensions of the railway line until the Bornu extension is complete.

Air Transport Companies

O.224. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Transport, how many countries operate air services in this country directly or through companies of their countries' origin.

Mr Offor : In replying to this question, my hon. Friend the Minister, assumes that the hon. Member would wish him to make a distinction between services to and from Nigeria.

The air services within Nigeria, including Nigeria Airways: the number of countries all operating air services in this category is twenty-four, of whom eleven are African States having a joint interest in one air line.

No country other than Nigeria operates air services in the second category. There are, however, four air line companies operating air services in the second category which have their origin in four foreign countries.

Onitsha Aerodrome

O.225. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Transport, how soon work will begin on the Onitsha Aerodrome.

Mr Offor : There is provision in the Second Economic Development Programme for the construction of new aerodromes, including



Onitsha. The hon. Minister of Transport has not yet finalised the programme of construction and cannot at this stage inform the hon. Member how soon the work at Onitsha will start.

The hon. Member, however, can rest assured that provided there is no difficulty over the acquisition of land, Onitsha will receive a high priority in the Programme.

**Mr S. J. Umoren :** Would the Minister please tell the House what has become of the project for the opening of an aerodrome in Uyo, a project which was suggested some years ago?

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

**Dr Okeke :** In answer to this Question, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the Minister was not quite sure of what arrangements have been made and how soon the work would start. I want the Minister to clarify this point.

### LABOUR

#### Nigerian Labourers in Fernando Po

**O.226. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Labour, whether there is any agreement between any Regional and Federal Governments about recruitment of Nigerians for employment as labourers in Fernando Po.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : The recruitment of Nigerians for work anywhere outside Nigeria is the Federal Government's responsibility. As the labourers for Fernando Po are recruited in the Eastern Region, the Government of the Region was consulted.

### MINES

#### Nigerianisation in E.C.N.

**O.227. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will take all necessary steps to ensure that the Nigerianisation policy is being vigorously pursued in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika) : Yes, Sir. Indeed, the Minister is aware that the Electricity Corporation is already pursuing a very vigorous policy of

Nigerianisation ; this can be seen from the fact that, out of a total of 227 senior officers, no less than 143 are either Nigerians or from other West African territories.

But the carrying out of this policy is hindered by the present lack of Nigerians with the necessary qualifications and experience, particularly on the electrical engineering side ; it is also aggravated by the very high rate of expansion of the Corporation.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu :** Would the Minister assure us that a Nigerian would succeed the retiring General Manager?

**Mr M. C. K. Obi :** I would like to know what plans the Minister has for supplying Auch, Uzairue and Afuze with electricity.

**Mr Speaker :** That is a new question. May I remind hon. Members that supplementary questions must be relevant to the original questions.

### Ajegunle

**O.228. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will consider advising the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to erect a full powered electric plant to serve the whole of Ajegunle.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** The Minister is informed by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria that Ajegunle is already partially reticulated with low tension distribution and is, to all intents and purposes, a part of the Lagos undertaking.

Further, arrangements are in hand to install a larger transformer and extend the low tension distribution to provide a general supply to the built up areas in Ajegunle.

**Chief A. F. Odulana :** Further arrangements—When or how soon? Would the Minister please do that quickly?

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah :** While talking about Ajegunle, is the Minister aware that the blackout in Lagos is getting unbearable, particularly for those of us in Ikoyi? Why can he not comb the whole world and get us all those other plants?

**Mr Speaker :** That is an irrelevant question.

**Mr Senu-Oke :** I would like to know whether the new arrangement is embodied in the present Estimates.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Tin Industry

10.15 a.m.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Hon. Maitama Sule) : I am sure that what comes most obviously to the minds of hon. Members whenever the tin industry is mentioned is not the fact that the price of tin varied between £800 to £950 per ton throughout 1961, nor the fact that for the first time, Nigerian ore was smelted on a commercial basis in smelters erected in Nigeria in 1961. Rather, it is the recent cries against service conditions and the demands in certain quarters for the nationalisation of the tin industry that are apt to come most readily to Members' minds.

Only yesterday the Member for Jembar, *Mr Tarka*, said something about this and complained about the poor conditions of service in the tin mining industry area. It is only natural and proper that it is the visible effect of the industry on the lives of the workers and the amenities and benefits that the workers derive or do not derive from their labour that should come most vividly to Members' minds. It is on the working conditions of Nigerians in the industry, therefore, that I propose to make a statement.

With regard to the demand for the nationalisation of the tin industry, I have repeatedly made it clear that Government's policy is that of Nigerianisation rather than nationalisation.

I would like to make it clear to this House that this has been the policy. As for the conditions of service on the minesfield, however, I would not be true to my conscience if I refused to admit that the conditions do not reflect the trend of events both politically and economically in the present day Nigeria ; a Nigeria that is independent and sovereign ; a Nigeria that is in a hurry to catch up with the most advanced nations ; a Nigeria in which we are determined to develop a way of life of which our children will be genuinely proud.

It is my firm belief that agitations for nationalisation come, not because the people directly affected feel that it is the best and only

way out, but because they are dissatisfied with existing conditions and are prepared to welcome any alternative system irrespective of its merits and demerits.

For more than a year now I and my officials in my Ministry have been looking into the whole industry and have been holding various discussions and negotiations at different levels with the employers and their association in particular and with the workers and workers' association in general. I have not hesitated in the least to point out to the Chamber of Mines that it is the oldest industry in Nigeria and that I expected the industry in its own interest to set the pace in ensuring a fair and reasonable remuneration for all workers.

I have not minced my words in expressing to all employers my disappointment at the way the industry had lagged behind others in promoting Nigerians to senior posts, and I have pointed out that I was not going to be impressed by what amounted to eye-wash promotions of Nigerians without responsibility and conditions of service and privileges equal to those of their expatriate colleagues.

I have impressed on the industry the high premium which I placed on adequate provision for the training of Nigerians for senior posts. It is indeed a sad commentary that the oldest of industries in Nigeria can boast of having trained only one Nigerian mining engineer who has since died.

The thirst for education in this country is insatiable and I have insisted that the industry should arrange suitable educational facilities for the children of workers and should consider the provision of a secondary school which will take the best from the primary schools and form a reservoir for training schemes and scholarship schemes for advanced studies.

Considering the large labour force employed on the Plateau, I have requested that dispensary, clinic and pharmacy facilities be improved and that a hospital of a suitable size be provided for the workers.

I have expressed my dissatisfaction with the housing of minesfield labour, as the majority of the houses can at best be described only as ramshackles. The laws dealing with the conditions of service in the minesfield, one must admit, are outdated. The existing

requirements for housing under Labour and Health Areas Regulations, for instance, are more suited to the circumstances of the first and second decades of this century than to the needs of 1962.

I propose to hold discussions with my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour, who is as much concerned as I am in this question, with a view to bringing relevant regulations into line with modern trends wherever necessary.

As a result of my meetings and my communications with the Chamber of Mines certain definite steps have been taken to bridge, as it were, the great gap which seems to exist between my thinking on the subject and theirs.

The Chamber has called on all its members to subscribe a special fund which will be used for welfare and educational projects. Scholarships have been granted on the Mines School at Jos and more have been promised for professional training abroad. Schools have been built by some of the Mining Companies and handed over to the local educational authorities free of charge and there are proposals for the construction of a Technical Institute.

Some of the companies have improved housing for the general labour by providing cement blocks with pan roof in place of the round huts with grass roof required by the law. Several companies have promoted or recruited Nigerians direct to the senior staff grade.

Representatives of the Chamber of Mines have had discussions with the various Regional Authorities on how best to meet my requirements. There have been talks of offering a portable X-ray equipment which will be of considerable assistance in TB preventive work on the Plateau, but I am pressing for a hospital.

These are new and welcome trends and I shall see to it that they are kept up so that the industry keeps pace with other industries established in Nigeria. I sincerely believe that the employers are now fully with me in my efforts to improve conditions in the industry and I believe that they will maintain their new-found co-operative attitude and so make it unnecessary for Government mandatory legislation.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY STATION AT SAMARU

10.25 a.m.

**M. Saidu Zango** (Zaria Central) : I rise to move the Motion which stands in my name on the Order Paper which reads as follows :—

“That this House calls upon the Federal Government to advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to construct a new Railway Station at Samaru near Zaria.”

This Motion is timely and non-controversial. Therefore, in making this urgent request, I feel that I need not elaborate the fact that Samaru is daily growing from strength to strength. In the first place, it should be remembered that Samaru has for many years been the Headquarters of the agricultural research station of the Northern Region.

In recent years important institutions were established there including the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. As a result of the establishment of these institutions it has become necessary to have a railway station near the villages of Shika and Samaru.

It is true we cannot have new stations without a line running nearby. We are fortunate, however that the Zaria-Gusau line runs through this area. So I am not asking for something which is impossible. Having a station there will certainly reduce the hardship caused to hundreds of people wanting to travel by train.

At present if one wants to join the train one has to cover a distance of seven or eight miles to Zaria railway station. Many hon. Members of this House who have visited the nation's best institutions will bear me out that it is essential to have a railway station at Samaru. This station, if built, will serve the same purpose as its counterpart the Sawa Station. Sawa Station, however, cannot be compared with Samaru, because Samaru surpasses the Sawa station in all respects.

It is no exaggeration to say that Samaru Station, if built, will be better than many out-stations up country. It will not be out of place if I mention the fact Samaru is densely populated while many other stations are situated in remote areas which are intended to serve the people living nearby.

[M. ZANGO]

Now that tourism is rapidly expanding in Nigeria, it will be appreciated if the existing Catering Rest House at Samaru is used by the ever increasing number of travellers from all walks of life. At present when these travellers arrive at Zaria Station they have to detrain and ride or trek for eight miles to Samaru.

With these few points and explanations, I beg to move.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): I beg to second this Motion which has been ably moved by the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*).

The explanations given by the mover of the Motion are, I believe, sufficient to justify the construction of this railway station at Samaru. But I must re-emphasise the fact that the importance of Samaru in the developing new Nigeria cannot be over emphasised. Less than thirty years ago Samaru was a modern village in the making, only about seven to eight miles from Zaria, and it was selected by the Regional Government as the headquarters for agricultural research while Zaria was also chosen as the centre of high education in the North. Gradually Samaru is becoming more and more important. To-day it does not claim its importance just because it is the headquarters for agricultural research in the North but also because it is so lucky as to have the highest educational institutions.

It will interest you to know that not very far from the place where we propose that this station should be built, the Railway Corporation itself found it essential to construct a temporary line from where cattle are railed to various destinations. This, in fact, is a proof that if this railway station is constructed, it will ease traffic congestion at the Zaria railway station. Zaria, as you know, is a junction of three railway lines, one leading to Nguru *via* Kano, the other to Kaura Namoda *via* Funtua and Gusau and the third one running to the South.

You will understand from this that apart from the fact that we need this railway station to be constructed owing to the growth of Samaru, it will in the end help the Railway Corporation to solve another problem.

The Government itself is so anxious to see Nigeria developed that it has been so generous as to hand over the Nigerian College of Arts,

Science and Technology to the Northern Regional Government to be absorbed in its proposed University of the North. The Government is so generous and one can see that it is timely for the Government to make itself more anxious and more generous to construct this Railway Station in Samaru in order to achieve its undertaking.

I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker**: I am not proposing to call the Amendment because it is not relevant to the original Motion.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): On a point of order, if the proposed Amendment is not relevant to the original Motion, may the Mover of the Amendment be allowed to speak generally on the Motion.

**Mr Speaker**: You are now suggesting that we should go beyond the Standing Orders of the House which at this moment I am not prepared to do.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I want to say that the Government accepts this Motion in principle. The station which is being asked by the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*) to be constructed is a railway station but from what I will say I hope that I will convince the House that a halt station will be adequate for the purpose.

Samaru is near the line between Zaria and Kaura Namoda, a stretch of railway 137 miles in length. The traffic offering on this line is not very heavy. There are three trains in each direction every day and on this line, goods traffic is even more important than passenger traffic because it is from goods traffic that the Railway derives most of its revenue. Samaru is only six and a half miles from Zaria and it is about half-way between Zaria and the first station up to Zaria on that line, the station of Guga. Guga is about fifteen and a half miles from Zaria.

I think that it will be appreciated that for a distance of six and a quarter miles, unless there is a very big industry in the neighbourhood which will require heavy traffic or from which the Railway will derive a lot of heavy traffic, it is considered uneconomical to construct a full-blown railway station. We are quite prepared to accommodate the people who live in Samaru and in the vicinity because

Samaru is an important educational centre. Therefore, the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway Corporation has caused investigations to be made and is satisfied that a halt station built half-way between Zaria and Guga, the first station which is only, as I said, fifteen and a half miles from Zaria, will be quite adequate.

At the moment, there are three spots in this neighbourhood which the Railway consider to be suitable. One is four and three quarter miles from Zaria, the other is five and three quarter miles, the other is eight miles and the next is nine miles. The Railway is now seeking the co-operation of the people in the area to help them to find out which is the best spot which will serve the people who live in that area and in the vicinity of Samaru best, and I will very much appreciate it if the hon. Mover and the Seconder who come from this part will give us suggestions as to the best site.

There are a number of villages between Zaria and the next station, Guga, and we would like to build a half station between these two stations to enable them, as the hon. Mover says, to get on the Railway near their village at the station instead of having to travel all the way to Guga or all the way to Zaria.

That is the reason why I say that this Motion is acceptable to Government in principle. We realise that this is a period when we are harnessing all our necessary revenue and spending it in the best possible way, a period during which we are applying as much economy as possible, and I am sure that the hon. Members in this House will agree with me that to build a full-blown station with all the building accessories that are necessary, six and a half miles away from Zaria on a line where the traffic is not very heavy, will not be justified.

I, therefore, as I said, accept this Motion on behalf of Government in principle and I want to assure the hon. Mover and Seconder that the Railway Corporation will be advised to build a halt station near Samaru as soon as possible.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Much as the Government has accepted the Motion in principle, I would like to say that we on this side of the House are not opposed to the Motion. We support it whole heartedly but I do not know what the Government means by this language which comes always from them.

It is so old that I think it should not even have been used again. They say everything 'in principle'. 'In principle' may take a thousand years. We would like the Minister to give us a definite time within this six-year period when this work will be done.

I have been to Samaru myself, this place is very important educationally. Not only is education important but also the number of people there and the products from that place justify the building of a station. I quite agree that a halt station will be built there but I hope that their acceptance 'in principle' will mean that within this six-year Development Programme, that is from now to 1968, the Government will think seriously with a view to converting the halt station into a real railway station to serve the needs of these people.

With these few words, on behalf of this side of the House, we accept this Motion.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): May I first of all express my appreciation for the manner in which the Minister of Transport accepted the Motion in principle and also add that there is definitely a genuine case for a railway station at Samaru having lived there myself for a couple of years.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I would like to thank the Government for the reply given by the Minister of Transport this morning to the Motion tabled by the hon. Member. I think that this Motion is an important one. It is important in that those who knew Zaria some years ago and know it at the present time will see that there is a lot of change there. There are such notices as *Rooms to let* on the buildings and I think that having a railway station at Samaru, which is about six and half miles away will ease this problem of unemployment. As the Speaker is aware, some years ago, the railway headquarters at Zaria was removed to Ebute Metta. As a result of that, a lot of problems fell on the people of Zaria. At present it can be seen that many people have become mere labourers. The Ebute Metta railway station could not absorb all the workers who were employed at Zaria, so, I hope that if a railway station is established at Samaru the problems will be solved.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Zakari Isa** (Kaduna): I rise to support this timely Motion which was humbly moved. I am grateful that the Government has accepted it in principle, and hope that they will speed up the building of this important station. I am sure that the station will help many people who reside near it.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House calls upon the Federal Government to advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to construct a new Railway Station at Samaru near Zaria.

TAKE OVER OF THE FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL  
BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

10.42 a.m.

**M. Aminu Kano** (Kano East): I rise to move,

That the Government of the Federation should take over the Federal Palace Hotel.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of order. The hon. Member for Kano East (*M. Aminu Kano*) said that he was moving, that the Government of the Federation—I do not know whether he meant “the Federal Government” or “the Governments of the Federation” which, of course, is not in terms of the Motion on the Order Paper.

**Mr Speaker:** I think that when one says “The Government of the Federation” one means the only one Government.

**M. Aminu Kano:** I would like to advise my hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, to read the Motion as it appears on the Order Paper properly.

In moving this Motion, I am purely prompted by strategy. I think that it was last year that a Member of this House mooted an idea to control the issue of licences to foreigners either to enter into Lagos or to occupy Government quarters. The Federal Palace Hotel is situated in a very strategic area, and I think that the policy of our Government must be that any land in Nigeria which is strategic should be retained by the Federal Government. The Federal Palace Hotel is built on the very entrance into Lagos and the Government must therefore take it over. The Government must take over the particular piece of land notwithstanding what building is put up there.

I am not asking the Government to take over the Federal Palace Hotel over-night. What I am trying to say is this, that in order to be able to acquire that land, whatever building may be on it, and since the Federal Palace Hotel is on this particular piece of land, the Government must investigate the operation of that hotel. If it is a paying concern let the Government go into it, either in partnership or by complete take-over so that the land and the hotel may be government property simply because of the strategic importance of that particular area.

However, if the Government has any intention to bring a Bill on it, they should first of all have a committee to investigate the finances, the way and manner the hotel is functioning, and see if it is a paying concern. If the Federal Government feel that it is a well paying proposition, they should enter into it. I will not ask the Government to buy a dead horse for the sake of buying it. I am not, therefore, calling on the Government to take it over-night simply because we want to take it over. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker:** There is too much interruption.

**M. Aminu Kano:** I am not, of course, advising the Government to frighten away investors. I am only saying that the hotel is built on the gate-way of our port of call. And because of the feeling, especially against the allocation of land to certain foreigners on the entrance into Lagos, I feel that the Government must enter into negotiation with the management of the hotel with a view to taking over this place purely for protecting the interests of Nigerian security and peace.

I beg to move.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): In seconding this Motion, I wish to digress a little by protesting to you, Mr Speaker, since I have no desire to bring a substantive Motion on the grievance against a policy of arbitrarily threatening the time of Members' speech, because it is not palatable. This system is certainly below the dignity of this House.

**Mr Speaker:** Will the hon. Member please speak louder?

**Mr Ememe:** I am therefore appealing to you to advise the Deputy Speaker to refrain from such a practice in future.

The Motion calls for the taking over of the Federal Palace Hotel; it does not say 'nationalise' since some people in this House have sworn to oppose anything like nationalisation in any form. It is not the intention of the Mover of this Motion to call for the nationalisation of all the hotels in Lagos, nor does he mean to ask the Federal Government to run the hotel while a private businessman owns it. He wants the Government to purchase this Hotel and control its administration. It would not have been necessary to demand the purchase of this Hotel if its present administration were to be in the best interests of this country. But that administration leaves much to be desired. If I might not hurt some people here, I make bold to say that what the country really demands through us is to nationalise the Federal Palace Hotel, with adequate compensation.

**An hon. Member :** There is no money yet for the Development Plan.

**Mr Ememe :** Yes, but we must call a spade a spade and not a shovel.

But why must the Government nationalise the Hotel? The primary reason is that the Hotel is a national hotel, built at the request of the Government to serve its accommodation requirements, especially during important occasions. Even though the Federal Government had interests in the Nigerian Hotels Limited, yet the type of hotel facilities needed to match the independence status of Nigeria were not available, nor were they provided by the Nigerian Hotels Limited. Therefore a first-class hotel like the Federal Palace was imperative and was definitely needed. Hence the Federal Government invited Mr Leventis to build one.

It must be appreciated that in accepting this request to build this hotel, Mr Leventis was doing a national service. What is funny about the whole thing is, how Mr Leventis could afford to build such a hotel and the whole Federation of Nigeria could not! However, Mr Leventis built it, partly with the money given him as a grant, and partly with the loans he raised, possibly, from the same Federal Government or the banks. He built it, he owned it, and he ran it. To show how important this Hotel is to the Government, the Minister of Works almost became the works'

supervisor during its construction! When it was completed, the national character of the Hotel was also demonstrated by two of our Federal Ministers lodging in it for one week. Yet, in spite of the national and public character of this Hotel, the Government allowed a private businessman to own it.

What is really pathetic about the whole business is that, because of this Hotel, the Federal Government classed the hotel industry under pioneer industry. By this move the Government gave Mr Leventis a heavy grant. In addition, a tax-free period granted to a pioneer industry was also allowed to the Federal Palace Hotel.

One would have expected that with all these concessions, the proprietors of this Hotel would have been showing gratitude to the Federal Government by way of high discounts on its accounts. But what do we find? The Management of this Hotel inflate their rates and service charges when the payment is to be made by the Federal Government. For example, there are records to show that the Minister of Foreign Affairs was billed, on the 18th November, 1961, the sum of £60 for what should have cost the Federal Government only £31-10s-0d—£60 for a £31-10s-0d bill—almost double! Similarly, during the Independence Celebrations and the Governor-General's inauguration—(Interruptions). Will hon. Members please give me a chance to make this speech.

Similarly, during the Independence Celebrations and the Governor-General's installation, the Federal Government was billed £25 per room per night for rooms that would have cost either £5-5s or £9 each. There are many examples of such inflated charges to the Federal Government. It is tantamount to cheating. It is like biting the hand that fed one for, without the Federal Government, how could poor Leventis have been so wealthy as to build a national hotel?

These two faults are not the only ones that the management of this Hotel has. The most annoying is the misrepresentation of the affairs of this Government to foreign guests by the management. It is reliably learnt that Leventis indulges in bragging to foreigners that he owns our national hotel. They boast about their unrivalled friendship with and influence on our Ministers. They even convince some of the

[MR EMEME]

foreign guests that they have a hand in the running of our Government. They always cite, as an example of their influence on the Federal Government their assistance to an oil company to establish in Nigeria. I really do not understand what assistance they can give to foreigners seeking to establish an oil company. But what is annoying is that they brag.

The management of the Federal Palace Hotel takes delight in practising racial discrimination in a disguised and subtle form. There are several examples to prove this. When Dr Banda, the renowned nationalist leader of Tanganyika visited this country and lodged in that Hotel, he and his secretary were packed together in one room, whereas the other white diplomats were gracefully given a room each.

**Mr Speaker :** That is not relevant.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): And, Mr Speaker, Sir, Dr Banda is not from Tanganyika.

**Mr Ememe :** The Senegalese and another major embassy were discriminated against in hotel charges. The Management's policy is "high rates for African diplomats and low rates for those from Greece or other Western European or American countries". They charged these two embassies £15 for a double room for which they normally charged £5, and £8 instead of £9 to Greek diplomats, even though they owe—

**Mr Speaker :** Members must refrain from making noise.

**Mr Ememe :** Even though they owe their wealth to Africa, yet they discriminate against Africans.

Their worst crime against this country is committed in their conditions of service to their workers. It is usual in hotels of this type to receive what is termed 'service charges' from customers for the benefit of their staff, especially the junior staff. Five or ten *per cent* of the total bill is usually charged for this purpose—this is to avoid servants neglecting their work in their drive for tips. This Hotel charges ten *per cent* for this purpose. In fact, since the Independence Celebrations in October 1961, the Hotel has received the sum of about £2,600 on the ten *per cent* 'service' charges.

But they refuse to pay even a mite to the workers. There is work here for labour leaders.

On the Nigerian workers, discrimination is intensified. The management has not yet seen fit to employ or promote a Nigerian to a senior post. Of the 19 senior servants serving in this Hotel, not one is a Nigerian, not one. And as if these evil practices are not enough, the African or the Nigerian staff are denied any facilities to feed in the Hotel, even when they are forced to work overtime. The European staff, in addition to their fat salaries, also dine and live there free of charge. In fact, their transport and laundry charges are provided for by the management. The poor Nigerian uses his meagre wage to pay for bus fares every day. This is a typical example of the saying that, to him who has shall be given, and him who has not, even what little he has shall be taken away from him.

The Nigeria Hotels Limited has demonstrated that state-owned hotels avoid this type of atrocity.

The Nigeria Hotels Limited has demonstrated that state-owned hotels avoid this type of atrocities. It has also shown that Nigerianisation can be achieved even in hotel business. Of the 44 senior posts in the Nigeria Hotels, 29 are Nigerians while only 15 are expatriates. I have always said that we are safer with state-owned concerns than privately owned concerns. This is an example of what private, especially foreign business concerns can do to this country. With all their good intentions they cannot help going the way the Leventis are going in their hotel.

Before I conclude, let me emphasise that socialism will eliminate all these economic and social headaches. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order! The hon. Member from Owo North (*Mr S. A. Ogedengbe*) and others must refrain from persistent interruptions.

**Mr Ememe :** Those who fight against true socialism in this country have their selfish interest to protect. For the good and benefit of all, let us reorganise our economy and go socialist.

In conclusion, I wish to suggest a line of action for the Federal Government to satisfy not only the Nigerians who are working in that



Hotel, but the entire nation. When I first learned of the ownership of this national hotel, I could not believe it. The voice of the people has reached the heavens. They want the Federal Palace Hotel nationalised with compensation, or else let the Federal Government build a national hotel that is equivalent to this type of hotel and cease supporting the injustice of profiteering in the management of this hotel. The steps to be taken in buying over and managing the hotel are as follows.

The first step is to seek the co-operation of the Leventis and the second—

**An hon. Member :** Why co-operation ?

**Mr Ememe :** When you want to buy over you cannot force them. Secondly, you want to invite independent engineering firms, not from the Western countries, to assess the total value of this building, pay the market value and deduct the grant that was paid by this Government to Mr Leventis. Make sure that nothing is paid for goodwill of this hotel; the reason for this is of course certain because the goodwill of this hotel rests on the Federal Government. Without the Federal Government the Hotel has no goodwill and therefore the Federal Government should not pay for the goodwill.

On the other hand they should overhaul the whole administration and put the management under the Nigeria Hotels Limited. Those who are prepared to shed crocodile tears over this nationalisation of the Federal Palace Hotel must remember that this country cannot be sacrificed on the altar of their self-interest.

I beg to second.

11.02 a.m.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu North West) : I beg to move, in Line 1 to leave out from "That" to end of the Question and add—

"this House urges the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the Hotel."

In the first place we have made a declaration to the business interests in this country that there will be no attempt to nationalise their businesses, and that where it becomes necessary to do so an adequate compensation will be paid. It is not now necessary to do so. The £670 million development project must go on. You cannot eat your cake and have it.

I think that this Motion, if nothing else, has provided the proper atmosphere and platform to clear things which ought to be cleared about this question of hotels. I think I am in a better position—

**Chief A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, it is now clear from every word of the hon. Member for Orlu North West (*Dr Mbadiwe*) that he is a shareholder in that Federal Palace Hotel. He should declare his interest right now, otherwise on a point of order he has no right to have a say in this matter.

**Mr Speaker :** I think he is only mobilising his eagle wings.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Humour fascinates me in Parliament, Mr Speaker, but I do not reply to jargon. I say that I am in a better position to give the facts, because I was then the Minister responsible for making the decision to ask Leventis to build this Federal Palace Hotel in the interests of the impending independence celebrations. The need for that hotel arose when the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to this country—

**Chief Odulana :** The hon. Member for Orlu North West says that he does not reply to jargon. In the English dictionary the meaning of "jargon" is language that cannot be understood. I want to ask, Mr Speaker, if he did not understand the language which I put to him, because I was not speaking in Orlu language.

**Mr Y. O. Mohammed :** Mr Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder why hon. Members delight in raising points of order for the purpose of wasting our time. May I please refer you to standing order 26 (1) and, with your permission, I will quote—

"26 (1)—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."

Why is it that the hon. Member from Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) is used to raising a point of order without quoting the order ? I wish

[M. MOHAMMED]

the Speaker would not allow Members to raise points of order in such a way. They must call attention to the point of order according to the Standing Order of the House.

**Mr Speaker** : I quite agree with you that there has been quite a lot of raising of points of order unnecessarily. I think it is time we got used to the correct Parliamentary procedure.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I was saying that during the proposed visit of Her Majesty The Queen there was then the desire to have a banquet but, after an inspection of the accommodation available in Lagos, we were informed that a banquet could not be held because there was no proper accommodation. The Mainland Hotel was condemned as not being a fitting place. You can realise what that meant, when we were told that we could not hold a banquet because this country did not have adequate facilities.

It was then that the idea of having a luxury hotel in Lagos was contemplated so that at no time in the future would visitors to West Africa or Nigeria say that we did not have adequate facilities. We were determined that, if necessary, the hotel facilities in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, would compare favourably with those in any other part of the world. That was our conception.

Then, when the question of the independence celebrations arose, it was thought that, for these celebrations, we must have a hotel which would be the showcase of the country but it was agreed that the Government would have no part in it, apart from giving its encouragement, and that it would have no financial stake in the proposition. It is known that businessmen are here for profit and for whatever money they can make. No businessman is here for charity. We wanted certain things done and we knew how they could be done. We had the conception but the question was, who would finance such a project?

**Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East)** : May I ask the hon. Member, since he was the Minister responsible at that time, if he will tell the House why the decision had not been taken that this was necessary and why the Government did not invite Leventis to discuss the question?

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I have no Attorney-General next to me and I do not want to anticipate or answer questions.

We had to send messages to all persons interested in the hotel business asking if they could—with Government providing land; land not money—give us a luxury hotel that could compare favourably with any in the world. It was then that the proprietors of the Mainland Hotel agreed to put up a hotel to the cost of £450,000. Our obligation was to give land and that land would also be of economic value. That, then, was the commitment which was given. The hotel proceeded on the understanding that the cost would be £450,000 but not exceeding £750,000.

Later on, ideas developed that the banqueting hall must be so big as to provide seating capacity for 500-1,000, and that there would be big reception areas provided. The reason why I am stating this is that any commercial firm has a right to build a hotel without any unnecessary interference by any government, and when you dictate certain facilities that you would like to see in such a hotel. Conversely the owner is entitled to decide whether it is economical because, in the final analysis, he will have to find the money; but we said, at that time that no money would be provided.

I am giving the background story because often people had the concept that the Government was financing this hotel. Not until it was opened did the Nigerian public know that the Federal Government had nothing to do with the financing of it and that it belonged, in fact, to an individual enterprise.

When this undertaking was given various obstacles arose and negotiations commenced in 1958 concerning the building of this hotel because we realised that if we had no such hotel ready in time for the independence celebrations, there would be no place for our guests to be accommodated. We realised also that such a hotel would influence their impressions of the whole independence celebrations, and so, to get it ready in time for the independence celebrations became our most important object. The pledge was then made that it would be ready for independence.

Some people have criticised by saying that even the little concession which the Government made concerning the land was exorbitant; but I invite Members of this

House and Members of the Government to check similar projects in other countries, where the governments concerned invited people to undertake the building of an hotel, and to compare the concessions they have given. Ghana built their own entirely. It is owned by Ghana. There is a new hotel, I think, in Cairo. There is an hotel being built with, I think, two hundred bedrooms in Abidjan and the one which we ourselves saw in Monrovia was Government sponsored. In contrast, you will find that the bargainers in Nigeria are harder bargainers than those elsewhere and I think they should receive praise for bargaining so hard, instead of which we hear meaningless criticisms.

In Abidjan I understand that for the two hundred bedroom hotel the Government has given some money, about £750,000 at 6 per cent interest. They are also putting up equity capital of another £750,000 in the hotel and they are guaranteeing 17 per cent dividend to all non-government investors and a *moratorium* of two years before the interest on the loan will be paid. Those were the concessions which encouraged the people to invest in that enterprise. What concession did this Government give? And yet there is always criticism.

Why did I move the Amendment that the Government should take the controlling interest?

**An hon. Member:** You must be a shareholder!

**Dr Mbadiwe:** If I were a shareholder I would not be afraid to declare my interest and say so because it would be a credit to Nigeria if I could find the money to be one, but unfortunately it is not available yet!

Why did I say that the Government should negotiate? Negotiation is between two people—they can agree or disagree, there is no commitment.

We should take controlling shares but I am opposing the idea that the Government should take the whole thing over. Why I move the Amendment was that people who make contributions and make an effort to achieve something must be living witnesses as to how we got that achievement. Secondly, we have given a premium land in that area of 15 acres and more.

If the new Parliament is to be built in that area and the Hotel is to be further developed, as I understand, to a shopping centre, with cinema, swimming pools, and more room facilities, in the next ten years if any Nigerian goes that way and learns that the whole area belongs to a private individual he will be grumbling.

**Several hon. Members:** Yes. They are grumbling now.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** Rather than take it from the man who has designed it let the Government take controlling shares in the Hotel. If the person refuses—

**Mr W. Briggs (Degema):** Why did you file the Amendment in the first place? What is your special interest?

**Dr Mbadiwe:** The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) does not behave like a Legislator (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order. Really, some of these interruptions are intolerable and I ask hon. Members to desist from them.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** I feel that with the growth of this country, if we give an individual 15 acres of land in this premium area where Parliament Buildings will stand, and where we have Members' Flats, the diplomats of this country and the future youths of this country will ask, who are the owners of this area? And if the answer they get is that it belong to a foreigner, it will be unpalatable. That is why I say that the Government should have controlling shares in it. We have a godly Government. We will say to the owners that the day we rise to design buildings, we will build. We will be happy to get the finest architects, but people who sit down in one bench with their feet stretched cannot produce anything—

**Mr W. Briggs (Degema):** Point of order, Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** Will you please quote the Order you are referring to? Unless you can point to the Order number, I think you should leave it to me to be the judge of irrelevance.

**Mr Briggs:** Is it relevant when somebody puts his leg on this Table? Has that anything to do with this Motion?

**Mr Speaker:** This is only a minor point which, after all, raises the humour of the House,

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I am a witness to what transpired in getting that Federal Palace Hotel ready for the Independence celebrations. At one time people said it could not be done in 18 months or two years. To build that Hotel in one year and get it ready for the Independence celebrations was a super-human effort. (*Applause*).

We have always been a grateful country. Even if we give the owners 1s share in appreciation, if they like they can sell it, we must show appreciation. But that premium area which is growing and developing must belong to the people of Nigeria. It would be unpalatable for foreigners to have all that land and all that building.

People say that the thing must be taken over, whether it is a paying proposition or not. I am saying what I believe to be fundamental, what I will do: if things do not pay they can be made to pay. People do things that may not pay them at first, but they make profit eventually. I am proud that in Nigeria to-day we can invite tourists, we can invite people who will take part in the Development Programme so lucidly and ably introduced by the Minister of Economic Development. When they come we will have no fear as to whether we have a place for them or not. Do you know that bad accommodation can drive money away from this country?

**Several hon. Members :** Yes.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** People who have money do not want to go and live in any bad place. So, money must be spent for a proper need. Life is too short to be trifled with. If you have the money show you have it. People who do not have money will go to dingy quarters.

That Hotel was not built for Nigerians alone, because people know that we have too many relatives. Nigerians do not like to go to hotels: they pack their portmanteaux to their brothers, to their relatives (*Laughter*). Whether or not they are inconveniencing their relatives does not matter to Nigerians. We are looking for hotels for foreign investors, not for ourselves. If you tell a Nigerian to pay so much money and eat such food, unless he has a grant somewhere, he will not do it. Therefore, no businessman will sink his money

into building a hotel when he knows that there will be no clients to patronise it. We are building for the future. The Hotel was built on a directive and we have certain obligations regarding that hotel.

All that I am asking the Government to remember is that once our minds are clear that we have not wounded or harmed anyone, our task is done, the future belongs to us. Therefore, to-day or tomorrow, we must take it.

I think, I am grateful that this opportunity has come so that the Government itself will explain, because so much rumour has been connected with the Hotel when there ought not to be any. Government, as far as I know, had no penny—not a single penny—in the Hotel, but people had that mistaken notion. I feel that the bargaining or concessions which were made for that Hotel to be built are reasonable. Compared with two other hotels built on Government directive elsewhere, our Ministers have been the hardest bargainers in that regard. I challenge anyone to study other hotels in the whole world and study the concessions given here. He will find that we are the hardest bargainers. Let us please soften our bargaining if they are too hard, so that the person at our gate may not wound us.

Sir, I beg to move the Amendment.

**Chief S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo Central): I rise to second the Amendment. What the Amendment seeks to do have been fully treated by the mover of the Amendment. What is required is that the Government should have a controlling share in the Federal Palace Hotel. That is quite a reasonable proposal. Nigeria may have some faults but I must say that ingratitude is not one of them. To take over the Federal Palace Hotel completely gives the impression of ingratitude. In the hour of our need for a place to accommodate our guests from all over the world—

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Isham East): Is the hon. Member seconding the original Motion or is he seconding the velvet Motion? I am not sure which is which.

**Mr Speaker :** He said he was seconding the Amendment and not the velvet one.

**Chief Mariere :** My hon. Friend Chief Anthony Enahoro was probably thinking of something else when I seconded the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Orlu North East (*Dr K. O. Mbadawe*). The Amendment is—"That this House urges the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the Hotel". That is the Amendment I am seconding.

Before independence, we wanted a fitting place in which we could accommodate our guests from all over the world on the attainment of independence. Now someone came to our aid; the job was done with lightning speed and the whole place, which was an eyesore in 1959 became the centre of attraction in 1960. A lot of money was sunk into this business by the Federal Palace Hotel proprietors. Barely under two years people turn round and demand that the Hotel should be taken over. What is the point in asking for that particularly now that we have a Development Plan and we need a lot of money to carry out the Plan?

Some people are telling us that there is money hidden somewhere; that we have to buy ever the Federal Palace Hotel, instead of concentrating on the plans before the Federal Government. People must at this time not give way to sentiment in this country. There is too much sentiment and we need much money for our Development Plan and we have nothing at all with which we can buy the Palace Hotel. Let us face facts. Controlling share is all right. We are responsible to the people of this country for many things. Already austerity measures—what I call not austerity measures but "sacrificial" measures—have been introduced into the country and the members of the public whom we have now asked to support the Development Plan of the Government are wondering what it is all about that they have been asked to pay increased tax for many things. Now—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Member is very irrelevant. He is speaking on the Development Plan and not on the Motion.

**Mr Speaker :** I think he has wandered a little bit far but not for very long.

**Chief Mariere :** It is inter-related with the economic arrangements that we have in hand to-day. If I may say many things in a few words, the take over of controlling shares in the Palace Hotel is an answer to the sort of maladministration to which the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) referred. These are quite different matters. Maladministration and high charges are matters quite different from the taking over of the Hotel as a whole. We must not allow sentiments to over-ride reasons. In this country, because of sentiments, some people will like to name their children 'Lumumba' even though after three days the child dies. Let us face facts. We have not the money; the money that we have we shall use to concentrate on our projects. So the best thing to do at the moment is for the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the hotel. That is quite a fair move and I recommend this Amendment to all sides of the House because of our financial position at the present time.

Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I think that while the Chair appreciates the great zeal with which Members look forward to this debate, we should have some order.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I think that there are some other Amendments in here. One is by the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*), one is by me and is by the hon. Member for Onitsha North (*Mr Ezeani*); and I am wondering if we are going to put the first Amendment before asking the others to move the Amendment.

**Mr Speaker :** Well, I am afraid if we are to avoid involving ourselves deeply in confusion, I think we have to deal with the Amendments one after the other.

11.40 a.m.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I rise to reply to this Motion on behalf of my Colleague, Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, who, unfortunately, is away outside Nigeria in the interests of Nigeria.

## [MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

It is true that the provision of first-class hotels is fundamental to the economy of Nigeria. A high standard of accommodation has come to be regarded as significant of the welcome extended to visitors, tourists, businessmen, and potential investors of capital from overseas.

There was at one time a dearth of such accommodation in Lagos, and it was clear that in many ways trade and investment in this country were impeded by this shortage. The International Bank Mission drew attention to this deficiency and, to encourage the development of the hotel trade, the Government declared it a pioneer industry.

With the approach of independence, it became more than ever necessary to extend the availability of a first-class hotel accommodation and, at the request of the Federal Government, the Federal Palace Hotel was established in time to ease the problem of accommodating the very large number of influential guests who arrived here for the independence celebrations.

The Movers of the Motion and the Amendment all appreciate the risk which this company took to undertake the formidable task of supplying a luxurious and first-class hotel in a very short period of time, and they made it quite clear too that they did this at the request of the Federal Government. It is also clear that this request was not made specifically to one company. Several companies were approached to do this, but we failed to get any response from any other company.

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)**: Point of order. Several companies were not approached at all. That is not true because I served in that Committee. It was Leventis who manoeuvred themselves into it.

**Mr Speaker**: That is at best a point of information.

**The Minister of Establishments**: Well Mr Speaker, my hon. Friend cannot claim to know more than the Government about these negotiations. It is a fact that several companies were approached and that none of them accepted the conditions to put in a huge amount of money and to do the work within the stipulated time. And this company should be congratulated on their initiative in

making so substantial an investment in the hotel trade at a time when other companies were not prepared to take such a risk. Quite apart from any other consideration, it would be ingratitude, now that the hotel has firmly established itself, to take it over at this stage.

The Federal Palace Hotel was built as a private venture and a very considerable sum of money was invested in it. The proprietors had, therefore, quite rightly been accorded the benefit of a pioneer certificate under the Industrial Development Income Tax Relief Act.

The concessions which the Government had made to these concerns had, however, frequently been misrepresented and, for purposes of record, Sir, let me say here that there is no truth whatsoever in the allegation that the Government subsidises this hotel.

**An hon. Member**: What of the land?

**The Minister of Establishments**: I am coming. Nor is it true that the Government made available free of charge the land on which this hotel was built.

**Several hon. Members**: How much is paid?

**The Minister of Establishments**: Just listen. The land is held by the proprietors on a ninety-nine-year lease, which is the normal practice. They pay a rent of £100 per acre and, in accordance with the terms of the lease, this rent is subject to review after a period of 21 years. That is a fact and that is applicable to every other company which leases Government land.

It is not true to say that the Government gives grants to this company. The Government had not been paying any grants whatsoever to the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban)**: On a point of information, Mr Speaker. I beg to remind the hon. Minister that all the materials used in putting up the hotel were duty free.

**The Minister of Establishments**: That is true, and I was going to explain that. The condition which was given to this company and other concerns to build this hotel was that they

should build it and get everything ready before the 1st of October, 1960. It was evident at that time that it was almost impossible to do so in such a short time, and the concession which was given was that a duty-free entry of the building materials in order to make it possible to finish the building before the 1st October, 1960, was given, not to this particular company alone, but to any which was ready to do the job and, as I said before, it was only this company which could afford the risk.

It is wrong, I must stress, it is wrong and unfair for hon. Members of this House to attack a private company or any private concern which has got no opportunity to reply. The Government or the Minister of Commerce and Industry is not here to protect any private interest or to defend it in this House. We are here to defend the actions of the Government, and it is unfair that any hon. Member should stand up in this House and attack a private enterprise on how it runs its affairs when it has got no say in this House. If hon. Members have any criticisms on the Government, they should criticise the Government and not any private concern.

The attitude of this Government towards nationalisation was debated at length in this House last November and I do not consider it necessary to remind hon. Members of the outcome. I must, however, point out that this Motion is concerned not with nationalisation of industries as a whole.

This question of nationalisation of industries was debated in this House during the last sitting of this House. In this particular case, hon. Members are pressing for the nationalisation of a particular hotel and not the hotel industry as a whole. This is highly discriminatory and, bearing in mind the proceedings of this House last November, I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that we must be particularly careful to avoid any suggestion of such discrimination. Nothing could be more damaging to the confidence of existing and potential investors in this country, and nothing could more thoroughly wreck the satisfactory investment climate that we have taken such pains and expense to promote than such a suggestion. We are just embarking on the first National Development Programme, and we need all

the capital that we can mobilise. We simply cannot afford, at this stage, to gamble with our creditworthiness.

It is all too commonly advocated that important organisations be brought under such control. The Government does not subscribe to that view. It is, in our opinion, neither necessary nor desirable for the State to own and operate every important organ of economic activity; indeed, experience elsewhere has shown that State control does not always lead to economic growth, and that certain enterprises are more likely to succeed if financed and controlled by private interests.

We have been told by hon. Members during the course of their speeches that there are hotels being operated by Governments in other countries in Africa. But I learn from reliable sources that these Government-run hotels were running at a deficit. Therefore, for the Government to run an hotel, it has to be prepared to run a non-profit-making venture, and hon. Members will agree with me that at this stage of our development, and with our need for more and more investment, we should not risk gambling Government money in a venture that is not profitable. We have no funds to spare for taking over expensive enterprises which have already attracted sufficient private investment capital, and we have certainly none to spare for projects which might not be profitable to operate.

The Mover of the Motion, as well as the Mover of the Amendment, have clearly pointed out that their intention is that, so long as the Government feels that it is in the interests of Nigeria to take over this hotel or to have a share in it, the Government should do so. But I am informing the honourable House, Sir, through you, that the Government has looked into this matter and they have come to the conclusion that it is not in the best interests of Nigeria either to take over this hotel or to have a controlling share in it, because it is not profitable.

The proprietors of this hotel, in spite of the high prices which they charge for the rooms, still contend that they are running at a deficit, that they are not receiving any profit, and that they would be quite happy if the Government would take it over. But the Government does not want to go into a venture which is not

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profitable. The Government cannot afford to make losses when it is not necessary to do so. The hon. Mover of this Motion and the hon. Seconder, during the course of their speeches, gave the proviso that they were making this suggestion only if it would be financially feasible and profitable for the Government to do so. The fact is that it is not, and for that reason I do not see any need for us to go into the debate, and I would ask the Mover to please withdraw the Motion.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is the Mover withdrawing? Under Standing Orders a Motion cannot be withdrawn until the Amendment is disposed of. Does the Mover of the Amendment intend to withdraw?

**Dr Mbadiwe:** We have listened to the eloquent testimony of the Minister of Establishments, giving credit where credit is due, without fear or favour. That is what I want in this country. It is only a fearful conscience that cannot speak before kings and princes. I am satisfied with the Minister's explanation. One thing that I want the Government to do is that we do not want—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central):** The question asked by the Deputy Speaker was whether Dr Mbadiwe was withdrawing or not. He was not asked to make another speech!

**The Deputy Speaker:** I think there is cause for some patience now. If I gathered correctly, I think the hon. Gentleman was coming round to saying that he was withdrawing.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** With this view, I beg to withdraw.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

**The Deputy Speaker:** I was calling on Mallam Aminu Kano to speak, but was Mr Oronsaye raising a point of order?

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East):** The point of order that I am raising is that which the Deputy Speaker himself has raised on this matter about withdrawing the Amendment before the main Motion. Dr Mbadiwe's is not the only Amendment; there are other Amendments to this Motion, and, according to that Order, until all these Amendments have been withdrawn, the original Motion cannot be withdrawn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Standing Order 23 (2) provides that—

*"If an amendment has been proposed to a question, the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of."*

So, far, the only Amendment proposed has been that of Dr Mbadiwe; no other Amendment has yet been proposed.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central):** On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Standing Order does not preclude Amendments to a Motion, and since we have Amendments on this particular Motion, we have just disposed of one and there are two other Amendments coming up. There is nothing in the Standing Orders which will preclude taking the Amendments one by one until all are disposed of or withdrawn before the original Motion is put.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. While quite frankly on professional grounds I would have entertained these intellectual exercises, I would respectfully say that the Standing Order does not say *Amendments put down on the Order Paper*. It says *Amendments proposed*, and until they are proposed I think I am right in saying that the original mover will be precluded from withdrawing if he intends to do so; if the Amendments have been stated on the Floor of this House and the Question put, but until then, the original Mover can still withdraw his Motion.

**Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East):** On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that that ruling might lead to an absurdity or a negation of the processes of Parliament because it would mean that in order to prevent the hon. Members moving the Amendments, it would be possible to call on the Mover of the original Motion at any stage. I would wish to suggest that in this context, to *propose* is not merely to propose from the Chair, but also to propose to be moved.

*Several hon. Members rose—*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, order! Will Members be seated please? Mr Chikelu please be seated. I must say that there must be some conclusion to the exercise of this morning. I would say that perhaps if you want an illustration, I believe even if you might have tabled a dozen Amendments, if the original



Mover had declined from moving originally the Amendment could not have come up. I still think that in the present circumstance, if Mallam Aminu Kano is rising to withdraw, he may do so, please.

*Mr D. N. Oronsanye (Benin East) rose—*

**The Deputy Seaker :** Order, order. Mr Oronsaye is ruled out please.

**Mallam Aminu Kano (Kano East) :** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw.

*Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.*

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

PRIVATE PRACTICE BY GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS

12.04 p.m.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, namely—

That in view of the unsatisfactory treatment given to out-patients in Lagos hospitals and the disturbing rumours of scandals that medical officers use Government time in attending to, and Government drugs for, their private patients and their own clinics, this House urges the Government to institute an independent enquiry into these allegations.

Speaking a few days ago, the Minister of Health noted, and I quote from the Parliamentary Debates :—

*"We hear of allegations of favouritism, malpractices of several kinds, and the like. But I would like to remind hon. Members that the men and women who man our medical services are human beings with human weaknesses like any Member of this House."*

I only just refer to this brief statement to say that the Minister of Health has been very efficient enough to acknowledge these rumours, and that his statement shows a willingness to investigate as I will show later.

But one thing disturbs me here in this Minister's statement. One girl was once told by a detractor : "Oh, my dear, you look so very ugly," and the girl replied, "Wait until you see my sister, then you will see how ugly we look." If there are some people who are embezzling Government funds and drugs, we cannot justify their action just because there are such

practices elsewhere in the services of this nation. I await the Minister's acceptance to investigate which in principle means that he has accepted the Motion which I am proposing.

I quote once again from the Minister's statement—

*"I wish to assure the House that we are determined to deal ruthlessly with those of our officers who are found to be exploiting the present shortage to their private advantage."*

This is very reassuring ; it is a very heartening statement to come from our Minister of Health which shows that he is aware of public opinion in respect of these charges and allegations.

A patient went to one of the youngest medical officers in our General Hospital for treatment. She was asked by the Doctor, "Do you want private treatment or hospital treatment?" She answered, "I want hospital treatment because I have no money to pay for private treatment." The doctor grew impatient, scribbled quickly on a piece of paper and threw the paper at her. The lady was not examined and the story of her ailment was not listened to.

Then a boy, a labourer for that matter, who was lifting blocks somewhere in Ajegunle, had sore muscles which he developed in the course of his job. He went to the doctor at the General Hospital, Lagos. He was asked whether he wanted private or hospital treatment. This is the sort of question which you often hear and every patient has known what it means. He opted for hospital treatment. The doctor grew angry and yelled at him when he started to explain his ailment.

Sensing the danger, he asked the doctor to tell him how much it cost to be treated if he opted for private treatment, and the doctor said five guineas. The boy left the consulting room with a prescription, some tablets and an injection. The boy had understood ; if only he could get well this time the boy chuckled, he would change his job. He got another job quite all right, but he was not able to resume duty because he was still not well.

A lady waited from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a dying baby. There was another doctor to ease the congestion because there were long queues of people waiting for one doctor

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There was another doctor there, but this other doctor—no one would go to him—is a dead wood in our Medical Services. He was impatient to listen to patients; he was also arrogant. He did not listen to them either because he did not know much and he wanted to hide his ignorance.

Now in the consulting room of this doctor who was overworked, this lady was waiting with her baby. Having waited for so many hours, luck smiled on her and at a very opportune time, the doctor looked out of the window. The girl raised up her baby to the doctor and the doctor waved her in. He quickly wrote prescriptions and the lady went to the dispensary to collect them, but there the next round of the ordeal in our hospitals began.

The nurse wondered why the doctor should prescribe five rounds of injection for five days and four bottles of very expensive drugs and some other pills. This nurse bluntly refused to give the patient what was prescribed for her. He told the lady that many of the prescriptions were out of stock, which is a ready answer which nurses give when they do not want to give medicine. He brought out four bottles of drugs prescribed and gave the lady two and put the other two under the sink.

The lady became suspicious and took what the nurse gave her back to the doctor and reported the whole transaction. The doctor went to the dispensary and the nurse explained that there were only two bottles of this particular drug. The lady spoke up and said "Doctor, look under the sink, the two bottles are there". Sure enough, they were there! The doctor ordered the nurse to bring the two bottles out and give them to the lady and ordered the nurse to give the other prescription. He did. He found the other drugs which he said were not available. This kind of nurse who sells drugs prescribed for patients has his counterpart in our hospitals all over the country.

It is a common practice for nurses to get rich by selling Government drugs at the expense of sick patients, unless their *palms are greased*. This is a case where a doctor was determined to see a patient get well, and the nurse wanted to be an obstacle.

There are many cases where a doctor does not know what is going on and the patients get no redress. Many of our medical officers in Government hospitals prescribe drugs for patients in their own clinics after collecting two guineas, and the prescriptions are sent to the hospitals for collection. Many times the doctors prescribe drugs which are by arrangement returned to the doctors for private use in their own private clinics.

Once a patient, ignorant of the racket, went to a doctor in his private clinic. She would not be given a prescription until she had paid the consultation fee of two guineas. At the hospital, she was asked to pay for the drugs again. Ignorantly she explained that she had paid two guineas already. She was chased out of the hospital in disgrace. We hear these reports all over the country. Go out into the streets and ask the people and they will all say the same thing. I asked a few people and their stories were the same.

There was the story of a patient who went to one of the newest recruits of our medical officers and was asked whether she wanted hospital treatment or private treatment. The patient opted for hospital treatment because she had no money to pay for private treatment; otherwise she would have gone to a private doctor. The doctor scribbled a prescription quickly and threw the paper at the patient. She tried to talk to the doctor, but the doctor did not listen. The patient went to see another doctor. I do not want to mention his name, because there are some good doctors in our medical services but the mal-practices of bad ones overshadow their own efforts.

I will also not mention the name of the doctor that this patient complained to about what transpired between her and the new doctor. When the patient reported to the old doctor, the doctor only listened to the story and laughed. That is all he did; he laughed, because he knew what was going on. The doctor looked at the prescription given to this patient, it was *quinacrine*. Now, he then listened patiently to the report of her ailments, examined her and told her she was suffering from high blood pressure. High blood pressure, for which the other doctor gave her *quinacrine*! She was given a new prescription.

We have heard these gruesome reports of callousness by some doctors and nurses in our hospitals. Sick children, pregnant women and out-patients waiting for hours in a queue. Honourable Members should go to the General Hospital, they should go to the Children's Clinic, and they will see babies crying and patients standing in the sun. It is repugnant, it is evidence of total neglect which borders on cruelty.

What was the offence of Doctor Gans? It is the common property of every Nigerian, the offence that Doctor Gans committed. He only said the right thing at the wrong time and place and went against the General Orders. That is what happened. General Orders, imperialists' general orders! He spoke up against callousness, against neglect and indifference which is what happens in our hospitals and clinics.

There was the story of the medical officer who was on leave. While on leave, he requested for £500 worth of drugs. The lady medical officer who was in charge of drugs refused to let these drugs out because the reasons given by the doctor were not tenable. What happened was that the doctor telephoned round and she was cautioned and relieved of her responsibilities of giving drugs out. She resigned in protest.

Doctor Gans was praised by our own Minister of Health and every Nigerian would be gratified. He was praised at the opening of the Children's Clinic. This is *post-mortem*. Doctor Gans has been removed, but he is not dead. He offended the imperialists' General Orders, not the Nigerian Public Order, not the children he gave his services to, and not the Nigerian public whom he served with credit.

His services to the children of Nigeria will forever remain a shining example to all those medical officers and nurses who want to show an example of dedicated service to Nigeria. As I said there are such good officers and nurses in our medical services but the malpractices of many dishonest and unpatriotic ones overshadow the efforts of these people.

Let me repeat, that Dr Gans is not dead and I hope our good Government will still reconsider reappointing him to complete the task which he started. Indeed his appointment will be a vindication of efficient service and a

blow to the apathy and the money-grabbing medical officers and nurses. We need the services of men like Dr Gans.

I also remember the case of one doctor who was determined to help the people of this country. He was employed in one of our General Hospitals. He saw red and resigned in a hurry when he saw patients left uncared for by doctors and nurses, patients dying when they could be saved. He went back to the United States of America; he is now practising there, a loss to our country. Honourable Members should go out, speak to the people, read our newspapers, and they will understand what I am saying.

I have gone through three newspapers this morning and they all contain reports about what is happening in our hospitals. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote—

**Several hon. Members:** Do not worry, do not worry, speak on.

**Dr Okeke:** These allegations must be inquired into very urgently. We must do something now. The Government must not treat this matter with levity. Public resentment is mounting and it may explode. These little things matter. If we see public opinion building up against certain services, and we leave them unattended to, something may happen one day and when it starts it may be difficult to stop.

Many people are talking and they are talking very loudly. The essence of establishing general hospitals and clinics by the Government is to enable those who cannot, I repeat those who cannot pay for private treatment to get treatment at nominal charges at the expense of the state. There can be no more and no less to it. Why should this noble gesture of this Government be turned into private use by some greedy ones amongst our medical officers and nurses?

We will not grumble if these Doctors buy their own drugs to treat their private patients. But, the temptation is too great for them to have private practice and avoid using Government facilities. I agree with the Minister that they are human beings, according to what he said yesterday, and one can tempt a human being too much. To allow our doctors to

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have their own private clinics and then expect them not to use Government facilities is to expect what is impossible. This is why we must make it a serious offence punishable by the removal of the name of the medical officer from the Register of Medical Practitioners in this country, if any is caught doing private practice while engaged on a salary by the Government. We are not trying to deny them any right. The nature of their job calls for undivided attention, just as a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace. Would it not be an ugly affair if Magistrates and Judges go to courts for private cases?

This brings me to another point; because you cannot beat a child and refuse the child the joy of crying. I am proposing that, in addition to setting up this enquiry, we must forbid these Medical Officers from taking up private practice while they are engaged in our Public Service. But then you have to pay them. These doctors are paid highly—they must be paid highly. If we forbid them from engaging in private practice—and we do so in the interests of the public—we must pay them salaries commensurate with their training and experience. They spend over eight years acquiring the necessary knowledge and experience overseas before coming back to this country.

If the Magistrates, for example, who spend four years overseas receive from £1,000 upwards, how much more our doctors whose training took over eight years under most arduous and gruesome conditions? Do you not want to pay for the job? The doctor can be called out at any time to work, and he must have the time; so you can go there and experience the things that the doctors encounter.

**Several hon. Members:** They should be well-paid. We agree.

**Dr Okeke:** You know that they should be paid more. Doctors must be paid an initial salary of not less than £2,000 because if these doctors are paid highly, the temptation to steal would be—

**Several hon. Members:** They would steal more.

**Dr Okeke:** They would steal, but you will have the moral right to punish them, because they are getting enough for their pay. We will

then have the right to punish them. Punish them properly and hard if they steal after they have got more money. So, every doctor must have £2,000; and then a Specialist will get more and they rise to £2,500. Now, this is for general practitioners.

If this Motion passes—and I trust it will pass—the salaries of medical officers must be increased promptly. If we cannot regulate the practice of these medical officers, we must have to abandon Government ownership of hospitals, and let the public know that we cannot run low-cost medical services further. We must not create an avenue, especially in these years of austerity, for some people to get rich quickly at public expense. This is double taxation to require the public to pay dearly for those services which their taxes support; and I am suggesting that Government must order an immediate inquiry into these allegations of irregularity and neglect of patients in our hospitals. Government must discover those doctors who are in the habit of stealing Government drugs and bring them to book. Government must stop those doctors who operate private clinics and investigate into the sources of their drug supply. Government must order immediate stop to private practice by medical officers. Above all, an immediate increase in the salaries of medical officers, to be fair to them, must be made to justify our demand that they should give their full services to the public.

We have to set up a permanent hospital committee which will remain as the watch-dog of the people and look into the activities of our medical officers in our hospitals. If we do this, I think that our good Government will stand in the good books of the people of this country as far as their health is concerned. And the Minister of Health has shown an indication that he knows what is going on, and is willing to order an investigation.

I beg to move.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West):** I rise to second the Motion, "That in view of the unsatisfactory treatment given to out-patients in Lagos hospitals and the disturbing rumours of scandals that medical officers use Government time in attending to, and Government drugs for, their private patients and their own clinics, this House urges the Government to institute an independent enquiry into these allegations."

The mover of this Motion has ably demonstrated the need for this enquiry by citing instances of actual happenings in some hospitals in Lagos. We are very much appreciative of the valuable services being rendered by our medical officers—those of them who are doing their jobs honestly and efficiently. We do not have any intention whatever to reflect on their honesty. Our intention is to call attention to what we consider a very disgraceful state of affairs in these hospitals. We do know that because some medical officers are not doing their work efficiently and honestly, those of them who are doing well are being overworked, because the public would like to go to a doctor who is doing his work honestly, who does not scare them away by demanding extra fees, and who would examine them before prescribing. Of course, such good medical officers are normally overworked because they attract the public. But the very bad ones among them normally scare away the public and, in fact, get their salaries for no job done. It is this kind of immoral practice that we are calling upon Government to take action to stop.

We are quite aware that medical officers spend a lot of time in their training. But adequate provision has been made in the scale of salaries for the extra time they spend in their training. If two men go to the university, one for an Arts degree which takes four years, the other for medical studies which take seven years, the former comes out three years before the latter, and starts on a salary of £720 per annum. His mate who comes out three years later starts on a salary of £1,116 per annum—that is, on the eighth point in the scale. This means that adequate provision has been made for this man who has done extra time in school, because his neighbour who joined the Service three years later could not rise by any type of increment to that point in the scale. Therefore, the excuse that medical officers are not being paid adequately, as a result of which they resort to immoral practices in hospitals is not justified.

We are therefore disappointed that there are people who, even though they are being well cared for, resort to the practice of demanding extra fees from patients; of failing to attend to them when they are unable to get these fees; of diverting people who cannot afford to go to private hospitals to come to their homes for private treatment. We think these are immoral

practices, and we think it is so serious that nothing short of an independent enquiry can clear our hospitals of these evil practices.

We do know that when cases come to the notice of the Ministry, investigations are made. But these investigations have not yet been able to check these practices in hospitals. We consider that time has elapsed long enough for any such investigations to have effect. Several times, the newspapers publish stories of such happenings that are taking place; and many a time, the Ministry has issued statements telling the public that these investigations have been conducted.

Of course, we do have reports, and sometimes we do not have reports, but on the whole this has not discouraged this practice which we are crying against. Therefore, we feel that it is absolutely necessary that this investigation should be carried out as a sort of an enquiry by an independent body.

Why do we want an independent body? We want an independent body so as to restore the confidence of the public in our hospitals.

A lot of people who cannot afford to go to private hospitals have to go to private hospitals because they know they will not get adequate treatment in the General Hospitals. Some are afraid to go to the General Hospitals because when they do go their ailments are, in fact, made worse by neglect. If a sick child is taken to a General Hospital at 8 o'clock, and he has got to wait until about one or two before he gets treatment, and under conditions of over-crowding, and possibly no food to eat while waiting there, obviously the illness will become worse than it was before. Many parents do not like to subject their children to such a treatment, and, therefore, they avoid going to the General Hospitals. The result is that Government provision for the treatment of the general public is not being used for the general public and this provision is, in fact, being used by some medical officers, not all of them, for their own private practice. We believe that if an enquiry is instituted it will be able to discover the root of this bad practice and recommend measures to remedy it once and for all.

As I said before public confidence in our hospitals must be restored if we are to help our people to benefit from our medical schemes.

[MR ODIGBO]

The majority of people who are going to private hospitals for treatment will have then to go to the General Hospitals. If the confidence in the General Hospitals is shaken as it is already shaken the people will avoid going there. What is the use of voting so much money every year for these hospitals? Already we have passed a number of measures for increasing facilities in the General Hospitals. We are also proposing to build another big hospital in Lagos. If these establishments will not be used in the best interest of the general public, if they have to become clinics of practising medical officers for their own private practice, I think that is money wasted, and in order to make sure that this money is not wasted and that we are not merely voting money to build hospitals for the interest of a few people an enquiry should be conducted as soon as possible.

We further request that in appointing such an enquiry efforts should be made to give it sufficient powers to make very elaborate recommendations. I know that very often Government and in fact, several bodies for that matter have declined to appoint commissions of enquiry merely because they seem always to unearth scandalous stories and practices, and perhaps they end just there. I do not think our intention is to track out the offenders and possibly expose them to the public. The intention is to find out how this practice can be stopped. That would be the main work of this inquiry we are asking for.

Why should we have private practice in our hospitals? Nobody will quarrel if a medical officer after leaving the hospital treats patients in his house—he is entitled to do that—and charges them fees as he likes, because he is at that time on unofficial hours; but to use the hospital as a personal clinic is scandalous. And that is what the Government will have to try to stop.

We would, therefore, urge the Government to accept our point of view that, as a matter of fact, Ministerial investigation will not be sufficient here. We do not want to belabour the point. We feel strongly, and we are sure the public feel as strongly as we do that the best thing to do is to institute an independent enquiry to go into this matter.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move the

following Amendment to the Motion just proposed. Line 1, leave out from "view" to the end of the Question and add—"of persistent allegations against Government medical officers to the effect that they use Government drugs for treatment of their private patients and in their clinics, this House urges the Government to investigate the matter."

I am at a loss to understand why my hon. Friend, Dr Okeke, could infer from anything which I said on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill that I have accepted the original Motion.

The stand of the Federal Government has been made clear on several occasions with regard to corrupt practices in any sphere of activities in this country, whether in hospitals, or in business, or in banking, or in schools, in every part of our lives. We have always said that we would not condone corruption in any of our medical institutions. I can give you that assurance as the Federal Minister of Health.

Dr Okeke has given us a lot of harrowing tales of what is supposed to be happening in our medical institutions. But I am not sure whether he is fully aware that the Federal Government is responsible only for Lagos hospitals, and some of the experiences which he quoted here must have been experiences which he gathered from hospitals in his own town.

However, I am sure that the House cannot expect any responsible Government to act on rumours no matter how disturbing they are. If we acted on rumours we should be doing a lot of injustice to many innocent people. Most of the allegations about corruptions in our hospitals have been made under the cloak of anonymity. Whenever anybody has courageously come out to us with facts and figures, we have always taken prompt action to investigate the case, and whenever we found that any of our officers, whether a doctor or a nurse or even a ward attendant, had been guilty of mal-practice, we always took strict disciplinary action against such a person.

I would invite hon. Members to bring to my attention any incident of mal-practice, and I

can assure right here in this House that prompt action would be taken in investigating the case and in bringing the offender to book.

I wish to appeal to the House in this matter. We as the Federal Government have nothing to hide. We are aware that we have not got a perfect medical service anywhere in the Federation. We have made intensive study of the situation. We have come to the conclusion that most of these allegations arise out of the fact that the services which we provide are inadequate. We know that when the services are adequate and they are easy to obtain, it will no longer be necessary for people to go out and buy any of these services in a black market.

I do not intend to speak at any length on this Amendment. I know that the House will understand and I wish to appeal to hon. Members to accept this Amendment which I have just moved.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

**Mr J. O. Taiwo** (Oyo North West) : When occasions like this arise, one cannot help but remember the worth of some expatriate officers who have conscientiously worked amongst us. I have worked in many hospitals and I have visited many of them.

**An hon. Member** : Were you a nurse or an S.M.O. ?

**Mr Taiwo** : I was not a nurse. I am a Pharmacist.

One can easily evaluate the difference between mission hospitals and Government hospitals in general. I think that the hospitals which belong to the Federal Government come off badly in this respect. In this regard, I have very good reasons to refer to two specific instances of inhuman treatment meted out to suffering patients in the University College Hospital which, apart from the General Hospital in Lagos, is a hospital belonging to the Federal Government.

Most of the doctors in the University College Hospital, Ibadan, are of course, inexperienced because they are young doctors, and this is probably why they have got young

minds which do not allow them to be sympathetic enough or to absorb much of the medical ethics which should be a part of them.

I do not think that it is proper to mention names in this respect, but I can single out one medical officer of the University College Hospital who was an exception. He was very good. I think that his name is Dr Sowole. He studied in Germany. I do not think that he is at the University College Hospital any longer. He was really very good.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central) : He comes from Ijebu !

**Mr Taiwo** : No, he does not come from Ijebu. He comes from Oyo. (*Hear, hear.*)

I would not like to waste the time of this hon. House by mentioning two instances of inhuman and unpleasant treatment in that hospital, but I will mention just one.

I remember vividly that fully grown man reeling on the ground at the University College Hospital. We had taken him there at about 1.30 a.m. A lady, a daughter of a respectable Attorney-General, then came into the room but all she did was to start playing with her junior maids although she was supposed to be on duty. At one stage, this man wanted to ease himself and we called on the ward servant to help him. The ward servant just stood looking at us and did nothing. The lady on duty herself only said to the big man, "If you spoil that floor, we will make you wash it despite your suffering." Mr Speaker, imagine a lady saying that to a sick man ! We finally had to go to Adeoyo Hospital at 3.30 a.m. At Adeoyo Hospital, we were lucky enough to find another person who attended to him. But we had to go from the University College Hospital, which was nearest to our residence, to Adeoyo Hospital which was farther away.

We cannot go on enumerating these immoral and unsympathetic practices, but I think that it is very good that we have brought it to the Floor of this House. It is unfortunate that the House is not fuller than it is now because this is a very important matter which everybody must know of and so realise our plight in Nigeria.

Hon. Members will remember that I started by saying that this is a case where one cannot help but remember the invaluable

[MR TAIWO]

services of some expatriate officers. I have not met any missionary expatriate officer who is not sympathetic and prompt in taking actions at any time that a patient needs his or her attention. I have worked in two mission hospitals and in one private hospital owned by a company. The expatriate medical officers in those hospitals were exceptionally good.

That is why I suggest on the Floor of this House that when the Lagos Teaching Hospital is established, the boys and girls of that institution should be made to spend another year studying proper medical ethics as is the practice in the United Kingdom and all over the world. They must realise that they are the servants of the people and not their masters. They must realise that they are not people who just glorify in certain professions, but people adequately paid to render absolute services.

I want to make another suggestion. There is no use talking about moral aspects, as the time is far spent. I suggest that there should be a Superintendent Medical Officer. I think that there was something like that before, but I think that it was more of an administrative work than of supervision. I suggest this, therefore, to the Minister of Health that there should be a Superintendent Medical Officer in each hospital whose duty should be to walk round each time there are patients waiting for the attention of a medical officer or a nurse. He should see how many of the patients are really suffering and how fast the medical officer is doing his work, because some just sit down and relax doing nothing.

One important point is that some of them are not serious in the execution of their duties and, as a result of this, we have very many unsuccessful operations. These unsuccessful operations may be the fault of the doctors as well as that of the nurses because, if the doctors prescribe some tablets or injections, the nurses do not carry out these instructions in spite of the fact that it is their duty to do so. Therefore, the nurses have their own fair share of this blame.

Another fault of the nurses is that they do not wash their hands as is the practice of nurses in hospitals all over the world. Some of these nurses are so unsympathetic that they refuse

to give chamber pots to patients who cry and beg for them. In addition, these nurses threaten to make these helpless patients wash their bed sheets if they are soiled.

These are very grave complaints and I think that the people who have heard us to-day will take steps to rectify this situation and make us realise that after all the average Nigerian member of the medical profession can be as sympathetic to his fellow Nigerian as the expatriate officer can be.

There is no use talking about Nigerianisation of all departments when we know that in hospitals manned by Nigerians the doctors and the nurses are very unsympathetic, very unpatriotic and only take pleasure in seeing Nigerians suffer and die, also have much pleasure in collecting their salaries or finding out better ways of doing their private practices which fetch them more money. These are important points which the medical authorities should take into consideration.

I beg to support.

**M. Akubakar Isandu** (Jos North West): In supporting this Amendment, I want to associate myself with the points made by the Mover and add that the alleged practices of these doctors are most intolerable. Most of our medical officers, apart from being corrupt, use their positions in chasing the most beautiful ladies in this town. The Mover of the Motion made mention of a certain lady whom a doctor forced to receive private treatment. The lady might have been very ill, but the doctor was not really interested in her illness but rather in her person. Using this very important position in finding girl friends has resulted in many pseudo-medical doctors.

The Mover also called upon the Government to give more pay to the medical officers. I should add that pharmacists and nurses should also be considered for more pay, otherwise they will be tempted to make up for this difference in salary by illegal practices which we are now fighting against.

These mal-practices in the medical profession do not exist only in Lagos; they exist throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Last year, my brother who was working in the Port Harcourt Branch of the Nigerian Tobacco Company was awarded a scholarship by the Company. He went for a medical examination (which is one



of the things one has to do before one gets a passport). That medical examination was to be conducted under the auspices of the Company, but that doctor demanded five guineas from the poor boy. The boy then reminded the doctor that that examination was to be done under the auspices of the Company, but the doctor told him that he would have to eat before his salary arrived. As a result, the boy was forced to comply with the doctor's request. This practice is very bad and should, therefore, be checked.

The solution of these problems will only come, as the Minister has said, when we have more trained doctors and specialists in the country, because then the competition among doctors will be to please the public and not themselves. As soon as this happens, our lives will be safeguarded and we will be happy.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): Before I contribute to this debate, I must first of all congratulate the Mover of the original Motion because, when one surveys the meaning of the original Motion and that of the Amendment, one finds that there is not much difference. As a matter of fact, it is only the flexibility in the *lingua franca*.

As the Mover of the original Motion said, the first thing that the Government should take into consideration before it employs any doctor is whether or not the doctor is a sympathetic person, because any doctor who is not sympathetic will never be a good doctor.

Again, I must emphasise that if the Government wants doctors to work conscientiously, they should be adequately paid and according to their qualifications. Therefore, I suggest that the initial salary of a doctor should be £1,500.

**Some hon. Members:** It is too small! Make it £2,500!

**Mr Udenyi:** No, that is adequate as an initial salary. Life is the greatest gift to mankind; without it any proposal is a failure. Therefore, anything pertaining to life must be properly considered.

Doctors should not allow nurses to give injections because nurses are not supposed to do this work; it is a doctor's work. Doctors should do this work themselves and give the nurses some other things to do.

The other day, I wanted to contribute to the debate on the Development Programme and ask the Minister of Education to tell us how many Nigerians are doing research in medicine in the United Kingdom, because if we want doctors, we want qualified ones. In the United Kingdom, not every doctor can operate in the brain, the heart and some other parts of the body; there are specialists for all these different parts of the body. We should emphasise that we want really qualified doctors.

*Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 3 p.m.*

**Mr J. U. Udenyi:** As I was saying before the break, Sir, if any doctor is found taking drugs home to use for his private patients, he should be dismissed; that is stealing. The Minister of Health should have no sympathy for doctors who use Government drugs for treating their private patients. The Minister of Health should ascertain before doctors are employed that they are not the type that will use Government drugs for their own personal ends.

When we had European doctors things were moving on nicely because a European thinks more of his name than of amassing wealth. The trouble in Nigeria to-day is that the average Nigerian wants to own all the plots of land in Lagos; he wants to own all the plots of land in Aba and he wants to own all the plots of land in Zaria. Anxiety for money, that is what is worrying our doctors. They want to become rich quickly so that they can be rich men. But they forget that a good name is better than silver and gold.

Some years ago, there was a European doctor in Okigwi area of Eastern Nigeria. His name was Dr Wilson. Dr Wilson was so kind that he was even using his own money for treating patients. That is the kind of doctors we want. Anybody who decides to join the medical profession should not think in terms of money. He must be a person who combines sympathy with labour; he must have the calling. That is very important.

Without wasting the time of this honourable House, I support the Motion in a most happy frame of mind.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): I rise to support the Amendment. I would not have

[MR LANA]

spoken at all but for the fact that some hon. Members have attacked medical officers generally most of whom have been very, very conscientious in their work. It should be deplored that hon. Members should take advantage of the immunity of this honourable House to attack some medical officers who have been very industrious.

I want this House to realise that the medical profession is unlike other professions in which, after one has passed one's school certificate, one can easily study for two or three years and become qualified. Unlike Magistrates, Judges, I think the medical profession should be given—

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): On a point of order, Sir, nobody studies and takes examinations for three years to be qualified as a Magistrate. One must first become a Lawyer before being made a Magistrate.

**Mr Lana**: I quite agree with my friend the Member for Orlu South East, (*Mr Akwivu*). What I was saying was that a School Certificate holder takes roughly about 17 months to qualify as a Barrister and after three years, becomes a Magistrate. I think there is an element of frustration among medical officers. If you consider the scale of salary of medical officers, you will see that they have every reason to be disgruntled. I think that what Government needs to do now is to review the salary scales of medical officers. I make this special appeal to the Minister of Health very strongly.

Take for instance a lawyer who has just qualified. After three or four years he may become a Magistrate and be given a salary of over £1,000; whereas the maximum scale of medical officers is £1,200 if I am not wrong. This is very depressing and I think that if we want to eliminate private practice in the Medical Department we must try to encourage the medical officers. Barring that, I cannot see any justification in somebody spending six to seven years to qualify as a medical officer and when he goes out he sees a Magistrate, probably somebody who merely studied for 22 months to qualify as a Barrister, being paid about £2,000 as a Senior Magistrate. There is a great anomaly in the salary scale and I think that this is sufficient reason.

I expect Members to try to find a means to encourage the existing medical officers who are very scarce to find. If we advertise now we will not find anybody to apply to be a medical practitioner under the Government. Most of them prefer to go and practice privately.

**Prince D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I think the hon. Member for Ibadan is not speaking on the Motion before the House. There is no motion here debating whether we should have doctors or lawyers. We are saying that the doctors we have should be sympathetic and kind to the patients and stop using Government drugs for their own private practice. No one is attacking the doctors as such. I think the hon. Member is irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! Actually the Amendment on which the hon. Member is speaking concerns the use of Government drugs for the treatment of private patients. I rather think that he had wandered a little bit far.

**Mr Lana**: Mr Speaker, I was trying to collect my facts. I quite support the idea that no medical practitioner employed by Government should use Government property for private practice. That is agreeable; but my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Prince Abii*) will agree that some Members have spoken very disparagingly against some medical officers.

**M. Abubakar Isandu** (Jos North West): On a point of order, the mover of the Motion is a doctor himself—

**Several hon. Members**: He is not a doctor of medicine.

**M. Isandu**: In this case if the hon. Member is trying to defend the doctors, we know that these practices are carried on, and we have not mentioned any doctor. We were speaking generally and we are allowed to do so.

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

**Mr Lana**: Thank you very much, Sir. Seriously speaking, I think we all deplore any Government medical officer using Government drugs for private purposes, and I think the hon. Minister has rightly put it, that Government will investigate such dealings. However, I feel really concerned with the anomalies existing in the salary scales of medical officers.

I will appeal to the Minister to get in touch with his Regional counterparts to see how best they can ameliorate the disparaging scales of salary between medical officers, magistrates, engineers and so on. That will be an incentive for many people to go into the medical field.

At this time when we propose to open the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, if people still see that nothing is done to encourage medical practitioners in Government Service, I am afraid that few people will want to take up medicine as a career.

I beg to support the Amendment.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I would like to oppose the Amendment to this Motion. It is something that puzzles the most astute brains in this country to see on many occasions how the Government have been trying to hide facts from the public by using diplomacy. As a matter of fact, there is not much difference between the original Motion and the Amendment proposed by the Minister of Health in this respect.

What I would like to say is that there is nothing like rumours on the Motion now being debated. The original mover of the Motion in the person of Dr Okeke, quoted several instances based on experience and evidence and it was not his place here to mention names of those affected during the discussion of the Motion. If we wanted him to do so, I am perfectly sure that he was in a position to furnish names.

We are here asking the Minister that we want a public inquiry set up to investigate most of these allegations. They are allegations, not rumours. We cannot therefore take the Minister's Amendment, that he himself will investigate the matter. How do we expect a real investigation to be made when members of the public are not called upon to give evidence. This House has been promised such investigations in the past and up till now no report has been submitted to the House.

As a last resort, we are asking the Minister to set up a public inquiry so that members of the public can give evidence. If the Minister takes it upon himself to investigate the matter, I can assure the House that no civil servant will come out to give evidence because he will be afraid of victimisation. If

it is made a departmental affair, no announcement will be made on the radio or publication made in the newspapers so that the public will know of it. In effect, the Minister is asking us to allow him to make an inquiry which will begin in his Ministry and end there. We do not want such a thing.

The Minister must realise that medical services affect the lives of millions of people in this country and we do not want any political diplomacy in this matter.

**An hon. Member** : Official diplomacy !

**Mr Brown** : Official diplomacy or whatever people may like to call it. I would like the Minister to note that apart from the hospital in the Federal Territory and the Ibadan University Teaching hospital, the entire population of this country depend wholly and solely on Missionary hospitals in the Region.

The Government does not seem to realise this. In the whole of Calabar Province where I come from, the Government can only boast of one Government hospital; in an area of about two million people !

I think it is wrong for Members to suggest that because Ministers earn £3,000, therefore, doctors should be dishonest. I disagree with this. If an ordinary labourer who is paid only 3s-2d a day, can be honest enough to look after our things at our flats on the Victoria Island without stealing them, I do not see any justification for doctors who earn up to £1,300 a year being dishonest and using Government drugs for private purposes. I must say that it is wrong and we are not here to encourage such a practice. I know some professional men like lawyers in this country who having qualified, remain for more than one year without being able to collect up to £500 from their clients and yet they exist and they attend the court for their clients in the Federal Territory of Lagos and even in the Regions.

If we say that until we pay our medical officers £2,000 or £3,000 we cannot expect honest service from them, I do not know where we are heading for. They should first of all show a sense of honesty before this House will consider a further increase in their salaries. We cannot promote them. If we promote them in the Federal Territory of Lagos, what about the Missionary doctors who are looking after us in the Regions. Who will increase

[MR BROWN]

their salaries? I am saying that private investigations by the Government will not cure the many ills now existing in the Medical Service of this country.

If the Minister of Health is sincere to the Members of this House and to the nation as a whole, this is the time for him to come out boldly and tell the nation that he himself, as he has stated here, is tired of these inundated complaints against the Medical Service of this country and as such, he should be bold enough to agree to set up a public commission of inquiry and give it publicity so that many of those people who have been suffering from the hands of these medical officers will be able to come and give evidence publicly and without fear of being victimised in their respective departments.

With these few remarks, I oppose the Amendment.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi):** I rise to support the Amendment moved by the Minister of Health. In doing so, I would first of all like to point out that there is certainly no smoke without fire. When he referred to the allegations made by the Mover of the original Motion, he meant that he did not think that corruption existed in our Medical Service. I hope that the Minister will take it in good faith that corruption does exist in the Medical profession of this country. We are not here to mention names but we are merely stating that certain of our doctors have no sense of duty, no sympathy for the common man and they have no loyalty at all to either the nation or their patients.

We are only saying that corruption exists but we do not say that corruption exists in all hospitals and we do not say that every doctor is corrupt. When we say that certain doctors are corrupt and that something should be done, we would like to assure the Minister of Health that we are only protecting the interest of the common man, for the common man is the victim in this case. When he goes to a hospital, he cannot see a doctor, and when he cannot see a doctor, he cannot be cured and when he cannot be cured, he lies, unfortunately, destitute and in due course, becomes hopeless and eventually dies. It is the last thing that we would like to see in this country—the poor,

common man suffering after having paid his tax, simply because somebody turns out to be a money-monger and unsympathetic.

It is encouraging, however, to know that the Minister of Health is in course of time going to institute an investigation; but this investigation should be immediate, thorough and should be made public. Evidence should be invited from all sections of the community of Lagos. Certainly when there is a demand, there must be a market. Doctors use tax-payers' medicines for their private treatment simply because certain members of the public are themselves corrupt. It takes more than one person in this case, it takes not only the doctor but also the other person. I must admit that rather than somebody waiting in a queue for about two hours to see a doctor who might only prescribe the sort of treatment which would not be of any use to him or which would not cure his disease, he would do all in his power to get any sum of money required by such an unfaithful and unsympathetic doctor to get cured. So, I am appealing to the Minister of Health that something should be done immediately to remedy the situation.

Again, when there are a hundred people to a doctor, what would one expect? There should be a substantial increase in the number of doctors in this country. More and more scholarships should be given to our students to study either at home or abroad to become the sort of doctors we want them to be—doctors who are honest, loyal and faithful, doctors who have the interest of the common man at heart. Perhaps, I do not know because I am not a doctor, it has something to do with the training of doctors, maybe those unsympathetic doctors have not received the correct training that their duty is first and foremost to the nation.

I fully agree with the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) that no amount of good pay would make a dishonest doctor an honest one. It is in his character. It should be given special treatment somehow and the only treatment for a dishonest doctor, I think, is to take away his certificate. If there is any such doctor, remove his name from the list of practising medical practitioners. Let him practise at home, we have no sympathy for doctors who have not the sympathy of the nation and of the common man at heart.

I beg to support.

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

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

*Motion, as amended, agreed to.*

*Resolved, That in view of persistent allegations against Government medical officers to the effect that they use Government drugs for treatment of their private patients and in their clinics, this House urges the Government to investigate the matter.*

#### ROBBERS AND GAMBLERS ON TRAINS

3.40 p.m.

**M. Abba Yola** (Wudil) : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

“That this House views with grave concern the ever increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and calls upon the Government to take vigorous steps to put a stop to the activities of these unscrupulous and undesirable people.”

I would like to invite the attention of this honourable House to a certain pitiful thing being done by gamblers and robbers in passenger trains. As a result of the activities of these unscrupulous people a large number of the general public have sustained injuries and have lost their property. These wicked and deceitful gamblers persuade people to take part in their game and eventually the people become impoverished through gambling before reaching their destinations.

When these habitual or professional gamblers fail to convince anybody, they turn themselves into robbers by asking for a change of, say, one pound currency note. When the passenger whom they want to dupe brings out his or her purse to give them the change which they asked for, they quickly snatch the purse. One of the gang usually runs away with the purse, hides somewhere in the train, and alights at the nearest railway station. The gang leader and his other followers hold the owner of the money so firmly that he cannot raise an alarm, and they beat him until he becomes unconscious. They even pretend that the man offended them and with this trick they can avoid interference by the people around. In some cases some people are held at gun point by these wicked men.

These evil deeds are practised more often on the Kano to Zaria line and on the Zaria to Kafanchan Western line. On the Eastern line you find these people from Kano down to Nguru. A similar case was recently referred to the Emir of Kano's court. In this particular case a man was mercilessly beaten and his money was made away with by these robbers in the train. This incident took place about the 20th of February this year, not long ago.

It appears that the railway police are not alert in their duties. Perhaps they are in alliance with the gamblers and robbers.

I should be glad if the Government would do what it can to stamp out these evil doers and adopt a strong preventive measure against future occurrence in the interest of the general public.

I am sorry to say that some of the Ministers do not want hon. Members to bring Motions or to make speeches criticising their Ministries. But since all of us, both Members on the Government side and those on the Opposition side, are here working for the interest of the entire people of Nigeria, we must express both our own views and the views of those whom we represent. The Government should take into consideration the suggestions which may be made by hon. Members in this House. Members, in their own right, should be honoured and respected by this Government and the way the Government can do this is by taking immediate action on straightforward matters brought to this House. The Ministers should realise that they are not here only to work for their own interest as Ministers, they are here also to work for the interest of the general public.

**Mr Speaker** : I am not sure whether the hon. Gentleman is attacking gamblers or Ministers.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : I thought that there was a distinction between the two ; I did not know that there was none.

**Mr Speaker** : Really, there is. But we will hear the hon. Member further.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I have to appeal to the Minister to do his duty and stamp out these gamblers and robbers who voted him into power.

**M. Abba Yola** : I was just drawing the attention of the Ministers to see to it that immediate actions are taken on straightforward Motions brought to this House.

[MR ABBA YOLA]

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

**M. Saidu Zango** (Zaria Central): I rise to second this Motion which was ably moved by my hon. Friend, M. Abba Yola.

Gambling in trains has been practised for many years. Appeals have been made repeatedly for its eradication. Hundreds of poor men and women have been robbed by these reckless gamblers every day. Zaria is an important railway junction and trains leave there every day for every part of Nigeria. In every one of these trains these gamblers can be seen. Some of them enter the trains in the normal way with valid tickets as though they were real and honest passengers with known destinations. But they have no destinations. Their only destination is when they see that there are no more fools on board for them to deceive. They have their methods of approaching people and tempting them into their carriage. In this way they rob innocent passengers of their last penny and sometimes of their property; they even strip some men and women of the very clothes they are wearing at the time. It is impossible for anyone to attempt to get the magnitude of harm that these robbers are doing to our people and the damage that they are causing to the good name of Nigeria. All appeals to the Railway authorities and to the Railway Police seem to be ignored. Otherwise one could not understand how the Railway Police could fail to arrest people in a moving train. One could not understand how the train authorities—guards, ticket collectors, train inspectors—could claim ignorance of these crimes which are practised openly in every passenger train in Northern Nigeria.

This is a serious matter; many things are involved. People are being rendered poor by these reckless thieves, and the very good name of this country is at stake unless the Government arrests this evil at once. No civilised country in this world can allow its trains to be turned into gambling casinos. I believe I will be expressing the demands of every hon. Member here if I appeal very strongly to the Government to step in at once and save the poor people of this country from this racket, since all such appeals to the Railway Corporation have proved abortive.

With these few remarks, I beg to second.

3.52 p.m.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I rise to move the Amendment which stands in my name on the Order Paper, namely, in "Line 3 to leave out from "country" to the end of the Motion." The Motion as amended will now read:—

*"That this House views with grave concern the ever-increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Railway Police to combat the problem."*

I must say that I am in great sympathy with the Mover and Seconder of this Motion. I think that they have done a very good thing to spotlight this grave problem which the Railway Corporation has been trying to combat for some years now.

I also want to assure the hon. Mover, the Member for Wudil (*M. Abba Yola*) that Ministers will always welcome constructive criticisms and suggestions from Members of this House; we do not take any offence whatever when we are criticised as long as such criticism is constructive.

I also want to say, before I delve into the Amendment itself, that this havoc which is being done by robbers and gamblers on the trains has not been neglected at all by the Railway Corporation. The Seconder of this Motion, the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*) seemed, to be under the impression that the matter was not being taken seriously. But I want to assure him that the Railway Corporation is viewing the matter with all seriousness. As a matter of fact, gambling and thieving on trains are matters which have been causing the Corporation concern for a number of years. Strenuous efforts have been made to stamp it out with the help of the Railway Police—that is the reason why the Railway has got a fairly large contingent of police officers which they pay themselves. A sizeable contingent of the Nigeria Police Force is assigned to the Railway. At present, the strength of the contingent is 600 police officers on the Railway; it comprises 5 officers, that is Superintendents and

Assistant Superintendents; 12 Inspectors; and 583 non-commissioned officers and constables.

**An hon. Member :** How many are expatriates ?

**Hon. Njoku :** The detection of crime knows no colour, because crime knows no colour itself.

The Railway Police are well organised and every effort is being made to cope with the situation. Travelling Investigation Branches now cover all the districts of the Railway and special attention is devoted to preventive measures. The staff of the Railway Corporation have been instructed to render every assistance and the Senior Superintendent of the Railway Police has reported that the co-operation received from the Corporation servants is assisting in keeping crime down. On a number of occasions, the Native Authorities in various places in the North have also been very helpful.

Thieves on the railway are usually either pickpockets or those who indulge in the practice of poaching, that is breaking bales and packets and stealing the contents. I am informed that the activities of poachers have increased recently, particularly between Zaria and Kano during the hours of darkness. The Railway Police have, however, reacted vigorously indeed. Poaching escorts are active in all districts and a new method of combating this form of crime is now being tried.

With regard to gambling, both the Police and the Corporation staff are vigilant in their efforts to detect it and stamp it out altogether. During the year ended 31st March, 1960, 31 cases of gambling were detected, and during the year ended 31st March, 1961, 57 cases of gambling on trains were detected, out of which convictions for 56 were obtained and there was only one acquittal. This does not necessarily mean that gambling on trains is on the increase. I do not think it is. It just means that greater vigilance on the part of the Police is being shown in this matter.

But I would like to say that as long as the travelling public are willing to be duped by gamblers, the problem will continue to face us. The Railway Corporation is fully aware of the seriousness of the problem and has introduced

a number of new preventive measures to supplement the efforts of the Police. For instance, fewer platform tickets are issued than in the past years, thus making it more difficult to hawkers and touts to enter the railway stations. Also, the erection of fences around railway stations and property has assisted the Police greatly in the work of prevention.

Members of the Board of the Corporation are also doing their best to help to check this menace. These members have held discussions with the authorities in the North, including the Emir of Kano, in 1960, and even with the Premier, and the Premier and the Emir have given them every help to stamp out this problem. And, as a result of the discussions which the members have had with the authorities in the North, it has been agreed that N.A. Police in the North will also be employed to help in checking this menace because it is believed that with their knowledge of local conditions and the local people, the N.A. Police will be better able and better equipped to detect these rogues and gamblers on the trains. I am glad to say that provision has been made in the Estimates for 1962-63 of the Corporation for the seconding of N.A. Police from Zaria Province and from the Kano Emirate to assist the Railway Police, and I hope that this is going to put an end to this matter.

I am assured that this is a very straightforward matter. There is nothing controversial about this. I agree with the views expressed by the Mover and the Seconder that something must be done, but all I have tried to do is to show that something is being done and that what is being done is being looked upon, and I am quite sure that they will agree with me that the problem has not been left by the Corporation without any due notice.

Finally, I think that all I can do is to appeal to the general public to do all in their power to cooperate with the Railway and the Police in stamping out these most undesirable activities on the Railway.

The Motion to the Amendment is non-controversial and therefore I beg to move.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** Both the Mover of the Motion and the able Seconder and all the people who will have to contribute to this debate have the mandate

[ALHAJI BELLO DANDAGO]

from their people to bring this matter once again before this honourable House. There is nothing new in what they have said and in what I am going to say. This is the second time that this Motion has come to the Floor of this House. Really it is the same as the old one. We are not saying that the Corporation is not doing enough, but that there is room for improvement.

When the hon. Minister stood up, I thought he would be defending the thieves, but luckily he did not. This gambling and robbing in broad day-light in the train is very menacing.

We knew the Railway as a Government Department in the colonial days, but the matter was not like that. Now that it has become a Corporation and under the able Minister, we will see how much able he is in a few years time, otherwise we will be forced to come back again with this Motion. We do not want to, but unless something is done, I cannot guarantee that a year ahead we might not bring another Motion of the same nature.

In all seriousness, and I am serious about it, this is a matter which worries everybody not only in Kano, Zaria or Sokoto, but in the whole of the Northern Provinces.

**An hon. Member :** Not in my province.

**Alhaji Dandago :** Well when a railway line gets to the hon. Members area, they will have the same trouble ; that is why we want to sort it out before then. There is no railway, but there are smugglers in his province.

The Mover of the Motion has the mandate of his people to come and say this before this House in order that something may be done at once. It is said people are not co-operating. If people are not co-operating, what was the position before the Railway became a Corporation ? There were people then, but there were no thieves. I am thinking, Sir, that the Railway Police must be much more vigilant and the political head of this Ministry must, from time to time, keep his eyes on that particular thing.

I beg to support the Amendment.

**Mr J. O. Odeunmi (Egba North) :** I rise to support the original Motion. In the first place, I feel that it is highly appreciated that the Minister of Transport himself is not only

aware of the existing situation but has outlined the ways and means of eradicating this evil practice. If the evil practice is not eradicated, several issues will be involved.

In the first place, it will go far beyond the individuals affected on the train. It will affect the nation as well. It will affect our revenue. The money coming in through the passenger train will be reduced because, for fear of being robbed, people will start to avoid joining the train.

In the second place, they will feel too that their goods might be tampered with and they might refrain from sending their goods by rail, in which case, eventually, it will come back to us : it will affect the revenue of the State.

In the third place, certain individuals who have certain valuable property might get away with these things from the train, but might be chased to their places of abode by these same marauders and have their houses broken into and burgled. In that way, the life of the people will not be safe.

In the fourth place, it breeds a race of marauders—people would consider that it pays more to go into this type of trade. They might consider that it is a type of trade. It would encourage more people to be lazy and to feel that this is an easier alternative of getting rich than through the sweat of their labour.

Again, it affects our international reputation. People coming to Nigeria would feel unsafe to travel by train, and it is not all places that can be reached by plane, by motor-car or by lorry. It would make people to have very bad impressions of the integrity of our nation.

Again, if these undesirable people are allowed to abound in this type of mal-practice, it will make the lives and property of people unsafe. They might stab, they might even get rid of one's life in order that they might be able to achieve their aim.

Furthermore, it is most embarrassing and disheartening to the officials of the Corporation and even to the Minister of Transport himself, because this sort of practice definitely would affect the high principle with which they work. Therefore, the earlier this practice is eradicated the better for the country.

I beg to support.



**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I would like to contribute one or two points to this particular Motion, by firstly drawing attention to the fact that this Motion concerns, not only the Northern Region, as it appears to be, but also the whole of the country—in fact it says so—and I feel that this hon. House should make its position quite clear on this particular issue.

Several Motions that we have debated have been hammering on one aspect of our moral make-up; the aspect of honesty, honesty in our duties. It is well-known that this question of thefts on trains is really a canker worm in our society. The Minister of Transport admitted as much in his statement. I wonder whether his six hundred strong Railway Police are really active in checking thefts, robberies and gambling on trains, or whether they themselves are really interested accomplices.

This is an issue which does not apply to the Northern Region only, and that is why I made the remark in the beginning, that this is a disease prevalent throughout the country. It may be that there is an unholy alliance between the thieves and some of these policemen, in which case it is very important that we preach from the housetops, from the pulpits, in the newspapers and by radio the importance to the life of this nation of qualities of integrity and honesty. This is most important.

I would like to refer to one or two things which those who have to do with the consignment of goods by train will certainly admit to be true; and that is in connection with the activities of the servants of the Corporation. It is a common experience when one goes to consign goods like dried fish, to find that what the porters do is to throw the bag or basket of fish as hard as possible from one place to the other, thereby breaking the basket. Thus when the owner goes away the basket arrives at its destination all right but it arrives half full and sometimes empty.

One may find that the basket has arrived, one then goes to the railway station and produces a Way Bill. The basket is pointed out to one, but alas it is empty or half full only, and there is no redress! I do not know whether goods consigned by train from one

station to another are usually insured, but that is one aspect of the experience of consignees who use our trains.

I think that if the Corporation would expend perhaps half the sum expended on advertisements about the use of the trains, on the education of those who work for them and on vigilance over those who work for them in making sure they give people value for money, these evils might be slightly reduced.

There is also another point which I want to make in this connection. We have been told that fifty-six cases of offences were tried, I think, last year and, of these fifty-six, there were fifty-five convictions. That is rather interesting, but what one would like to know is, what has happened to the fifty-five people who were convicted?

**An hon. Member** : They went to jail.

**Mr Amadi** : That is not the point I am driving at at all. If I know that Mr X is a rogue and I have had him convicted for stealing in my compound, I do not think I will have that Mr X in my compound after he has served his term in prison or after whatever punishment he has undergone.

Now, what is the Corporation doing about keeping criminals who indulge in these thefts away from the trains, both goods and passenger trains? What does the Corporation do regarding the exclusion of such people from the use of railway compounds and railway trains? I may be told that the Railway Corporation is a commercial proposition which is interested only in the money they get out of it. But remember, also, that they should be interested in the safety of the goods and in the welfare of their clients.

Therefore, I think that the Minister of Transport will perhaps be doing us more good by looking into these few points and advising the Corporation to see that they are more vigilant about the welfare of their patrons.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : It is now apparent that the Minister himself is confident about the official report which he is bound to get from senior officers in the Unit, otherwise I should say that with the explanation which he has given the Government has underrated the seriousness of this matter.

[M. GUSAU]

It is so serious that if the Minister were to be advised on logical grounds, he would not have said that the Government is justified in the steps which have now been taken.

The question of robbers, gamblers and so forth on the trains is so serious that one can come to the conclusion that it cannot be so rampant without the support of the officers and the police—

**Mr Speaker :** There is quite a lot of noise on my right, with some of the voices being loud and magnified by the microphones, so much so, that they are drowning the voice of the Member speaking.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** I said that the question of robberies, gambling and so forth in the trains could not be so rampant had it not had the support of the officers and the Police in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. This is a bare fact and that is the reason why, earlier in my speech, I said that unless the Nigerian Railway Corporation purged this bribery and corruption, beginning with some of the officers, robbery, gambling and so forth in the trains would never be minimised.

Therefore, whatever efforts the Minister will make, first and foremost, he should deal with officers on the trains because there is a 50-50 agreement. This is a bare fact—a 50-50 agreement between the officers and the Police !

Also I should like to advise him that the six hundred strong Police Detachment in the Railway Corporation should not be permanent there. They should be changed from time to time. If they are left there many of them will become habitual culprits in the crime and the crime itself will increase. Therefore, whatever else the Minister does, first and foremost he should deal with officers on the train, and the Police must not be permanent there.

Also, he must not in future rely purely on the official advice which he is given from the officers, who are only there to defend themselves. They cannot bring any suggestion to the Minister whereby they could make room for their own criticism. Therefore, I advise the Minister, first of all, to deal with the officers on the trains. Policemen should not be permanent there.

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

*Motion, as amended, agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House views with grave concern the ever-increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Railway Police to combat the problem.

DELETION OF THE WORD "TRIBES" FROM  
THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

4.20 p.m.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name,

"That, in view of its derogatory meaning and connotation, and in view of its disuniting psychological effect, this House is of the opinion that the word "tribe" should be deleted from the Nigerian National Anthem and that its use should be discontinued in all official statements and publications".

I would like to read, first of all, the portion of the National Anthem which is affected—

*"Nigeria we hail thee, our own dear native land*

*Though tribe and tongue may differ in brotherhood we stand*

*Nigerians all and proud to serve our sovereign motherland"*

I think that nobody in this House can claim to have greater patriotism than I have for our dear country. I think also that nobody can claim that he desires more than I do that Nigeria should be completely united without any form of dis-integrating influences and that our National Anthem, therefore, should show that aspiration and that sentiment.

The purport of that first verse of the National Anthem—what we all think that it says—is what is dear to the heart of everyone of us ; and I think that at this stage, without anybody having the wrong impression that I am here attacking the writer of this Anthem, Miss Williams, I would say that we are pleased that she has given us these inspiring words. (*Hear, hear*). But the point I am making concerns the use of the word "tribe". If any other word can be found to replace the word "tribe" while retaining the sense of that verse, I am completely in agreement and that really is the point I am making.

But why am I making the point, Sir? The word 'tribe' is not a Yoruba word, or Ibo or Hausa, nor does it belong to any language in our country, and we are not British—English is not our language. Therefore, if some words are used, the full meaning of which we do not know, and we accept them, nobody can blame us. But when we find out the true meaning and what the people whose language it is know it means, and we know that that meaning is not good, I think we must change it.

These words were written in the colonial days, just before independence, and the word 'tribe' was commonly used by the people to refer to us and also by ourselves to refer to ourselves. But I humbly say that since independence a lot of things have changed.

I shall read from the Concise Oxford Dictionary, with Mr Speaker's permission. I shall read from here the meaning of the word 'tribe'. It says this—

*"Tribe : Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs".*

**An hon. Member :** Is that not true?

**Chief Rosiji :** Indeed, that is the meaning of the word 'tribe', as given by this Dictionary. If we go further—

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of order, Sir, I here quote Order 25 (2) :—

*"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce any matter irrelevant thereto".*

Now, the irrelevance is that the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is purposely misleading this House by reading from an old edition of the Oxford Dictionary. I will refer the hon. Member to page 2243, volume 2 of the shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Third Edition, where it says—

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I think you are taking advantage of a point of order in order to put forward your arguments, which I am not prepared to allow.

**Chief Rosiji :** Now, Sir, that is the meaning according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary. I refer now to the Shorter Oxford English

Dictionary to which my hon. Friend has just referred. The meaning there is this (and it is worse) :—

*"A race of people ; now applied especially to a primary aggregate of people in a primitive or barbarous condition under a headman or chief".*

**An hon. Member :** You are also a chief!

**Chief Rosiji :** As I said earlier, English is not our language. If we do not know exactly what it means and we use the expression, nobody can blame us. But I think that the meaning, being as clear as it is now, it is only right that we should change it.

I would hate to find that in singing the National Anthem, if I am allowed to interpose the Dictionary meaning, it means we are saying.

*"Nigeria we hail thee, our own dear native land : though we are a group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs, yet in brotherhood we stand".*

I think that that is going too far, and I would like to say that our condition to which the word 'tribe' is applied is not a similar condition in other parts of the world.

In Britain, itself, we have the Scots and if that word is used there one would say 'the Scottish tribe'; we have the Welsh people who are in the same position; we have the Irish, we have the English. In other places, too, the same thing can apply. In Czechoslovakia there are the Czechs and the Slavs, and so on and so forth—but they are not referred to as tribes, simply because they do not regard themselves as barbarous people.

If some people say that we are barbarous people and apply that word to us well, good luck to them; but for God's sake we should not apply it to ourselves, and worse still, in our National Anthem. I think that is the worst aspect of the whole thing—in our National Anthem. The fact that this word should appear and should apply to us ourselves, I think is very bad.

The words of the National Anthem are in verses. I do not claim to be a poet and I do not intend to introduce the word to take the place of 'tribe' in this House at the moment. It is not for this House—this is not a poetic House. Far from it. What I would like to suggest is that the Government should take this

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

thing back. I have some suggestions to make, but this is the wrong place to make them. Let the Government take this thing back with them and do something about it.

We have our respected President of the Senate, who is a poet in his own right; the same Miss Williams, if she is still in the country, we can tell her that we do not like this word too much and ask if she could do something to help us find some other word which is less derogatory than the word tribe. That is what I have in mind.

I think it is preposterous for anybody to suggest that I am moving this Motion to imply that we should look down on our customs and things. I have never heard anything so stupid in my life—that I am looking down on our customs and that I do not have the right spirit about joining Nigeria together and that I do not agree with the sentiments expressed in this Motion. This is far from it.

In fact, there have been some suggestions made in the Amendment which I have read, about linguistic, racial and other differences. If you choose to put the word 'race' in the place of 'tribe' please do so. I do not quarrel with it, but for God's sake, I do not want to refer to myself as a barbarous man and I am sure we do not want that to be done to us.

Therefore, I ask this House to please accept this Motion saying that the Government can do something about it.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I rise to second this Motion which has been ably moved by my hon. Friend. There is only very short contribution I want to make and it is to the effect that we are appealing to Government not to dodge the question at issue. Attempt may be made by some people to say that 'tribe' does not mean, or has not got the meaning which has been read by the mover of this Motion from the Oxford Dictionary. But there is this to say that everybody agrees that what we attach to 'tribe' such as 'tribalism', 'tribalistic', has no useful purpose and is derogatory to the last. If tribalism, which we hate, and tribalistic which is very derogatory, are coined from tribe, what right have we, Mr Speaker, to use tribe in our National Anthem?

We have noted that the Government is proposing an Amendment. But Motions which we pass or which we move and pass in this House have effects which go very far beyond the precincts of this House and I am sure that the millions of Nigerian in this country to-day, who have never heard about the derogatory meaning of the word 'tribe' will hear to-day and our friends, not only in this country, but also abroad, will also hear, I think it will be very unfortunate if this very important and constructive suggestion from the Opposition is just brushed aside, waived aside, because Government feels that it comes from the Opposition.

I say, with respect, that the Minister and the Government should reconsider their stand over this question and they should withdraw this Amendment. There is nothing wrong with it; let them go and reconsider the issue and find a more appropriate word than 'tribe' for our National Anthem.

With these few remarks, I second the Motion.

4.35 p.m.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): I really sympathise with the mover of this Motion because if we will have to go through all these words and their meanings in the dictionary, in fact we can scarcely get one word which will apply to our own intention in this country. For example, Chief Rosiji is called 'chief.' Now if we call him chief, he will answer; but in this dictionary, if you find out the meaning of *chieftaincy*, it is "The captain of robbers" (*Laughter*).

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): I object to the implication, not having suggested here that the *Sardauna* means a senior chief. I object, Sir.

**Mr Speaker**: It is difficult to avoid using the expression, *Chief Rosiji*, I am afraid.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: I am not giving the meaning to the word; the meaning is already there in the dictionary.

I rise to move an Amendment to the Motion before the House. I propose that all words after "That" should be deleted. The complete Amendment will then read: "That this House applauds and endorses the appeal in the first verse of the Nigerian National Anthem

to all Nigerians to stand together in brotherhood regardless of linguistic, racial and other differences due to the vast size of the country and the widely differing origin and state of development of the Nigerian peoples, and deploras any tendency to despise Nigerian tribal and social institutions."

It would be very wrong to support the original Motion, the effect for which would be to steal a word from the National Anthem and from all official publications and put nothing in its place. Is this not a strange idea? What would happen when the Anthem is sung?

Would there just be a silent pause, or would it be left to anyone who liked to make a mess of the noble principle expressed in the verse by singing alternative words and phrases which might or might not fit, and would not mean what we know the word 'tribe' to mean when we use it?

It is no use suggesting words like 'ethnic group' or 'clan': they are somewhat different and there is no other word which will do the work of conveying our meaning so well and so innocently as the word 'tribe' in the sense in which we in Nigeria use that word.

It is agreed that, in the past, special bad and good senses have been given to the word 'tribe' in different countries at different times—just as the words 'nation' and 'nationalist' have different meanings and associations for different peoples and have bad meanings as well as good.

Here in Nigeria, when we use the word 'tribe' and ask a man which tribe he belongs to, we mean nothing bad or derogatory. We do not bring about national disunity by using the word: we simply ask the question whether the man is Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa or a member of one or the other ethnic groupings in the country which we are accustomed to call tribes.

So long as there is nothing bad in being an Hausa as well as being a Nigerian, or being a Yoruba as well as being a Nigerian, there is no need for anyone to fear national disunity. It is when people go against the spirit of the National Anthem and wish to change words for their own purposes that there is need to suspect disuniting tendencies.

If, for instance, people cease to talk of the Yoruba tribe and begin to talk of the Yoruba nation, or the Yoruba people, it will be a bad

sign because there is one nation in this country, the Nigerian Nation, and one people only, the Nigerian people: we are all Nigerian citizens.

This idea is well expressed in the first verse of the National Anthem, which says:

*Nigeria, we hail thee,  
Our own dear native land,  
Though tribe and tongue may differ,  
In brotherhood we stand,  
Nigerians all, and proud to serve  
Our sovereign Motherland.*

I would not wish to change one word of this. Not the word 'native', nor the word 'tribe', because the verse is very clear, and good as it stands and worthy of our great country.

If the hon. Member who put forward the original mischievous Motion wishes to delete and change words, then let me make to him two suggestions: firstly, that he seeks to change the name of the obscure newspaper, *The Tribune* to something else because the word *Tribune* means 'tribal representative', from the ancient Roman tribunes who represented three main tribes or political divisions. Perhaps, *The Tribal Grouper* would be an accurate new name for the newspaper, but I trust that the hon. Member opposite would not wish to continue anything which might have what the original Motion calls "a disuniting psychological effect" in the country.

My second suggestion is simply that the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) might wish to change his own name. We have all heard the saying, "Arose by any other name would smell as sweet" and I am sure that we on this side of the House would be more constructive in our suggestions for alternative words than the hon. Gentleman has been in the original Motion before the House.

Before I resume my seat, I think it will be interesting if I inform the House of the intention at the back of the mind of the lady who actually composed this Anthem. When this Motion came to my notice, I was told that the lady was still in the country and so I asked my Secretary to contact her to find out exactly what was at the back of her mind when composing this Anthem and I read, with your permission, Mr Speaker, what the lady had to say. I quote:

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

*I am concerned to know that the word 'tribe' is considered offensive. To me there is no derogatory connotation in the word but simply being the only English word indicating a group of people who sprang from common ancestry, with the same custom and language, hence their family loyalty.*

The lady went on to say—

*Being myself from Highbury, a native of London, of Welsh ancestry, educated in Scotland, I appreciate how a nation may be forged from different groups, each contributing to the national culture. It was this aspect which had spurred me to try to compose the words of the Anthem. I saw Nigeria as a new nation, not growing haphazardly through the context as did so many of the older nations, but of deliberate creation and consisting of so many groups of people each with their own language and culture to contribute to the enrichment of the nation.*

There seems to be no other word in English for the connotation of the words "tribe," "common ancestry," "family groupings", unless one uses the Scottish "clan" or "sect" which is not quite the same. I think there is nothing wrong with the intention of the lady. Only a mischief-maker would want this word to be changed, perhaps, because of some other things. After all, this Anthem has been in the country for quite a while. This man has not been able to do anything since then; perhaps, his girl friend has brought the word to his notice and now he is coming to the House to deceive us. I think I will appeal to hon. Members to reject the original Motion and support the Amendment.

4.50 p.m.

**M. Aminu Kano** (Kano East): May I first give some meanings of the word 'tribe' in some other dictionaries in order to give this House a chance to know that there are more meanings than one for the word 'tribe' and that it does not necessarily mean a barbarous group of people. Here is another Oxford dictionary—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): That is a dictionary written in Lord Lugard's day. (Laughter).

**M. Aminu Kano**: This dictionary was compiled and first published in 1960. According to this dictionary the word "tribe" means

*"a group of persons forming a community and claiming descent from a common ancestor, as, for example, each of the twelve divisions of the people of Israel, claiming descent from the twelve sons of Jacob." It says that in the Roman times, during the Roman Empire, the word "tribe" can mean "one of the traditional three political divisions or patrician orders of ancient Rome." This is one meaning. Then there is a second meaning: it says that "a tribe is defined by Dr Rivers as 'a social group of a simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government, and act together for such common purposes as warfare'."*

I think that it is more important for us not to waste our time on the meaning of the word "tribe" as understood by people outside Nigeria. I know the impression which is created when one hears from the B.B.C. about tribes in Kenya, tribes in Zanzibar, and so on—but that is the B.B.C. Here in this country we are not British people, we are not American people, we are not European people, we are Africans. I come from the Fulani tribe; I am proud that I am a Fulani and there is nothing wrong about it. But if an American uses the word "tribe", it will have a different meaning for him.

I think what is more important on this question of the National Anthem is not to spend our time searching for the meaning of a word, but to see that the Anthem is translated into at least the three main languages of Nigeria, so that all the children throughout the country know it, not only in English, but also in their own language, and then the idea of the word "tribe" having different meanings would be immaterial. So let us request the Government that the Anthem should be translated into our languages, so that in the end we can forget the English meaning, which embitters the mind of the people.

I support the Amendment.

**M. Akubakar Isandu** (Jos North West): I rise to oppose the original Motion and to support wholeheartedly the Amendment. In doing so, I would ask the Government to throw away the original Motion—

**Mr D. D. Dimka** (Angas): We should answer to our real names in this House. The hon. Member for Jos North West is not "Abubakar Isandu", but he is Akubakar Isandu.

**M. Akubakar Isandu** : I would ask the Government to throw away the original Motion, because it is not only unnecessary in its outlook, but it is wrongly filed and completely lacking in substance.

I ask: Has the hon. Mover consulted his Party Leader who preached most on the freedom of ethnic and minority groups? Had he done so, he would not have been allowed to file this unwarranted Motion. In other words, if the Mover denies that there are different tribes existing in Nigeria, to be more sensible he should have as well filed a Motion along with this one calling on the Federal Government to abolish all our customs, traditions and diversified linguistic differences.

May I take this opportunity to air my feelings regarding the standing of our National Anthem. When our independence was in its embryonic stage, those who thought that the black man could not manage his affairs, because of the then Lumumbist Movement, gave up their business and left the country, thinking that the Congo situation would repeat itself here in Nigeria. Now, we know that we have got able sons, like the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria. We are now free and free forever, and we are now managing our affairs better than any other country within the Continent of Africa, if not in the whole world.

May I point out that I am earnestly and seriously calling on the Federal Government to declare it illegal and an abuse of our dignity for anyone, irrespective of rank, colour and whoever he may be, to remain sitting in his seat when this National Anthem is being played. We have to congratulate Sir Francis Ibiam who suggested that whenever the National Anthem is played everybody should stand up. It is only in this way that the expatriates would know that we too can manage our affairs efficiently, and that we have respect for our nation.

I beg to support.

**Dr P. N. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : The trouble is not in the word "tribe" but in

the person who is interpreting it, and this point has been clearly made by our hon. Friend, M. Aminu Kano. Now, the word "tribe" as used in America or in England, like the word "native", has a very different connotation for those people over there, from what it has for people here. Hon. Members heard the Minister read a letter addressed to him by the composer of the National Anthem, in which the word under discussion appeared, and she said that she is a native of England. But when one is in America or in England, the word "native" connotes a people from an undeveloped area, people from the bush areas, the barbarians that eat human beings. Now we cannot, because of that, have the inferiority complex of not being able to accept the word that interprets as nearly as possible in the English language our cultural ethnic groupings in this country—that is, if we want to use English. There are Yoruba words for tribe, Ibo words for tribe, Hausa and Fulani words for tribe. If you want to interpret into the English language, well you have to invent something different that you can use. If you want to say that "tribe" is a nation, I do not think that you can say that Fulani is a nation, Yoruba is a nation, Ibo is a nation, and Hausa is a nation. Then how many nations are we going to have within one nation of Nigeria? We will have to use something that will bring together the different ethnic groups under one common name—the nation.

Now, the Motion say—

*"...in view of its disuniting psychological effect..."*

If the word "tribe" is disuniting psychologically, so are the words Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa and Fulani, because if these words are disuniting, then it means that whenever we use tribe, we are disuniting Nigeria. Instead of saying, "I am a Nigerian," if you say, "I am an Ibo" or Yoruba, Fulani or Hausa, you are disuniting Nigeria psychologically. Therefore, the meaning that is attached to a name is what it is. I would be opposed to the use of "tribe" in this country if it is to be able to identify who is an Ibo, Yoruba, Hausa or Fulani for the purpose of political actions—(*Interruption*). In Ibo, we have so many differing groups, but the word

[DR OKEKE]

"tribe," for the Mover of this Motion, has a very small environmental meaning which we are not contending now. The dictionaries as quoted here have shown the Mover that his meaning has nothing to do with the word "tribe" at all. The wider meaning of the word "tribe" has to be accepted, and it does not make a difference, whether there are five million or ten million people.

I am only pointing out that if we are going to use the word "tribe" to identify people from various areas for political purposes, I feel opposed to the use of the word "tribe" wherever it occurs in our political literature in this country. First and foremost, we know that we are all Nigerians. The word "tribe" does not hurt anybody here psychologically or practically.

I strongly support the Amendment and I vehemently oppose the original Motion.

**The Minister of Finance :** I only want to speak on just one point, that is to ask Members to be fair to the House, especially my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji who tried to mislead the House by reading out of context from the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* the meaning of the word "tribe". Now, the dictionary meaning which he read was very clear—

*"Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs ; (Roman History) each of the political divisions (originally three, probably representing clans) ultimately 35 are the Romans."*

That is Roman History, and that is what my hon. Friend, (Chief Ayo Rosiji), should have told the House. And he went so far—

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** There is a semi-colon there.

**The Minister of Finance :** Why did you not read up to the semi-colon? As my hon. Friend, Mallam Aminu Kano, read, to define it further—

*"... any similar division wheter of natural or political origin, for example, the Israelites."*

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** The Minister is from Israel.

**The Minister of Finance :** I do not know whether Ijebu people are from Israel. In any case, what I am trying to say is that my hon. Friend—

**Mr A. F. Odulana :** Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is only the Ijebus that have name in the Bible—the Jebusites.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am sure that the hon. Leader of the Opposition will not subscribe to the biblical attachment to Ijebus in the Bible because the Bible was pronouncing woes on the Jebusites.

In any case, what I am trying to say is that I expect my hon. Friend to be fair to the House, and whenever he is reading he should not only stop at a comma but should go up to a semi-colon and, if possible, to the full stop.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. Does Chief Rosiji want to exercise his right of reply under the Standing Orders?

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** Yes, Sir.

I did not appreciate when I was going to move this Motion that it would be made such a joke of and that people would try to sit on it. I think that it is quite clear in my mind that the people who have spoken against this Motion have not done so from the bottom of their heart because (never mind what the meaning in the dictionary is ; never mind what is in the encyclopaedia) I know for sure that every Member of this House knows, without referring to all these books, that the word "tribe" has a derogatory meaning. Everybody knows it in his own heart. Whether one likes it or not is immaterial—

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** This is repetitive, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. I take it that Dr Okeke was referring to the hon. Member speaking.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** Now, Sir, I have been as impartial as possible in my presentation to this House of the meaning of the word "tribe" as one can gather from all these books. The books which my hon. Friend, Mallam Aminu Kano, and the Minister of Finance read support my contention. Everything that they read there supports my contention. I wish people could read books properly.

I would like, first of all, to refer to the statement made here by my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, in reading the meaning



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of the word tribe from the Concise Oxford Dictionary. It reads as follows :—

“*tribe*” (standing for noun) “1 *Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs* ;”

that is the end of that meaning. But I go forward—

**The Minister of Finance** : What about the brackets in front of it ?

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** : Just wait. These people cannot read a dictionary ! The Minister is only using *ƴankara* tactics to confuse all the issues. Now I quote :

“ . . . ” ; (*Roman History*)—no stop at all behind it—“*each of the political divisions (originally three, probably representing clans, ultimately 35) of the Romans* ;”

That is Roman History. That definition which I have just given is the Roman History definition.

Now, my hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano—

**Several hon. Members** : Call him “Mallam” not “Mr”.

**Chief Rosiji** : Where is his turban ? My hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano, read—

**Several hon. Members** : No ! Call him “Mallam”. He is a *Mallam*.

**The Minister of Finance** : On a point of order, Sir, I hate to think that the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) meant to be discourteous to our hon. Colleague by calling a *Mallam* “Mr”

**Mr I. A. Brown** : I think it is time he went to Mecca.

**Chief Rosiji** : *Mallams* do not wear *Awo caps* and patent shoes.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : Mr Speaker, I suggest that, to be able to differentiate a *Mallam* from a Mr, our *Mallams* should wear their turbans.

**Mallam Aminu Kano** (Kano East) : On a point of information, Sir, the word *Mallam* comes from the Arabic word *Muallim* and *Muallim* means “one who knows”. The word *Mallam* is only attributed to Moslems. Those who can read and interpret the Koran and Moslem Law are called *Mallam*. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Chief Rosiji** : My hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano read from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*—

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think that after the bit of education we have had about this, the hon. Member for Kano East should more properly be referred to as Mallam Aminu Kano.

**Chief Rosiji** : Mr Deputy Speaker, he read from the *Encyclopaedia*—

**Several hon. Members** : Who ? Who ?

**Chief Rosiji** : The hon. Gentleman read from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, but he did not read the whole thing. If he had read the whole thing, then I can only conclude that he has misled this honourable House. I shall read it—the whole thing—with your permission Sir. It says :

“*A tribe is defined by Dr Rivers as—‘a social group of a simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect,’—dialect not language—‘have a single government, and act together for such common purposes as warfare.’*”

“*In this definition, it is necessary to understand by single government a political unity of a very simple kind, which may not imply the existence of any obvious mechanism of government, such as an hereditary monarchy or an elected Council, with which we are familiar amongst civilized peoples.*”

Now, Sir, that means that “government” in the context of the definition of *tribe*, does not mean the type of government that civilised people have. (*Interruptions*)

**The Deputy Speaker** : Go on.

**Chief Rosiji** : Why can they not listen ? I will continue with your permission, Sir.

“*Although it is usual to regard primitive peoples as always organised a definite tribes, the tribe as a definite group is often entirely lacking. In the case of pastoral peoples, definite groups with a political function, transcending families and clans, are likely to occur, but a settled population needs no such unification, unless the special demands of industry or the need for united action in warfare necessitate central control or the delimitation of groups. Thus it is often difficult in Melanesia to find any division of the people into distinct political units. One district usually shades into another politically,*”

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

*unless there is established enmity between the groups; and the names of groups, which might be thought to be tribal names, are found to be of indefinite extent. In these cases the social and political organisation is comprised in the family, clan and local relations; the political solidarity of any given district depends on the sum-total of family, clan, local and personal relationships in that district. There is tribal organisation but there are no district tribes. In other places, however, in which social organization is of the same general kind, but in which conditions, such as isolation on a small island, or historical circumstances, have unified a district, on account of economic or other conditions, we can speak of definite tribes. In so far as the political unity of such a district becomes dependent on locality, rather than on kinship, and other relationships—"*

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order. When one wants to quote, one has to be very brief, and not read a whole book.

**Several Opposition Members**: No! No! He can quote the whole book if he likes.

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order! Under Standing Order 25 (1), a Member shall not read his speech, but may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument. I am afraid this point of order is right.

**Chief Rosiji**: The last sentence, Sir—

*"In so far as political unity of such a district becomes dependent on locality, rather than on kinship and other relationship between the Members of the district, the tribe passes into a simple form of State."*

The point there, Sir, is that even if we say that we agree that we are a primitive people, what this dictionary says is that we are not tribes, because one cannot use the word *tribe* in relationship to a group of people who can be identified with a certain area of land. The *Hausa* people in the North, we can define the area where they occupy. The *Yoruba* people in the West, we can define where they occupy. The *Ibo* in the East, we can define where they occupy.

Therefore, what this means really is that even if we agree that the word *tribe* is not derogatory, it is a wrong word according to this definition. It is a wrong word to use—

**Shittima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi): Mr Deputy Speaker, the sooner Mallam Rosiji admits that he is a Yoruba and takes his seat, the better it will be for us all.

**Chief Rosiji**: That is a very stupid interjection.

**Several hon. Members**: Withdraw it now!

**Chief Ayo Rosiji**: Sir, this is not a question of reading books. It is not a question of somebody being learned or not being learned. It is a question of pride to us all. If hon. Members like it, they can keep it. As for me, I am not a tribesman. If Members opposite are all tribesmen, they can be tribesmen.

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

*Motion, as amended, agreed to.*

**Resolved**: That this House applauds and endorses the appeal in the first verse of the Nigerian National Anthem to all Nigerians to stand together in brotherhood regardless of linguistic, racial and other differences due to the vast size of the country and the widely differing origin and state of development of the Nigerian Peoples, and deplores any tendency to despise Nigerian tribal and social institutions.

#### CADET CORPS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

5.20 p.m.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo** (Bende West): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, namely—

"That this House urges Government in the interests of defence, and as an interim alternative to National Military Service, to take active steps to attach Cadet Corps to Secondary Schools in the Federation."

The aim of this Motion is two-fold. Firstly, I want to call attention to a veritable source of potential man-power for our military forces. Secondly, I wish to implore the House to urge the Government to go all out to tap this source without delay.

We are 312 Members in this House. Each of us is proud to belong to Nigeria with its teeming population. That is a pride that comes

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from belonging to a large group. Such pride generates confidence, which is the source of initiative. But I wonder how many of us could handle a gun in defence of this country if the occasion should arise, how many of us can endure a road march two miles if they must, how many can lie on their bellies for four hours without moving a muscle. I am sure that only a very microscopic few among us can do these things, and that goes also for the preponderance of the Nigerian youth.

It is not our fault; it is our heritage. It shall become our fault if, two years after independence, there is no step taken to remedy the situation.

This Motion calls for a remedy. This remedy will cost the country a mere pittance, while yielding large dividends in man-power reserve. This Motion calls upon us to take steps to produce a new generation of Nigerians, who shall not only be proud of their country, but who can also defend their fatherland with or without further military training.

I am not unaware that cadet units exist in some secondary schools. My information indicates that cadet units have been established in 12 secondary schools throughout the Federation. We have six in the North, two in the West, two in Lagos, and two in the East. One would have expected that by this time we should have at least one cadet unit in one secondary school in every Division. My suggestion is that we should, in fact, make it a national policy to have one cadet unit in every secondary school.

I feel convinced that the existing units have operated long enough to furnish sufficient data for a full scale national operation of cadet units in all secondary schools. At least let us have one in each Division.

What are we going to gain from this scheme? Firstly, we shall be able to interest our youth in careers in the Army. It is not enough to preach to our youth to be patriotic to defend our country when the need arises. They should be trained. They should be given the special experience of being, in fact, interested in the Army itself. They should be made to see for themselves, while they are young, the very great opportunities which exist in the

Army for them. It is only by tying themselves with such units while they are young that they can have a permanent interest in this career.

In the course of the training there is no doubt that the youth will hear stories of heroic soldiers, and chivalrous activities of soldiers, as a way of demonstrating the love of their country. In Nigeria such units would gain inspiration from the stories of such worthy Nigerians as Aguiyi-Ironsi whose activity in the Congo, in fact, has become a household word.

Secondly, the units will provide the country with a reservoir of potential soldiers on whom the country can rely in time of emergency. At the moment the existing units are enabling the Army to recruit for training youngmen who have shown remarkable aptitude for the Army. My contention is that excellent though this limited application is it should become Government policy to so organise the units that thousands shall be turned out yearly from our schools.

The few existing units, I am told, have demonstrated that our Nigerian youth are eager to join these units. The opportunity to use the expansion of the scheme to produce a national Army reserve should not be lost.

Thirdly, training in these units obviously contributes to foster a sense of discipline in the youth. We are aware of the immense benefits which the young persons derive from membership of the Scout Movement. The cadet unit provides even better opportunities for conditioning a person to a disciplined manner of action and behaviour. The more people we have who have passed through this type of discipline the more responsible will our public become.

We know that compulsory military service has become a regular feature in the defence schemes of most modern nations. In Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, to mention only a very few, every male must render compulsory military service before he attains the age of twenty-five. I understand that in Israel both males and females are made to undergo this military training.

Some of these nations have Armies which number in millions and yet they find it necessary to insist on this kind of scheme.

[MR ODIGBO]

We know how scanty and ineffective our Army is at the moment. We have much more reason to introduce this scheme in order to produce people at a very low cost who will be able to man our Army for the years to come.

No sensible person would expect Nigeria to embark upon the expensive defence expenditure involved in the operation of a national military service. But the need for it must be recognised early, and plans and policies adopted to strengthen our defences. The cadet unit scheme is one sure way of building up a national defence system.

There is quite a lot one can say in support of this Motion, but I do really feel that it is not controversial. I think that every Member here is quite aware of the precarious nature in which our Army is and the need for improving it must be uppermost even in the heart of the Government as it is in the minds of every other citizen.

Even though the Government has indicated its intention to amend the Motion, I do hope, nevertheless, that it would realise that my intention really in relation to this Motion is mostly to ask that the scheme be extended as fast as possible to as many more schools as can come under the scheme.

I beg to move.

5.30 p.m.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : It is a pity that we have not much time to go into this very important Motion. However, I shall try to be as brief as possible because brevity is the soul of wit.

I can only touch a few important points which the hon. Mover has not touched. The first of these is the importance of this Motion to the policy of Nigerianisation in our Army. This, the hon. Minister of Defence tells us, is uppermost in his mind.

I am speaking about this from experience and I hope that when the hon. Minister does tell this House something about his Amendment he will remember to tell us about the number of officers in our Army to-day and how many of them are boys who have been through one or other of the few cadet corps units in the Government secondary schools,

I would also like to point out that these cadet corps units that exist now exist only in Government secondary schools and what we are asking for is an expansion of these into other secondary schools run by voluntary agencies. If the Government secondary schools can do it, there is no reason why secondary schools of voluntary agencies should not be allowed to produce officers for our Army.

One of the stumbling blocks in this project is that it is one of the conditions for starting a cadet corps unit that there must be an ex-service army officer as its head. That is a condition imposed by our colonial masters when they were looking for jobs for their ex-servicemen. But they have now left us and we are independent. We have not got ex-service officers but we have ex-service regimental sergeant majors, company sergeant majors, and segeant majors who can easily teach physical training, drill, tactics, map reading, *etc.*, to our boys. Let Government consider employing these ex-servicemen to do these things in our secondary schools.

Further, these boys training in the Cadet Corps present no danger because they do not use live ammunitions so that there can be no danger of these boys wounding themselves. The Government can, therefore, employ one peripathetic Army Officer to tour a province or even two provinces to supervise the work being done by these company sergeant majors in the various units.

It is a pity that one does not have the time to say all that there is to say in favour of this Army Cadet Corps but I am quite sure that the hon. Minister, who is quite alive to the necessity for officers of the Army to be drawn from the Nigerian indigenes particularly in the highest ranks, will realise how important it is to expand it.

Our boys learn History, Geography, and Languages for the humanities; they learn Physics, Chemistry and Biology for the sciences; if they are going to become efficient Army officers, then they must be given a chance of undergoing army training. A boy should not just join the Army. The days of joining the Army because one is a never-do-well or a reckless fellow is past. We must remember that the Army is the backbone of our nation.

I beg to second.

**Minister of State** (Hon. J. C. Obande) : I beg to move that the Motion be accepted as amended as follows :

Line 1, leave out from "House" to the end of the Question and add—"That this House approves the active steps Government has taken to attach Cadet Corps to secondary schools in the Federation."

Time is really against us otherwise I could have gone into detail to explain this matter to this hon. House. In any case, hon. Members will be aware that the raising of cadet units is governed by the law, namely, the Local Forces Act, which provides that the Governor-General may, by orders, establish a cadet unit to be the cadet unit of a college, and the regulations specify how cadet units, once established, are to be run.

We already have twelve cadet units in Nigeria, six in the North, two in the East, two in the West, and two in Lagos. Approval has just been given for the thirteenth to be established at the Provincial Secondary School at Kano. We have two applications outstanding, one from the Lagos Anglican Grammar School at Yaba, and the other from the Secondary School at Zaria. Both applications awaits inspection reports from the military authorities before further consideration is to be given to them.

Hon. Members will agree that the Federal Government is taking all the necessary steps to fit in with the wishes of secondary schools in this regard. If a secondary school wants to have a cadet unit, it has only to apply, but before approval is given for the creation of a cadet unit, certain essentials must be fulfilled :

(a) There must be adequate support from the members of the College for the establishment of a cadet unit.

(b) There must be on the staff of the Colleges a Commanding Officer and other officers with previous commissioned military experience to operate the proposed cadet unit.

(c) There must be a regular military unit nearby to sponsor the cadet unit and help with its training.

(d) Funds must be available to finance the initial capital outlay on buildings (usually for an armoury, rifle range and storehouse) and to pay training staff, etc.

Hon. Members will agree that the conditions are wise and are a matter of common sense. If they can all be fulfilled then there is no reason why the cadet unit cannot be established.

The hon. mover of the original Motion has suggested that the raising of cadet units should be considered as an alternative to national military service. That, of course, cannot be so. Cadet training is recognised as a useful means of stimulating interest among our young men in manly pursuits and in encouraging qualities of leadership. There is no intention of introducing national military service at this stage.

The debating of this Motion is most welcome as it enables this House and the people of this country to see what we are doing in the military field. It will be readily accepted by one and all, including the mover of the original Motion, that the Government, as usual, is not behind in providing for the good of the people of this country. I have no doubt that other hon. Members will speak in support of the Motion, as amended.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Labour** (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg to second.

5.41 p.m.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgbar) : We support the original Motion because the arguments put forward by the Minister in the Amendment do not hold water. He told us here that already there are six cadet training centres attached to six secondary schools in the North but we are aware that even though this may be true some of these secondary schools have not satisfied the conditions laid down by the regulations as stated in his own statement.

**An hon. Member** : How do you know ?

**Mr Tarka** : I know because there are not six army units in the various provincial areas in the North.

**An hon. Member** : Who told you ?

**Mr Tarka** : I am aware of this. I am a Member of this House and I study with interest what goes on in my own country. I would like to inform the House that if the Government wants to extend this essential service to all the secondary schools in the country, they should bring a Bill on the Floor

[MR TARKA]

of this House and Members of this House will keenly support such a Bill. We have always supported monetary Bills and even monetary Bills which are not necessary have always been supported here. Therefore, if for a very essential service like this the Government introduces a Bill on the Floor of this House, it is going to get the whole of our support from all sides of the House.

I wish to say that the original Motion is very good and should be supported by all sides of this House and that the Amendment as put forward by the Minister should be rejected because it does not serve any useful purpose; it only helps the Government to blow its own trumpet for doing nothing or for doing something for which we have all paid.

*Whereupon the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) 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.*

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Motion as amended put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House approves the steps Government has taken to attach Cadet Corps to secondary schools in the Federation.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### FISHING INDUSTRY

5.44 p.m.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): I am raising a very important point. At the Victoria Beach, near the Television site, two expatriate men engage in fishing every day except on Sundays. They catch enormous quantities of fish which they sell to people and get about £150 every day. I do not know whether they have a permit or licence for doing this. Even if they have a licence, I think that the Economic Development Programme presented to us speaks very much of the indigenisation of industries. I think that the Minister should make arrangements to bring some boys to Lagos, buy them fishing boats which they can use so that the fishing industry will become indigenous.

In the reply which the Minister will give, I would like him to assure us that he would contact his colleagues in the Regions—the Ministers of Economic Planning—and do something about those expatriate officers who go out to catch enormous quantities of fish from the rivers in the towns and villages near the towns in which they live without paying for them. I think that this is cheating on the country's economy.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): The gentleman to whom the hon. Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) has referred is a Spanish national. He was with the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Economic Development. He came to this country about two years ago. He had one small trawler before then and when the Ministry of Economic Development could no longer contain him, he went and brought a bigger trawler with which he now catches fish and sells near the Television site as the hon. Member has said.

At the moment, we do not license fishing; anybody can go and fish but as hon. Members know, this House passed a Bill last year seeking regulations to be made on fishing so that only those who have licences can do fishing within our territorial waters, not the fishing which is done just for subsistence but for trade with bigger trawlers. These big trawlers will be required to have licences after the regulations have been made, if they are to fish within the territorial waters of Nigeria.

As regards the amount of money made by this gentleman, who I say is a Spaniard, I cannot say whether it is up to £150 per day, but the Lagos Town Council is quite aware of the activities of this gentleman and it was with the co-operation of the Lagos Town Council that he has started the fishing trade near the Television site. I understand that many market women patronise this man and he is doing very valuable service to the community and to himself.

I think that the hon. Member mentioned something about taxes. This will come after the regulations have been passed and we shall know how to tax them. The licence fees will be taken as a sort of tax but I am sure that this gentleman does pay income tax.

## LAWLESSNESS IN AJEGUNLE

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): Last Sunday, at about six o'clock, around the market near the motor park at Ajegunle in Apapa, there was a traditional dance in which about forty young men with painted faces, mighty whips and knives paraded the whole area and brutally and murderously beat innocent passengers in lorries, occupants of cars, cyclists and pedestrians. They even spat on my own driver and the police around the area escaped for dear life. If such an inhuman treatment is meted to people in the heart of the capital city and the assailants in the pretence of doing a traditional dance, are not apprehended, I wonder what will be expected of the people in the rural areas without direct police supervision. I am sure that it would be of public interest, especially to those around Lagos, if such an ancient, brutal and inhuman traditional dance were proscribed. I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to make a statement about it.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Hon. Musa Yar'Adua): I am sure that we all sympathise with the hon. Member for a certain incident which happened to him. As I told him this morning, I cannot make a statement on this matter because it happened in a village which is out of bounds to my Ministry.

## 1962 CENSUS

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): The point I want to raise on this Motion of Adjournment is the issue of the 1962 Census of this Country. The argument I have in it is that it should produce the correct population figures of this country, and not done as the one of 1952—ten years ago—without sufficient publicity and explanation especially to the mass illiterates in the rural areas of this country. They thought that it was a way of knowing the source of their wealth so that they might be highly taxed. Because of that, they concealed the number of their children from the enumerators. As a result of that, not quite six months after the Census, we started to estimate the population of our country to be either 35 million or 40 million, apart from the 32 million that was officially produced as our population.

I am also saying that the two weeks' period of registration is not sufficient. We want everybody to be registered because of the distribution of amenities and the readjustment

of the electoral constituencies in this country. I suggest that one month will be enough since it is done once in a long time. If the N.B.C. and the newspapers are used for publicity, as was stated a few days ago, what are the methods and the materials in hand to teach the people in the rural areas, who constitute over ninety *per cent* of the population of this country, the need for this Census?

I will be pleased if the Minister of Economic Development will explain.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Hon Waziri Ibrahim): The hon. Member has raised three points: first, the importance of the Census. I think that this requires no further emphasis. We all appreciate its importance and that is why the Regional Premiers have been making statements on the subject, and the Prime Minister made a speech on the subject yesterday. Therefore, we hope to be able to educate everybody in the country to appreciate the importance of the Census before the registration time comes.

In addition to the Radio and Newspaper publicities, a very very efficient administrative arrangement has been made all over the country. We have got the Chief Census Officer based in Lagos, and in each Region we have got a Regional Census Officer; under each of these officers we have got a number of subordinate officers and enumerators. In all, there will be about 50,000 enumerators dealing with the counting before registration, the education at the village level will take the form of lectures arranged by Senior Census Officers in each Division and by junior officers in each District, and so it goes right to the village level. People will be told of the importance of it, that it is not for taxes or for any other purpose.

I think that the question of publicity will be well covered. I hope that hon. Members also will do their duty in telling the public about it. It is in the interest of all of us. It is not a political matter. We all appreciate the importance of having an accurate census of our country.

As for the two-week period not being sufficient, I shall have to pass on this suggestion to the Census Officers. They have thought, after detailed consultations between them-

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selves, that the two-week period will be sufficient, but the hon. Member's suggestion will be put forward to them, and if they are convinced in the light of what the hon. Member has said that the period should be extended to three or four weeks, it will definitely be done if that will ensure accurate counting.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at four minutes to six o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 11th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Ibadan Postal Facilities

\*O.230. Mr K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider the possibility of building a Post Office at Sabo and Mokola at Ibadan in order to obviate the inconvenience suffered by the residents of those areas who have to cover long distances to get to the General Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr F. S. Nwika): The need for a Branch Post Office at Mokola to serve the Mokola, Sabo, and Inalende areas of Ibadan is realised and it is hoped that provision for a Post Office in the area will be made in the forthcoming development programme.

Akure Telephone Exchange

\*O.231. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, what was the total number of subscribers at the end of November 1961 for the Akure telephone exchange.

Mr Nwika: There were 133 subscribers connected to Akure telephone Exchange at the end of November 1961.

Automatic Exchange

O.232. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, what qualifies a town to have an automatic telephone exchange.

Mr Nwika: The policy of my Ministry is that all exchanges will be converted to automatic exchanges ultimately. Therefore, every town in the country will, at one time or another, qualify for an automatic exchange. It is of course impossible to introduce automatic exchanges in all towns simultaneously.

A number of new automatic exchanges have been provided in both urban and rural areas in the three Regions as a result of the 1955-62 Telecommunications Development Programme. When further capital becomes available for the 1962-68 Development Programme the process of automatism will continue.

Mr D. N. Abii: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell us exactly on what basis the Ministry makes their decision to give an automatic telephone exchange?

Mr Speaker: This is a new question.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell this House when the Aba Automatic Telephone Exchange which was destroyed by fire will be restored?

Mr Nwika: Arrangements for resuming work in the Automatic Exchange are being made.

Mr Oronsaye: Will the Parliamentary Secretary, in view of his answer to my question just now, explain before this House whether when he says "one or the other", there is no order of importance or priority in the way the automatic telephone exchanges are distributed? For instance, in Benin which is a nodal and focal point, would he tell the House whether the Telephone requirements there do not warrant an automatic telephone?

Mr Speaker: This is entirely a new question

Oshogbo Telephone Exchange

O.233. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, what the total number was of subscribers at the end of November 1961 for Oshogbo Telephone Exchange.

Mr Nwika: There were 168 subscribers connected to Oshogbo Telephone Exchange at the end of November 1961.

Postal Agencies (Okigwi Division)

\*O.234. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, what is the volume of work done in each of the following postal agencies in Mbano County Area in Okigwi Division for the years 1960-61 and 1961-62.

**Mr Nwika :** The volume of business transacted at each of the Postal Agencies in Mbano County area is as follows :

	1960-61	1961-62
Angara ..	10,824	10,689
Amazari ..	6,536	6,133
Ehime ..	18,243	18,001
Nsu ..	14,072	18,604
Obollo ..	7,520	7,973
Umuohiri ..	—	3,626

#### Umuduru Postal Agency

\*O.235. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the increase of work in Umuduru postal agency since 1961, coupled with Umuduru's commercial and administrative importance, he will consider the immediate conversion of this postal agency to a full Post Office.

**Mr Nwika :** The business transacted at Umuduru Postal Agency during 1961 amounted to 18,848 units which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Umuduru Postal Agency cannot therefore be justified at present.

#### Mbano County Area Postal Agencies

O.236. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Communications, how many postal agencies in the Mbano County area in Okigwi Division are due for conversion to sub-post offices ; and what their names are.

**Mr S. F. Nwika :** None of the Postal Agencies in the Mbano County area is qualified for conversion to sub-post office status as none has yet reached the minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to sub-post office status.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke :** Would the Minister of Communications consider it necessary to revise the qualifications as laid down since 1957 ?

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

**Mr E. A. Mordi :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary give us an assurance that the unit of business as stipulated in the Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 receives universal application ?

#### Trunk Calls

O.237. **Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware of the delay in putting trunk calls through and in the delivery of telegrams throughout the Federation and whether he will take steps to remedy the situation.

**Mr Nwika :** The Minister is aware that because of a considerable increase in telephone traffic, trunk routes between a number of large centres are overloaded. To rectify this, many additional trunk circuits are being provided during the next Telecommunications Development Programme. Meanwhile everything possible is being done to improve the operational efficiency of the trunk network.

As regards telegraphs, the hon. Member may not know that over two million telegrams are handled by the staff of the Ministry in a year, and, as far as the Minister is aware, complaints regarding delay are relatively few. The Minister will be glad to investigate any specific instance which is brought to his attention.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### Offer of Specialist Assistance

O.219. **Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many countries other than the United States have offered Nigeria free services of their professionals and technicians.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) :** In addition to the offers made by the United States of America, Nigeria has been offered the services of professionals and technicians under various Technical Assistance Schemes by the following countries : The United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, India, Pakistan, Israel and Japan. In addition to the above list, however, nationals of the following countries, through the auspices of the United Nations Organisation and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa, give us the benefit of their professional and technical expertise : Australia, the United Arab Republic, Italy, France, Sweden, Poland and Russia.

In no case, however, are the services of these persons entirely free. There is always some local counterpart contribution, the rates of

which vary to some extent with the donor country. This local contribution usually takes the form of provision of living accommodation, medical facilities and hotel or travelling allowances when experts are on duty tour away from base.

**M. Aminu Kano :** May we know how it came about that all these forms of help came mostly from the Western countries while one only came from the East ?

**Mr Mbakogu :** Offers of assistance are considered on their merits.

**M. Aminu Kano :** Are there special difficulties in the way of offers from the Eastern countries ?

**The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) :** There are no difficulties at all and we do not at all discriminate. If there had been no technical assistance personnel from the Eastern countries it is because they have not offered us. But there are some cases and they are being considered.

#### Loans to Farmers

**O.238. Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he will consider recommending to Government the advisability of extending loan facilities on a small scale to farmers in order to improve agriculture in the country.

**Mr Mbakogu :** I refer the hon. Member to the Federal Government's Development Programme in which he will have noted that a total provision of £3 million has been set aside by the Federal Government for agricultural credit. Details of the organisation necessary to administer this credit scheme will, it is hoped, be worked out shortly.

**M. Aminu Kano :** Would the Minister see to it that this facility to farmers does not go to research but to individual farmers ?

**Mr Mbakogu :** This scheme is meant to assist farmers, not research officers.

#### Census

**O.239. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Economic Development, when he will start educating the general public on the forthcoming census.

**Mr Mbakogu :** Already, arrangements have been made and campaigns have been opened. Two days ago, the Prime Minister made a

statement on the census. Educative leaflets have been distributed and within two weeks from now the Ministry will go to the radio, the press, television and cinemas to educate the public on the importance of the forthcoming census.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that televisions and radio sets are not owned by the common man and that as a result of that they are not an adequate medium for spreading propaganda necessary for public information ? I am, therefore, asking whether the Minister could expand propaganda in the way of getting some people to tour the country informing the peasants about the census—District Councils, local communities, and Members of Parliament.

**Mr Mbakogu :** Suggestions made by the hon. Gentleman will be taken into consideration. Appeals will soon be made to hon. Members to go to their constituencies and educate them on the importance of the census.

**Mr K. O. S. Are :** Is the Minister aware that there are some people who go about telling other people that the census is meant purposely for payment of taxes ?

**Mr Mbakogu :** We are not aware of that.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai :** Is the Minister aware that the date of this census, that is 13th May, is not suitable due to the fact that pilgrims from Nigeria shall have been away in Saudi Arabia ? If so, what special arrangement is the Government making for them ?

**The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) :** I had a meeting with the Ministers in the North who are concerned with the census and we have come to the conclusion that the best thing is that those who will be going to Mecca on pilgrimage should have their names and those of their families registered and deposited with the appropriate census official before they leave for Mecca.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago :** Human nature being what it is, people are not stationary. What about people in transit ?

**Hon. Waziri Ibrahim :** Well, one cannot have a hundred *per cent* accuracy in counting. It is impossible. Moreover, we cannot stop people from moving about. On the 13th of

[HON. IBRAHIM]

May, for example, there will be some people in Sierra Leone, some going to Congo (*Leopoldville*), some going to Fort Lamy, some to Mecca—it is just impossible to get 100 *per cent* accuracy. We do appreciate that. But we shall do our very best to ensure the maximum of registration.

**Mr A. M. A. Akinloye :** The Minister said that he had got in touch with the Ministers in the Northern Region who were concerned with the census. I want to ask him whether he has made similar arrangements with the Ministers in the West because a good proportion of people in the West do go to Mecca too.

**Hon. Ibrahim Waziri :** People in the West will be pre-registered in a similar manner. I only mentioned the Northern Region because they first brought the matter up when I was in Kaduna. We discussed it, and all the conditions will apply all over the country.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde :** With regard to people who go on pilgrimage to Mecca, can the Minister give us an assurance that the Government will extend the time of the census, so that instead of intending pilgrims making arrangements for their family and friends who may make mistakes, they will be able to do it themselves?

**Hon. Ibrahim Waziri :** We do not think that we should extend the time. You will remember that yesterday an hon. Member suggested that the period should be extended to three or four weeks instead of the two weeks we intend to allow. But, as I said, if you intend to go to Mecca you register yourself and your family before you leave; it is not a question of somebody doing it for you, but you yourself doing it before you go. So there can be no question of misunderstanding or mis-registration.

**M. L. Alhaji Daura :** Is the Minister aware that there is need to extend this time? It also happens that the big *Salah* holidays fall within that time, and this really justifies the need to extend the time.

**Hon. Ibrahim Waziri :** I am not aware that the *Salah* period will fall within that time. This date was fixed about one year ago after all the Regional Ministers concerned with the census had met. We have since discovered that the date will coincide with the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and, as I have learned now, with the *Salah*.

But in spite of all this, we intend to go ahead. Very efficient administrative arrangements have been made, enumerators will be going from house to house I can assure hon. Member that, even though the census will fall within the *Salah* and the pilgrimage, we shall have accurate registration so there is no question of changing or thinking of changing the date at this stage.

**Mr D. N. Abii :** Will the Minister be kind enough to tell this House what arrangements have been made for all our children who are overseas studying. I hope they will be registered.

**Hon. Ibrahim Waziri :** I am afraid no provision has been made for them. The census will be for those who are in Nigeria at the time and those who intend to leave the country just before the census. But, as I have said, a mistake of say two or three hundred thousand cannot be avoided in any way at all. Therefore, there is no question as far as I know of having the students included; and in no part of the world does a census take into account students abroad.

## ESTABLISHMENTS

### Qualified Accountants

**O.240. Mr M. D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Establishments if he is aware that the scale of salaries for professionally qualified Accountants is very unattractive and as a result such Accountants do not like to enter into the Public Service and if he will effect some improvements on the scale in order to attract this category of professionals into the Public Service.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Alhaji A. A. Koguna) :** I am not aware that the scale of salaries for a professionally qualified Accountant is very unattractive. Accountants are in Scale A which is the salary scale for the Professional and Administrative grades in the Public Service, and their point of entry to this scale is determined in accordance with the formula employed in determining entry points for professionally qualified officers. In addition, Accountants have good promotion prospects which enable them to attain the super-scale salaries attached to very top posts in the Public Service.

**Mr A. Akomolafe :** Is the Minister aware that Accountancy is a profession which requires expert training similar to that of an engineer or a doctor. Their salaries should be compatible, just now they are not.

**Alhaji Koguna :** If I may anticipate, I know the shadow Minister for Establishments will give a statement, and I think he will include it then.

## HEALTH

### Drugs

**O.241. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Health, if, in view of the acute shortage of drugs in Lagos Hospitals, he intends to take any steps to stop the evil practice among hospital staff of using drugs elsewhere than in the hospitals.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe) :** There is no acute shortage of drugs in Lagos hospitals. Periodically minor shortages occur as a consequence of under-estimation.

To discourage the pilfering of drugs the assistance of the Police has occasionally been invoked in addition to the normal departmental disciplinary proceedings.

**M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed :** Is the Minister aware that when a doctor prescribes a drug for a patient, that patient will be asked by those responsible for supplying the medicine to go outside and buy it? I think that is why people feel there is a shortage of medicine.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** We are not aware.

## W.A.C.M.R.

**O.242. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Health, whether the staff of the West African Council for Medical Research are not under the direct control of the Federal Ministry of Health; and who pays the running expenses of the Council.

**M. Hamza Gombe :** The staff of the West African Council for Medical Research are not under the direct control of my Ministry. The Council is financed by the four participating West African Governments in accordance with the following ratio :

	Per cent
Nigeria .. ..	53
Ghana .. ..	38
Sierra Leone .. ..	8
Gambia .. ..	1

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that there are very few Nigerians in the top posts in that Research department.

**The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. Dr M. A. Majekodunmi) :** No, Sir. There are a few Nigerians in the top posts.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) :** I beg to move—

“That at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.”

In view of the popular demand by several hon. Members that they have not had an opportunity to contribute their own quota to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, Government has agreed that we should have a night sitting to-day to enable more Members at least to speak. I am sure that this will receive the full approbation of the House.

I would like to say that this afternoon at about 5 o'clock I propose to reply to some of the points already made. This does not mean that I shall be trying to close the debate; it will merely enable me to speak at that particular time, and during the night the hon. Members can speak still. Whatever points they raise I am sure that the Ministers concerned will have the opportunity at the Committee stage to reply to them.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** Will the hon. Leader of the House—

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East) :** I would like to remind the House that it is necessary that when any Minister moves a Motion someone from among them should support it. (*Laughter*).

**The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) :** I beg to second.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I would like to take the opportunity that you, Mr Speaker, usually take. We remember that to a certain extent you have asked hon. Members to shorten their speeches so as to enable as many Members as possible to

[MR DOSUNMU] speak. We have only nine hours to go, and if everybody exhausts his thirty minutes you will only be able to call eighteen Members. Whereas if people considerably shorten their speeches, it will enable as many Members as possible to be heard, and I want to suggest that we restrict Members to ten minutes each.

**Mr Speaker :** I quite agree with the hon. Member that I should appeal to the Members who wish to speak to curtail their speeches to the important points and not make or introduce points that are irrelevant or out of order. The raising of points of order unnecessarily and persistent interruptions occupy a large part of our time and I hope Members will keep that in mind.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY) : ADJOURNED

DEBATE ON SECOND READING

(29TH MARCH)

10.30 a.m.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill (1962-63) moved by the effective Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, I must in the first place congratulate the Federal Government for its bold Economic Development Programme which forms the basis of the *Mobilisation* Budget. Before I make some observations on the Budget I would like to go further to praise all those who contributed in preparing the comprehensive Economic Programme which has brought about so many changes in this year's Budget of all the Governments of the Federation.

With the Economic Programme, the implementation of which starts with the 1962-63 Budget the Government intends to reconstruct the economy of our nation and raise the standard of living of people who have recently emerged from long years of colonial domination

and exploitation to a sovereign independent nation, although they are still suffering the after effects of British imperialism.

From the British imperial rule we inherited to live a false life and to pursue a wrong and unprogressive system of economy. Now if the Government's sole aim is really to quicken the pace of our economic growth in this country, we must first of all completely rid ourselves of the colonial mentality.

The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech has called upon all of us to make sacrifices in the interest of the nation. It means that every living soul in Nigeria to-day is being called upon to help the Government to implement its six-year Development Programme. I agree with the Government that for us to improve the lot of our people every sincere citizen should contribute his or her quota towards the Government's gigantic national reconstruction. But if the Government is determined to carry out this six-year Development Programme which has got the approval of this honourable House, why should the Government allow the present salary structure of the Civil Servants and Statutory Corporations to remain as it is? What moral justification has the Government to make life more difficult for the common man while it continues to pay inducement, hardship, children's allowances, bush and garden allowances to those in the upper segment in the Civil Service of the Federation? The Government should have realised that the present salaries in the various Departments of the Federation for those in the upper segment were so carefully arranged by our former British colonial masters for themselves with the intention to exploit this country fully before they hand over power.

If we are serious in all that we have declared to the nation, we must now "cut our coat according to our size". So I am strongly suggesting that the salary of those in the higher scales should be reduced to suit our national economy, and that all the redundant posts created by the British officers in this country in order to provide jobs for their people should be abolished as they are draining very much our economy. All these posts should be scrapped off.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I do point out to the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) that he can still raise this

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point when we come to the Committee Stage under Establishments. What we now must discuss is the general financial and economic policy of the Government.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** I am not trying to challenge the order of the Speaker but I am making this point in order to help the Government to reduce these salaries and provide more money for the development of the country in the Economic Programme.

I feel that some of these posts drain the economy of the country. Let me take only one example, the question of creating deputy posts in the Federation. We have no deputy Governor-General, we have no deputy Prime Minister and yet the Prime Minister is doing his work well, the Governor-General is doing his work well; nevertheless in the Police Force alone there are several deputies.

**Mr Speaker :** Please leave that until we come to the Police in the Committee.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** What I was saying was that the Government should abolish all the deputy posts in the Federation in order to make more money. Now the Government has introduced certain measures to find more money to finance the six-year Development Plan. But all these measures are not considered good for the common man. The increased duties on petrol, passenger vehicles, motor spare parts, batteries, tyres and tubes and also certain consumer goods should be withdrawn if the Government wants to carry out its six-year Development Plan successfully. The increase on these goods has already affected the common man and, if not discontinued, it will do more harm than goods to our economy.

The Government should take more measures to protect its own interests, by calling for more sacrifices from the hands of the alien big combines who have dominated all forms of trade and basic industries in the whole country. In this respect, I would like Government to set up a committee to control the prices of certain imported and locally manufactured goods, including local foodstuffs, in order to avoid further demands of increase in wages.

For example, many car owners and transport owners to-day are being ruined in this country by the manner in which cars are repaired. If you take your car to some of these firms to be repaired, you will be given a fantastic bill. There may be four or five Nigerians repairing

one car, and one is charged 7s-6d or 10s-6d per hour in respect of each of the mechanics who worked on the car! We would like the Government to protect the interests of the people of this country from these alien firms.

I believe that for the Government to achieve success in all its plans, it should expand its social services to all corners of the country and not concentrate here in Lagos on unnecessary luxuries and waste. The Government should impose upon itself accepted measures of austerity. I would like to call upon the Government to adopt the following measures :—

- (1) that no more luxury buildings of more than £10,000 in value should be put up to quarter an individual in this country ;
- (2) that Ministerial tours abroad should be curtailed ;
- (3) that our Ministers should tour more of the country in order to acquaint themselves with the problems of the people and try to remedy them ;
- (4) that the television services in this country should be suspended for five years.

Members would like to know that thousands of pounds of the taxpayers' money are flowing away to Europe and America on this luxurious and expensive service, introduced into the country by our leaders for political purposes, when there is no direct line from Lagos to Aba, my constituency !

Turning to the expansion of social services, I would like to start with Information Service. The Information Service of the Federal Government should be reorganised in order to play an effective role in our six-year development plan. The Federal Information Service should carry out an intensive propaganda campaign through the media of radio, leaflets and newspapers to educate—

**Mr S. A. Olukotun (Kabba) :** The ten minutes given have already passed.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. According to the Standing Orders of the House, the maximum is thirty minutes. However, I would only appeal to Members to avoid repetition and introduction of irrelevant matters.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** I will try to be brief. As I was saying, the Federal Information Service should carry out an intensive propaganda

[MR OKORONKWO]  
campaign through the media of radio, leaflets and newspapers to educate millions of our people on the part they should play in the six-year development programme. In this respect, I would like to call upon the Government to establish radio studio centres equipped with medium wave transmitters in all the important towns and cities in the Federation, and Aba, my constituency, should be considered first.

*Communications.* The Minister of Communications should make every effort to improve the postal and telecommunications services in the country which are very poor at present. All our proposals in agriculture, education, trade and industry cannot progress without an adequate and improved system of communications. Therefore I would like to call upon the able Minister of Communications to build more—

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin East): Point of order, Mr Speaker. Contrary to Standing Order 25 (1), the hon. Member is reading his speech.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. The reading of speeches is not allowed. And also I would like to remind Members that interruptions really waste our time.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I call upon the Minister of Communications to build more post offices in the rural areas and to improve the existing ones in the big townships in order to meet the challenge which will arise in the course of implementing the development plan. It is most regrettable that the Minister has not considered it fit to put Aba on a direct line with Lagos.

I call upon the Minister also to restore the automatic telephone exchange at Aba which was destroyed by fire in 1960. The present post office in Aba should also be expanded in order to ease the congestion now in Aba.

As regards agriculture, I would like to associate myself with those who have congratulated the Government for taking a realistic method of approach towards agriculture rather than confining itself to research. The Government would do well in this direction by acquiring sufficient acres of land in the rural areas to establish farm settlements, especially in those rural areas which will not be favourable for the establishment of industries. In pursuing this, the Government should look all over the world

for the countries that have passed through the stage in which we are to-day, to help us to solve our problems.

Coming to education, it is gratifying to note that the Government has taken a bold step in this direction and has attached more importance to technical education, which is the only system of education that will save this country from the last yoke of imperialism. The Government should go all out now to build technical schools, at least one in every province and, before the completion of the buildings, the Government should award scholarships to our sons and daughters to study in all the technical colleges all over the world, irrespective of creed or colour. What we really want to-day is to get our people educated and for them to return home and teach in our technical schools.

As regards industries, the Government should establish more industries in places where the conditions are favourable. The establishment of these industries in all the important centres of the country will be the only remedy to offer employment to millions of our school leavers who are roaming about in the country to-day without jobs.

The Government should now rescue indigent industrialists and traders from the hands of the aliens—

**Mr S. A. Olukotun** (Kabba): On a point of order, Sir. Is this House not going to abide by the instruction or order given? The period of ten minutes is already exhausted.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. I think we ought to be a little bit sympathetic to back benchers, nevertheless I will ask him to make less reference to his notes.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: Aliens who are working very hard to cripple the efforts of these Nigerians. The sum of £500,000 set aside for loans is very meagre indeed when one considers this amount with the number of people looking for loans from the Federal Government. The Government should set up a committee of Nigerian economists to advise our people on how to plan their industry and to form companies.

On this topic, Sir, I call on the Government to give loans to the people of my constituency, Aba, who have on their own established some industries without Government aid. The



Government should on its own establish a soap industry at Aba, rather than leave it in the hands of the aliens.

I think we cannot carry out our six-year Development Programme successfully without improved roads. Roads and communications are of vital importance to the economic growth of the country, and the Minister of Works should see to it that some of our roads are widened.

In some important towns in Nigeria to-day, the inhabitants are not protected. I hope that the Minister of Transport will see to it that gates are provided at all Railway level crossings. For instance, at Aba we have been crying for many years that a railway level crossing should be built at Ezukwu Quarters, Owerri road and Okigwi road, but no action has yet been taken.

Coming to the Police, I would like the Federal Government to improve the service condition of the Police Officers and those in the Police Force should be given all necessary equipment with which to carry on their duties. At Aba we have a Police Control Room for "999 Service" but there is no equipment for its operation. I would like the Minister to help and see that this important instrument for tracking down criminals is provided. Aba is also a gateway to the smugglers, and it should be noted that if the Government wants to stop these smugglers from carrying on their duties, the Police must be well equipped; and in this respect, the "999" system should be introduced immediately.

Turning to our imbalance of trade with Japan, the Minister has promised to look into it. Not only that—the Minister should also look into other countries with whom we have imbalance of trade. For instance, the present increase in duties would make it impossible for Japan to send some of her goods to this country, whereas some of the British firms will be able to import these goods, re-label them and send them into this country. That would also cripple our economy. I hope that the Minister of Commerce and Industry will look into this matter.

On fire services, Sir, I would like to say that it will be useless for the Government to spend a lot of money on a project and then allow it to be destroyed by fire. I am suggesting that the Government should establish fire fighting

units in all the Police District Headquarters in Nigeria. This would enable them to tackle fire problems whenever they arise in any Division or District. Throughout the whole of last year, many buildings and properties were destroyed by fire in this country, and I think that in order to enable us to carry out our six-year Development Programme, the Government should think seriously in this connection.

*High electricity bills.* The Minister of Mines and Power should look into the fact that in some areas people are made to pay unnecessarily high bills while the E.C.N. is making a hell of profits at the expense of the masses. At Aba, for instance, we are paying 3d per unit while Port Harcourt is paying 1½d per unit. This should be looked into also.

Finally, I call on the Government of the Federation and the Prime Minister to see to it that the unity of this country is not made a lip-service affair. We should encourage all people, particularly the people in the Civil Service, and things must be done on merit and not on the basis that this man comes from this part of the country or that. This would help us to foster the unity desired in Nigeria.

10.55 a.m.

**M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta):** With the greatest pleasure and with all the political might at my command, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In the first place, I must sincerely and honestly congratulate the Minister of Finance on what I may describe as the most brilliant, most dynamic, most comprehensive and most straight-forward speech on the *Mobilisation Budget*.

Every right-thinking citizen of this country should be proud of our able Finance Minister for the excellent way and manner in which he handles the Finances of the Federal Government, and we must thank God that under the good stewardship of Chief Okotie-Eboh the finances of this country are becoming more and more buoyant and the revenue is increasing steadily every year. I think that mere congratulation on the Floor of this honourable House will not do. I am therefore sure that we of the N.P.C. are always ready to give the Minister every moral support, and we are even determined to campaign for the Minister during the elections to the Mid-West Region.

**An hon. Member :** Is he going there ?

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai :** We shall go farther and see that either the Minister or whoever the Minister sponsors is made the first Premier of the Mid-West State. This, Sir, is no bribery but is a reward for the services rendered to this Nation by Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh.

I must pay very high tribute also to the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. Coalition Government for its relentless effort in keeping this country united and for the ever increasing progress and prosperity since our independence. It is my sincere hope that the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. will continue to work together in harmony despite the subversive activities of the Action Group aimed at bringing about the downfall of the Government.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** We are now dealing with the financial policy of the Government and not with party issues. The hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) is causing confusion and—

**Mr Speaker :** In my opinion, that remark is just a little bit of a joke.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai :** I should like to assure the House that the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. will continue to rule this country for at least a hundred years if not for eternity.

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** If the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji the Sarkin Bai*), the head of slaves in Kano, will continue I will walk out and wait for him outside for a good boxing lesson.

**Mr Speaker :** I wish you would not, for you would surely be too strong for him !

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai :** I am proud to say that the democratic and progressive Government of this Federation of Nigeria to-day can be regarded as the most democratic in the world. But for the democratic tendency of the Federal Government, the Leader of the Opposition himself would have been imprisoned. If Nigeria is not democratic the inquiry into the National Bank will continue and if Nigeria is not democratic we can easily pass a Preventive Detention Act to use Government power to arrest and detain people for five years without trial.

**Mr Speaker :** If the hon. Member will depart from attacking the Action Group and its leader, then I think we will make better progress. Moreover, he is discussing more of the constitution than of the Government's financial policy.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai :** I will now reserve my statement for the Action Group, but for the information of the House, it is my intention during the present sitting of the House, to give a public lecture and expose the Action Group, may I add that any member of that party who will not listen, may not attend the lecture.

**Several hon. Members :** What day next week ?

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai :** Coming to the Budget itself, I must say that I am extremely happy to note that our revenue is increasing very steadily and that our expenditure is cut down to the absolute minimum. It is my sincere hope that the Federal Government will continue to find some avenues of increasing our economy.

It is in this respect that I humbly and respectfully appeal to the Federal Government to explore the advisability of extending the railway line from Kano to Kongwalan on the French border *via* Dambatta, Kazaure and Daura. I am sure that this will go a long way towards increasing our economy, because thousands of tons of groundnuts at present have been brought to Nigeria from the French Niger and if this railway is extended, a special arrangement can then be made with the Government of the Niger Republic for linking this railway with Maradi. This, I am sure, will not only benefit us economically but will go a long way towards strengthening the friendly relations which exist between Nigeria and the French Niger.

This is very important, and should not be treated with levity because, although Nigeria is not aggressive and has no territorial ambition, I am sure our economy will suffer a shipwreck if we waste any time in building this railway line. Let me no longer conceal the truth. The truth is that Ghana is intending to extend the railway from Kumasi to Tamale, and by special arrangement with the Government of Niger Republic, to Niamei. If this is done, all the goods from French Niger will go that way and we shall have no other alternative than to

look on hopelessly. I am therefore appealing to the Council of Ministers to look very carefully into this matter.

I should like to congratulate the Civil Servants throughout the country without whose efforts all these developments and achievements could not have been accomplished. It is our hope that our Civil Service will be as strong and efficient as any other civil service in the world. I must, however, reiterate my earlier statement that no cut whatsoever in their salaries should be made and that the civil servants on their part should in turn work diligently for the overall interest of the country.

The number of Northerners in the Federal Public Service is too small. I am appealing strongly to the Federal Government to see that more and more Northerners are appointed into the Federal Public Service. This will go a long way towards ensuring the unity and stability of the country. Appointments to the Public Service should be made only on merit and not on a tribal basis. It is unfortunate that in our midst we still have some tribalists who want to take undue advantage by bringing in unqualified people to take up appointments in the Civil Service. I will abide by the suggestion of Mr Speaker and I will be very brief. I will start with the insurance business.

Very many people in this country die as a result of road accidents and the majority of the relatives of the deceased do not know how to put forward their claims to the Insurance Companies and the Government is only concerned with Third Party Insurance. Steps should be taken to see that

(1) the decision taken by the Committee on Insurance appointed by the Federal Government in 1959 be implemented forthwith ;

(2) each Native Authority or Local Authority should open an office that will serve as a liaison between insurance companies and the public. That will go a long way towards solving all these problems ;

(3) the attitude of the Police in negotiating accident cases is detrimental to the interests of the public, for it assists drivers in the way they should present their cases before the court, and as a result, claimants have no benefit.

Coming to the question of hire purchase agreements, I will advise that the agreement should also be written in the vernacular and must be clearly explained to the buyer. Consideration should be given to the time taken to repair and service vehicles in the garage and no firm should be given the power to seize any vehicle from private owners unless and until the court has authorised it.

About bank overdrafts, when agreement has been made, the bank must not seize any money sent to their customers. The present rate of interest is too high and should be cut down drastically. Transfer charges are totally without ground and therefore should be abolished. I think it is only in Nigeria that this is charged. Ledger fees and such allied fees should be looked into and agreed by the Federal Government.

I have a lot to say during the Committee Stage and I will reserve my statements till then. I should, however, like to give an advance warning to some Ministers : first, the Minister of Mines and Power ; second, the Minister of Transport and Aviation ; third, the Minister of Information ; fourth, the Minister of Works and Surveys ; and fifth, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. These people should be ready to defend themselves and they should be ready to show cause why they should not be censured.

11.10 a.m.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. As indicated at the last Budget Session, the Federal Ministry of Justice has now been reorganised into the following Divisions.

The criminal side of Government litigation is now the responsibility of the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions whose staff remain part and parcel of the Ministry of Justice. A principal Crown Counsel is in charge of Research, Law Revision and Law Reporting, including the publication of the new series of *The All-Nigeria Law Reports*. Another Principal Crown Counsel is in charge of the International Law and Comparative Law Division, dealing mainly with Public International Law, Conflict of Laws and all the Legal Problems of the Foreign Service, including Treaties and other international matters.

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It is important at this stage to mention that as a result of an exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and the British Government at independence, we took over a total of 334 Treaties. Of these, we have copies of 269. We are doing our best to procure copies of the remainder and we hope to study these and, perhaps, a further statement may be made in the course of the year.

A third Principal Crown Counsel is in charge of Commercial and Mercantile Law ; that is, Company Law, Partnership Law, Sale of Goods, Copyright, Industrial Law, and so on, all being Federal subjects. The fourth Principal Crown Counsel is charged with responsibility for the Constitutional and Administrative Law Division, as well as the co-ordination of the legal work in some six Federal Ministries, including the Cabinet Office.

I should, perhaps, point out that the Federal Ministry of Justice has, as its component units, not only the central organisation in the Old Secretariat at the Marina, but also the Administrator-General's Department. Crown Counsel are also posted to the following Ministries : Commerce and Industry, Lagos Affairs, and Finance (including Customs and Inland Revenue). A new post of Deputy Solicitor-General was established and arrangements are well in hand for the enlargement of the Parliamentary Counsel Division of the Ministry by recruiting suitably qualified Nigerians for intensive in-service training with a view to their eventually taking over.

This reorganisation ensures a more expeditious handling of all legal work in the Ministry, and also enables the professional officers to specialise in these important branches of the Law.

In collaboration with the Chief Justice of the Federation and the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos, I have vigorously pursued the matter of improving the accommodation of our courts ; and I am able to say that the Supreme Court building will soon be completed. When this happens, the Federal Supreme Court will be able to sit in two Divisions and so speed up the hearing of appeals from the Regional as well as the Lagos High Courts.

The necessary funds for the proposed extension to the present High Court building has now been procured and sites have been

obtained for the building of eight new Magistrates' Courts. The reason why these courts have not been built in the past year was due entirely to the fact that the choice of sites has not always been acceptable to the Judicial Authorities. I believe that, with modern and adequate courts available a great deal can be done not only to improve the working conditions of the Judges and Magistrates, but also to reduce substantially the number of cases pending in the courts.

I would like to mention that, with the co-operation of all the Federal and Regional judicial and legal officers, there has been established a National Committee on Law Reporting whose main function is the publication of countrywide law reports covering the more important judgments of the Federal Supreme Court and of all the High Courts in the Federation. This series of report is known as *The All Nigeria Law Reports*, and I am glad to be able to state that the first volume was published early in January this year. The second volume will be published shortly.

**An hon. Member :** Where are they ?

**The Attorney-General :** They are available at the Government Printer's. These quarterly reports should enable both practising barristers and those who have cause to refer to decided cases to be sure that they can find in one series of volumes all the important case-law on various aspects of Nigerian law. This is an innovation of which I think we can all be proud.

We may note in passing that, as a further step towards the promotion of uniform laws throughout the country, a Uniform Law Committee, consisting of all the Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice in the Federation, was established under my chairmanship. It has been meeting periodically ever since, and we have been able to compare notes and exchange ideas on pending legislation.

Last October, I appointed two committees to undertake the work of making suggestions for the revision of the Company Law and the Criminal Law. These committees, the Company Law Revision Committee and the Criminal Law Revision Committee, which are both composed of Nigerian lawyers, will, after

careful study and in consultation with members of the public, make recommendations to my Ministry for the revision of the Companies Act and of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. It is envisaged that it will be some time before the committees conclude their work ; but it is intended that their reports will be widely distributed to those who may care to comment on them before steps are taken by the Government to introduce any consequential legislation.

I would like to direct attention to the fact that this is the first time in Nigeria that members of the legal profession in private practice have been associated in this way with any scheme of law revision in the true sense.

Hon. Members are well aware of the rather alarming losses to the revenue of the country through tax evasion, smuggling and other fraudulent practices by importers. The Ministry of Justice, in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance, have evolved plans for the more vigorous prosecution of smugglers and other revenue evaders. It has accordingly been decided to station Crown Counsel at the major sea-ports and air-ports of the Federation. These officers will work closely with the Customs and Police officials. (*Hear, hear*).

Lagos now appears to have established itself as the legal centre for the African continent. Two international legal conferences of great significance were held here during the past year. As hon. Members are aware, the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva, Switzerland, held a Conference on the "Rule of Law in Africa" in January 1961, and this was followed in December 1961, by another Conference under the auspices of the American Bar Association on "World Peace through the Rule of Law." These two conferences brought to Lagos jurists and lawyers of world repute and also afforded all who attended them an opportunity to contribute to the deliberations on the rather pressing problem of ensuring the continued existence of the rule of law on our continent.

It is significant that the organisers of both conferences preferred our country to any other in Africa as their venues, and I should add that it reflected credit on the Federal Government for readily accepting my proposals that we should play host in both instances and bear the

expenses of the conferences in so far as hotel accommodation and local transport are concerned.

In this connection also must be mentioned the recent visit to this country of Mr Orton Chirwa, Parliamentary Secretary in the Nyasaland Ministry of Justice, and Mr Roberts, the Nyasaland Solicitor-General. They came as special guests of the Federal Ministry of Justice to study our legal system with particular reference to the Customary Courts and their administration. I arranged for them to visit all the three Regions before returning to Lagos for a final briefing on the nature and working of the Federal Ministry of Justice and of our Constitution as a whole, both being matters in which they were specially interested.

Another important development which will be of interest to hon. Members has been the recent requests which we have received from the Ministers of Justice in Nyasaland and Tanganyika respectively for the supply to them of law officers and magistrates and customary court commissioners by the Federal Government to help them out of their present difficulties for periods of from two to five years or more. It is gratifying to recall that the Federal Government have agreed to offer the kind of help thus solicited through my Ministry. My Regional colleagues have all agreed to make their own contribution in men, while the Federal Government will foot the bill.

As hon. Members will recall, I gave an outline of the legislative programme at the last Budget Session, and I am glad to report that with the possible exception of one or two tricky Bills which have had to be deferred for the time being, the Ministry was able to fulfil that programme. During the current Budget Session and in the ensuing months certain important items of legislation already mentioned in the Speech from the Throne will be tabled for your consideration and enactment as and when they fall due.

Mention should be made in particular of the Legal Practitioners' Bill which will provide for the regulation of the legal profession in Nigeria and will deal with such matters as admission to practice, qualifications for practice, and disciplinary proceedings against members of the legal profession. Because the consultations

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with the Nigeria Bar Association and the Judges are not completed, this Bill will be presented at the next sitting of Parliament.

But the Legal Education Bill, on which full accord has been reached among all concerned, will be presented to this Parliament later this week and taken through all the stages next Tuesday. It seeks to regulate legal education by the establishment of a Council of Legal Education for the whole of Nigeria and a Federal School of Law, to which all future graduates from the various Faculties of Law in our universities will come for a one-year professional training. I shall say more about this when the Bill itself comes before this House later in the week.

The two Bills outstanding from the last year's programme are the Legal Aid and the Crown Proceedings Bills. The Legal Aid Bill, as hon. Members will remember, is designed to assist impecunious litigants who wish to prosecute their legitimate claims in courts of law. The Crown Proceedings Bill is designed to assist those who are in any way damnified by the carelessness or negligence of a civil servant, to make the various Governments of the Federation liable as ordinary individuals.

Now, it was hoped that these Bills would have been considered by Parliament during the past session, but because of the efforts being made to secure the agreement of all the Regions on these provisions so that we might have uniform law introduced into our respective legislatures on these all-important subjects, it was not possible. It is, however, hoped that agreement will soon be reached and that the Bills will be presented to Parliament during this present session.

Before leaving this sphere of contemplated legislation, I wish to mention the Official Secrets Bill. Its purpose will be to replace the existing law on the subject, which is the English law, with an up-to-date legislation suited to the peculiar circumstances of independent Nigeria. The security of our country demands vigilance, and we should be failing in our duty if we did not tighten up the law against espionage and other forms of subversion, internal as well as external.

*The Ministry Library* : Before the Federal Legal Department was transformed into a Ministry, we had a library of about 3,000 books. Within the past year, the library has been

considerably enlarged to about 5,000 volumes. Apart from the main library, we have established a subsidiary within my Chambers, and the additional books there now number well over 1,000. Furthermore, the nucleus of a greatly enlarged library has been established. Already, we have placed an order for more law reports, especially from other parts of the Commonwealth. A sum of £5,000 has been set aside for further library expansion. Similar action for library expansion is also being taken in various Magistrates' Courts, the Lagos High Court, and the Federal Supreme Court.

As we have played host to outside bodies in legal conferences, we have also participated in one or two held in Ghana during the year. At the invitation of the Ghana Bar Association I gave a paper on "The Legal Profession in West Africa" at the Association's Annual Conference held in Accra last August. Again, early in January of this year, a Nigerian delegation comprising all the Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice, the Chief Justices in the Federation and a few other lawyers, took part in a seminar on Legal Education in Africa, which was combined with the formal opening of the Ghana Law School.

A much fuller report on the activities of the Federal Ministry of Justice during its first year of existence will be published next month.

Before I resume my seat I would like to bring to the attention of members of the Profession a new publication, the first advance copy of which I have with me now. This will soon become available for sale generally, within the course of the next four or five days, and it is entitled "The Statute Roll of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos". The intention is to enable all those who have anything to do with our law to keep a record of all the changes and amendments to all the laws of the Federation from time to time.

I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I am not going to talk law, so I think my hon. Friends need not be afraid.

Before I go on, I would like to refer to the speech of my hon. Friend, M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai. When he talked of

prisons, deportations, detention, inquiry and so forth in connection with the Action Group and the Opposition Leader I was not surprised, because his acquaintance with democracy—

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga-Marghi): Point of order. I wonder if the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) who is speaking would also like to be as relevant as M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.

**Mr Speaker**: If it were question time, I would have answered.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to show that as we can take it, we also can give it.

I was saying that M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai's acquaintance with democracy and democratic practices is very brief.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): Debate should be on the Appropriation Bill, but instead of dealing with that the hon. Gentleman has jumped straight on to M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.

**Mr Speaker**: He has not said anything against Sarkin Bai.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: If the hon. Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) is anxious to hear something about Sarkin Bai or against Sarkin Bai, I would say that but for the Action Group and its Leader, Sarkin Bai would be in the wild waste of the North chasing sheep, rams and goats. (*Laughter*).

Sir, when a hon. Member told me that the Budget Speech would last a whole day, I felt rather indignant—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Hon. H. M. Adaji): The Action Group never helped in building the North, it is only destroying the North, and it intends to destroy the North.

**Mr Speaker**: But it is not a point of order.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: When an hon. Member informed me that the Budget Speech will take a whole day, I became rather indignant because, although Chief Okotie-Eboh is my beloved big brother Baptist, he has always given me the impression—

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): Under Standing Orders, Ministers with portfolios and their Parliamentary Secretaries shall be referred to by the designation of the office held by them. The hon. Member, Chief Akin-Olugbade called Okotie-Eboh without respect. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. If he had said 'the Chief' it would have been better.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: I said the hon. Minister of Finance although I mentioned his name. I said although he is my beloved brother Baptist, he has always given me the impression of being a big bunch of bitterness and reaction. I must say that for once the hon. Minister of Finance, has given me the biggest pleasant surprise of my comparatively short parliamentary experience.

Many people have been wondering why we on the Opposition side joined in praising the Government and in particular, the hon. Minister of Finance for the National Development Plan and the Budget Speech. Their wonder no doubt stems from the notion that the main function of the Opposition is to oppose and criticise. Not many of them realise that our most important duty in this House to the nation is to make constructive criticisms to the Federal Government. If the Government, realising their primary responsibility to the country, adopt important measures—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Point of order, Mr Speaker. Yesterday the speaker, Chief Akin-Olugbade, told me that the cloth he was wearing was given to him by an Itsekiri girl. (*Laughter*).

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: Sir, I am merely trying to follow the footsteps of my hon. Friend, Chief the hon. Okotie-Eboh.

I say that not many people realise that our most important duty to the nation is to make constructive suggestions to the Federal Government. If the Government, realising their primary responsibility to the country, adopt important measures proposed and repeatedly urged upon them by the Opposition in this House, it is the duty of the Opposition to praise the Government or any particular

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Minister for co-operating with the Opposition as is the case in the progressive Budget Speech. It is widely known that many of us on the Opposition benches are not given to cheap adulation or unmerited flattery. We are not the sort of persons who are apt to go on their knees or genuflect for undeserved obligation either from the Government or the Minister of Finance. More important still, our minds are big enough to forget the Minister's past outrages on the financial aspect of our national common-weal if there are signs of a change for the better.

I therefore unhesitatingly join the previous hon. Members who have showered praises on the hon. Minister of Finance for his brilliant speech and the preventive measures he proposed. You cannot blame a man for co-operating with you to crystallise your much cherished ideals and ideas of how best to run our country. You cannot blame a Government for making real efforts to get civilised.

In my opinion, the hon. Chief Okotie-Eboh deserves praise for at least two main reasons. The first one is that he deserves praise for making a determined effort to extricate himself from the paralysing clutches of foreign economic imperialism. The second is that he deserves praise for trying to put the economic interest of this great nation before his own personal aggrandisement. (*Hear, hear.*)

It may be a waste of time to try to find motives for the dramatic change of mind on the part of the hon. Minister of Finance. It may be due to his illusory hope as pointed out by my hon. Friend Sarkin Bai this morning. He might have been motivated by his illusory hope that the Mid-West State where he expects to be the Governor and Commander-in-Chief will soon be created. What matters to us and our great country is his readiness to fall in line and join forces with the handful of honest and efficient progressive nationalists in Sir Abubakar's Cabinet. If the hon. Minister of Finance has learnt by the contemporary experience of his counterpart in other parts of Africa, it is a good thing. He is a wise man who learns by his own experience, but he is a wiser man who learns from other people's experience. Chief Okotie-Eboh may have learnt from Gbedemah's experience!

Sir, I intend to dwell briefly on two or three aspects of the Budget Speech, but before I do

that, you will permit me to paraphrase and spotlight a few of the highlights in the Speech that interest me. They are :—

1. The integral and composite nature of our National Development Plan which was fashioned out after full consultation and co-ordination with the Regional Governments which places emphasis on agriculture and industry.
2. The mobilisation of all our resources in order to finance the potential greatness of Nigeria.
3. Repatriation of Nigerian reserves from overseas to be deployed for the country's development.
4. Diversification of our Central Bank's reserves and the holding of gold reserve in the Central Bank.
5. Control of interest rate structure, fixing of the prices of our primary products, parity of the Nigerian pound to be expressed in terms of gold, and freedom to decide Nigeria's rate of exchange.

I respectfully say that these are far-reaching proposals for which the hon. Minister of Finance deserves a lot of praise. The rules of Debate forbid that I should dwell *in extenso* on the points dealt with by the previous contributors to the discussions on the Budget Speech, but the great importance which the hon. Minister of Finance attaches to the National Development Plan demands that a timely warning should be sounded. It is one thing to have a grandiose plan for a nation as big as Nigeria but it is quite another thing to execute that plan with the maximum benefit to the teeming millions whom we are here privileged to serve.

It is common knowledge, howbeit improper, that the grand plan was disclosed to our erstwhile masters and some of our prospective benefactors before it was presented to this House for approval. And it is a notorious fact of which this house must take proper notice that many of the foreign countries to whom the plan has been disclosed are very anxious not only to maintain but also to reinforce their grip on our economic life. One will not be surprised, therefore, if these friends of ours, try by all means to reap the greatest benefit for their own countries in the process of executing the National Plan. For instance, unless we take very great care, we



shall discover at the end of the six-year period that more than ninety *per cent* of the relatively huge sum voted had been drained away in paying for the cost of imported materials, fees to foreign architects, foreign accountants, foreign solicitors, foreign surveyors, foreign consultants and salaries of foreign engineers and technicians as well as commissions to foreign business middlemen and the Crown Agents. This and the succeeding generations of this country will thus be saddled with the payment of huge interests on loans and advances in addition to finding money to maintain and upkeep the massive projects which we have started, and we shall have sentenced them to an unduly prolonged life of economic servitude.

I will, therefore, suggest for the serious consideration of the Federal Government the setting up of a body which may be known as the National Development Planning Committee comprising Nigerian businessmen and economists, irrespective of their political inclinations, whose functions will include looking for and buying materials from the cheapest market anywhere in the world. That is what Ghana and other progressive countries in the world are doing to-day. (*Interruptions.*) I am merely referring to a sister country which I consider to be progressive.

The functions of the Committee will also include forbidding purchases from overseas of any material which can or are being produced locally, such as cement, tyres, timber, paints, nails, aluminium sheets, asbestos sheets, plastic pipes, *et cetera*.

This Committee should be charged with the function of (a) arranging transport of materials and labour with Nigerian-owned conveyers—the Nigerian Railway and Nigerian-owned vehicles, and the Nigerian National Line.

(b) Recruiting experts and technicians from any part of the world ; and

(c) Employing the service of Nigerian professionals such as architects, accountants, auditors and so on.

The hon. Minister spoke at length on foreign aid in the form of offers, grants, loans, long-term, middle-term and short-term credits. He referred with thanks to the much-advertised offer of £80 million being granted by the United States of America subject to the

annual approval of the United States Legislature. He also referred to the £5 million grant for educational purposes by the United Kingdom. He called them, perhaps euphemistically, token amounts. We all join in the expression of gratitude. The promised grant of £80 million works out at the rate of 6s-8d per annum per head of our 40 million people, whilst the £5 million being granted by the United Kingdom works out at 2s per annum per head of our 40 million population.

I think I should express my gratitude to the United States of America which owes Nigeria no obligation for aiding me with 6s-8d per annum for six years, and to Britain for giving me 2s per annum for a period of six years. It is indeed a generous assistance, but we must remember that the Minister also reminded us that each of us owes Britain, America and the World Bank 20s-2d by way of national debt as at December last year. He also reminded us that each of us owes a debt of 25s per head of our population, which is mainly due to loans from British Companies which are operating in Nigeria. By the time the six-year plan is executed, we shall all be wallowing in huge debt.

The other day, I think it was the hon. Member for Urhobo Central (*Chief Mariere*) who was admonishing the intelligent and educated youths of this country for being impatient and critical of the Federal Government. He forgot to ask himself what right we here have to leave our children a legacy of economic servitude for an indefinite period of time. Anybody who, like hon. Okafor and myself and a few others, had worked in the Nigerian Treasury in Lagos, can imagine what a fight the hon. Minister must have put up to be able to make proposals to repatriate our external reserves and control our fiscal policy and also to husband our financial resources hitherto managed on our behalf, even though much against our will by Britain. It is only now that our much vaunted sovereignty is becoming real. With all those measures proposed by the hon. Minister, I am not surprised that his memorable Budget Speech received no publicity whatsoever in the British Press. I should be surprised if his British friends had sent him a spate of congratulatory messages as they used to do in the past. They were completely silent. Let us assure the hon. Minister that he has nothing

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to lose by their frowns except perhaps his chains and possibly a Knighthood—Hon. Members will remember that the hon. Minister has a C.M.G.

The hon. Minister spoke with great concern about Britain's application to join the European Common Market. His anxieties are quite understandable. If Britain is bent on deserting the Commonwealth to join the tribal group in Europe, if the Commonwealth is a free association of equal sovereign states as we are made to believe, and if we accept the view of Mr William Pickles, the Senior Lecturer in Political Science in the London School of Economics, who stated in a recent pamphlet, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

*"The European Common Market is the wrong international grouping for Britain to join because it is irrelevant to the principal requirements of the age we live in and destructive of the most effective international grouping in the world to-day—the Commonwealth"*,

why can we not then join forces with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Cyprus, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and other members of the Commonwealth and, under the leadership of Mr Diefenbaker of Canada, declare Britain an outlaw and expel her from the Commonwealth?

**Mr Speaker :** This is not financial policy.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** In winding up my speech, I would like to make the following suggestions to the hon. Minister and the Government. To avoid waste, loss, extravagance, and misappropriation, a National Development Plan Committee, or simply a Federal Buying Agency, with the specific function of co-ordinating the requirements of our different Ministries, should be set up without delay. They should be charged with the duty of collaborating with the World Consortium which, we understand from the Speech, is being set up by Mr Eugene Black of the World Bank at the request of the hon. the Prime Minister.

Secondly, the Ministry should impose conditions on the architects and engineers as to where materials needed for our big projects should be bought. All these architects draw fabulous commissions and direct which manufacturer should produce panes of glass, blocks

of brick, window frames. They draw commissions after charging 4 per cent or 6 per cent on drawings. The P.W.D. or the Ministry of Works should be able to impose conditions on the architects as to the source of our supplies of building materials.

Thirdly, I am suggesting quite seriously that a law should be passed to forbid foreign firms in this country from retailing vehicles. Nigerians should take that business up as well as the selling of bicycles. The U.A.C. should stop retailing bicycles, building and engineering equipments. All these should be left to Nigerian businessmen.

Fourthly, I would suggest that Nigerian contractors should be accorded priorities in the award of contracts. If need be, they should be given monetary advances so that they would be able to employ capable expert technicians from anywhere in the world.

Fifthly, my suggestion is that the Federal Government, and particularly the hon. Minister of Finance, should go all out in view of our development projects, to encourage our indigenous banks. He should strengthen all the indigenous banks, such as the National Bank, the African Continental Bank, the Muslim Bank, the Bank of the North, and the Agbonmagbe Bank. All these banks should be strengthened because we are going to throw a lot of money into the country from our resources and from external loans and advances. All this money will be spent. Unless we strengthen our banks, forget spite and vindictiveness, and encourage these banks to handle most of our finances in this country, we will find that not less than 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the money will go to pay commissions to foreign banks operating in Nigeria.

Let no one be deceived by the praises on the hon. Minister of Finance for the Development Plan and the bold measures he proposed. We on the Opposition side, or many of us in particular, feel happy that the Government has adopted many of the measures which we have urged on it for the past two years on the Floor of this House.

Due to their obvious limitations and inability, they have started to execute some of them in a clumsy, haphazard and inefficient way. The recent inequitable and unscientific austerity

measures are a case in point. They have fallen heavily upon the low income group who constitute the majority of our population. The Federal Government then looks to me like a rich man who makes his will and gives all his properties to his wife and tells her so ; but each time he goes out in his car with the darling wife, he takes the safest seat in the owner's corner and exposes the sweet wife who is to be the inheritor to accidents and death in the event of there being a crash. (Laughter.)

Let the Government know that we are not here to compromise the interests of this nation. We will not compromise the people's interests. We shall continue to watch Government's performances. We shall continue to fight for the interests of the people on the Floor of this House, in press conferences, on the pages of newspapers, and in the halls of our universities. We shall continue to fight in our party congresses, on soap boxes, in all our town squares and village gardens, until this Government is voted out of office.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to speak on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1962-63, and to associate myself with the complimentary things which have been said by hon. Members with regard to the *Mobilisation* Budget.

The term *Mobilisation* is most apt. To mobilise means "to render moveable" or "to bring into circulation", or "to prepare for active service". Indeed, with the attainment of independence, and after a year of it, we should prepare all our forces for active service in the fight against the evil things that may tend to retard our progress as a Sovereign State. Amongst these evil things are ignorance, superstition, diseases, poverty, unemployment and the low standard of living of millions of our people. I offer my warmest congratulations to my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Finance, on his most acceptable Budget. I am sorry that I was not here to hear him when he presented the Budget on the 29th of March.

I am also very pleased to congratulate my hon. Colleague and Friend, the Minister of Economic Development, on the successful presentation of the White Paper on the Federal Government Development Programme, 1962-68, Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1962, on the 28th

of March. Again, I am sorry I was away when the Programme was presented. In the course of the next few minutes I shall tell you why I was out of the country during those two important days in the history of this House.

It is pleasing to note that the Development Programme and the Budget have been well received generally throughout the country. Now, a high degree of co-operation and collaboration between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments will be a major factor in the successful execution of the Programme, just as the Programme has been produced as a result of a large measure of co-operation and collaboration.

It is obvious that the Federal Government's plan for development must necessarily be related to and linked with the development plans of the Regions, so that viewed in the same perspective and light, they can "form an interlocking whole", to quote the hon. Minister of Economic Development. In this connection I should also say that the emphasis on agriculture, industry and technical education is most welcome. These are three areas in which maximum co-operation among the Governments is possible and most desirable, and I am sure that because of this emphasis, maximum benefit will accrue to the country following the successful execution of the Programme.

I will now turn to matters which concern my Ministry. First of all, I am very grateful to hon. Members for the generally warm reception that they have given to the proposals for educational development in the next decade, and also for the kind references that have been made by many Members to the progress already made.

A great deal of work and planning has gone with the education section of the Development Programme. Some of my Ministerial Colleagues have, in able words, outlined their plans for the Programme. In this Programme one section is complimentary to the others ; and I am personally pleased that technical education has been emphasised to the same extent as agriculture and industry. Indeed we need technicians and skilled workers to increase our productivity in agriculture and in industry. My Ministry's function in relation to this development programme is to assist in the production of skilled or trained personnel at every level as well as of high-level manpower.

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

It may be recalled that in April 1959, after consultation with my regional colleagues, I appointed a Commission to conduct an investigation into Nigeria's needs in the field of post-School Certificate and higher education over the next twenty years. That investigation resulted in the well-received Ashby Report which was published on the eve of independence and which is now bearing good fruit in so far as our educational planning and development are concerned.

It may be recalled also that at the last Budget Session, I presented the White Paper on Educational Development, 1961-70, which, I am pleased to say, is being implemented in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the plans which have been formulated.

In this connection, it is necessary to touch lightly on the principal features of the Development Programme in education as follows.

**EDUCATION IN LAGOS :** As far as education in Lagos is concerned, the free primary education continues to make signal success. The enrolment has now reached the figure of 90,000. The work on school buildings to accommodate these large numbers has kept pace with the increase in demand. Because of the special attraction of Lagos in many ways, and because of the movement of public servants as well as employees of corporations and private firms, the rush to seek admission into Lagos Primary Schools has continued with force. I am, however, pleased to record that in spite of the numbers the expansion has been achieved without loss of standard. Moreover, the proportion of trained teachers has actually been increased considerably in Lagos schools. I regret, however, that it is not yet possible to discontinue the double-shift system in the use of some school buildings.

Hon. Members will observe that in the Development Programme, it is proposed to build 700 classrooms during the first phase and 1,000 classrooms during the second.

**An hon. Member :** In Lagos ?

**The Minister of Education :** Yes, in Lagos. It is hoped that by the end of the planning period the position will be greatly improved and that there will be a fair reduction of the double-shift system.

In the organisation field, I must mention the taking over of primary school education in Lagos by the Lagos Town Council, a move which has been successful over this past year.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT :** Secondary school enrolment has also increased to over 5,000, including the enrolment in grammar schools and technical or vocational schools in Lagos. It is proposed that within the next planning period there will be further increases.

For obvious reasons there are proposals for sixth form development in Lagos and in the Regions. As our universities grow in number and in student intake, it is essential to secure high quality undergraduates for them. I propose, therefore, that Lagos should assist in the national Development Programme by utilising some of its old and well established secondary schools for the purpose of increasing sixth form facilities which will be available to students from the Regions. (*Hear, hear.*)

To this end, more boarding accommodation will be provided in some of the Lagos secondary schools which are capable of physical expansion. In addition, I propose assistance to the Regions in financing sixth form development to the same end of securing an adequate intake for the universities. I am also extending and replanning the Federal Emergency Science School to provide undergraduates for studies in Science and Technology.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that since its inception, 481 students have passed through the school. Of this number, 240 are expecting their results in the last General Certificate of Education examination at the Advanced Level. Of the 241 who had earlier taken the examination, 160 have gained direct entrance into universities. This is a satisfactory record and there is no doubt that the Science School is fulfilling the purpose for which it was established just over three years ago. When the new plans and extensions are completed, it will be possible to cater for 1,000 full-time students and 500 evening students. This will ensure a steady flow of science undergraduates for the universities. The emphasis is on Science.

**TEACHER TRAINING :** The Advanced Teacher Training College is already under construction and will be opened later this year. This

College will provide trained teachers and tutors for service in secondary schools and teacher training colleges.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking, publicly, the authorities of the Ford Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development and the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation for the contributions they have made, and are making, towards the establishment and development of the College. In this connection, I wish to express my gratitude also for the Advanced Teachers Colleges that are being planned for the Regions under the same programme.

**RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS:** One hon. Member mentioned the necessity of finding a single method of recruiting expatriate teachers for the whole of the Federation. In August 1961, a Co-ordinating Committee for External Aid to Education was set up. All the Ministers of Education in the Federation are members. Under the auspices of the Co-ordinating Committee, an External Aid Bureau has been established. This Bureau is attached to my Ministry for all administrative purposes. One of its functions is to recruit overseas staff for service in the educational field in the Federation.

The Bureau serves as a single channel for procuring external aid, both financial and technical, in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development, bearing in mind, at the same time, the Constitutional Provisions with regard to applications by the Regional Governments for assistance overseas.

The purpose of this machinery is to channel all requests and offers of external aid in men, money and material so that they could be used most effectively for the general advantage of the country. The Bureau is at present financed by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York as I have reported on a previous occasion.

This development illustrates the degree of co-operation and understanding that prevails among all the Ministers of Education in the Federation. I am happy to report that this co-operation has also developed among the officials of all the Ministries of Education.

In this connection, the work of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education and its sub-committees is fully appreciated. This

Consultative Committee, as many hon. Members know, is comprised of professional educationists and it is concerned with professional matters relating to syllabuses and qualifications and standards generally.

**SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME:** The Federal Government Scholarships Programme continues to expand satisfactorily. Hon. Members will remember that four years ago our target was 180; that two years ago, it was 540, but now, it is 1,050. Hon. Members are already aware that for each of the two years 1962-63 and 1963-64, the Federal Government is offering 1,050 scholarships including 120 for Post Graduate studies. I wish to assure hon. Members that the main concentration in the use of these scholarships will be in the fields where our manpower is low, particularly in the fields of Science and technology. The scholarships will continue to be awarded on merit and although the majority of them will be tenable in Nigerian universities, advantages will be taken of places secured for Nigerians in overseas universities especially in technological studies.

It is necessary to record that because of their special needs and problems, Northern Nigeria and the Niger Delta Special Area have each been allocated a special quota. In this connection, it is necessary to state again that it is the intention of the Federal Government to do everything possible to intensify the rate of educational development in the Northern Region in order to ensure that our educational pyramid can be properly proportioned.

**TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** I am pleased to note that many members have applauded the emphasis being placed on technical education in the Development Programme. I am happy to report that considerable priority is being given to this branch of education which everyone here will agree is vital to our progress and survival in this technological age.

I hope to publish, in due course, my exact plans for technical education and I am confident that hon. Members will be satisfied that it will be made an instrument of our development and will be geared to our actual needs in a pragmatic and practical manner. We may even be able to satisfy the hon. Gentleman who wishes to "japanise" our technical education system! But we shall impose no limits or restrictions on the scope and range of the training nor on the overseas countries

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]  
to which our students may be sent for these special studies.

In this matter as in others, our policy of non-alignment will be followed. We want to secure the best Europe, America and Asia can give us in this technological and nuclear age. We are understandably anxious to catch up. The gap at present is big. We must do all we can to close it as soon as possible.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS: Hon. Members have shown a great interest in my proposals for Inter-Regional Secondary or National High Schools. The matter is still under serious and active consideration. The establishment of these schools raises a constitutional problem which is being resolved. I am in close consultation with my regional colleagues on this problem and I would prefer not to anticipate the final decision at this stage. I am satisfied with the friendly atmosphere that has always prevailed during the discussions on these schools which we are anxious to establish in the interest of national unity and security.

UNIVERSITIES: I wish most sincerely to thank hon. Members for the enthusiastic reception they gave to the University of Lagos Bill when it was presented by my Parliamentary Secretary. I am very happy to note the praises showered on my Parliamentary Secretary and I am grateful for the support and encouragement which many hon. Members gave him during the ensuing debate on the Bill.

The University of Lagos Act establishes the necessary organisation for setting up the University. We hope that the Provisional Council will be constituted before long so that the machinery for the University of Lagos can be set in rapid motion during this year as proposed. It is my hope, that the University of Lagos, when fully developed, will be second to none in our land with regard to academic standard and usefulness in fulfilling our urgent national needs. I hope that fullest advantage will be taken of the facilities in Lagos in the development of the faculty of Engineering. In this respect, it is hoped that the Engineering faculty in the University of Lagos will give a lead to institutions in this part of Africa. I hope and wish for the University of Lagos the highest academic excellence. (*Hear, hear*).

There is also our pioneer university institution, the University College, Ibadan, which is now over fourteen years old and which has built a high reputation of which this country can justly be proud. Indeed, the University College, Ibadan, is comparable with the best in other parts of the world and I am pleased to say on this occasion that because of its high academic standing among the universities of the world it has been accepted without question into the community of universities.

During the planning period, the University College, Ibadan, will be encouraged to develop. We expect it to expand its research and post-graduate facilities and so give opportunities to Nigerians and others interested in academic life to prepare and to discover themselves for university work. It is thought that the University College, Ibadan, is now ready to change its status to that of a full, independent and autonomous university. This matter is under consideration.

Apart from the two universities sponsored by the Federal Government, there are, of course, the other universities sponsored and supported by the regional Governments. It is proposed, therefore, that these regional universities will receive Federal Government assistance. With the dissolution of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and with the transfer of the three branches of the College to the respective regional universities, buildings and equipment worth about £4.26 million will be made available to the regional universities by the Federal Government. During the planning period it is proposed that assistance to the regional universities will be of the order of £4 million. In this connection, consideration is being given to existing courses in each branch of the Nigerian College of Technology.

OTHER GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: I have spoken of the developments which have already taken place and which are envisaged. In general, the progress of our educational development has been satisfactory. We are introducing new services such as a vocational guidance service, the establishment of extensive vacation courses, the extension of library facilities and audio-visual aids, the production of textbooks, the extension of science laboratories and new methods of modern

smuggling more effectively, the Minister should now adopt an air patrol system. He should increase the number of workers in the existing preventive service of the Board of Customs and Excise. They should be well equipped

Surveys to kindly take over these important roads in Owerri Province; Oguta-Obowo-Umuahia road, Ehime-Ahiara-Aba road and Ahiara-Etiti-Okigwi road.

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language teaching. We have planned to make full use of sound broadcasting as well as television as means of augmenting and assisting the number of teachers and the methods of teaching.

With regard to vacation courses for teachers we have had assistance from the United Kingdom. The U.K. Teachers' Courses for Nigerian teachers will be repeated this year. At the same time, a team of United States scientists and mathematicians will conduct courses on the new conceptions and teaching methods in science and mathematics. In this connection, I must not fail to express my profound gratitude to all the foreign governments, organisations and agencies who have offered scholarships to us to enable our young men and young women to pursue further studies in their countries.

Again, in this connection, I should mention that from one external aid source we hope to set up a scheme for the training of technical teachers. I am happy to inform the House that this scheme will begin later this year. Full preparation is in progress. I hope to make an announcement on this scheme after the plans have been finished.

**THE TEACHERS:** The training of teachers has been stepped up and improved very considerably during the last few years. I wish to take this opportunity of saying that we owe a great debt of gratitude to our teachers. Many people do not appear to appreciate the quality and magnitude of the quiet work which is being done throughout the Federation by the thousands of teachers of all grades. Without them and without their devotion to duty, the foundation as well as the framework of our educational structure would not exist and all the vast expansion we are planning for the next decade would prove abortive. I thank all the teachers throughout the Federation with all my heart. They are in the forefront of our investment in education.

Finally, I want to close by mentioning one matter which I believe will be of special interest to this House. I refer to the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa which was held in Addis Ababa in May of 1961. That Conference was jointly organised and convened by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in consultation with the

other United Nations Specialised Agencies. I had the honour to lead the Nigerian Delegation. The Agenda included discussions on the following problems :—

(a) Development of education in relation to African Cultural and socio-cultural factors;

(b) Inventory of Educational needs for economic and social development;

(c) Education as a basic factor in economic and social development;

(d) patterns of international co-operation for the promotion and implementation of programme of educational development.

In the last week of March this year a follow-up Conference of the Addis Ababa Conference was held in Paris and again I had the honour to represent Nigeria. At this later meeting of African Ministers of Education the discussions were based on :—

(i) reviews of national education plans within the framework of economic and social development;

(ii) analysis of current education budgets in relation to the objectives established at the Addis Ababa Conference.

It was because of my attendance at this meeting in Paris that I missed the memorable speeches of my hon. Friends and Colleagues, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Finance, respectively. I mention these two meetings because of their significance to Africa in general and of the measure of assistance which may accrue to our educational development in this country in particular. The Special Fund of the United Nations and the other Specialised Agencies of the United Nations are interested in our educational programme in the concept of the Addis Ababa objectives. But we must realise that we are no longer alone in the field. All Africa is awake. Indeed, the Sleeping Giant is wide awake and he is preparing to move forward and fast.

**An hon. Member :** In education ?

**The Minister of Education :** Yes, in education. Nigeria is a part of Africa. By investing in education in a big way as we are doing, we are assisting in the development of Africa. Let us therefore resolve to do our best as we put into effect our Federal Government Development Programme for 1962-1968. Let us also give fullest support to our "Mobilisation Budget".

[MR EKANEM]  
maiden speech, but I would like to say that he is speaking in terms of electioneering campaigns while we are debating the financial policy of the Government.

**The Deputy Speaker :** The hon. Member speaking might have been irrelevant but I am not quite sure that the point of order is more irrelevant. But please refrain from discussing electioneering campaigns.

**M. Olukotun :** It is now time that the Lagos boundary should be extended for a few miles.

**Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) :** The extension of the Lagos boundary has nothing to do with the Budget which we are discussing.

**M. Olukotun :** Two days ago, I came to my pigeon hole and found a pamphlet on the Nigerian Census, 1962. I wish to ask (*Interruptions*). If the Opposition Members are not careful enough to listen to my speech, I shall recommend them for six lashes of the cane.

**The Deputy Speaker :** During this debate we talk on the general economic policies of the Government. Lashes may well have a deterrent effect but I do not think that they are very much in line.

**The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) :** Six lashes is rather mild, Sir.

**M. Olukotun :** Finally, if the Census, as I read, is taking place in May, why does the Government not wait till the House adjourns so that when we get back to our constituencies, we may enlighten our people on how to register.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) rose. (*Interruptions*).**

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order ! the Parliamentary Secretary is going to speak on behalf of his Minister.

12.40 p.m.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu :** The hon. Member does not know that I am a Minister.

This gives me an opportunity of reviewing, in the first place, the activities and achievements of the Ministry of Economic Development within the past twelve months and, in the second place, of pointing out briefly our future plans for the coming months.

Speaking personally, I am particularly happy to be alive to-day to witness this unprecedented revolution in our economic thought and practice. For just over seven years ago, to be precise, on the 5th of April, 1955, the then House of Representatives defeated a Private Member's Motion for the creation of a Ministry for Economic Planning for co-ordination purposes between the various Federal Ministries, the public corporations and the Regional Governments. There were then fears that such a Ministry would usurp the powers and functions of the other Ministries and Corporations, that it would be difficult to work in practice as each Ministry dealt with some form of economic development peculiar to itself. Events which mock at human foresight have now shown that such fears as were expressed in April 1955 were unfounded, for nothing has made the work of the Ministry more successful than the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation which has existed between the various Governments, the Corporations and the various Ministries.

So much of the energy and concentration of the Ministry has been devoted in recent months to the preparation of the national plan, and so important have we regarded this task that other matters have, of necessity, paled almost to insignificance over this strenuous period. It is therefore a matter of great satisfaction to my Minister, to myself and to the officials of the Ministry that the outline of the plan has been so well received by the House.

So much has been said during this session about Nigeria's economic future that it would be invidious for me again to dwell at length on the subject. But I would once more repeat the point which my Minister made during the earlier debate, namely that the preparation and presentation of this Plan has been itself but the initial stage in what must be a continuing process. We are already taking steps to ensure the build up of a strong team of Nigerian economists. That is to say that the Economic Unit of the Ministry will not only be expanded but expanded in such a way as to include more Nigerian capable economists. This is a matter of vital importance to ensure the efficient carrying out of two major tasks : firstly, as my Minister informed the House during the debate, we must keep the Plan



under constant review to ensure that modifications and refinements are made in the light of changing economic needs and circumstances ; and secondly, we realise that we must now start the long and arduous task of collecting and collating the data which will be necessary for the preparation of Nigeria's Second National Plan. We appreciate full well that the time to start is now, and not four or five years hence.

Turning away now from the subject of the Plan to more specific details, my Ministry has been greatly occupied in recent months with the many and varied problems relating to the Kainji Dam. Hon. Members will, I am confident, appreciate the complexity of this task which involves so many interests and will be pleased to learn that we hope that the first stage of the project—the construction of the Camp site, access roads, and so on—will be commenced within the next few months. Now that all sides of the House have welcome the decision that the Dam should be accorded the highest of all priorities in the Plan, we shall re-double our efforts to ensure that the work proceeds safely and smoothly. I need hardly mention that the Federal Government is in close contact with the Northern Government on such issues as the re-settlement of population, and so on, which will become necessary later in the construction phase.

Many hon. Members will have heard on their radios two day ago, the address given by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister on the subject of the census. This is a matter of the highest importance to Nigeria and I would seek the co-operation of all Members of the House to give the widest publicity to this subject in their constituencies with a view to ensuring the smooth and efficient carrying out of this complex operation. During the next few weeks we shall be launching a massive publicity campaign through the medium of the press, radio, cinemas and television as well as by talks and meetings in villages and hamlets throughout the country, but all assistance which Members of the House, on their return to their constituencies, can offer to ensure that the public fully understands the importance and nature of this operation will, I am confident, prove of immeasurable assistance in promoting its success. I cannot state too strongly how important reliable census data will be to the shaping of both this and the next National Plan.

Allied with the particular problem of the census, the work of the Federal Office of Statistics has been proceeding steadily during the past year, although we have been hampered by lack of staff.

During the year attempts were successfully made to improve the quality of the statistics collected and to break new grounds. To overcome the acute shortage of professional staff some Nigerian officers were sent overseas on training courses and are expected back before the end of this year. In-service training programme was vigorously pursued. A United Nations training officer under the Technical Assistance Programme joined the staff and has started the training of suitable junior officers for professional qualification. In addition, three junior officers were sent to the Training Institute at Achimota sponsored by the United Nations for a year's course of training. It is planned to send more this year and plans are afoot for sending suitably qualified junior officers for University level course either within Nigeria or abroad. Replacement of data processing machinery of the Office with more suitable equipments started during the year and will be completed in the current financial year.

During the coming months we shall embark on a large-scale Rural Economics Survey embracing the whole country. This work, which will be carried out in some hundreds of villages spread throughout Nigeria, will, we believe, provide essential data upon which we shall be able to plan for the future. Details of the procedure to be followed have been discussed with Regional Government and it is our intention to give full publicity to this project before the actual field work begins. I would ask that at the appropriate time, all Members should offer their co-operation to the Statisticians who will be conducting the Survey to ensure the success of this highly important work.

I must also mention that it is our intention to reorganise the activities of the Office of Statistics to ensure, firstly, that its work is more closely related to Nigeria's needs and problems and, secondly, to ensure the achievement of maximum benefits and that the data which it collects will be of major significance when preparing the next National Plan.

The final decisions regarding this National Plan have, of course, rested with the National

[MR MBAKOGU]  
Economic Council. So great has become the work required of the Council in recent months, that it is intended in the near future to carry out a major re-organisation of its structure to ensure that it will be able to cope efficiently and speedily with the very many major problems which require to be referred to it.

Similarly, we are considering very carefully the functions and responsibilities of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. The House will have taken note of the provision which has been set aside by the Federal Government for this Institute during the Plan period. It is intended that the work of the Institute should be related specifically to the long range economic problems with which Nigeria is faced.

I turn now to the work of the Research Departments which fall within the portfolio of the Ministry. As my Minister mentioned during the debate on the National Plan, we are concerned by the fact that in the past the work of these Departments has not been as closely related as they could have been to Nigeria's particular needs and requirements. It is therefore our intention to reorganise and re-evaluate the programme of activities of these Departments so that we can ensure that the problems with which Nigeria is faced in the field of primary production can be investigated as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

It is also intended, in the case of agricultural research, to diversify the activities of the Department so that a larger number of crops will be investigated than heretofore. Special attention will continue to be given to food crops, but is hoped that a greater measure of concentration will also be given to a wider range of such crops.

The Department of Agricultural Research must realise the immensity of its services and the importance of its responsibilities to this young but virile country and will not relax in its efforts to improve both the variety and yield in quality and quantity of our crops, both for export and domestic consumption purposes.

My Ministry now realises more than ever before that the success of our research programme can only be assessed by the amount of contribution it has made in the growth of our

economy by increasing both our export and food production to the level to which we are capable by reason of our size, population and national advantages. To this end my Ministry is committed to keeping itself geared to the policy of re-orientation and shifting of emphasis. This we cannot do without the co-operation of the Regional Departments and international agencies, like the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Our soil must be surveyed on a national level and comparative advantages studied so as to avoid wastage of effort. Hon. Members can easily see that without this the whole financial provision of several million pounds in our Development Programme, which is a concrete result of the new spirit of co-operation and mutual confidence and understanding between the Federal and Regional Governments, will be filtered away through duplication, competition and lack of co-ordination.

Much work is required to ensure the development of the great potential in Nigeria's livestock industry, and the Department of Veterinary Research at Vom, in collaboration with the Regional Departments of Veterinary Services, is alive to its responsibilities in this direction. Nigeria has a great future in the cattle industry and the Veterinary Research Departments will undertake gigantic experimental work to this end.

Special mention must be made of Nigeria's intention to participate with neighbouring countries in a mass vaccination campaign with the object of eradicating rinderpest from the face of this country. Experiments so far carried out at Vom on rinderpest vaccine production by the Virology Division has attracted world experts and Vom has been chosen as the centre for an F.A.O. joint project between Nigeria and her neighbouring countries. (*Hear, hear.*) Progress is being made in the eradication of new cattle disease through the production in Vom of a vaccine which is exported to as far away countries as Sudan, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the coming months steps will be taken to intensify the recruitment of more qualified Nigerians to take up vacant posts in the Department and, in particular, to fit in qualified Nigerians in the policy-making sections of the Department. Qualified officers will continue to be recruited overseas where necessary through specialised agencies to meet the requirements of the

Economic Programme. Training of more officers in basic qualifications and post-graduate work will continue.

As for Fisheries, Members will be aware of the decision to establish a modern fishing terminal at Lagos at which ocean-going vessels will be able to land their catches. This will substantially add to export earnings, provide employment and improve the diet of our people. The work of this Department will not be concentrated merely on Lagos. Two new research vessels have recently been commissioned, one of which will be largely used for shallow waters in the Delta area, the other for deep water investigations. The Government will be co-operating with other West African governments in the hydro-biological research programme known as the 'Guinean Year'. The Department is also conducting work at Lake Chad and will later carry out investigations in connection with the fisheries aspect relating to the Kainji Dam.

In the field of Forestry, we fully appreciate the vast potential wealth of Nigeria's forest produce. The main objects of the Department's utilisation programme are therefore to promote better use of existing forest products by reducing waste in logging and saw milling, by using more species and by assisting the development of local industries using Nigeria timber. In addition, the Department will take all steps necessary to provide the efficient collection, purchase, storage, testing and distribution of seed for re-forestation by quick growing timber trees, and it will undertake a tree breeding programme to produce high yielding and quick growing forests of superior quality. It may surprise Members to learn that at the present time Nigeria is a substantial importer of timber. The Department will give special attention therefore to the problem of the production of species which will adequately substitute these imports.

In the debate on the Development Plan, mention has frequently been made of the external aid contribution which will be necessary to ensure the implementation of this ambitious programme. It must not be forgotten that an equally important contribution to ensure the success of the Plan will be necessary in the field of technical assistance. My Ministry, which is responsible for the handling of all

technical assistance projects for Nigeria, is fully cognizant of the major task which the co-ordination and submission of all applications for technical aid will lay before it. It will be of interest to hon. Members to learn, for example, that during the past year a total of 266 experts for work in Nigeria have been provided under various multi-lateral and bilateral aid arrangements, whilst 434 Nigerian trainees have been sent abroad under these arrangements. Also of interest, perhaps, is the fact that during the past fifteen months the United Nations, under the Technical Assistance Board and Special Fund, has approved a series of projects valued in excess of \$9 million for Nigeria. Small though these figures may appear in relation to the huge tasks which lie before us, they do illustrate in some measure the enormous amount of work which will require to be undertaken.

Sir, I beg to support.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East):** Speaking on this Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, quite rightly there is much that commends itself to the ordinary man in the whole exercise in the entire dissertation of the Minister of Finance in his application of the general principle of the economics of under-developed countries.

There is a lot in his application of the principles of unbalanced budgets and in particular his treatment of the six-year Development Plan, the fiscal policy necessary both to execute the Development Plan and to execute our recurrent expenditure, his treatment of the functions and development of the Central Bank, especially in relation to its duty as a controller of our finances and spending, as a stabiliser, also of our currency as a means of boosting up our economy and development, his elaborate and belaboured hair-splitting on domestic saving and his pet subject of which he is an expert—loan policy—and the notorious subject of smuggling which, to be sincere, is a bane and I must commend the handling of such a slippery subject by the Minister.

However, notwithstanding the hon. Minister's declaration at the opening of his thesis that economics is not an exact science whose condi-

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 tions are absolute and finite and must not be treated as such, yet his arguments—most of them—still foundered on the hidden shoals which come from being over-meticulous.

In many cases, he did not take sufficient account of conditions precedent and antecedent to arriving at his conclusions. Experts on public finance on both sides of this honourable House have pulled the shreds of his rosy fabrics into bits. They have done enough, and I shall just, with your permission, Sir, give one example to illustrate. In assessing the part of the current revenue which may accrue to capital development, and in expatiating on the means of draining negatively, of course, expenditure to produce this balance and also simultaneously stimulating production to enhance such favourable balances, the hon. Minister of Finance committed two crimes :

- (1) his over-tightening controls of such common articles as wearing apparels, petrol and so on which will react on the common man and reduce his potentialities for saving ;
- (2) the profit margin which he envisaged has been too inelastic and does not take cognisance of external and internal situations. The figures were too much to the right and the scale needs to be slid a little to the left. After all the farmer must not be so sure of a favourable harvest as to over-estimate his gains.

Sufficient on these points, my main comments are on the Public Service. In commenting on the Public Service, I will crave your indulgence that, that being my subject, I will be allowed to go a little into details and I will leave the figures and statistics until the Committee Stage. I have already filed an Amendment. I have been to the Ministry of Establishments.

I have met the Permanent Secretary who to me, appears an experienced, intelligent man who is capable enough of handling the heavy and complicated duties of using the Ministry's skills and getting the Civil Service on an even keel. But to my mind, he appears a little weighted down by the old ideals of colonialism, the type of people who by circumstances have been boiled too hard by the imperialists overlords and therefore do not very easily agree with the younger elements who probably have ascended too fast, and I think, in holding such

a key position, it is necessary that a man of his position—I know it is difficult—should have a bit of a broader mind.

I have observed a number of points which were mentioned on the Floor of this House and I must give the credit to many hon. Members of this House for a number of suggestions given in the past and the way they have been carried out. I was intending to make some quotations, but I will not. I will just make references, considering that the time is short and many more people would want to speak.

Some of the things we mentioned on the Floor of this House and which we asked to be done about the Public Service are integration, pooling, Nigerianisation, organisation and a better deployment of staff. In this connection I wish to refer—not quoting because of time—to the hon. Minister of Establishments' speech of April 11th, 1960 which is found at page 1024, second paragraph of the *Hansard* of that day under Control and Nigerianisation, and my suggestions on April the 14th, 1960, which also are contained at pages 1270, paragraph 2 to the end and page 1274.

Now I wish to give credit where credit is due, but I want to say that I have been highly impressed with the arrangements of the pool system which has been carried out in that Ministry and also the Department of Nigerianisation which used to be separate has been integrated under an officer who is known as Under-secretary for Nigerianisation and the Organisation and Methods and Staff Investigation Branch of that Ministry also has done very careful job in assessing the capability of each Public Servant or potential Public Servant and in docketing them and therefore in deploying them. Then the In-Service Training and the award of scholarships schemes also merit some commendation, particularly the close liaison between that Ministry and the Ministry of Education. But I have a number of criticisms.

In the pooling system, we gave two suggestions :

- (1) that the categories of Public Servants serving should be pooled and indexed analysed and carded.

Well, that has been done under three heads of the secretarial class, the executive class and of the administrative class, but the other aspect of the job was not done. We suggested that

all potential civil servants, that is people who are not even in the Public Service or who are in the Public Service of other Regions or who are even students in other parts of the world also be pooled. That means that our Nigeria Office should do the exercise of making out a list of our students, what they study and so get them set out here so that when any of them applies, it will be easy to know exactly what he is worth. Well, that has not been done.

The second side to that part two, is, in England for example, and other European countries of the world, today there is a good number of students who are stranded. They are stranded not because they have not got the brains, but because the money is not there, and in one of those two references I have made in the past, particularly my speech of the 15th April, 1961, which is found at pages 1661 to 1665 of the *Hansard* of that day, we made suggestions that people asking for scholarships, deserving students who are good enough should be assisted.

I was at a reception for a student a few days ago and the student, in giving the history of his life in England, said how long he stayed and how but for some strange circumstance he might have been stranded. Yet he had the brains right enough but the funds were not forthcoming, but by a strange circumstance he had some funds somewhere and he was qualified in the field of Accountancy which is a difficult one. Well, that is one example out of very many. Thus if the Nigeria Office and the Office in Washington and the Office in Bonn will have a careful catalogue, analysed, indexed and carded of our students, we will be saving a lot of potentialities and our lack of staff, of manpower, I think will be very much reduced.

My second criticism I shall give when I come to the Committee Stage. There is too much glut in the Executive Class. There are many of them who have been there for years and many of them according to their age who may never get higher, not because they are not capable, but because the glut is just lumped together. They are not analysed so as to give them the necessary opportunities in other places. As I said I will give some examples when I get to the Committee Stage to illustrate very carefully what I mean.

But I cannot see much sense in the wrungs of the Executive ladder. You have the Assistant Executive Officer, the Executive Officer Grade II, Executive Officer Grade I, the Senior Executive Officer, the Higher Executive Officer and the Principal Executive Officer. To my mind, it is a good way of keeping the better brains down. I suppose if those wrungs of the ladder are made less and are made shorter, it will be easier to climb to the top. When we come to the Committee stage I will give some details but all these various E.O.s' S.E.O.s., and scale C.E. 1-5, I cannot see why that scale cannot be made 1-3, making only three stages in the Executive grades.

Now, my major complaint is with the Nigerianisation Department. Looking through some of the papers, and listening to various Ministers who have given themselves so much self-praise about Nigerianisation in their various Ministries, one would think that we had almost got to the top of our ladder, which is far from being the case. As I said, I will give some illustrations now which are not details but I will give some details later.

Now, one discovers (and I shall give some examples) that the deployment of staff is not at its best. There are people who are put in places where they are square pegs in round holes and if the pooling system and the grading had been carefully done, I think such a thing could easily be avoided.

Secondly, I have discovered in a number of Ministries and in some corporations—by the way, Sir, I rather feel that even though the corporations are autonomous bodies just under supervision of Government, I think their autonomy is, to some extent, a detriment to the general progress of the service of this country—that there are some white bosses who still feel: "Well, if we cannot pin you down in your Ministry we can do so in the corporations."

There is a Chief Engineer, Robinson or Robertson or whatever he is, in the Port Authority, who sees no good in employing Nigerian engineers. If a qualified Nigerian engineer applies there for a job he is told that he has not got the qualifications required, and even if he has got the qualifications required, he is told that he has not got the necessary experience and is told, "I am afraid there is nothing we can give you; perhaps the best we

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can give you is to make you a pupil engineer." I know of three such cases, and not up to fifty per cent of the whites who are with him have the qualifications which are required of our Nigerian boys ?

There are also one or two cases of a similar type in the E.C.N. There is a Commercial Accountant there who is usurping the place of the Statistician and the type of job which he ought to give to him he will not give to him because if he did, he would become redundant and he would have to opt to go. Therefore he is keeping part of the job to himself and the Nigerian, who has been made the Statistician, is just being made to do some donkey job.

As I said, I have just given you those two examples, but I could multiply them. I have discovered one or two also in the Navy ; I have discovered some in the Works Department and, in the latter case, during the Committee stage I am going to give some clear examples.

My next point is that even some of our own senior heads need to reorientate their attitude. I know in one Ministry where the head of that Ministry is a very efficient and very intelligent man. He happens also to be Permanent Secretary to one of our ablest Ministers and the pair make a very good combination. But what this Permanent Secretary does is to get the youngmen and give them the hard jobs to do. He does not condemn them when they do them well, he keeps encouraging them. But I know of two more. One of them happens, most unfortunately, to be in a very key Ministry and he does not see any good in the Senior Assistant Secretaries and in the people under him. He indulges and reveals in saying, "You are no use", making bad remarks on their minuting and so on and giving them very dangerous confidential reports. Well, I think if we have to undo ourselves, well it is just too bad.

Now, to get on. To be able to make this Public Service a Nigerian one we have had to do with some less qualified people and they are getting out. Then why should it be the duty of an indigenous head of a Ministry to feel that because his expatriates are of the old colonial standard, which is not relative to our present standard, he should bring some people down under the pretence that they are no good ?

If the whites say they are no good and you say they are no good who, then, is going to do the jobs.

There is no propriety in my naming the Ministries here. I have talked to one or two Ministers concerned and I take it that they are handling the matter.

There is another point again which I have to mention. I think that the whole Nigerianisation policy is a bit too cautious. In my speech in 1960 I advised that if our problem was great, it needed a great remedy and that we had to take very bold steps.

That reminds me that this Parliament's life is now half-spent so may I suggest, quite seriously, and thus not playing up to anybody or just trying to be "Opposition", but suggesting in absolute honesty, that I think that now that this Parliament has spent half of its life, there ought to be a Parliamentary Commission to review the progress of Nigerianisation so far. Something in the nature of the Solaru Commission which started this, is what I have in mind, so that we will know how far we have gone without deceiving ourselves and know what will be the next step to take. I am giving this suggestion with all humility and without any ulterior motive at all.

Furthermore, the scholarships and the in-service training scheme are definitely not to any profitable extent, geared to our needs. I have studied this Paper and it is lop-sided. I have made the promise that I was not going to make any quotations until the Committee stage, but I want to say that, in this, you will find a good number of aspects which have been adequately met and there are some technical aspects which have been very dangerously neglected. I think that if we continue at that rate, in the end, we will have a lop-sided public service in this country. That is why (in opposition to the hon. Minister of Education) that I disagree violently with this principle of National High Schools. I am not saying that there should be no National High Schools and I am not saying that they should not be inter-regional but what I would like us to have are international Polytechnics.

It is being proposed that the Federal Emergency Science School should be converted to a National High School. I think that is no use.

Lagos is very well suited and they have a lot of equipment there so why not convert the place into a Polytechnic? Why not spend the money that it is proposed will be spent on these National High Schools on building workshops, more laboratories and equip the place for conversion to a Polytechnic so as to give us more technicians, which we require and which, to a large extent, we are sending overseas?

**An hon. Member :** Finally.

**Mr Akomolafe :** Not finally yet. I am still on this Nigerianisation point. There are one or two cases, specific ones, which I have referred to the hon. Minister of Establishments and, as I said, it is improper for me to mention them here again. I only wish that he will look into the complaints of the Union of Printers and of the Federal Training Centre at Broad Street.

Next, I was talking about the pooling. You will find out that according to the speech which the hon. Minister of Establishments gave here last week, it is a good line-up of the policy-making aspect of Nigerianisation. Of the remaining five expatriate Permanent Secretaries, two of them are going, but the other three do not know what is going to happen about their going, even though there are men available to take their places. But I wish to say that one of them is in a key position and I think that by now, with all due deference and without any bias, he should be replaced, and that is the Permanent Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Finance.

Furthermore, the immediate line-up below that in the Deputy Secretary grade, where there are eleven of them, is a good one; but there is a bad gap between that and the Senior Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary grades. That also ought to be amended. It is all right in the S.A.S. grade—there are quite a lot of them. But when we come to the Assistant Secretary grade, the gap is dangerous and it ought to be amended, or covered up.

Finally on that point, and not on my speech, I would want to ask humbly the hon. Minister of Establishments when he replies to our debate at the Committee State, to let us understand exactly what are his plans within the next twelve months about the arrangements for our students overseas and about the arrangements for the employment of those of our

students who are here and still have to wait for four months without employment, whereas they are qualified. I know of a particular person who was given a Federal scholarship, he came back here for a job but he has not been given one; he asked to be released to go to another Region, but he has not been released to go, and he qualified in a subject which we need very much. That is just one, there are many more. I want the hon. Minister to make sure that when these men come back they do not have to keep roaming round his offices and looking for jobs when we say we want the men and they are here.

**An hon. Member :** That man is your cousin.

**Mr Akomolafe :** Let the man be my wife, if it is possible.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr E. Ezonbodor) :** Sir, how could a man be his wife? (*Laughter*).

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

**Mr Akomolafe :** As I said, I am now leaving that point and I am just saying one or two things generally on the Budget. I do not know why we still have to pay subvention to the colonial Audit. If we say that our Audit Department is an independent one, why do we still have to pay subvention to the colonial Audit? I do not know why we have to do that.

At page 14 of this *Mobilisation Budget* the hon. Minister of Finance condemns property ventures like housing on the ground that they are unproductive. I think that is most uneconomic. If you want people to be at the optimum of their productivity, there are certain basic principles and basic needs which they must have: they must be able to feed well, they must be properly housed. You cannot expect anybody who is not in a convenient environment to do his best. So, I think that even though there is no sense of direct money-making productivity in them, they are as productive as our industries and they should not be discouraged.

Sir, I happen to understand, unfortunately, that one or two Embassies in this country are behaving in a manner not very noble. There is one particular Embassy, I think it is called the Ivory Coast Embassy, which rented a

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house from a Nigerian land-lord on certain terms to be terminated at six months' notice on either side, but which terminated that agreement in less than a month. Not only that, through the agency of this land-lord, they obtained some furniture and they have not paid the man for the past six months.

**An hon. Member :** Diplomatic privilege.

**Mr Akomolafe :** I think they are using their diplomatic privilege very wrongly, and we should not allow our country to be made a ground for stinking diplomacy.

One final thing, Sir. Sometime last week when I was speaking on the Development Programme, I said something about the transport system, and when the Reporter recorded me he very cleverly omitted the material word 'autobahn'. After reading through the *Hansard*, I went to him and incidentally the lady nearby happened to have been to Germany and therefore knew what an autobahn was. My deduction from that is that it will be advantageous if our top officials in this Parliament are given just one or two months to tour certain other Parliaments overseas (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I make no apology for saying one or two things about my constituency, for after all they sent me here. I want to appeal to the hon. Minister of Communications to look into the needs of postal and telegraphic services in Ekiti Division. We require post offices and telegraph offices. Of about 17 main towns in the Division only three have telegraph exchanges. By the way, Sir, lest I forget, I want to give my personal commendation to the Minister of Communications. I think his Ministry is the most Nigerianised of all the Ministries. I can see that he has hopes for a Director-General and his Assistant which posts, I am sure, will definitely be filled by Nigerians. Let him employ these men to give us the postal services which we require in Ekiti.

Sir, I beg to support.

3.35 p.m.

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East) :** Sir, I rise to join the chorus of praise and congratulations to the Federal Minister of Finance for his *Mobilisation Budget*. The speech is as practical, far-sighted and dynamic as it is

inspired by every sense of responsibility, self-sacrifice and patriotism. It is a striking reflection of the great qualities of *Omimi Ejoh* which everyone, not excluding even the sworn enemy of progress, is bound to admire in the Minister. By this Budget, Chief Okotie-Eboh has added yet another lustre to the crown of his glory as the country's safe-keeper. (*Hear, hear*).

There are just a few points I would like to dwell on in the Speech and this is an humble attempt to help the Minister in his most intriguing task of total mobilisation for the greatest good of the greatest number. I am in total agreement with the call for self-denial and wholesale sacrifice on the part of everyone, so that we can have the means whereby we shall translate our lofty ideals into reality. In doing this, however, emphasis should be laid on the rich paying more and the poor paying less. Unless this necessary adjustment is done, the *status quo* of inequality and exploitation bequeathed to us by our former colonial overlords, would remain *ad infinitum*.

The call for national vigilance against inflation could not have been wiser; except, however, something is done and done very quickly, we shall find ourselves faced with the dangers of an expensive austerity—what a contradiction in terms! Government should—

(1) Control the prices of imported goods, especially the essential commodities.

(2) Protect our young indigenous industries against unfair competition from expatriate concerns and overseas manufacturers.

(3) Control house rents in all the cities of the Federation and set up a nationally co-ordinated housing programme in concert with the existing regional Housing Corporations. Here, Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Federal Government to consider establishing a housing corporation to own small houses for workers in large cities starting from Lagos, then Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Ibadan, Enugu, *et cetera*. The capital could be subscribed by the different Governments. This will also tend to strengthen the tie of unity binding the diverse Regions of the Federation.

(4) Evolve a minimum national wage structure which will bridge the gap between



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the upper income groups and the lower income groups.

(5) Increase hours of work for the Civil Service, possibly, introducing the two-shift system as in the mercantile houses.

(6) Minimise overseas tours of Ministers which in the main tend to be very uneconomic. If we must continue to win the sympathy of overseas investors and creditors we must, by all means, be credit-worthy.

(7) Emulate the modesty and patriotism of other places like Guinea by stopping the practice by which Ministers go about with police orderlies. They should move freely with their people in harmony and confidence. Only people conscious of guilt go about in perpetual fear.

Government should hold controlling shares in all major industries and commercial ventures in the country, be they expatriate or indigenous. Government should investigate the extent to which Nigerianisation is carried out by expatriate firms. I say this because there is the cajoling policy of appointing nominal African managers whose status, remuneration, and responsibilities are merely clerical. If we must attract foreign investors to our programme of large-scale industrialisation, Government should consider as priority number one the question of a tourist industry. This is a matter of supreme economic necessity and national prestige.

I congratulate the Government on its decision to bridge the disparity in the Nigerian pound at present linked by an Act of Parliament to the British pound. I am happy that the parity will now be expressed in gold so that Nigeria, too, could decide what adjustments should from time to time be made in the official exchange rates between our Nigerian pound and the currency of any other country.

It is gratifying to observe that our currency notes and postage stamps will be printed in this country in future, and also that we shall have our own mint. I must say, Sir, that whenever this comes into operation the head of our Governor-General, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, P.C., should be printed on the notes, postage stamps and coins.

I also congratulate the Government on the increased duty imposed on a variety of luxury goods such as tea, coffee, fresh meat, poultry,

fresh fish, fruits and jam. The increase on imported drinks, I must say, is welcome. I would like to urge that the Government should now encourage local industries to improve—

**An hon. Member :** Much as we appreciate that the hon. Member is making his maiden speech, he should at times be looking up since he is speaking to you and not to—

**Mr Speaker :** Will the hon. Member please face the Chair and speak.

**Mr De-Omomadia :** I was saying, that I would like to urge the Government now to encourage local industries to improve the age-long locally produced gin with several names : *O.H.M.S., Apetesi, Make-Make, Push-me-I-push-you, et cetera.*—(Laughter).

On the question of increased duties, I would like to suggest that the duty on imported luxury goods, like polish and other similar goods which are used by only the rich and not by the poor, be increased. This will certainly protect local industries.

Consistent with our Foreign Policy of non-alignment, we should pursue the question of foreign aid with more sincerity. We have got £80 million from the U.S.A. ; let us now seek similar aid from the Soviet Union, so that the unfortunate impression is not created that we are a satellite of the Western Democracies.

Turning to the Economic Development Programme, I wish to say that particular attention should be paid to rural areas. The various agricultural products in the rural areas should be tapped with a view to assisting the farmers financially I have in mind Urhobo Division where cassava, palm produce and rubber are the chief agricultural products. The farmers should be encouraged with loans to develop and improve their products.

Electricity supply should also be extended to rural areas as this will help very largely in the industrial programme. I would like to ask that the gas turbine station to be commissioned at Ughelli be extended to Oleh in Eastern Urhobo as it will be only economical to do so in view of the industries that are envisaged.

I would like to speak on communications. Rural areas should be supplied with modern postal facilities and communications. I will mention that in my constituency—Oleh—the

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Nigerian Army, the Royal Nigerian Navy and the Royal Nigerian Air Force should not be hurriedly Nigerianised because of the intricacies of these undertakings. Very careful selection of likely candidates should be made and thorough training given so as to produce experts in these fields in the overall interests of the country.

Finally, the new increases in the prices of many commodities, as well as cuts in the emoluments and allowances which have been announced, will in due course amount to large sums of money. These are great sacrifices which the Nigerian public have been called upon to make; they are sacrifices which make certain people who were hitherto very mobile, now and henceforth immobile, to say the least. The emphasis in this connection is on the increase in the price of petrol which is sure to affect our mobility—the market women, the traders, the artisans, and in fact all who travel over short or long distances in various circles. Therefore, the *Mobilisation* Budget becomes the “*Immobilisation*” Budget.

Lastly, I wish to advise strongly therefore that whatever is realised from these various sources by way of increases in prices of goods should be judiciously appropriated.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. A. Yerokun** (Oyo Central): The debate on the Appropriation Bill ranges over a wide variety of subjects and enables hon. Members to raise topics in which they are especially interested.

In my present frame of mind, I will implore the will of the House and the Government to arrange for an immediate revision of the Standing Orders so as to allow more days for Members to participate in the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

I have to congratulate the Federal Minister of Finance and all the Governments of the Federation for the peaceful way and manner in which they have introduced certain economic restrictions, commonly called austerity measures, without any political upheaval. British Guiana and her two neighbouring countries in West Africa introduced similar measures and landed themselves into untold hardship and disturbances. Shall we not thank God and our Government?

Whether we like it or not, there are many people who are willing to go to great lengths to escape from tax liabilities. Take, for example, the well-to-do Lagos market women who in 1959 or thereabouts collected well over £19,000 illegally and on false pretences on the allocation of their market stalls to other women, and later financed the Action Group Party. These same women failed to pay 10s or so as income tax. I will leave this matter for the present.

It is very encouraging to learn that a Nigerian has been appointed to understudy Dr Prasad, the present Economic Adviser to the Government.

**Police.** I humbly appeal to the Prime Minister to give us a Nigeria Police Station at Iseyin to serve Oke-Iko and Shaki districts. God knows how much our people suffer under the Local Government Police! Since last year we have not heard anything about the illegal and unconstitutional appointment of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police by the Western Nigeria Government.

**Mr Speaker:** Order! I think this is a matter you could well raise at the Committee Stage when we come to the Head of Police.

**Mr Yerokun:** *Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*—I still cannot understand why loans are very difficult to obtain from the Federal Loans Board by applicants outside Lagos, when a Bill has been passed in this House to ease the situation.

This Government should encourage the improvement of local industries, particularly the native cloth industry, of which my constituency is the premier supplier in this country. There should be a scheme to assist peasant population to better their output in quality and quantity in series of indigenous industries.

**Telecommunications.**—I have to express grateful thanks on behalf of the people of Iseyin to the Federal Government for the new telephone office at Iseyin. I hope similar facilities will soon be extended to Oke-Iko and Shaki.

At present in Nigeria, nothing is of more importance than the development of modern telecommunications. There are some parts of Nigeria where it takes two to four weeks for

communication to be delivered and a reply received. The 1962-68 Development Programme must not allow this state of affairs to continue.

The next point I will talk about is Electricity and the hydro-electric system. The Niger Dam Project will consume the major part of the financial provision for electricity development. Proper arrangement should be made for the rehabilitation of the people of Bussa whose area will be badly affected.

Not far from Iseyin is a waterfall at Ikere. I think that investigation should be carried out to see whether this waterfall can be harnessed to generate power for the use of people in Iseyin and Oke Iho district. Government should also explore the possibility of making river Ogun navigable from Shepeteri *via* Iseyin to Abeokuta.

I now go over to the transport system. The importance of providing a better road system throughout the Federation in order to ensure reasonable contact with our large and ever growing population needs no further comments.

I notice that in the Development Programme, steps have been taken to improve international communication. In this connection, I would suggest that Government should construct a road from Ijio to Opara river in Iganna district, thereby linking Save in the Republic of Dahomey with Oyo Division in Nigeria. In view of the drive against smuggling of goods, Ijio is an ideal place for a preventive service station.

I would now like to speak about medical and health services. The necessity for improved medical facilities have been established and the major emphasis in the health programme should be on the training of more conscientious doctors and other medical staff. The control of leprosy should also engage the attention of the Government and, in consultation with other Governments, a contributory health insurance scheme should be introduced to help the suffering masses.

I turn over to education. Government should aim at the extension and improvement of the standard of secondary and post-secondary school education. The provision of four National High Schools, one in each Region including the Mid-West Region, is to my mind hope-

lessly inadequate. (*Hear, hear*). However, I must take this opportunity to implore the Government to establish the one for the Iseyin whenever it is time.

Under the Development Programme, a princely sum of £975,000 has been earmarked for boarding accommodation and the rebuilding of the Methodist Boys' High School. I congratulate the Federal Government for this generosity.

The Federal Scholarships Board should establish a sort of sub-committee in the Regions to deal with applicants from each particular Region. This will certainly save a lot of time. For example, the Board does not expect applicants from the United Kingdom to come down to Lagos for interview; the London Office handles this.

I would like to say something about agriculture. There must be a co-ordination of agricultural, veterinary and forestry development programme. A lot has been said on this, so I will confine my observation to fisheries. Nigeria has a vast area of fishing water. Government should invite fish culturists for advice. The Fisheries School in Hong Kong would gladly provide one if approached.

My next point is about the Ministry of Justice. Both lawyers and laymen in this honourable House have had several occasions to congratulate our learned Attorney-General for his efforts to bring our laws up-to-date. I think he should continue to do this until all traits of imperialism or colonialism have been removed from our laws.

The Marriage Ordinance should be reviewed immediately. Divorces are rampant in this country to-day both in the court of law and customary courts. An elderly Bishop has suggested that a Minister of Public Morality should be appointed, and I think Mr Ekanem will be a good man for this job ! (*Laughter*)

I would now say something about our sports, our efforts to develop a sound mind in a sound body. I have to congratulate the Federal Government for not neglecting the mind, and the souls of the youths in this country. There are financial provisions for various sports and

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]  
a year, and there are a great many more accidents which are not accounted for. Accident prevention in industry is at present receiving world-wide attention, and I intend convening a National Safety Conference, in which all sides of Industry throughout Nigeria can get together in an attempt to focus attention on the requirements of the Factories Act in the field of industrial safety and welfare.

In the Employment Division of my Ministry, an Employment Market Information Service has been set up and its first basic report has been issued. An Occupational Research and Classification Unit was also set up last year and an interim classification has been compiled for the use of the placement services of the Employment Exchanges. These two achievements will ensure that the best possible use is made of our manpower resources.

I am fully aware of the number of unemployed workers in the country and am most sympathetic to their problem. I am doing my best to find work for these people but neither I nor my Ministry can make work where none exists; we cannot create jobs but we can, through the employment exchanges, put suitably qualified unemployed workers in contact with employers who have vacancies. I am happy to be able to tell you that we now have 17 employment exchanges throughout the Federation. I propose in the coming year to extend the service to the growing industrial areas.

Last year, the National Provident Fund Act was passed and, up till now, the main work of the Fund has been the registration of workers. A total of about 50,000 workers has been registered and it is anticipated that there will be a sharp increase in the next few months of workers in the private sector. When the first phase of the scheme is completed by 1st October, it is estimated that there will be a total of 360,000 members of the Fund. On the whole, it can be said that the Fund has now taken roots and that the scheme has made a successful start. I cannot over-emphasise the very real advantages of the scheme which will help to provide for the need of the ordinary man in retirement or in time of real difficulty. It is a great step forward towards removing fear of want and impoverishment in old age.

The welfare of youths is receiving adequate attention, and through the activities of the various youth clubs, the young people are encouraged to spend their time usefully for the welfare of the community at large. It is hoped during the year to organise a Youth Festival in Lagos that will give the public an opportunity to see what the various youth organisations have been able to accomplish and to demonstrate the useful contributions which youths can make to the progress of the nation.

Nigeria has invited the Commonwealth Youth Movement to send representatives of young people from all over the Commonwealth to Nigeria at the time of the Trade Fair next October. The object of their gathering, known as a Quest, is to provide opportunities for selected youths to see the Commonwealth and to meet its people.

The development of Co-operative Societies of all types in Lagos continues to receive my attention. I am convinced that effective Co-operative education for the leaders of tomorrow can best be carried out through the establishment of co-operative societies in schools. To this end, School Co-operative Thrift Societies are now being organised in the secondary schools in Lagos to inculcate the spirit of thrift in the students, while at the same time giving them the opportunity to run their own business in a democratic way.

To-day, we are faced with a gigantic bid for economic development. This means we need a great deal of capital. Capital means saved-up money, hence my interest in these thrift societies which form the bulk of the Co-operative Societies in Lagos. The standard of living of a modern community is determined by the creation of a financial atmosphere which helps to increase the credit worthiness of the members of that community. To this end I am encouraging the development of credit facilities among existing co-operative societies in order to enable the members to enjoy the benefits of credit without suffering the demoralising effect resulting from going to money lenders.

The Government will continue to encourage sports and to improve our performances in international matches; and to this end, the National Sports Council in which Regional

Governments are co-operating will be inaugurated shortly. The main task of the Council will be the development of sports with a view to raising national standards in sports. I intend also to set up soon a Sports Council for the co-ordination of sports in Lagos.

Hon. Members will agree with me that His Excellency the Governor-General has been prominent in encouraging all forms of sports and by his regular presence at various meetings had done a great deal in inspiring our sportsmen all over the country. As the Minister responsible for sports, I must place on record my appreciation of His Excellency's efforts to encourage sports in the country.

The National Stadium at Surulere is the baby of the Federal Government, and everything is being done to develop it to reflect its importance. Funds will be provided for a further development of the Stadium, and I hope that before long, a proper stadium that will do credit to Nigeria will be constructed.

As regards, Fernando Po, I am sure hon. Members have heard enough about this; and if I interpret your feelings correctly, I think you are perfectly satisfied with the steps Government has taken.

**Several Opposition Members :** No ! No !

**The Minister of Labour :** I am happy that only few voices are raising this objection.

Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu North East) :** I rise—

**Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town) :** I refer to Standing Order 25 (11).

"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'".

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Dr Mbadiwe has not spoken on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill since he was elected to this House.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill so eloquently and lucidly moved by the Minister of Finance. Last year, the Minister of Finance moved the—

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) :** The hon. Gentleman is referring to last year when he was not here.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Sir, last year, the Minister of Finance made the Sovereignty Budget Speech, described by the then President of the Senate as a marathon speech. That was a budget to close an era—it closed the colonial era.

I see in this present Budget, which is the Mobilisation Budget, the opening of a new chapter, a chapter which I would call a proclamation to the entire world that this country has emerged into financial sovereignty. I see many stresses in this financial budget which, if carried to their logical conclusion, will place this country in a new setting.

First of all, one of the most prominent features of this Budget is that Nigerians must depend upon their own resources to build their own greatness, which means they must learn to save and they must save. That is one characteristic of the Budget. We cannot depend now, or for many times, or for many years to come on resources from outside this country, therefore saving becomes very imperative.

Another feature which this Budget carries is that for many years we have been attached to the apron strings of the British Exchequer. They dictated what the whole content of our pound should have. To-day, under the new plan and proposal we will determine in Nigeria what is to be the gold content of our pound. We shall also bring down our gold to the Nigerian port in the Central Bank.

We were told before that every pound we use has a secured gold reserve. Secured where ?

**An hon. Member :** Bank of England.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Secured in the Bank of England, but not secured in Nigeria. We are now bringing the gold reserve to the port of Nigeria in our Central Bank. It is our economic future—dependable gold.

[DR MBADIWE]

For the first time the Budget announces that commercial banks, whether foreign or indigenous, must henceforth look up to Nigeria for their own financial decisions and not to financial decisions outside this country.

It has happened many times that interests in our commercial banks are not dictated in Nigeria. They are dictated from the financial stand point of the British Exchequer. We have arrived now to end what we may call financial individualism. These are the high lights. Henceforth the Minister of Finance of the Federation of Nigeria will determine what reserve any commercial bank should have, whether it should be foreign or Nigerian liquid security. Before, that was not there, and that is why I feel that the decision to repatriate our own assets from the United Kingdom is the beginning of financial independence never propounded before in this country. That is why I say that this Budget is the beginning of a new chapter in our financial history. (*Hear, hear*).

I see in the Budget that Government is going to introduce security printing and printing of our own currency notes in this country. Do you know that we are now just mere agents in using the British postal order? We are only collecting commissions, nothing more, nothing less. But under the new system of having our own security printing we shall make our own currency notes, money orders, postal orders, and stamps here in this country. This was not so before. We depended upon England.

This is a country having independence but living in economic bondage of another sovereign nation. That is a great feature of this Budget, and I think that the Minister of Finance should congratulate himself as well as the Federal Government itself for having devised a Programme which to-day brings this country into real maturity in its financial manipulations.

On July 1st the West African Currency notes will no longer be legal tender in this country. So that we will have a perfect control. It is easy for people to gather West African Currency notes from other countries and empty them in Nigeria and take out our own currency notes. That will end on July 1st. These are the traces of greatness.

What I would ask the Minister of Finance as well as his Colleagues in the Government to observe is that we have given so much power

to the Central Bank as we never gave it before. The Central Bank is now getting powers which it never possessed. That power is a sacred trust. With all the decisions and features of this new Budget given to a Bank, we must make sure that all countries will continue to have confidence in the Central Bank. We can only do it this way. I believe in Nigerianisation any day, but there are certain points in Nigerianisation beyond which I cannot go.

There is nationalisation wholesale, and there is nationalisation with caution. In our Central Bank we shall nationalise. We shall dictate the policy and the monetary content of our pound. We shall bring our reserves back to this country. We shall make it clear to the commercial banks, foreign or indigenous, that we shall dictate the monetary market in accordance with our own trade standards, but at the same time the advisers and the people to carry out this scheme must be experts. Be they Nigerians, or Germans, or Russians, they must be experts who can do it.

It is so clear that money increases when there is confidence. Once confidence is shaken money flies away and is lost money. I am in a position to know this. This confidence must continue. I must say that the Ministry of Finance and the Exchequer of this country have so far taken great care of the Central Bank, and as a result there is abundant confidence in the Central Bank. I think that the Governor of the Bank, Mr Fenton, is doing a very nice work. He comes from England. I do not care about the colour of his skin. I want efficiency, and he has got it. Let this House give a directive to the Ministry that once there is confidence and there are men who can man the important positions let those men continue. But confidence in our monetary system must not be shaken.

Our monetary system is sound. Our pound enjoys great confidence throughout the world, and I want this to continue.

Another thing is that you cannot have an overall control of our financial machinery without dictating how the price of our produce should be fixed. The Minister of Finance talked about the fixing of our prices in consultation with the Regions. It is a very bad financial risk for every Region to fix its own prices of cocoa, groundnut, or palm oil in isolation. There is nothing like financial

isolationism. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Ministers of Finance of the Governments of the Federation should meet to determine that what happens to this country will depend only upon their collective action, acting with the Regional Boards, in consultation with the Central Bank. We want such an interplay. Only with such an interplay can we make sure that a penny sunk into any produce will effect more purchases and, consequently, more production.

There are so many people with various financial theories and financial sentimentalities. Such people think that by cutting down the price of palm produce by one shilling, they would get more money into the coffers of the Government. But it is when that is done that initiative for production is killed.

It is only if the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance of the Federation work in conjunction with the Regional Boards that we can have uniform price rates; that we can know when to raise prices, when to reduce them and when to level them. Only that will help us. But if we continue with this practice of raising or lowering prices at will, our farmers would most likely cease to climb up to cut the palm fruits because they would feel that prices are not stable. But if we cut prices and yet produce more, more revenue will be realised and the Government will collect more money into its coffers.

Therefore, set the experts to work. The financial territory is a territory of professional men. It cannot be run with just the open and naked "strong-eye". Experts must do the work.

I agree with the four theories of diversification made by the hon. Minister of Finance. I do not question them. But there is one thing which I would like to say, and that is that this Budget is one presented without fear, but industrialisation as contained in it is industrialisation with timidity. Industrialisation with timidity is not the answer to the question.

Let me explain myself. The Nkalagu Cement factory has been operating now for over four years and it has since then been producing cement. It can produce up to 400,000 to 500,000 tons of cement. But this is not enough for our use and we are still importing up to 400,000 tons,

What we should do is to gear up our production capacity of cement and increase the volume of production of cement which can be produced at Nkalagu, at Abeokuta and, probably, Sokoto if it goes in for cement production. That will help us greatly. We would produce all the cement that we need and export to West African countries the excess which we do not need.

Let me cite another example. We are spending more than £35 million on textiles alone, and yet there is a textile mill in Kaduna. What is holding us from expanding our mill in Kaduna and intensifying production in existing mills? I know that there will be a mill at Aba soon and in other places, but I am concerning myself now with the mills already in existence.

By industrialising with timidity—scratching little here, small there, an unimpressive amount the other side—we are doing ourselves no good. Let us plunge in and take the current while it serves. Only in this way can the imbalance of trade continue to diminish. We will not be helping ourselves if we continue to take small amounts here and there. We must industrialise in such a way as to be able to export our primary industries which are our produce and also our secondary industries which we are now beginning to have. After all, Egypt exports cement to this country, and so does Israel which has a population of not more than three million. Why, therefore, can we not develop our industries and export to neighbouring countries like Dahomey? What is preventing us from exchanging trade with them by taking what they have and sending them our excess products? It is shameful that, at present, we cannot even produce the maximum of our capacity of consumption. I do hope that the first step in our economic development will be to strengthen and expand those things which we now have and find ways of making them reach maximum capacity of production instead of having them half way.

I said that we are industrialising with timidity because we still allow ourselves to be saddled with experts who come to help us in disguise. They are more desirous of protecting the markets overseas. They give us only little help so as to help their brothers in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world. We should let them know that we are

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aware of their attitude. We should let them know that we want a production target of 800,000 tons of cement and that they are paid for their knowledge to help us reach that target. If we go by the gradual process of economics, we would never, even in ten years, reach our height.

There is now much talk about imbalance of trade with Japan. We buy £26 million worth of goods from Japan alone but Japan does not reciprocate. I think that the solution is not to make Japan take from us what she does not want. Japan should be invited to set up industries here and help us to industrialise.

I have said before that we are putting all our eggs in one basket. We depend very much on a few countries. When Japan and Russia wanted to industrialise they went throughout the world to invite people of talent from different countries of the world to help them with their industrialisation. We can similarly ask Japan to come here to establish industries and so help us to industrialise.

I have heard so many speeches already on the question of insurance. We welcome the Government's proposal to set up a £1 million Insurance Company, but I would at the same time ask that the Government should examine the existing Insurance Companies to find out which of them are African-owned. By "African-owned" I mean those Companies where sixty or fifty-one *per cent* of the shares are owned by Africans. The Government should not go into the market to destroy these existing African Companies. Rather, the Government should examine those that are already existing and give them support in whatever plans they want to carry out.

As we said before, the Government cannot always run a business, but the Government can always run a profitable business. The best thing is that the Government should start these profit-making businesses and at the same time make sure that the existing companies under the aegis of the Africans are well protected.

I would suggest that the Government should enter into life insurance business. People talk about the enormous profits which insurance companies make on insurance, but I say that not all insurance businesses bring

profit. For example, motor car insurance business is not profitable. I am speaking from practical experience. Most of these insurance businesses do not bring in profits and are not good risks. But there is money in life insurance business. Therefore, I am asking the Government to consider the possibility of entering into this business which is just like the provident fund business, because when people insure their lives they will not all die at the same time; some will live. Even if the Government pays out premiums in respect of the insured, there will still be surplus money. This is how the Government can get some money. I will urge the Government to use its influence to go into this business through which it will be doing very useful services to the citizens of this country. I am sure that men will rather insure with the Government since they will be certain that the premiums will be respected in future. At the same time, they will see these premiums as savings for their children.

One tax measure which the Minister of Finance has not seen fit to introduce is what I would call 'charity tax'. I want the Minister of Finance to consider very seriously the introduction of charity tax, whereby men who wish to contribute to certain social institutions approved by the Government will have up to five *per cent* of the contribution tax free. If the Government is busy with economic development, we should make the citizens of this country to care for their hospitals and schools. If they contribute for such institutions, it will be necessary for them to be entitled to some tax deduction.

I come to the duty on petrol. This has been what I will call the real sovereignty budget.

**An hon. Member :** That was presented last year !

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I know, but this is the real sovereignty budget ! I would suggest that in future if we want wage and price stabilisation, we should be careful of how we tax petrol and commercial vehicles. If we can find no way to amend it, let us declare a two-year moratorium, which will be made clear to this country. But if we tax petrol and commercial vehicles, certainly the lives of the people in the rural areas will be affected. Our people do not have



any other means of going to the market : to-day people go from the hinterland to the bigger commercial centres to buy their food, and once we tax petrol and commercial vehicles, food prices go up. Therefore, we want a moratorium. We do not want to give labour the cause to agitate for increase in wages and salaries because it will make nonsense of the Development Programme. (*Interruptions by Mr Bown*). I think the Member of Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) will have to return to his constituency !

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town) : On a point of order. I think the Member for Orlu North West (*Dr Mbadiwe*) should not refer to any hon. Member but should address himself to the Chair.

**The Deputy Speaker** : While I may say that there may be cause for the point of order raised, I think also that there is cause for Members to comply with Standing Order 27 and keep to their own seats.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I suggest that the Development Programme should call for no wage increase, and I appeal to the labour leaders to accept that.

While I say that the Minister of Finance should declare a moratorium on petrol and commercial vehicles, the constant demand for petrol by the Regions should be stopped. We should find another agency because their demand is getting too much and the tax on petrol is getting higher every day. We must put a stop to this. I give you two alternative sources—there can be no elimination without substitution.

**The Deputy Speaker** : May I ask the hon. Member, in his enumerations, to please note that he has only two minutes more.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : The Government has called the Regional Governments to join hands with it to monopolise pool betting but some of these Regional Governments have not accepted this offer. I would say that if we tie down in Nigeria the money which our people send to the United Kingdom, we will have surplus money and, therefore, need not tax petrol. The Government should seek their co-operation, although some are not willing. I am sure that if the Government puts its feet down and says that it is not going to increase taxes on things like petrol, they will yield.

Another thing is that there should be an excise duty on soap. Since there is an excise duty on beer and cigarettes, there should also be excise duty on soap.

I thank the Minister of Finance for this excellent Appropriation Bill. Once we have heeded to this sovereignty and known what we are going to avoid, then we can sing with Longfellow as *Omimi* sang in last year's budget :—

*"Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State !  
Sail on, O Union, strong and great !  
Humanity with all its fears,  
With all the hopes of future years,  
Is hanging breathless on thy fate !"*

I beg to support.

5.11 p.m.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and to praise the Federal Government for its bold Development Programme.

I also want to register my thanks—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order. The hon. Member is reading his notes. It may be that he was trapped in a lift the other day and that is why he is reading now.

**The Deputy Speaker** : I think that point of order is premature.

**Mr Babatunde** : The hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is just trying to retaliate.

I wish to thank the Federal Government on behalf of my Emir and the entire people of Ilorin Province for the Niger Dam project. This project will create more employment for the people in the area and more business for the local traders. Also, the missionaries will be successful in their evangelistic work because more people will come to Ilorin Province as a result of this project.

As for the austerity measures, I would like this House to let the whole nation know the need for them because people are thinking already that these measures become necessary due to Government's misappropriation of its funds or that Government is running short of

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money. They should be told that we introduced these measures because we do not want our various development projects to depend solely on money borrowed from abroad.

I would suggest that the Federal Government should allow some Regional Governments to introduce some types of austerity measures alone. When I say Regional Governments, I mean the Action Group Government of the West. At the time when the Western Regional Government promised the daily paid workers 5s-0d, the Eastern Regional Government promised 7s-6d but when they saw that it could not work they retreated, but the Western Government persisted and ran short.

**Mr Brown :** On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like the hon. Gentleman to be a little bit slow so that we may be able to follow his speech.

**The Deputy Speaker :** All that the Standing Orders provide is that the official language is English ; it does not really dictate the speed at which any Member should speak.

**Mr Babatunde :** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to know that everybody is appreciative of his good work, but he must listen to our protests about the increased price of petrol because Members on all sides of the House have been hammering against this increase. He should review this matter immediately.

I want to subscribe to the idea of the Prime Minister touring all African countries. I would not recommend to him to do so unless he is invited. If the Prime Minister goes to any place uninvited and he does not have a good reception, we have no grounds for complaint and this will be a disgrace to Nigeria.

I want also to speak about prison and prisoners' comfort. I know that many things have been said about this but I want some people to know that a prison is not a place of comfort and that if prisoners are given too many amenities people will want to go there. I would suggest that the Government should empower prison authorities to give political prisoners and minor offenders only some latitude, but certainly not all prisoners.

On the question of Lagos affairs, I would like to advise the Minister of Lagos affairs to listen carefully to the agitation of White Cap Chiefs. I would mention especially Chief

Kosoko who was alleged to be directing Market Women to do everything that the Action Group told them. He infused fear into them and asked them to do all sorts of things, not in the interest of peace in Lagos, by agitating unnecessarily. If all the Chiefs should have pardon, this Chief Kosoko should be disciplined. I want the Federal Government—

**Oba Oladiran :** I protest on behalf of Chief Kosoko. There is no reason why he should be dragged into this debate.

**Mr Babatunde :** The hon. Gentleman is not an agent of Chief Kosoko and it has nothing to do with him.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu) :** On a point of order, Sir, I am referring to Order 5 with a view to eliciting some clarification. Order 5 refers to Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and is on page 10. Here it is said that—

*“When Mr Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk at the Table, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair in the House and shall be invested with all the powers of Mr Speaker until the next sitting of the House.”*

*(2) Mr Speaker may, at any time, ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair temporarily without formal communication to the House”.*

I am thinking that when the Deputy Speaker takes the Chair he should be addressed as the Speaker and not the Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think that, first of all Standing Order 5 (1) does not apply in this case. With respect to Standing Order 5 (2), it deals with the powers invested in the Deputy Speaker when he is sitting in the Chair ; it certainly does not deal with appellations.

**Mr Babatunde :** Thank you very much again, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to subscribe to the question of passport control. If I have my way I will advise the Federal Government to give some priority solely and wholly to people making the pilgrimage to Mecca. I do not support the idea of issuing passports to every Tom, Dick and Harry, because some people obtain these passports to go to England and get stranded. Their guarantors, instead of fulfilling their obligations, apply

to the Federal Government to repatriate these short-sighted people at Government expense. This is wasteful and some measure of control should be exercised. Only people going to Mecca should be given some latitude.

I would also suggest that the issuing of passports should not be taken away from the Police.

**Chief Akin Olugbade :** On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker the debate now is on the Budget Speech or the Appropriation Bill and it is because so many people want to speak that the time is being extended till twelve o'clock to-night. I suggest that these irrelevant statements being made by the hon. Member should be disallowed.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I would have objected and indeed, I would object to any speaker going into very great details of any particular Head, Ministry or Department, but so far the hon. Gentleman speaking has confined himself to very brief passing statements. (*Interruptions*). Order. I do sincerely think we will get on much more quickly and much better if we are not terribly sensitive.

**Mr Babatunde :** As I have said, I do not wish that the business of issuing passports be taken away from the hands of the Police. However bad the Police may be, we cannot compare them with civilians because if they caught and brought to court, the court will deal more severely with them than with ordinary civilians. An example of this is the Western Government. They took away the licensing of vehicles from the hands of the Police and we now see how many people go to prison out of the District Council clerks. That is the reason why I say that the Police should retain the work of issuing passports.

Talking about industrialisation, we said that we should invite Japan. I agree that they should be invited to come here but we should not lose sight of clinging to the British manufacturers because all Japanese goods and manufactured articles are very inferior. I do not say that they should not come here, but we should be very careful not to risk our total resources on Japanese industries alone.

When we hear that British manufactured goods are the best, it is no exaggeration at all. I heard many people talk ill about the British

Government and their activities, but the British people are just like teachers. No one wants to forget his teacher or the principal of the college he attended. Whatever we may be to-day, they have brought us up. If there are some of them that are not good, we should deal with them singularly.

For instance, in our Province, we have a very good Resident, Mr B. A. Abbott, who happened to be my principal before. He and the Secretary-Typist in his office are all such good people that we would like them to be here for twenty-five more years.

**The Deputy Speaker :** We are dealing with the general economic and financial policies of the Federal Government, and if the hon. Gentleman would insist on elaborating on the qualities of a British gentleman, he might as well relate those sterling qualities to the Government's financial policy.

**Mr Babatunde :** Talking about insurance Companies, I have been identified with insurance companies for many years and I wish to sound my warning to the Federal Government, not to listen to people trying to put their hands into this business. I want every hon. Member to know that the insurance companies will very much like that we take out insurance for our cars—those that are compulsory—but the idea of comprehensive insurance that will throw them into liability, they do not care whether it is taken or not. I have to sound the warning that it is not a paying business at all. It needs to be well examined. If the Government does not examine it well, we will see that Government's money will merely be lost in paying compensation.

According to the Deputy Speaker, I will leave some points that I want to make and deal exclusively with finance.

The Budget that has been drawn up shows us what we have to do and I want the nation to know that we have not adopted austerity measures because the Government has run short of money. We just want to show the nation that we can make some sacrifice of a kind, starting from the Ministers and the Legislators.

As I am not given to making long speeches, I beg to support.

5.25 p.m.

**The Minister of Finance :** First of all, I must say that I am both deeply touched and genuinely grateful for the almost universal support which all sides of the House have given to the policies which I outlined in my Budget Speech and for the many constructive suggestions which have been offered. This spirit of co-operation and the restraint, which have characterised the debate, at once portray our growing maturity and provide an excellent augury for the future.

The whole aim of the monetary and financial policies which I outlined two weeks ago was to make possible the successful implementation of the National Development Plan and, in particular, to accord with our reasonable national aspirations that our economy should stand on its own feet and not be dependent upon any other. Some Members indeed may have been surprised that the Federal Government should have adopted all these far reaching policies covering so many fields of our economic life.

It is true that suggestions covering some aspects, but by no means all, of the policies which I announced have been advocated both in this House and elsewhere, but the Federal Government will not be blown by the wind of political opportunists. We are not hasty climbers and we do not rush in where angels fear to tread without thought of the consequences. We give the most thorough consideration to all the manifold implications before embarking upon any major shift in policy. Indeed we should be failing in our duty if we did not do so. Prudence rather than undue conservatism is our watchword.

It is obviously impossible for me, in replying to the debate, to deal with all the valuable suggestions made by Members from all Sides of this House who have spoken. Nevertheless, I can assure this House that all the points raised have already been noted and are even now being examined. I cannot promise that the Government will accept all the suggestions made—some of them are in fact mutually contradictory. One Member suggested, for instance, that Government should make available housing mortgages and loans at a much lower rate of interest than now prevails. Another Member, on the other hand, suggested that the rate of interest which Government had proposed to pay on the new Savings Certificates

—five per cent per annum—was too low. If Government is to pay more for the money which it itself borrows, it is difficult to see how it can lend to others at a cheaper rate. But I can assure this House that every suggestion made will receive the most careful consideration.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** What about the interest on Treasury Bills to the Lagos Town Council and the Nigerian Tobacco Company ?

**The Minister of Finance :** Treasury Bills to the Nigerian Tobacco Company ! We do not give the proceeds on Treasury Bills to any other Company. The proceeds on Treasury Bills are either utilised by the Federal Government or are given on loan to the Regional Governments.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I am referring to the interest on it.

**The Minister of Finance :** The interest that is payable is universal. It does not discriminate. If one invests his money in it, or in any other Company for that matter, indigenous or expatriate, naturally, the rate of interest is the same according to the denomination.

Several Members, notably the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), spoke about external loans, complaining that I gave no details of where the money was to come from, how it was to be repaid, and what other strings might be attached to it. I spoke at some length on these questions in my Budget Speech, referring to the firm offers of aid which we have already received. It is not reasonable to expect that foreign governments and institutions would have by this time committed themselves to making available the whole of the external finance which we require.

Before we can expect them to do this they must have had an opportunity to scrutinise our Development Plan and, particularly, to satisfy themselves that Nigeria for her part is doing her utmost to put her house in order and to mobilise her own resources—with due deference to “K.O”, “to mobilise all the mobilisables”. This condition, I am sure, has now been satisfied with the adoption of the policies which I and my colleagues in the Regions have already announced. It is my

hope and belief that during the coming months we shall be able to secure definite commitments for further assistance on a massive scale from a wide variety of countries and that the whole of the external finance we require will be forthcoming.

I am particularly sorry that the hon. Member should have seen fit to attack Great Britain for what he obviously regarded as her paltry contribution of £5 million. My hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, also mentioned it this morning and tried to reduce it or shatter it into smithereens thus making the whole thing look ridiculous. This was a spontaneous gesture by the United Kingdom, intended to assure Nigeria in a positive way of Great Britain's support for Nigeria's educational programme as outlined in the Ashby Report. I think the hon. Member would have been better advised to withhold his fire until he knows the extent of Britain's contribution to the financing of the overall Plan.

I spoke also in my Budget Speech about the servicing of this foreign debt when I said that, given a reasonable proportion between long term soft loans of the type which the International Development Association is now making—fifty-year loans at negligible rates of interest—and conventional loans on commercial terms of about twenty years' maturity, our external debt servicing liabilities should, by the end of the Plan period fall within the normally acceptable limit of 10 per cent of our total export earnings.

There is an increasing awareness in the world to-day that the needs of developing countries must be met entirely by conventional loans at normal commercial rates. Much of the investment which will be financed by loans only contributes to the growth of the economy over a relatively long period—education is an obvious example of this. We are not looking for charity; we are looking for aid on terms which will enable us to develop our economy in the shortest possible time. This is in the interest not only of Nigeria as a recipient, but also of the donor countries, for history has shown repeatedly that where a country's economy develops its international trade develops with it.

Finally, I had hoped that I had made it absolutely clear the sort of conditions or considerations which we would be prepared to accept. Briefly, these are that the aid will, in

general, be tied to specific projects which must satisfy the normal investment criteria of productivity and efficiency. In some cases they may also be tied to the purchase of capital goods from the donor country. Above all, the projects for which we accept foreign aid must be those to which we in Nigeria accord the highest priority. It is perhaps worthwhile quoting one sentence from my Budget Speech. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

*“Further ties, particularly those involving political or economic considerations, we are not prepared to accept.”*

Another Member suggested that the Central Bank should be converted into a sort of people's bank rather than a bankers' bank. If, by this, he envisaged the Central Bank setting up offices throughout the country to deal directly with the public as a normal commercial bank, this is completely out of the question. By its very nature a Central Bank is not a commercial bank, for its function is to stand behind commercial banks exercising guidance and, where, necessary, control over the whole of the commercial banking system.

Another member suggested that indigenous banks should continue to be allowed to commence operations with a capital of less than £250,000. Here again, I am afraid that our experience over the past decade has shown conclusively that no bank can function satisfactorily with a small capital. My Ministry and the Central Bank have given very considerable assistance to numerous small banks over the past few years, but it has become abundantly clear that in every case their difficulties will not be solved unless they can greatly increase the capital available to them.

Many hon. Members have welcomed the intention of the Federal Government to require insurance companies to invest at least half of their available monies in Nigeria. One hon. Member, I think it was my old Friend the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*), suggested that the proportion should be three-quarters and should apply also to commercial banks. In the case of insurance companies, I think I can best refer once again to what I said in my Budget Speech. There I said that any review of the proportion of monies which must be invested in Nigeria will be in an upward direction. Let us make a beginning first.

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Examination of the facts has, however, shown that in the case of commercial banks there is less need for statutory limitations of this order. The detailed figures show that in only one quarter since December 1960 have the percentage of total deposits with the commercial banks in Nigeria which have been laid out in advances or otherwise invested in Nigeria, fallen below 80 per cent. Even the figure for this one quarter was 75.6 per cent. Furthermore, these figures do not take into account the very substantial investment by the commercial banks in land and buildings in Nigeria, a figure which runs into several million pounds for each of the larger banks. Although I shall naturally continue to watch the position, in view of the other measures which I have already announced I do not think it will be either necessary or desirable to take such statutory powers in the case of the commercial banks.

Many hon. Members on all sides of the House have expressed disquiet at the increased duty on petrol, diesel fuel, and on commercial vehicles. Here I know I am in some difficulties but I hope that hon. Members will listen to my explanation. As I understand it, their general argument was that because the distribution of food stuffs all over the country depends to a large extent on road transport, the Federal Government ought not to have increased the cost of this transport. One or two hon. Members inferred that they could see nothing wrong in making private car owners pay for their pleasures by paying a higher price for their petrol. This sounds very attractive, but I am afraid it is just not practicable.

I would like to make three main points on this whole question. First, as hon. Members are aware, the whole of the proceeds of import duties on petrol and diesel oil and I think "K.O." cleverly anticipated me—are allocated to the various Governments of the Federation in accordance with consumption in their areas.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : Every time they come !

**The Minister of Finance** : Yes, they come. They must come because by our Constitution they have to come and if they come and ask us to impose it, after careful examination we may do so. As a matter of fact we have not much

to say in the matter. We cannot fight the whole Regional Governments together. Much as I am in sympathy with what Members are saying we are bound under the Constitution. Where the Regions agree that a levy for which they have 100 per cent interest is to be made I have no alternative but to agree to their request. Sometimes I have to do the unpleasant duty. I take all the blame from the public, but I have no choice than this.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** : (Orlu North East) : But it is detrimental.

**The Minister of Finance** : I do not agree that it is naturally detrimental. But I shall tell you more of it.

As hon. Members had already anticipated, each of the Regional Governments specifically requested that these duties be increased. Sometimes I am in a position to argue with my colleagues and make some reductions. Perhaps if I had taken the whole representations made to me it would have been higher. But I can assure you that I did my best to push it down to its present level and I think that hon. Members will appreciate that.

Another reason is that the construction and maintenance of roads is very expensive not only for the Federal Government but also for the Regional Governments. Large sums are earmarked for the expansion of the road system in the National Development Plan and all the Governments attach very great importance to this aspect of economic development. At the same time, we feel it is both fair and reasonable to expect those who use these roads either for pleasure or to earn a living and a profit, to contribute adequately to the cost of their construction and maintenance.

I think nearly every Member comes to this House day in and day out and asks for roads to be built in his constituency, and if the roads are built they have to be maintained ; people are using them. You do not expect the pedestrian who goes on foot to pay as much for the road as the man who is using his lorry to carry timber and who damages the whole of the road every day. Naturally, any man using the road for profit-making like that, and damages the road, must pay more than the ordinary man who is using his bicycle, like

my hon. Friend from Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*), who feels alarm because we are increasing the licence fee! How else could we pay for the roads? Who else but a lorry owner whose lorries carry timber should pay for the roads?

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): Mr Deputy Speaker, Point of order. As a preliminary measure towards austerity, I have started to use a bicycle, and I wonder if the hon. Minister of Finance will now use one too.

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

**The Minister of Finance**: My weight would be too much for a bicycle.

Hitherto this has not been the case and the users of our roads—by this I mean motor vehicles whether cars or lorries—alone of the transport systems in Nigeria have enjoyed a subsidy at the expense of the general taxpayer. The increased duties, together with the increased vehicles licence fees which all the Governments introduced in January last, will go a long way towards ensuring that road transport makes a fairer contribution to the cost of the country's road network.

My third point, and this is really the crux of the matter, is that the increased costs arising from the new rates of duty and vehicle licences are relatively small. They certainly represent only a small fraction of the increased charges which road transport operators sought to impose. Taking into account the increased cost of fuel, the increased duty on vehicles, tyres, batteries, spare parts and the increase in the vehicle licence fee, the additional running costs of a five-ton lorry amount to only just over 2d per vehicle a mile. This is equivalent to an additional cost of 2d to move one hundredweight of food stuffs from Ibadan to Lagos. The detailed figures which I announced on Friday last gave, in the case of local food stuffs, an accurate indication of the increased costs of transport arising from the new duties. The trouble has been that many lorry owners have sought to profiteer at the expense of the public by increasing their charges out of all proportion to their increased costs. I hope and believe that reason will be restored very quickly and that public opinion will not countenance unscrupulous profiteering of this nature.

I was particularly glad to note the forthright comments made by several hon. Members on the need for greatly increased productivity of labour. This is indeed the key to the success of the National Development Plan. Increased wages and earnings can and will follow increased output but there must be no question of increased wages without commensurate increased productivity. The basic aim of the National Development Plan is to raise the level of living of all the peoples of this great country and not to broaden the gap between the salary and wage earners on the one hand and the farmers on the other. The road to a rising standard of living for each of us as individuals and for our country as a nation involves hard work and sacrifice in an attempt to increase our efficiency and productivity in every field.

Several hon. Members referred to the evil of smuggling with which we are still plagued despite the increasing success which has recently attended our efforts to combat this evil. As I said earlier, a most powerful weapon in this fight is public opinion. If the public ceased to buy goods which they must know were contraband, the problem would be solved overnight and the smugglers would be out of business. And, if I may say so, if lawyers like my hon. Friends, Akin-Olugbade and Briggs, will cease defending smugglers for profit, I am sure—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South, : Until a man is found guilty his innocence must be presumed.

**The Minister of Finance**: I agree, but a man charged with smuggling is a smuggler until it is proved right or wrong.

One or two Members referred in rather general terms to particular instances of smuggling. I do most earnestly request them to give full details in confidence either to me or to the Board of Customs and Excise. I can assure them that each case will be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

I think it fair to say that on the whole this year's Budget has received widespread acclaim and support not only in this House but throughout the country and in the Press. Some criticisms have indeed been made and we would not have it otherwise, for no man can

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be perfect and in a democracy every individual is entitled to express his own opinion provided that he does so reasonably temperately.

Those who hold in their hands the power to mould public opinion have a very real responsibility. Here I am thinking particularly of the National newspapers and radio. They are, of course, perfectly free to criticise and suggest but they must never overlook the fact that they have a very real moral duty not to mislead the public. One of the National daily newspapers, whilst purporting to support most of the Budget policies in its editorial columns, at the same time has been running a series of articles which consist of a mixture of distortion, half-truths and downright inaccuracies.

In one such article the paper referred to the anticipated yield from the increased tax on petrol and said that this tax would have been unnecessary if the Federal Government and its agencies had abolished basic allowances for motor vehicles. Another article referred to what the paper called a loss of £1 million per year through the policy of subsidised housing. To-day's article goes even further and refers to a loss of over £6 million a year from basic allowances, subsidised housing, *et cetera*. This is bordering on the ridiculous and can only be a deliberate attempt to mislead the public or incite the public unnecessarily against the constituted authority.

I shall show how this newspaper continues to do mischief, and naturally I am sure we all know the writer—he is at his best when he is making mischief. On the 4th April, with your permission, Sir, I will read what this newspaper wrote—

*"You, austerity and Taxes! Prices of local foodstuff have gone up because of the new petrol tax of 4d per gallon. From the tax, the Government expects £1.1 million a year."*

Then it goes on—

*"But do you know that the Federal Government and its agencies alone pay out yearly about £1.8 million in order to continue the transport basic allowance?"*

*If the Government had the courage to scrap it, then the petrol tax would be unnecessary and the country would still be left with about £.7 million in the Treasury." (Daily Express: 4th April, 1962).*

That is what the Paper said the first time about petrol.

As if that was not enough, it brings in this same argument again on April 5th. And with your permission I will read;

*"Road transport is the bedrock of our food distribution system in Nigeria. But the duty on commercial vehicles has gone up from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. From this source the Government expects extra £315,000 a year.*

*But £1.1 million from petrol tax and £315,000 from tax on commercial vehicles still do not come to the £1.8 million paid out as basic transport allowance annually by the Federal Government and its agencies to less than 150,000 people out of a population of 40 million!" (Daily Express: 5th April, 1962).*

Again, this same argument is brought in on the question of basic allowance the second time! Is that not mischief-making?

Another one again, the one of to-day—as I said already, he was trying to put the figures of all the Regional Governments and the Federal Government together at six-million pounds, and discussing in the same way:

#### **"You, Austerity and Taxes!"**

*"Through the various tax measures taken, the Federal Government expects to raise £12 million yearly as additional revenue to be shared by the four governments of the Federation.*

*But do you know that all the four governments are losing more than £6 million a year through the payment of transport basic allowance, subsidised housing, etc?"*

*For the six-year period, we could have £36 million available for development if these allowances and subsidies were stopped. This is less than the £30 million provided for the improvement of the country's telecommunication and postal services. Our proposed overseas debt could be reduced by at least £36 million."*

What is the purpose, I ask in all sincerity? What is the purpose behind this "You, Austerity and Taxes?" Is that to educate the public or to incite the public against constituted authority?



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**Some hon. Members :** That is an incitement.

**The Minister of Finance :** Well, as I said, these and other similar articles consist of a mixture of inaccuracies, half-truths and distortions. They ignore the fact that in the case of petrol duty, the increase was imposed not merely to increase revenue but also to reduce the subsidy which road transport enjoyed at the expense of the general taxpayer. They were inaccurate in their figure for the vehicle basic allowance—the gross cost to the Federal Government of these allowances is at present about six hundred and fifty thousand pounds per year, but this figure will fall sharply due to very much tighter control over the granting of these allowances.

**An hon. Member :** What of the Regions ?

**The Minister of Finance :** I am not concerned with the Regions. When it suits the hon. Members' purpose here he argues that we should leave the Regions alone, but when it suits him and his friends of *Daily Express*, he wants to bring the responsibilities of the Regions to bear on the Federal Government.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** The hon. Minister of Finance told this House that increases in petrol and other things were brought about as a result of pressure by the Regional Governments, but we know of Premiers and Ministers in the Regions who use five cars—Rolls Royce, Cardillac, Oldsmobile and so forth—and when they bring pressure to bear upon the Minister, he says—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. I think that point was more a point of information than a point of order.

**The Minister of Finance :** The hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) will never be a Premier. I do not want to be a premier either.

But if the allowances were to be abolished the actual savings would be very much less than this. In the first place, the present relationship between basic allowance and mileage allowance would have to be revised and greatly

increased mileage allowance paid to Police Officers, engineers, doctors and others, many of whom travel hundreds of miles on duty in a month. Then again, Government would have to purchase and maintain a far larger official fleet of vehicles than is the case at present.

In another article the newspaper referred to the revenue from the increased duties on electrical appliances and sought to relate this to expenditure on television.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** I think the Minister of Finance should give the articles in the newspaper to the Minister of Information to send in Government's side of the reply.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. If any Member wishes to raise any more points of order, I will insist that he refers me to a particular section of the Standing Order.

**The Minister of Finance :** I can understand why Mr Briggs is worried—because he was a stow-away newspaperman, and he has not forgotten his profession.

This ignores the fact that the Federal Government has tried in vain to get all the four Governments to come together to operate a single television service. It ignores the fact that duties were raised not only to raise revenue, but also to reduce imports of these non-essential items. These are but some of the factors which were ignored in these articles.

It is, of course, fairly simple to pick upon one particular instance and say that so and so ought to be done, but this method of approach ignores the very considerable economies which have already been made. Just about two years ago the Federal Government ceased to make car advances directly to its own staff. As a result, it has proved possible to transfer half a million pounds from the Personal Advances Fund, which was formerly used to pay these advances, to finance capital development. As I indicated in my Budget Speech, I shall be moving a Motion to this effect during this Meeting. This is a concrete saving which we have already realised, and not a mere paper exercise. Furthermore, as the repayment of the old advances which the Government made

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to the encouragement given to me by the Prime Minister and my colleagues and to the support of all Members of this House.

I can only say that I expect that all of you will pray for me and my colleagues that as long as I am entrusted with the responsibility of keeping the finances of this country, I should do my best to live up to the highest standards possible.

**Mr O. J. Eminue** (Eket East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill. I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all hon. Members of this House—

**Mr P. O. Tokula** (Igala North East): The hon. Member speaking is half dressed, Sir.

**Mr Speaker**: There is no Standing Order relevant to manner of dress.

**Mr Eminue**: I was saying that I have to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all hon. Members of this House in paying tributes to our respected Minister of Finance.

The Budget Speech, with its counterpart, the Economic Development Programme, is a clear indication of Nigeria's maturity not only in national but also in international politics and economics. Let us hope that in no distant date, Nigeria will by the Grace of God become the industrial heart of Africa. In order to achieve this end we must evolve three principles, namely: we must save hard; we must work hard; we must completely change our attitude towards ourselves and things Nigerian.

The 1962-63 Budget and the Economic Development Plan are so interwoven that one cannot be discussed in isolation. The Budget is therefore designed to launch the Development Programme in its first year of operation—that is to facilitate the economic development desired.

The six-year Economic Programme presented by the hon. Minister of Economic Development is estimated to cost this Nation £676.5 million. Part of this huge sum will be found from external sources in forms of loans and grants, and the other part will be raised internally. Every under-developed country depends on foreign aids for its development,

and Nigeria cannot be an exception. We, therefore, give a mandate to this Government to go ahead without delay to raise from any external source the money required to finance our economic plans: in this field America has taken the lead and we congratulate her.

Britain—our past master and friend—should do better. She reaped the greatest part of Nigeria's harvest. From whom much is given, much is expected. We hope that Russia will beat America and so the ball keeps rolling. To all our well-wishers and donors we sincerely express our appreciation. Also our Government should take care to examine every condition of each loan received. We hope every loan will be on the basis of mutual friendship and help.

Government's decision to repatriate all foreign investments for the development of our Nation is very much appreciated and we congratulate the Minister for this vigilance. We also appreciate Government's efforts to mobilise all available sources of external aid to finance the Development Programme, but we urge on the Government also the speedy implementation of these recommendations.

Internal financial sources are the first steps in the successful execution of the Development Programme—that is hard domestic savings. If we want the outside world to sympathise with us and so come to our aid we must show them what sacrifices we can make. If there was no American dollar and the British pound forth-coming, could we not initiate the Development Plan and start it off? Certainly we could. And if Russia, China, Egypt and all the countries of the world refuse us help we can still start off the Programme before us.

When there was no capital in the world and no wealthy community to give aid to one another Europe initiated the Industrial Revolution. They sacrificed their brains, their hands and their hard-earned pennies. If History must repeat itself then we must learn the lessons of history. We must demonstrate to the outside world that we are serious with our progress and that we are capable of progress. This time requires the greatest sacrifice of our life.

We must double if not treble the pace of our domestic savings. England of Lord Nelson expected every man in that emergency period

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Minister of Finance. He is a man of high intelligence, of great ability, of excellent temper, of trust, of great devotion to duty, and a man of whom the people of the Federation of Nigeria are proud.

has been welcomed by every citizen of Nigeria and it should be implemented in the immediate future.

Another aerodrome should be built

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to do his part. We are now in an emergency and Nigeria of Sir Abubakar expects every Nigerian to do his part, to contribute his share towards the Development Programme. The rich man must put in his pound while the small businessman puts in his shilling and the poor man his penny. We can only do this in the form of domestic savings.

We must therefore congratulate the Government for the measures it proposes to initiate to encourage domestic savings. The Post Office Savings Bank has not been effective. The long distance from post offices and the time wasted in withdrawal for emergency has made the Post Office Savings Bank an unpopular medium for domestic savings. The co-operative society is very popular with the ordinary man and woman in the village but the value of the co-operative society has not been fully established. Hence the slow progress in its growth in the villages.

Then there is the savings club the "Esusu Club" as it is known in the Eastern Region. This is the most popular savings medium of an ordinary village woman or man. A number of men or women come together obtain a licence from their County Council, and start off contributions of 2s, 3s, 5s or 10s according to their resources. When all the members have taken their share the Club is dissolved or another one started. With the money saved in this way the average villager has been able to educate his children and finance his little business alone. But members of these clubs have never learnt to pull their resources together in order to finance a more productive project.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I think we were all sent here for serious duty and I want to have your permission to say that any Member who sleeps in this House this night should forfeit his one month's salary, because some Members are beginning to sleep (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker :** I have not seen anyone sleeping. At any rate, it is too early for anyone to sleep now.

**Mr Eminue :** This is a medium of savings which recommends itself to an ordinary village man or woman and I urge that Government should encourage these savings clubs to form

themselves into co-operative houses and their savings vested in productive ventures : nine-tenths of our population is composed of these ordinary men and women living in villages and in hamlets. Their little savings in pennies and half-pennies will form the basis for investment in the private sector. Government must therefore step in to attract such investments and encourage them. I turn now to savings by all classes of workers. The spending propensity seems greatest amongst the working classes of our community. Unless this spending propensity is curbed, we are heading towards catastrophe. The Government which is introducing all sort of legislation to promote savings should itself learn to save the nations' money, for it is a waste of money to put up one building costing £30,000 for only one Minister. £30,000 can be used to erect three beautiful buildings for three Ministers instead of one. Government must therefore be urged to spend less on luxurious ministerial quarters. We are aware that—

**Prince D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** If the hon. Member will speak instead of reading it will make it interesting. We are all tired of listening to speeches being read.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. So far, he has been speaking on the point.

**Mr Eminue :** We are all aware that our Ministers must live in houses befitting their status as the representatives of the nation. But these buildings must reflect the state of our economy.

I must also urge the Government to consider introducing legislation against the importation of certain classes of cars into this country : Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, Oldsmobile and all classes of cars costing over £1,000 should not be imported into this country. They are expensive and wasteful. After all they do not make life more interesting just as they do not contribute to our economy. The Peugeot or the Volkswagen can take you anywhere you want to go in a Chevrolet or Pontiac or Buick.

A car in the hand of a young civil servant just promoted to the Senior Service is just like fire in the hand of a child. Nothing ruins our young men more than maintaining a car. I would like the Government to consider granting car advances only to those civil

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big commercial and agricultural city in the North, and it is the nearest biggest town in that section of the country to the Eastern Region of Nigeria. It is nearer to the East Regional Headquarters, Enugu, than to Kaduna, the North Regional Headquarters. To strengthen and heighten the friendly relationship existing between this part of the East and that part of the North, this humble submission should be viewed immediately by the Government with all seriousness.

In the field of communications, I implore the Government to see to it that at least one post office should be built in every Federal Constituency throughout Nigeria, and telephone services be extended to these post offices. This will surely make easy, quick and safe, the delivery of correspondence and messages, and will eventually yield more revenue to the Government.

Another very important matter which I want to draw to the urgent attention of the Government is the question of the establishment of police posts in all County Council headquarters in Nigeria. This service is of vital importance as it provides for the security of both lives and property of the people and helps greatly in the maintenance of peace and tranquillity among the people themselves.

In the field of education in Nigeria, I should like to say a few words. In his speech from the Throne a couple of weeks ago, the Governor-General emphasised that in order to produce a variety of suitably qualified personnel for the services of the Federation, the Government would continue its policy of offering scholarships for under-graduate and post-graduate studies in Nigerian educational institutions as well as in Universities and colleges abroad.

The Federal Government and, in particular, the Federal Ministry of Education deserve praise for scholarship awards. But, I wish to suggest a way in which every Division or Province in the whole country should share in the Federal scholarship awards. This is, by making the awards on provincial or divisional basis. Then the blame will not be upon the Government if and when a division or a province loses its chances due to lack of suitably qualified candidates.

As far as health is concerned, the Government should undertake the extension of health services throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Life is not dearer in big towns than in the suburbs. Many lives are lost almost everyday in the rural areas as a result of lack of medical attention.

Many hon. Members have spoken on the importance of providing more hospitals in the country by the Government. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that there is a need for at least one hospital in every division in our dear Nigeria. The ones already existing should be improved by expansion, better equipment and adequate staffing. Provision should be made by the Government for the training of more doctors. These doctors should be properly and comfortably quartered and their emoluments should be made more attractive than ever before in view of the vital importance of their services.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Mr P. B. Olatunde** (Ilorin South) : First of all, I would like to seize this opportunity to say a few words about my crossing over from the Action Group—(Interruptions.)

**Mr Speaker** : Hon. Members must maintain silence.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : Point of order. It does not concern a part of a Bill to tell us why he crossed from the Action Group to the N.P.C. It has no bearing whatsoever on the debate of to-night.

**Mr Speaker** : If you can only allow me to hear what he says, then I can be the judge of whether or not he is relevant.

**Mr Olatunde** : Hon. Members should be aware of the fact that I won the elections to this honourable House on the platform of the Egbe Igbomina Parapo/Action Group Alliance, but in order to achieve unity and progress in Igbomina, the Egbe Igbomina Parapo decided and broke its alliance with the Action Group and teamed up with N.P.C. Since the Egbe Igbomina Parapo, on whose platform I won the election to this House, has broken its alliance with the Action Group, I have been instructed to cross over to the N.P.C. Therefore, I have no other choice than to carry out the wishes of my people—(Interruptions.)

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Really the voices of Members interrupting are drowning the speech of the hon. Member, so much so that I have not been able to follow what he has been saying.

**Mr Olatunde :** I am saying that since the Egbe Igbomina Parapo, on whose platform I won the elections into this honourable House, has broken its alliance with the Action Group, I have been instructed to cross over to the N.P.C., and to carry out the wishes of my people—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** Point of order. Perhaps the hon. Member would be allowed to use the microphones so that we may be able to hear him better.

**Mr Speaker :** His position is not so bad in relation to the microphones, but with the leave of the House perhaps I will allow him.

**Mr Olatunde :** I say that therefore I had no other choice than to carry out the wishes of my people, and I am not ashamed of crossing over from the Opposition side to the Government side.

I have to associate myself with the hon. Members who have praised the Government for what it has done and for what it is planning to do. I do not want to mortgage my conscience, and, therefore, I would like to say a few words about what the Government ought to have done.

For us to be sincere to ourselves and to the people who elected us here, the hon. Members in this House will agree with me that the Government has concentrated its development activities to the principal towns and paid very little attention to the rural areas, whereas the people of the rural areas always contribute their quota to the development of the country, and the majority of the hon. Members in this House are from the rural areas. In my own opinion, it is high time that all the hon. Members in this House who come from the rural areas came together and made a very strong appeal to the Government to provide the rural areas with the necessary amenities. We only hear of taxation without representation ; I hope that it will not be illogical to hear of the adequate representation but without adequate shares.

I am from Igbomina in Ilorin Division in the Northern Region of Nigeria. The Government should be aware of the fact that the people of Igbomina, Ekiti and Offa in Ilorin Division are totally neglected. The Ilorin-Kabba trunk road passes through this area, and they have been persistently applying to the Government for the tarring of the road, but nothing has been done up to the present time. I know that because of the bad road none of the Ministers cares to go on tour of those areas. The other day, the Governor-General went on tour of the Northern Region. His Excellency only stopped at Ilorin Town, whereas the people of Igbomina, Ekiti and Offa also wanted to see him—their first African Governor-General ! The Governor-General was unable to touch the place because of the bad road. I seize this opportunity again to appeal to the Government to see to it that the Ilorin-Kabba trunk road is tarred as early as possible.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker :** The Minister of Internal Affairs.

**Mr Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) :** Point of order. It was supposed that tonight would be a very nice night for Members of the House and not for the Ministers. You know, they have got their shares and they get the privilege from you every time. Other people have been anxious to have this night for debate, and we understood that it would be for the Members of the House to air their views about this Bill. If the Ministers are given so much time, then we shall be deprived of the opportunity once again. Mr Speaker, will you please rescind this law ?

**Mr Speaker :** It is a pity that Members have begun to feel strongly about Ministers speaking, but may I remind them that they have equal opportunity to speak, and in this regard I am inclined to allow only two Ministers to speak tonight.

9. 50 p.m.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, Sardauna Bida) :—**I rise to contribute my own share to the Debate.

**Mr N. Nwangbo rose on a point of order.**

[MINISTER OF INFORMATION]  
experiment and develop. To balance our programme schedules we are bringing in a limited quantity of film programmes in the general information and adult education categories; and also better quality entertainment films.

It would, of course, be much easier to depend entirely on film and to fill our schedule with the best of foreign films. However, our development of live programmes seems not only the best approach for the long range future of Nigerian television but right now it gives employment to Nigerians and saves the expenditure of foreign exchange on film, as well as offering an outlet for the artistic ability of Nigerians.

The Nigerian Television Service operates, under suitable controls, as an advertising medium and while the limited programme schedule in effect during the period of provisional operation will not provide a great deal of space for commercial advertising, I am glad to say that advertising revenue since the opening day amounts to £700.

It is obviously very costly to have four separate television projects working independently of each other and in possible competition with each other in Nigeria where our resources are limited. It is my hope that it will eventually be possible for all the Governments of Nigeria to co-operate in setting up one central Television Service for the whole Federation of Nigeria.

The past financial year was a landmark in the history of Government Information Services in this country. For the first time ever, all the Ministers of Information in the Federation met to examine ways and means of achieving closer co-operation and co-ordination in all fields of information media. These matters included broadcasting and television, radio and film distribution services, regular meetings of senior officials, overseas publicity for Nigeria and National News Agencies.

Special attention was given to the publicity of Nigeria to the outside world and the need to co-ordinate and make truly effective the image of Nigeria as a united and progressive country, in which all the component parts play their full role.

Throughout the sessions, discussions were frank and friendly and all the Ministers present agreed that this first Conference had recognised the need for co-operation and co-ordination of information media in the interests of national unity. It was agreed that the meetings should be permanent and as regular as possible.

I am glad to say that the Information Division of my Ministry discharged their duties in all respects with credit. The Press section liaises directly with the Federal Ministries. One Publicity Officer is attached to each Ministry or a group of Ministries to act as a public relations man and a publicity officer and his function is to keep abreast with the activities of the Ministry and to scan the papers, listen to the radio and otherwise keep his eyes and ears open for any misrepresentations made about his Ministry. He then draws the attention of the Ministry concerned to the misrepresentations, if any, and invariably a counterstatement clarifying the position is usually issued. During the past financial year the Section issued a total of about 3,000 press releases covering all aspects of political, economic and cultural life of the Federation.

The Press Section also runs a Home Features Service by which it projects the activities of the Federal Government through feature articles which are written after a thorough research of the subject being reviewed and published with the consent and approval of the Ministry concerned. Up to date 29 feature articles have been written.

During the year a Reference Section was introduced. Its function includes the collection of reference material about Nigeria, the writing of pen portraits of Nigerians of national importance and projecting Nigerian personalities in and outside Nigeria and the display of photographs. This Section has produced over 14 biographies of Nigerian personalities.

The information Division produces a variety of special booklets on different aspects of Nigeria and also certain periodicals on Nigeria. The periodicals include the following:

- (1) FEDERAL NIGERIA—which originally was an eight-page news sheet. Since last year this has been increased to a regular 18 page to meet increased news coverage.

It is printed in three different parts of the world simultaneously, Nigeria, London and New York. Being a record of progress and development in the Federation the publication has in recent months attracted immense attention abroad and is highly appreciated overseas by businessmen, governments, journalists and newspaper organisations as well as information and public relations establishments.

- (2) CHILDREN'S OWN PAPER—a newspaper with a circulation of 60,000 written particularly for the younger generation of Nigerians in the schools and colleges.
- (3) NEWS FROM NIGERIA—a bi-weekly press bulletin specially published for overseas posts.

During the past sixteen months over twenty such publications have been issued in Nigeria.

When the Economic Mission went on its world-wide tour, my Ministry produced a variety of 21 different, printed economic leaflets and booklets dealing with Nigeria's principal exports and other trade information. Altogether 600,000 of these documents were produced in English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic, and thus for the first time ever in Nigeria's history, or in the history of any other country in Africa, the hon. Ministers who were members of the Mission had information about Nigeria printed in the languages of the countries they were visiting, which made a very great impression.

The Commercial Publications Section produces the *Handbook of Commerce and Industry* and the *Nigeria Trade Journal*, both of which play a major role in our efforts to place the economic facts about this country at the disposal of existing and potential investors. The *Trade Journal* continues to grow in stature and the advertisements earned during 1961 increased by 36 per cent over the previous year. Total revenue earned by this quarterly publication not only covered its production costs but showed a profit of £1,000 during the year. It is the only official publication by any Government within the Commonwealth with such a commercial record. No other Government-sponsored publication covers its production costs.

Work has commenced on the production of a new edition of the *Handbook of Commerce and Industry* which will be available in September. This will serve as a useful guide to visitors to, and participants in, the International Trade Fair to be held in Lagos from 27th October to 18th November. This new edition will be produced in modern loose-leaf form and, when necessary, supplements will be issued so that businessmen will have up-to-date information on Nigeria's economy.

The Graphic Arts Section continues to expand, and produces various kinds of illustrations in the form of photo-block-monochrome and colour—for publication purposes, as well as silk screen posters for advertisements and visual aid programmes of the Federal Government. During the past year, 15,870 monochrome and 527 colour blocks were produced as well as over 1,000,000 copies of silk screen posters. The demand for silk screen posters was tremendous, far more than the section could cope with.

The Photographic Section has produced twice as many negatives and handled five times as many assignments as in the previous year. Over 48,000 enlargements were produced twice the number for the previous year. During the Conference of the Heads of African and Malagasy States held in Lagos in January this year, the staff of the Photographic Section worked day and night to maintain the flow of pictures taken each day. The photographs produced have been a great boon to local and overseas correspondents.

To supply visitors with information material about Nigeria, we have installed information kiosks at the Ikeja Airport, the Federal Palace Hotel and the Apapa Terminal, and it is proposed to instal one at Kano Airport and others at the other major travel centres. The kiosks stock and distribute information material produced by my Ministry and other Government publication. In addition, they supply current information such as telephone directories, diplomatic lists, *et cetera*.

All Nigerian Missions overseas are serviced from the Information Division of my Ministry which supplies them with booklets, photographs, films and charts. The Information Division sends a daily press cable to London.

[MINISTER OF INFORMATION]

With the achievement of Independence, Nigeria has been called upon to play an increasing role in international affairs. In the field of information, Nigeria has participated in the following international conferences and seminars. (1) A conference to consider the formation of a Union of Tropical Broadcasting and Television Organisations of Africa held in Dakar in August 1961 and continued in Lagos in November 1961. (2) A conference to establish an Inter-African Press Agency held in Dakar in December 1961. (3) A conference on School Broadcasting held in Rome in December 1961. (4) A conference of experts on the Development of Information Media in Africa held in Paris in January and February this year. (5) A seminar on Education and Information through the Press was held in February and March this year in Germany, organised by the German Institute for the Developing Countries in co-operation of German journalists.

In June 1961, the Parliamentary Secretary the hon. M. Amechi, Member of Parliament, visited the Berlin Film Festival, and in the month of July 1961, he went to Russia to attend the Moscow Film Festival.

There has been an outstanding invitation to the Commonwealth journalists to visit Nigeria and the journalists are expected to be here during the International Trade Fair which opens in Lagos on 27th October.

The Federal Ministry of Information has made several successful attempts, during the course of the past year, at promoting and encouraging cultural development in Nigeria. Through the sponsorship of the Ministry, the National Council for Art and Culture has been enabled to broaden and intensify its activities. One of these was the opening at 39 Campbell Street, Lagos, of a gallery and art shop, the "GALLERY LABAC", which contains some of the best works by Nigerian artists, and afford the visitor the rare opportunity of purchasing works of art drawn from all parts of the Federation.

The Council also put up a display of Nigerian dances and a demonstration of Nigerian musical instruments at the King George V Stadium for the entertainment of delegates to the Lagos Conference of African and Malagasy Heads of

State in January, and a display of Nigerian dances for the Jamaican Cultural and Economic Mission in February, this year.

Apart from staging exhibitions depicting the works of up-and-coming Nigerian artists, the Nigerian Council for Art and Culture, which is purely a voluntary organisation, puts Nigeria on the cultural map of the world by sending Nigerian paintings and sculpture for exhibitions overseas. A number of these works of art were sent to the Harmon Foundation in New York for exhibition in Boston and New York, where they are still on view.

In conjunction with the Nigerian Council for Art and Culture, the Federal Ministry of Information was responsible for sponsoring the historic American Society of African Culture Festival, which was opened by the Governor-General of the Federation in December last. The AMSAC Festival was designed principally to project those elements in the music and dance of the American Negro which have had their roots in, and which were similar to, African music and dance, and by so doing, to discover a common cultural heritage, and to promote a better understanding between the peoples of Africa and those of African descent living outside this continent.

During the year under review, the Federal Ministry of Information also sponsored three cultural programmes from overseas—"HOLIDAY ON ICE" from the United States of America, and "SPUTZIG", a German team of male and female acrobats, as well as a troupe or artists from Russia. All these programmes were very well received everywhere they went, and were an eye-opener and an inspiration to many of our own young men and women.

Nigeria is rich in its art and culture, and I hope it will not be long before a Nigerian theatre group—Nigerian dancers and singers, Nigerian artists,—begin to tour not only African countries but other parts of the world so that we can share our rich cultural heritage with them and thus increase knowledge about each other.

And finally, I should like to refer to the criticisms which have been levelled against my Ministry, mainly at its failure to provide the type of information about Nigeria that would boost Nigeria overseas as well as here at home. It must be appreciated that the existing Inform-



ation Services were built up during the colonial period and are therefore unsuited to the expanding needs of an independent country. These services are therefore inadequate to provide the Federal Government with either the machinery with which to disseminate information about Nigeria's achievements, views and policies within her borders, or to project the country and her peoples, her aims and view-point to territories overseas.

In order to correct the deficiencies in our existing Information Services, last year I invited an expert, Mr R. H. K. Marett, to visit Nigeria in order to advise on re-organising our Information Services. His terms of reference were, to examine the Information Division of the Federal Ministry of Information, and to make recommendations for the re-organisation of the Division to enable it meet the Federal Government requirements for publicity both in Nigeria and overseas. I am happy to state that Mr Marett's Report is now receiving the active consideration of the Federal Government.

Members will appreciate, however, that in all these projects we must be conscious of the need for economy within the limitations of our financial resources. If you want to enjoy the good things of life you must be prepared to pay for them, and I hope that when these proposals are put before the House in the Supplementary Estimates later this year, you will support them in the full realisation that this is money well spent in publicising our great country.

10. 30 p.m.

**Mr D. D. Dimka (Angas)**: In supporting the Motion on the Appropriation Bill, I wish to say a few things. In the first place I would like to say that it is absolutely necessary that we raise funds both internally and externally to finance our great Development Programme and other plans. To this end the Minister of Finance has stated his aims.

We know that we need to raise funds in order to implement our Development Programme. The Ministry of Finance is the main house from where to supply other Ministries. We must also bear in mind that any country which is still depending on others will not go a long way. When we depend too much on others we are indirectly inviting them to control our movements. We shall find ourselves limping

instead of walking properly. What then is our aim? Is it agriculture or industry? I feel that we should aim at encouraging both, because they are inter-dependent. But I feel that we should also lay more emphasis on agriculture, because it is the mainstay of our economy.

We have got to encourage extensive farming so that we will not be in difficulty in the future. I have to cite the case of Europe immediately after the Industrial Revolution. During these years, people deserted their farms in the villages and rushed to the towns. There were, therefore, only a few people left to produce food for the many people living in the towns. So the cost of living rose and the domestic industries declined.

We have not reached that stage yet but we have to plan for the future. If the people, in the long run, starve because of our introducing industries, then we shall have failed in our duty.

The Niger Dam Project is an example of how the Federal Government wants to embark on industry and agriculture on a large scale. We want more of such projects as they will make use of the vast areas lying waste in the Northern Region to strengthen our financial resources.

We must use our own products and mineral resources to manufacture our own articles. In this country, there is a tendency of buying foreign goods even when there are locally produced goods of equal quality. We should manufacture enough articles for the nation at cheaper prices in order to boycott those foreign goods that are imported from other countries.

The hon. Minister of Finance has indicated his intention to launch savings campaigns. All this is well intended but I feel that one must have a surplus before one can save. We cannot claim to be a prosperous country when most of our people are living in abject poverty and only a few of them are really rich. How can we expect a person who has not enough to eat to save? What can he save when he has nothing? The hon. Minister of Finance should be here to answer that question.

When our people are rich and are able to save we can be sure of sound financial resources. This Government should help people in the rural areas. I am not saying that we should not save at all; rather we should, as the Government, help the people. For instance, in certain areas of the Northern Region, people

**Alhaji Zakari Isa** (Kaduna): I wish to support the Second Reading of this Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the able way in which he has presented the Budget.

I would also like to congratulate the Government on the Development Projects it has established throughout the country during the past few years. At the same time, I should like to request the Government to establish more industries in Northern Nigeria, with special attention to Kaduna, which is my constituency.

May I also appeal to the Minister of Communications to supply telephone systems to Abakwa, Wada, Kakuri, Kao, Tudun and Angua Shanu.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Ede** (Idoma North): In supporting the Motion on the Appropriation Bill, I have one specific observation to make. Nigeria is one, and no amount of propaganda could work for the disunity of the country. I am here appealing to the Federal Government to give the Idoma Division the actual and adequate representation requested of the Division in the Federal Parliament. It is astonishing to find that the Eastern and the Southern parts of the Idoma Division in Benue Province had been merged together into one constituency while there ought to have been two constituencies with two representatives. I wish to inform this hon. House that by virtue—

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order, order. I think already Mr Ede has the disadvantage of not being very close to a microphone, and the situation is further worsened by his pinning his face downward. I do hope he will raise his voice and perhaps his face as well so that the Reporters and the Members will have the advantage of hearing him.

**Mr Ede**: I wish to inform this hon. House that by virtue of population, Idoma is entitled to four constituencies and with four representatives in the Parliament. In the interest of the teeming electorates in this Division, it will be appreciated if the Government will not hesitate to give onto the Idomas their due.

Some Divisions are given more representatives than they should have according to their population. I would further like to say that Nigerian unity could be fostered by adequate

representation of public opinion from all parts of the country.

I would like to remind the Federal Government that during the last Budget Sessions I greatly emphasised the importance of the stretch of trunk A road—34 miles from Makurdi to Aliade which is still left untarred. This very important link has become a blockade and has made it impossible for cars and lorries to pass. For the benefit of the users of this road in the Benue Province and in the whole Federation, the Minister of Works is implored to have this road tarred in the interest of commerce and easy communication.

**The Deputy Speaker**: If Mr Ede has difficulty in lifting up his face, could he please lift up his notes so that we can hear him.

**Mr Ede**: Besides this road, I should like to direct the attention of the Federal Government to the Makurdi-Jos road. A portion of this road from Onitsha in the Eastern Region is tarred as far as to Aliade in Benue Province of Northern Region, leaving the portion from Aliade to Jos untarred. This is a great significant and commercial road and should be taken over by the Federal Government and should be tarred for the relief of the passengers using the road—

**Mr Ekanem**: On a point of order. The hon. Member is persistently floundering the Standing Orders (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker**: Order. I am sure that Members are aware that we are in for a long stay to-night, so that the more patient we are, the more quickly we can get over with the business of the night.

**Mr Ekanem**: The Standing Orders provide that Members should not read their speeches. The hon. Member has been reading and this is against the Standing Orders.

**The Deputy Speaker**: I think the necessary appeal has been made to Mr Ede and I am not quite sure that he is not merely making references to his notes. The only appeal is that if he cannot lift up his face frequently enough, he should lift up his notes sufficiently high.

**Mr Ede**: The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is just quoting without telling us the particular Order. He is only trying to make noise.

Oturkpo, the Headquarters of Idoma, was once included in the list of places to be supplied with electricity but later on it was deleted. My electorates still want the Federal Government to please include Oturkpo in the list of probables earmarked for electricity supply.

Farmers in various Provinces contributed generously towards the attainment of our independence, and as such should be participants in all aspects of the Government's lucrative deliberations. The Federal Government should give farmers generous loans through their Regional Governments to put them back on their feet.

I will not forget to mention to the Federal Government the momentous need for education in the great and extensive Northern Region. Our large and densely populated Northern Region of the Federation of Nigeria is still backward educationally due to lack of colleges which will absorb the Northern elements who have passed their standard six examinations.

While the Northern Regional Government is doing all in her power to bring her elements on equal footing with those in the neighbouring Regions, there is a call on the Federal Government to render helping hands by extending her bounties to the Northern Region by founding two or three colleges in the North to cater for our roaming standard six certificate holders or let the Federal Government release the Northern Regional Government of her unemployment difficulties by establishing an industry to absorb these education hankers. The Federal Government should assist the Northern Region educationally irrespective of all grudges by anybody who is in the Opposition.

With reference to paragraph 98 of the Economic Development Programme, it is intended to develop twenty-six airstrips which could be used for air charter services in connection with major agricultural and industrial projects. By virtue of density of population, the Northern Region of Nigeria deserves more aerodromes as it has various areas where road communication systems leave much to be desired in urgent services and needs. Places like Bagaji in Agatu District, Okwoga and Oju in Idoma Division, where communication is not easy, have excellent level grounds for runways. There-

fore, I call on the Federal Government to please establish aerodromes at these places to serve agriculturally, industrially and for services in easy internal and external communications.

Setting aside the topic on communication, the fact that the provision of adequate urban water supply is not only a most important measure of preventive medicine, but also a frequently limiting factor to industrial development, is indisputable. Water is part of life or is almost life itself. Where food fails in a few days, life will exist, but where water, like air, fails in a few days, life will be at stake.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** On a point of order, water supply is a Regional matter.

**The Deputy Speaker :** If the hon. Member is discussing water supply in his own constituency, I am afraid, it is out of order, unless he is discussing water supply in the municipality of Lagos.

**Mr Ede :** I am not discussing water supply for Lagos alone because I have seen it in the Development Programme.

Under the proposed capital expenditure on Health in paragraph 161 of the Economic Development Programme, the total amount set aside for service is £10.304 million. It is a pity that I am in duty bound to report to the Federal Government that although there is no war in existence in Idoma to-day, yet the rate of casualties per day numbers well over forty deaths caused by jaundice and measles which are rampant and which are spreading like wild fire killing persons like warriors. This is a serious case which needs the Federal Government's immediate intervention as we cannot afford to lose all our future leaders and parliamentarians in such an overwhelming fatality. In order to eradicate the fatality caused by diseases, we call on the Federal Government to see to it that the inadequate Mission and Government combined hospital at Oturkpo be extended and we would want the Government to equip it in order to combat these diseases and to cater for the health of the teaming masses whose lives at present are at stake or in danger. In this combined hospital, there are only three wards which are classified A, B and C according to sexes.

Ward 'A' which harbours male patients can only accommodate about twenty-four patients and as a result of lack of rooms, some patients who ought to take beds—

**Chief Orok :** I refer to the industry in the country. Because of the anxieties raised on the Floor of this House regarding the needs of the industries in this country, I would like to ask the Government to form a nationalised Industries planning committee, which should be a standing committee to advise the Government on methods to improve the efficiency of the nationalised industries. The Government should instill a tradition of support for our nationalised industries; and not act as an enemy or a critic of our nationalised industries.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. Is Mr Amechi raising a point of order ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr M. Amechi) :** With the greatest respect both for the age of the hon. Member for Abak North East (*Chief Orok*) and for this House, I want to say that under our Standing Orders Members should speak in the official language to enable other Members to follow, but it does not seem to me that the hon. Member—even though he is reading—is reading in the official language of this House and many of us are unable to follow the debate.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think that if hon. Members are quieter they will appreciate the language.

**Chief Orok :** Sir, the top priority is for the people in the rural areas. In the nationwide Economic Programme, my division needs industries and amenities from the Federal Government, such as automatic telephones and electricity and the building of a bigger and better post office at Abak. Improvements are needed to the Abak prison yard and cells which are worse than cow sheds, and electricity should be put in. More especially, provision should be made to build a larger police station at Ikot Okoro and to provide better accommodation for the police to help them do their work.

I call upon the Government—

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) :** With all sincerity I think this being the Budget Session we would like to follow all that the hon. Member for Abak North East (*Chief Orok*) is saying, and if you would help us with an interpreter we would be obliged.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I think the Chair appreciates that this is usually the time when hon. Members would ordinarily be about town amusing themselves. But I think, realising the seriousness of what we are after, hon. Members should try to repress their humorous instincts a little more.

**Chief Orok :** I would ask the Government to repair the bridge at Ikot Osukpong, Ika Abak and Ikot Ama. The Government should repair the bridge at Ikot Ekpene which the Shell B.P. damaged with their big lorries while drilling in the Ika location for many months. After all, the Government have actually collected royalties from Shell. This bridge is one of the important bridges in the area and connects the people of Abak Division and Ikot Ekpene Division. Since this bridge broke down, it has become very difficult for traders to go about.

I had my greatest surprise here when a Member from the other side of this House lamented the low standard of education in the Northern Region. In fact, I am not happy myself to see that the standard of education in the Northern Region is low and I do not think that any Member in this House will be happy about that. But one funny thing is this, it is where the hon. Member came from.

Actually, a week ago, an hon. Member in the Northern House of Assembly said that the Ibo Secondary Grammar School should be closed down and that all the Southerners teaching there should be repatriated. Why then should a Member from the North come to the Floor of this House to talk about the low standard of education in the Northern Region. I see no reason at all because they are not even prepared to welcome the people who are going there to educate them. This is a complete disgrace to the people of this nation.

Our hon. Prime Minister, during his first tour of Eastern Nigeria, preached unity to the country but in the North the Northerners do not want Southerners to remain there. Is that evidence of—

**The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) :** On a point of order. The hon. Member for Abak North East (*Chief Orok*) has mentioned a statement purported to be from a Member in the Northern Region. It happened

that this very statement has been denied by the Member to whom this allegation was credited and since that denial has been published in the papers, it is unfair for the hon. Member to repeat it here.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order. In the light of the explanation given by the Minister of Establishments, will the hon. Gentleman please desist from exploiting that line of argument.

**Chief Orok :** I will now go to the question of Communications in Nigeria. While the able Minister of Communications is doing honest work and his best to effect good means of communications in the country for the interest of the nation, it seems to me that certain sections of his Department are not carefully supervised. In the telephone section for instance the telephonists are probably denied many of the privileges to which they are entitled. Why should the Minister not allow the posts of (S.A.T.C.) Senior Assistant Telecommunications Controller, (S.T.C.) Senior Telecommunications Controller, and the (T.E.S.) Telephone Exchange Superintendent to be promotion posts for telephonists. There is a lot of bad administration in the Telecommunications Section of his Ministry. I would like to appeal to the Government to institute a Commission of Enquiry into certain sections of his Ministry.

In his Speech from the Throne, His Excellency, the Governor-General said that additional post offices, telephone, telegraph and telex services will be extended to other parts of the country. It was not mentioned that these services will be extended to the rural areas. I am referring particularly to my own constituency, Abak North West. Sub-post office facilities should be provided for Ikot Okoro and the Sub Post Office at Urua Ujang in Abak Division should be developed to a full post office in order that the people of this area can really understand the meaning of the independence of this country.

The Ministers, the Parliamentary Secretaries should support hon. Members and see that all those amenities are extended to the rural areas. It is the lack of amenities in the rural areas that causes the influx of beggars and loafers in the big towns of Nigeria. It is high time the Federal Government did something

to improve the standard of living, of the people in the rural areas; amenities should not be concentrated in Lagos.

Before I take my seat, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Education for the Programme he presented to this honourable House during his speech on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Unfortunately, the Minister is not here.

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) :** I am here.

**Chief Orok :** If the Minister is here, he should listen and answer me.

**The Minister of Education :** Thank you.

**Chief Orok :** I will ask the Minister of Education to establish what is called local trade centres for the training of secondary and Primary School leavers in the various fields of Technical education such as capentry, motor engineering, metal work, *et cetera* (*Interruptions*). The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (*Mr M. Amechi*) is the talk leader.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Hon. M. Amechi) :** The hon. Member for Abak North East (*Chief Orok*) has said that I am the "talk leader" or "top lever", I do not get that quite clear and I respectfully ask for some explanation.

**The Deputy Speaker :** If you did not get it clear, I am quite sure not many did, therefore no one really knows what was said.

**Chief Orok :** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, technical trade centres should be established in the rural areas in order to solve the problem of unemployed youths in Nigeria, especially in Abak area of old Calabar Province.

Finance, I support the Motion brought up by the Minister of Finance. Lastly, I wholeheartedly support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

11.40 p.m.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) :** I am very happy to be called upon to contribute to this debate. I am even more grateful (*interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Is the hon. Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) speaking from seat No. 1, if not, he should not be recognised.

**Mr Ifezue :** Yes.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Mr Ifezue, please continue.

**Mr Ifezue :** I was saying that I was very grateful to be called upon to contribute to this debate, especially now. I think that the Minister of Finance showed a great deal of conviction and courage in the Budget proposal. I feel that many people in their homes will drink to the health of the Minister for the way in which he presented his Budget. At the same time, there is much to be said on the other side. Some people will condemn this budget with faint praises; others will give the Minister a rough ride for some of his proposals, but I think that this Budget will be tested on certain points.

The first one is, how far has it measured up to the economic needs of the present time? Secondly, has the budget imposed the necessary burden in a fair and equitable way? Thirdly, is it likely to keep prices steady? Fourthly, has enough been done about investment? I will assess this Budget along these four tests.

We are all aware of our present economic problems. These include industrialisation, unemployment, mechanisation of agriculture and expansion of our export trade. We expand our export trade in order to maintain a favourable balance of payments. Now, there are attempts in the Budget to solve these problems. In this connection I make no difference between the Budget and the Development Plan.

Much has been said, especially from the other side, about our balance of payments position. Balance of payments and balance of trade are a vicious circle. They are difficult to predict as they depend on world trade. In this country we are accustomed to consuming imported goods, and if we discourage this tendency by high import duties, we lower our standard of living and reduce our life expectation and, besides that, the rich will still pay the higher prices, and the result will be inability to save for development. Therefore, I think the only answer is to set up industries and manufacture those articles which we import.

I think this Budget and the Development Plan have shown something of the Government's plan in this direction so, in this connection, I very much praise the Budget.

But there is one other thing which I should say here and that is spending, generally, in the country. I think our people spend too much. Whether you think of the Government or of the individual, we are spending too much in the country, and I hope that the Government will do something to arrest this trend.

One important thing that we should do—which, of course, the Budget should do—is to expand our exports and gain for ourselves a share of the expanding world trade. Our exports are heavily concentrated in the sterling area markets. We are thus putting our eggs in one basket. But I am happy that the Budget mentioned our desire to expand our export trade.

I said earlier that balance of payments can be very vicious. It affects every country. For instance, in Great Britain in 1959 there was a surplus on the balance of payments account of fifty-one million pounds, but in the following year, in 1960, they had a deficit of three hundred and forty-four million pounds. This shows that this back balance of payments position is not peculiar to Nigeria.

One other thing that we can do here is to advocate the policy of "buying Nigerian". By that I mean that we should encourage our people to buy things that are made in Nigeria. At the same time we should also inculcate into the minds of our people the patriotic responsibility of preferring our home-made goods. Some hon. Members raised this point and I think it is a very good one.

The second test for the Budget is whether it imposes the necessary burden in a fair and equitable way. I think that the Budget also has done this creditably. It has put the burden on the rich in order to help the poor. The tax proposals reflect this at least, but I think that perhaps too great a burden has been placed on the rich. It is well-known all over the world that they merited their position by hard work and industry. Merit is entitled to its reward, and therefore I am just trying to point out that a heavy burden has been placed on the rich.

The other test is whether the Budget has kept prices fairly constant. Here, I think the Budget has failed because already we have been informed of prices rising before the old stocks were sold out. When we were discussing this, it gave the impression that perhaps the Budget "leaked". But I am quite sure it did not. I only think that our businessmen anticipated the Budget, and I think that the Budget should have anticipated the trend. I hope that instead of setting up an inquiry to find out why higher prices were charged before the old stocks were sold out, the Minister should impose an excess profits tax. It is very easy to determine the amount of profit made by our businessmen on their old stock. What the Government should do is to impose an excess profits tax and keep on doing this every year. Perhaps when we do it in one or two budgets, people will learn.

Another thing is, I do not think that the Budget has done enough for investment. It has failed to give sufficient incentives for private saving because it is only when we save that we can invest. It should have provided more tax reliefs for private savers. The Government should find out, year by year, what percentage of our earning population actually save. This will help the Government to introduce more saving incentives. The Budget can even propose compulsory saving. If mere increase in the ability of the individual to save fails to match up to the needs of the moment, the Government can introduce compulsory saving, as is done in the Provident Fund Law. It is difficult to save, I agree, but money deducted at source is more readily surrendered than money taken after a man had received his pay packet.

In this connection, I recommend the P.A.Y.E. system and I suggest that the P.A.Y.E. machinery can be used to increase small savings. Each member has a certain code number and it is easy to give a man a savings code number, so that he can save say, £1 or £2 or more, according to his means. We can also increase the post office savings percentage, that is the interest on the post office savings. This is also an incentive.

I referred to the Provident Fund. One thing there is that some people were exempted from the provisions of the Provident Fund Act: civil servants who are pensionable and also people who are under some superannuation scheme are not subject to the Provident Fund Act. These

people can be asked to save. Why should we leave them out? What are they doing with their money? They should come forward to save. I am referring to these people when I am suggesting to the Government to introduce compulsory saving. Let people who are under a superannuation scheme and people who are pensionable officers come forward to save. I want the Government to introduce compulsory saving for this class of people.

The Budget also shows that—

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): Point of information, Sir. I want to say that the National Provident Fund provides even for those in the Executive grade (and not only for junior officers) provided it does not go beyond £400. So, they are covered.

**Mr Ifezue**: I am referring to people who are not subject to the National Provident Fund.

Now, Sir, the expenditure shows a decrease on what we had last year, and also the revenue shows an increase on what we had last year. I think it is wrong always to assume that this kind of increase or decrease helps the economy.

I now come to the subject of smuggling. During one of our Committees in the Supplementary Budget last year, I made a number of suggestions about smuggling. We tend to blame our people who indulge in this illegal trade, but have we reminded Spain of her obligation not to protect smugglers? I am quite convinced that smugglers are being protected by the Spanish Government in Fernando Po, and some of our contraband goods flow in from our borders with Fernando Po. I suggested last year that we should take this matter up with the Spanish Authorities.

There are certain parts of the Budget which will not be to the liking of everybody, but, generally speaking, I think it is a Budget which will be applauded in the country.

I now come to rural areas. Many people have spoken very much about rural areas and I think that the Government should take a hint in what the hon. Members have been saying. Those of us who represent rural constituencies find it difficult to go and explain to our people that this is what we have done or that this is what the Government has achieved for them. In 1960 I suggested that the Government should set up a Rural Areas

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Development Board—something on the lines of the Niger Delta Development Board. If they do so, they will be able to find out the needs of the rural constituencies and the Government will then do something for them. There is no need to neglect them. We hear of *Red China*, *Red Russia*, but I regard rural areas as *red spots* in this country. If we fear *red*, we must prevent it from growing. Therefore, I think that it is high time the Government came to the aid of the rural areas.

Another thing is that people have spoken about the need for the Federal Government to take over some schools in all the Regions. I think it is a very useful suggestion. Even if it is just primary schools that should be taken over, that is enough. It is enough for us who represent rural constituencies to go and tell them that the Federal Government is catering for their schools. But now, we have nothing to fall back upon: we have nothing to go and say to our people. If we tell them that we are catering for the Police and the Army, they will say that they have no need for these things.

I now go back to my own constituency, Orlu. I have the mandate of the people of Orlu to urge this Government to build a better-equipped and bigger post office at Orlu. The present one is hopelessly congested and the staff there is inadequate. Another thing is that they want electricity at all costs. The third thing is that there is a possibility of siting a soap industry at Orlu because it is an area which produces palm produce—oil and kernels. I hope that the Federal Government will come to the aid of my people by siting the soap industry in Orlu.

Now, the final thing that I will say is that when I was reading the Fifth Report of the Federal Public Service Commission for the period 4th January to 31st December, 1961, I noticed on page 15, Appendix D, that the number of scholarships awarded by the Federal Government for various courses left much to be desired. But I find that emphasis is still being laid on Arts—B.A. (General), the first on the list, with 132 scholars, and the second one is B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) with 102 scholarships. If you go down the page you will find that emphasis is still being laid on the social sciences. I do not think that this is very good policy and I hope that the Government will try to change the position.

I beg to support.

11.58 p.m.

*Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

*Committee—Tomorrow.*

*And it being after 6 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at one minute to twelve midnight.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Thursday, 12th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Ikot Umiang Police Post**

**O.243. Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** asked the Prime Minister what is the cost of building the Police post in Ikot Umiang in Opobo Division.

**The Minister of State for Police Affairs** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The total cost of building the Police Post in Ikot Umiang in Opobo Division is £11,910.

**Omoku Police**

**O.244. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, whether there are any plans to build quarters for the Police at Omoku.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: It is proposed to build a new Police Station and Quarters at Omoku when funds are available.

**Abua County**

**O.245. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the need to establish police post in Abua County Council area in Ahoada Division.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: It is not at present considered necessary to establish a police post at Abua which is adequately covered by the Nigeria Police at Ahoada and Degema.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**The Algerian Cause**

**O.247. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs what help Government has given to the Algerian Nationalists in their fight for freedom from French rule.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Mr M. O. Okilo): Since the attainment of independence, the Government of the Federation has given encouraging moral support to the cause of Algerian nationalists' struggle. Our attitude has been that, notwithstanding our non-alignment foreign policy, in matters affecting

the independence and destiny of subject peoples in Africa, we cannot afford to be indifferent or neutral.

Accordingly, in the U.N. last year, we twice co-sponsored with other Afro-Asian states, resolutions calling on France to recognise the Algerian Provisional Government and negotiate with it on the basis of self-determination for Algeria. In the Monrovia Conference of May 1961, we carried through similar resolution; and on a personal level too, the Rt. hon. Prime Minister had occasion last year to confer with both President Bourguiba of Tunisia and the then Premier of the Provisional Government, M. Ferhat Abbas, on the Algerian problem. He too pledged Nigeria's support towards the liberation of Algeria from the colonial yoke.

The fruits of all this and the combined pressure of world opinion in and outside the U.N. are the recent negotiations at Evian leading to a cease-fire and paving the way to Algerian independence. Our earnest hope is that the reactionary and fascist forces of the O.A.S. will not block the transition of Algeria to full sovereignty.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu**: What material aid has the Government given and when is the Government going to recognise the Provisional Government of Algeria?

**The Speaker**: That is a new question.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke**: Has the Minister now recognised the Algerian Nationalist Government officially?

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

**Chief Anthony Enahoro**: Where was the logic in sponsoring a motion asking France to recognise the Algerian Provisional Government when the Minister had not done so himself?

**Mr Speaker**: That requires notice.

**Eire**

**O.248. Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether he proposes to establish an embassy in the Republic of Ireland soon.

**Mr Okilo**: It is not proposed that we open an Embassy in Ireland. The hon. Member would however take note that provision has been made in this year's Estimates for a Consulate to be opened in Dublin which, when established, will not only look after the welfare of our many students there, but also our other interests in Ireland.

### Discrimination at Foreign Posts

**O.249. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether he is aware of acts of discrimination against our foreign diplomats and what has he done to ensure that our diplomats work in dignity and respect, free from fear of molestation by negrophobists in the countries where they work.

**Mr Okilo :** I take it that the hon. Member is referring to acts of discrimination against our own diplomats abroad. Yes, Sir, I am aware of a number of incidents in one or two countries where our diplomats have been subjected to certain indignities. On each occasion, our Office has always called the attention of the host countries and have received full co-operation of the authorities in the countries concerned.

I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that it is not always easy for any government to check the excesses of certain elements of its nationals; yet we have always made it clear that unless all necessary steps are taken to prevent such acts, our people might be forced to retaliate. I can assure the hon. Member that everything possible is being done to ensure that our diplomats work without molestation.

**M. Aminu Kano :** We heard sometime ago that our diplomats in London were not allowed parking space near our High Commission. What steps has the Minister taken to rectify this position?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) :** The house is situated in an area where there is no parking space and, therefore, the Commissioner's car necessarily obtains a parking space at a distance further from the location.

**M. Aminu Kano :** May I also know what steps the Minister took when a car belonging to one of our diplomats was daubed with a paint?

**Hon. Jaja Wachuku :** The Ministry took necessary steps and very effective steps. I think the practice will not be repeated again.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo :** I am aware that the British High Commissioner in this country parks his car where His Excellency the Governor-General parks his. What steps is the

Minister taking about this, in view of the fact that our High Commissioner in London is not allowed to park his car in a proper place?

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

**Dr Okeke :** In the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he stated that they were giving warnings to these countries discriminating against our foreign diplomats. Has the Minister taken any one positive action that will deter these people from continuing in this obnoxious practice, or is it only warnings that are being given while these people continue to repeat the same thing over and over again?

**Hon. Jaja Wachuku :** As anybody who has to do with international relations knows, a reprisal is the safeguard. Thus whilst the red-light of reprisal is shown, all countries are careful not to incur that type of displeasure, and that step has been taken to warn all concerned that we will not tolerate any type of discrimination.

### Discrimination in U.S.

**O.250. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, what action he has taken in respect of reports from various parts of the United States of acts of discrimination against our diplomats.

**Mr M. O. Okilo :** Any specific reports of acts of discrimination against Nigerian diplomats have been taken up with the authorities of the United States Government from whom full co-operation has been received.

## EDUCATION

### Nigerian Students in Egypt and the Sudan

**O.251. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Education, whether Nigerian students studying Medicine and Engineering in the United Arab Republic (Egypt) and Sudan are eligible for Federal Scholarship awards.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu) :** Nigerian students pursuing higher studies in Medicine and Engineering in the United Arab Republic (Egypt) and the Sudan are eligible for Federal Government Scholarship awards if they are academically qualified for such awards, and are of good character.

Such Federal Government awards could be tenable at the following universities :

IN EGYPT :

- (a) Cairo University.
- (b) Alexandria University.
- (c) Ain Shams University, and
- (d) Assiut University.

IN THE SUDAN :

The University of Khartoum.

In Egypt, there are, in addition, the University of Al-Azhar and the American University at Cairo, but these have no faculties of Medicine and Engineering.

**Nigerian Students in Communist Countries**

**O.252. Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerian Students are studying in Communist countries.

**Mr Ugwu** : I regret that it is not possible to state with any degree of accuracy the number of students in such countries. The reasons for this lack of information are that most of the students are there unofficially and without the necessary travel permits and documents and that we have neither Embassies nor Missions in these countries to provide the necessary facts.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** : Would the Minister say how many students have got passports to go and study in those countries ?

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Not all the students who have gone to those countries pass through the Ministry, to the best of my knowledge ; but at present I think we have about 80 students in Russia from Nigeria who have gone there unofficially.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** : Would the Minister not agree that it is due to the stickiness, in fact, not only stickiness but also the strictness of the Ministry in connection with the granting of approval for students to go and study in those countries that have led to people going there unofficially ; and is he willing to agree that there is no possibility of controlling them and, therefore, that the best way is to issue them with valid passports so that we can be controlled ?

**Hon. Aja Nwachuku** : I do not know of any stickiness or strictness so the allegation of my hon. Friend does not arise

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** : May we know from the Minister what will happen to these students when they come back, since they are not recognised to have travelled officially ?

**Hon. Aja Nwachuku** : They will speak Russian when they come back.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : It appears that many vital issues are carelessly handled by some Ministers. The Minister says they will speak Russian—indeed that is an insult to this House.

**Mr Speaker** : The Minister was asked what the attitude of Government would be to these students when they returned. Well, he is the Minister of Education and naturally on his part he would like them to teach Russian to our people.

**PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS**

**MID-WEST REGION BILL, 1962**

Bill to establish a Fourth Region of the Federation of Nigeria ; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Prime Minister ; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

**EXCHANGE CONTROL BILL 1962**

Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Exchange Control by conferring powers and imposing duties and restrictions in relation to gold, currency, payments, securities, debts and the import, export, transfer and settlement of property and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

**CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

Bill to amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 1958, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

**BANKING AMENDMENT BILL**

Bill to amend the Banking Act, 1958, presented by the Minister of Finance ; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

## LEGAL EDUCATION BILL

Bill to make further provision with respect to the Legal Profession by establishing a Council of Legal Education and by restricting to suitably qualified persons the right to practise that profession; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

PARLIAMENTARY DISQUALIFICATION  
(NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCILS)  
REMOVAL BILL

Bill to remove any disqualification for membership of Parliament imposed on any person by paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section forty of the Constitution of the Federation by reason of his membership of a Provincial Council in Northern Nigeria; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time, to be read a Second time—*Tuesday, 17th April, 1962.*

## ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL  
(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*House in Committee.*

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): Point of order. I would like to quote Standing Order 63—

**The Chairman**: At the Committee Stage first, before you raise a point of order.

## HEAD 21—STATE HOUSE

*Question proposed, that £79,290 for Head 21—State House—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr Oronsaye**: The point of order I want to raise is in connection with the Order Paper itself. Standing Order 63 (9) and (12):

“Any Member may move an amendment to reduce by....pounds the sum to be allotted for any Head of Expenditure or in respect of any sub-head included in that Head or of any item included in the sub-head.”

Now, I filed a Notice to amend Head 23—

**The Chairman**: We are now on Head 21.

*£79,290 for Head 21—State House—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

## HEAD 22—CABINET OFFICE

*£492,520 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—agreed to.*

## HEAD 23—POLICE

*Question proposed, that £4,967,240 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief O. Awolowo** (Ijebu-Remo): What happened to the Head of the Prime Minister?

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I really do not know where the Head is! Sir, this is the Police Estimate, and I would like to (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman**: Order, order. We are now on Head 23. The Questions were put on Head 21 and Head 22 and nobody stood up to speak and so I put the Questions and we all said “Aye” and they were passed. Now the Question is on Head 23, and I call upon the Prime Minister to speak.

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town): Point of order. Several hon. Members have filed Amendments to Head 22; we thought that you, Mr Chairman, would follow the list of persons on the Order Paper, that was why we did not rush to jump up; I respectfully submit that we should be allowed to speak on Head 22.

**The Chairman**: Order. The fact that Members filed Amendments and did not stand up to speak is no reason why, after putting the Question and collecting the voices, I should go back to the Head. I think we have passed the Head now. We are now on Head 23.

**The Prime Minister**: I would like to inform the House—

**Mr Oronsaye**: Point of order. This is the proper time for the point of order I raised earlier. Standing Orders 63 (9):

“Any Member may move an amendment to reduce by... pounds the sum to be allotted for any Head of Expenditure or in respect of any sub-head included in that Head or of any item included in the sub-head.”

I filed an Amendment on the 29th March and the several amendments filed under this head were: Head 23, sub-head 55, sub-head

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57, sub-head 53 (Other Charges), but they are not on the Order Paper, despite the fact that I sent a reminder yesterday to the Personal Secretary. I am claiming that I be given permission to move those sub-heads.

**The Chairman :** Well, the hon. Member filed an Amendment Motion and his name does appear on the Order Paper ; if he looks at the top of page 66, he will see "Mr D. N. Oronsaye". If you are D. N. Oronsaye, then you can rest assured that your name has appeared under the Amendment.

10.25 a.m.

**The Prime Minister :** I would like to inform the honourable House that the Inspector-General of Police is retiring in July. I have seen articles in the papers on speculations as to who is to succeed Sir Kerr Bovell when he retires in July. The policy of the Federal Government is complete Nigerianisation of all posts in the Federal Public Service : the Nigeria Police, the Armed Forces, and the Civil Service as a whole. No doubt the House will agree that the Inspector-General of Police, Sir Kerr Bovell, has helped this country ; he has been responsible for quite a number of measures which have made it possible for Nigerians to be in the higher ranks in the Nigeria Police Force, and I would very much like to pay him a deserving tribute.

Now, when he retires many of our senior expatriate Police Officers will be leaving too. It is my intention that Nigerians will occupy these highest ranks in the Nigeria Police Force. I hope that before very long we shall have a Nigerian Inspector-General of Police, and the Commissioners of Police in the Regions will, I hope, also be Nigerians. This will not be very long.

I also want to pay tribute to all those senior Nigeria Police Officers who are expatriates who have given us very good, valuable service.

I know that many hon. Members will ask questions on why we shall not have a Police Post in village X or in village Y. The reasons are obvious : we are limited by the amount of money available to us. Our whole intention is to make the Police more mobile and also to establish mobile Police Forces in all the

Regions. They will be very effective especially in dealing with what some hon. Members usually call "gangs of robbers".

I do not want to speak at great length ; my whole aim in speaking at this stage is to pay my tribute to the retiring Inspector-General of Police, Sir Kerr Bovell.

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) :** An hon. Member is missing from his seat. I do not know if he is Dr Okeke because that resembles him. That man over there in the Official Box wearing Nigerian dress, is he Dr Okeke ? (*Laughter*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. I think I have to look. If he was not wearing a different dress, I would have said he is Dr Okeke, but I learn that he is the Secretary to the Minister of State for Police.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West) :** I wish to contribute to this Head. I was very glad to hear what the Prime Minister said about Nigerianisation. I would like to say that if one looks at the list of officers in the Police Force, one finds six expatriate officers before one reaches the highest Nigerian officer, and six more expatriate officers after him. This means that even if it is possible to elevate a Nigerian to head the Police Force, we will find below him eleven others who are definitely expatriates. It is extremely difficult to expect that he can in fact perform the duties we expect of him in that position without intimate consultations with his expatriate colleagues.

We find also that below the Deputy Commissioner there are ten other officers, all expatriates ; then we have the eleventh who is an Assistant Commissioner of Police. My contention is that Nigerianisation in the upper segment of the Nigeria Police Force has not progressed very fast, at least not fast enough and I would very much urge that this should be stepped up. I do believe we have quite a good number of officers who have had sufficient experience of police duties to be elevated to the position of the Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. Most of these people are at the moment frustrated, some of them are getting to the retiring age. We feel they should be given encouragement and I do

[MR ODIGBO]

hope that the assurance which the Prime Minister has given us will mature as soon as possible.

I wish also to record my deep appreciation of the role being played by our Police Force in the Congo. We are all very proud to hear that our Police Contingent in the Congo has been doing very well, indeed so well that it has been recognised all the world over as a very good Force. It is to the credit of the country that we are able to produce such a Force that has gained renown all over the world. I do feel that this is a credit to the type of training given in our Police Training School.

It goes to confirm that the system of training is very good and that the method of Police work in this country is second to none in efficiency. I would suggest that to make further use of this training it should be made possible for Local Government Police in this country to avail themselves of the training in the Federal Police School. There is no doubt that some of the disturbances affecting Law and order in recent months have arisen because the Local Government Police in some parts of the country have not been very well trained.

We think that if facilities are made available especially for those in the higher ranks in these Forces, to be trained in the Nigeria Police School, their performance will improve and their efficiency will definitely improve. In fact, I would go on to suggest that it would be best to consider afresh the view which was put forward at the time the Constitution was being framed that Local Government Police should be absorbed by the Nigeria Police Force, and I wonder whether that cannot be implemented at this stage. In the light of what has been happening in various parts of the country in recent months, I would urge very strongly that the time has come when the position should be reviewed and all Local Government Police in the country should be absorbed by the Nigeria Police Force. (*Hear, hear*).

I wish to draw attention to a very depressing aspect of our Police organisation and that is the question of quarters. Here in Lagos it is all right, the Police quarters are very good and I am sure Police officers like to live in them. But up-country the position is entirely different.

Except in a few towns and cities, Police Barracks are an eyesore to the public and they must be most uncomfortable to those living in them. It is necessary that these officers who are maintaining law and order in various parts of this very large country should be properly quartered. I do realise that this costs much, but Mr Chairman, if their duties are so essential to the good Government of this country, I think their welfare is equally essential and should be taken care of.

I wish to mention in particular the Police Barracks at Umuahia-Ibeku. The Office there is very degrading indeed to the Police Headquarters; it is a provincial headquarters with a Deputy. He works in a narrow room that is not fit even for anybody to work as a clerk. It is in this narrow room that he does his duties with his two assistants. This is obviously not a fit place for such a high officer to work. I am very happy that in spite of this inconvenience, he is doing his task very well and we are very happy with their work there. I do implore the Government that immediate steps be taken to improve the office conditions in Umuahia-Ibeku Police Station. We appreciate the little that the Government has done to improve the barracks, but we are asking that the barracks be developed to present day standards. Also, the conditions of service of the police officers should be looked into.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move.

**Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** (Opobo North): For the financial year 1962-63, the Federal Government proposes to spend £4,967,240 to maintain the Police Force in the Federation. This sum indeed is enormous. If the Government calls upon the taxpayers to sacrifice so much for our Police Force, it should also devise ways and means of training the policemen and controlling them to make them more efficient and polite to the members of the public. At present, in the rural areas, the police are not the friends and servants of the people, rather, they are the medieval overlords who are out to cry down the people and get them arrested at all costs. This must be checked by educating the members of the public to know their rights in the hands of the police. Sometimes, the Government is responsible for the inefficiency of the police. The Police Stations are built without the necessary modern transport or communication facilities.

The instance I will quote is the case of the two police stations at Ikot-Uyang and Ibesit in Opobo Division in my constituency. In these two police stations, the policemen are there with no means of transport, so that they are totally immobile and if a person reports a case to the police station, there he has to pay the transport fees of the policeman to and from his village. This is exacting too much on the peasants who have already been taxed very heavily. They have to pay for the police services which are supposed to be free. This is a great deal of injustice to the people. If the Government can spend thousands of pounds to build a police station, I do not think it will be too much on the part of the Government to instal telephone services and provide the Police Stations with at least a vehicle to make the policemen mobile in order to meet the needs of the people.

Another point that I would like to mention is that all the police stations in the Federation should be allowed to issue permits for public meetings. What is obtaining at the moment is that only the police stations at the Divisional Headquarters are allowed to issue permits for public meetings, and these headquarters are usually very far away from the people. Sometimes, I have to travel about fifty miles to and fro to obtain a permit for a meeting; the worse of it is that when this permit is issued at the Divisional Headquarters, the police at the sub-stations who are directly responsible for law and order in the local police stations are not aware that a permit has been obtained and that there will be a public meeting at such and such a place. This usually causes disturbance and a break down of law and order when the policemen in the rural areas are not aware that a public meeting is holding in their area. I think it is not too much a responsibility to be handed over from the Divisional Headquarters to the local police stations so that they can know the number of permits they have issued and, if necessary, attend the meetings to maintain law and order.

These are the few points that I would like to mention.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister should be congratulated in particular on the good work of our Police Force during the past year. In congratulating

the Federal Government, I would like to suggest a point or two.

My first suggestion is about the women in our Police Force. About two weeks ago, an hon. Member asked a question about the strength of the women in our Police Force in the different Regions of the Federation. I think the answer given by the hon. Minister of State for Police Affairs was that there were no women of Northern origin in the Police Force. I will appeal to the Federal Government to encourage women of Northern origin to join the Police Force. We should not be left behind in the Northern Region. I will suggest that as the first step to solving this problem, a women's training section should be attached to the Northern Police College at Kaduna as we have at the moment at the Southern Police College, Ikeja. As I have already said, the Northern women should not be left behind. Young women from the Northern Region to-day are interested in the Police Force but the only thing that debars them is the distance of the existing training school from the North. They think that Lagos is very far and they are told all sorts of stories about Lagos. I am sure, if a women's training wing is attached to the Northern Police College at Kaduna, we shall see Northern young women coming forward to join the Police Force. Hon. Members who have seen our women police at work at Lagos, Enugu and Ibadan will be delighted how they work. They do a lot of good work and we should not leave the North behind.

Another point that I would like to raise here, is that all over the world, the policemen are regarded as the friends of the public. Already an hon. Member has congratulated the efforts of our Police Contingent in the Congo, but I think there is something to be done here at home. There is a saying that charity begins at home. I am sure there are so many of our policemen who appear to be very rude to the public, I am sorry to say. Instead of helping the public, they try to frighten them and harass them in many ways. I think the police should be taught to know their proper position, that they are not the masters of the public but they should be friends of the public. If you approach somebody in a tactful way, it does not mean that you overlook his offence or so. The only way for the Police now is that they should be tactful with the public. If they approach the members of the public in a tactful manner, they would do more for the public than by being unfriendly to them.

[MR LAR]

Before I take my seat, I have to repeat that there must be Women Police in the Northern Region.

I beg to support.

10.50 a.m.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): The most important thing that I want to say here is in connection with economy in the Police Force. During the past two or three years, this Government sent every year no less than 200 Police Cadet Officers to U.K. for training; and I am told that it costs no less than £1,000 to train one Cadet Officer in the United Kingdom. The argument that is made in favour of this measure is that our Senior Police Officers should be given an opportunity of socialising and mixing with the people in the United Kingdom. I think that argument is more fallacious than real: that in order to become a capable Police Officer, one has to go to England and expose himself to the angry winter of Britain and pay expensive bills to land-ladies in order to have the opportunity of learning how to mix with the public. I think this is very fallacious. Of all the countries in West Africa, Nigeria is the only one indulging in this practice. Ghana has discontinued sending Cadet Officers to Britain; and Nigeria still sends out every year about 200 to 300 Police Officers to Britain! The irony of the situation is that there are over 200 British Police Senior Officers in Nigeria, and it is ridiculous that these people here, most of whom of course had military background, should stay in Nigeria while we bundle out our own boys to train in England, where Police laws are quite different from ours; and when the boys come back to Nigeria, what they practise is quite different from what they studied in England.

The idea that is being adopted by the Federal Emergency Science Centre here strikes me as of high economic importance. That is to bring the experts to train our people here. Let the Police be trained here in Nigeria. Going to England for two or three months does not civilise a man. If the Ministry in charge of the Police would reconsider Government's stand on this particular matter, I think the nation would be happy.

The other point is the lack of knowledge of the basic economic principles in some of the things done in the Police Force. For example,

every Police Officer in Nigeria is issued with two tins of brasso every year; and one tin of brasso costs from 1s-9d to 2s-6d. All over the world now, even in England, in America, in France, Police buttons are being chromed, and this is about three pence a button, and one button lasts a Police Officer all through his life as a Police Officer; whereas here in Nigeria, we spend about 5s in respect of one Police Officer every year on brasso. It is my calculation that the Government is spending no less than about £4,000 to £5,000 every year on brasso alone. All these things, I think, bring about a rather intensified adverse balance of trade which everybody in Nigeria is raising a voice against. I think that if the colonial—when I speak of 'colonial', I am not trying to undo anybody, it is the nature of the beast—but if the colonial feelings and all these things can be stopped and we begin to explore the possibilities of introducing economy into these small things, eventually, the savings would amount to a mighty sum of money. When I think of austerity, I do so in positive and concrete terms, not austerity in negative or superficial terms. I think that it is very ridiculous that Nigeria should be compelled to pay so much money for a very little gain.

The other thing I want to mention here is about the eye-sore of using expatriate Police Officers as Traffic Officers. Traffic control is so simple that even a group of well-trained laymen can take care of our traffic. What is required is a knowledge of the basic law regarding traffic. Honestly, there is no reason why an expatriate should be used for controlling traffic. As a matter of fact, in some countries of the world, students and special constables, and even women, volunteer to go out and control traffic.

I know of one city, Exeter, where women volunteer throughout every week to take care of traffic. It is a lovely hobby enjoyed by the women of Exeter as they go out and do it voluntarily. I am not stressing that this should happen in Nigeria. The point that I am making here is that it is an expensive joke to use expatriate officers as traffic officers in Nigeria.

The other thing is the Police Training College at Ikeja. I am opposed to the idea of sending our Cadet Officers to U.K. to be



trained. I am also opposed to the idea of using old Police Inspectors and Sergeant-Majors to train the young core of Nigerian Policemen. After all, one could see now that these young men enter the Police Force, as direct Cadet entrants with higher qualifications and with an honour to defend, and they are careful and more jealous of their honour and rank than the old brigade of Policemen who entered through all the processes of corruption. I am not saying that they are not good. I am just trying to say that if Policemen must be progressive, these qualified young men who have received their training should be given the opportunity of training the younger Policemen.

Something happened here about four days ago. It is very very interesting. Somebody came to the House of Representatives here as an observer. He came here in wrapper, and when the younger group of Policemen rushed to him and asked him to be pushed out of the House, one of the Cadet Inspectors gently and courteously went to him and said: "Sir, I think that you are not well-groomed to be accepted in the House of Parliament". This is indicative of the attitude of the new group of Policemen towards the public. The old Police Force is military in outlook. In other parts of the world, Policemen are civic officers. The psychological hiatus between our Policemen and the public breeds the time-honoured corruption and lack of respect for the Police Force, because they are military, they are not gentle, and the new core of Policemen are changing this attitude. This makes it all the more necessary for the Cadet Police Officers who have been best exposed to high education to be used for the training of the Police at Ikeja, and I shall be glad if the Ministry in charge would take necessary action.

The other point is about the state of the Police in Orlu Division, and this is the first time I have referred to my constituency for the past two years. Orlu is inhabited by about five hundred thousand people, and we have only twelve Police Officers at Orlu, and the worst of it is that the A.S.P. who was at Orlu has been removed, so that we are losing both in quality and quantity our Police strength. For over two years my own constituency Orlu West has been promised a Police Post, but up to this moment nothing has been done.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): I wonder if speeches should not be precise and reasonably short.

**The Chairman** : I think that will save the time of the House, as we have so many Heads to discuss to-day—State House, Cabinet Office, Police, Commerce and Industry, Communications, Defence, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, and Nigerian Air Force. Well, in view of this will hon. Members please be brief and not repeat what they have said or what other Members have said ?

**Dr Nzeribe** : I am really appealing to the Minister to consider this. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : The noises made and interruptions merely waste more of our time.

**Dr Nzeribe** : I appeal to the Minister, therefore, to consider the possibility of strengthening the Police Department in my own constituency. We are peace loving, and we have no riot in my area, but I think that the strengthening of the Police Department will reinforce the respect the people have for the Government.

I do not support.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North): We were particularly happy this morning to hear the Rt. hon. Prime Minister promising us in this House that the most senior officers of the Nigerian Police Force would soon be Nigerians.

About five years ago the present Inspector-General of Police introduced into the Police Force direct entry into the Inspectorate grade, and experience has shown that within these five years the quality of our Inspectors has been raised, because the standard of the education of the Inspectors has also been raised. I am appealing to the Government to consider a direct entry into the A.S.P. grade of the Nigeria Police Force, because very soon Nigerians will become most senior officers in the Force.

Looking at the Staff List at page 31 there are about three senior officers in the Police Force who are graduates. One of them holds an M.A. degree, the other a B.Sc. degree, and one holds an M.Sc. degree. In an independent country like Nigeria officers in the Police Force have a great part to play in the development of our country.

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In the Ministries the Senior Assistant Secretaries, the Deputy Permanent Secretaries, and Permanent Secretaries are graduates, and the senior officers in the Nigeria Police are at *par* with these officers; intellectually they should not be inferior. If they are not better they should be as good.

Even now there is no provision in our Constitution or in our administration to admit directly Nigerian graduates as A.S.Ps. Last year I referred to a friend of mine who graduated in the University of Hall in 1955 holding an LL.B. degree. He applied then for admission as an A.S.P. I followed him to the Colonial Office in England in 1955, and in my presence he was told: "Sorry, your education is most superior to those of the officers of the Nigeria Police. You had better go on to read for the Bar and go back home and practise as a lawyer." But to-day we have expatriate officers, some of them M.A's, some B.Sc's, and some B.A's. I am appealing to the Prime Minister to consider as soon as possible employing Nigerian graduates who have the requisite qualification, character, and ability to the senior segment of the Nigeria Police.

Secondly, in the Western and Eastern Regions we have Northern Nigerian senior officers, but in the Northern Region, at the moment, Southerners who are in the senior segment in the Police are not allowed to go to the North as senior Police Officers. One can understand this. It is one of the things inherited from the colonial era when the Europeans used to say *divide et impera*, divide them and rule them, but to-day it must be one Nigeria and one destiny. If Northerners can come to Lagos and work we welcome them. If they can come to Ibadan, or Enugu, or Port Harcourt there is no reason why in the same country Southerners should not go to the Northern Region. I think the policy which the Government should follow is this. In locating an officer to an area where he is going to work the criterion should be the understanding of the language of the people in that area. We have very many officers who understand Hausa and who ought to have been sent to the Northern Region to work, yet they are not sent there.

I wish to stress, also, that in the Southern Regions officers should be sent to where they understand the language of the people. If

an Ibo A.S.P. or a D.S.P. and he understands Yoruba language (many of them do) send him to a Yoruba area. If a Yoruba is an A.S.P. or a D.S.P. and he understands the Ibo or the Hausa language send him to the place where he can be more useful. We belong to one country and that fact cannot, in matters like this, be over emphasised.

Now, turning to recruitment into the lower segment of the Nigeria Police, I wish to point out that up till now the Standard Six qualification is the minimum qualification for admission into our Police Colleges, and I am appealing to the Government that twenty years ago the Standard Six qualification was all right and better for the standard, but with the rising standard of education in our community being more and more in different forms I think the time has come when the Government should raise the minimum qualification of Police Recruits into Police Colleges to at least Class Four. We have very many Class Four boys and girls in the country who can fall in. We can take Class Four or its equivalent.

Finally, I am going to speak on the attitudes of our Traffic Officers. On many occasions I had the opportunity of criticising the Traffic Officers.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** Point of order! The hon. Gentleman may wish to know that his party was in favour of regionalising the Police, and we were against it. We did not oppose centralisation, but his party wanted regionalisation.

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

**Mr Ogedengbe :** I am appealing to the Government to let the Traffic Officers be more vigilant in their work.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** Point of order. It is forbidden, and it is a contravention of the Standing Order for a Member of the House to read newspapers which do not agree with the subject matter under debate. A Parliamentary Secretary (who has just now put down his newspapers), was reading a newspaper which is unconnected with the debate on the Floor of the House now.

**An hon. Member :** What is his name?

**Mr Ekanem :** Offor.

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**The Chairman :** Order ! I am glad he has put it away.

**Mr Ogedengbe :** The Traffic Officers have to be watched. If you watch them at a scene of an accident you will be very sorry for this country. It appears these officers are more interested in the taking of sketches of the points of impact rather than caring for casualties resulting from accidents. If you take a view along our roads and streets, you will find this.

I have personally, on two occasions, found three or four people lying down on the road at the point of death, but the Police Officers would first send to Ikeja and Enugu, because they wanted to take some measurements.

On one rainy day my wife and I were driving along in our car when we came upon three men who were almost dying. It was my wife who went to the Police Officer and said to him, "This is very wicked of you. You can take the measurements and the sketch at any time, but the lives of these men are more important right now. If one loses his life, that is the end of him." We had to carry two of them in our car and put the third man in another lorry and convey them to the nearest hospital, and that was at Owo. Unfortunately, before we could get to Owo three hours later, one of the men died.

I am not saying that all officers do this, but that is what most of them do. They are more interested in the taking of measurements and this can be proved by a drive along Ikorodu Road when there has been an accident. One would find that instead of a traffic officer removing the cars and vehicles connected with an accident from the middle of the road to avoid subsequent accidents, he leaves these alone, diverts the traffic and concentrates on taking measurements.

About three months ago, I stand to be corrected, at a point along Ikorodu Road, another accident occurred at the same spot because of the carelessness of the traffic officer who was all the time taking measurements. That was about three months ago. I cannot quote the very date but if records of accidents are kept at Ijora anybody who bothers to check my statement will find it to be correct.

The training of the junior segment of the Nigeria Police takes only six months. I admit that, subsequent to this, they undergo what is

called "in-service-training" by which they go back for a Refresher Course ; but I submit, with the greatest respect, that the basic training ought to be lengthened from six months to one year.

In the rural areas of this country Police Inspectors, Lance Corporals and even First-class Constables are allowed to prosecute in the courts. I am sorry to say that I have personally seen people who ought to be convicted being left off not because the judiciary was partial but because the Magistrates or Judges have set principles to follow. The first principle of criminal administration is that the prosecutor has got to prove his case beyond reasonable doubt. These Police Officers might be innocent but most of them are so half-trained that they cannot even understand and interpret the criminal code. They just go to the courts and fail to prove the essential ingredients which are necessary to be proved before an accused person can be convicted. Their failure to do this is not because of inefficiency nor is it because they are corrupt. I am not saying that they are corrupt but they fail because, innocently, they are not competent to handle these criminal prosecutions.

I will now talk about our women Police officers. In Lagos to-day, we see that our Women Police Officers are doing a lot of work. But I will appeal to the Government to, as soon as possible, station women Police Officers in all provincial headquarters in this country and extend this, as soon as possible, to the divisional headquarters. But they should start with the provincial headquarters, particularly Ondo province, first.

Up till now, there is not a single woman Police Officer in Ondo province. I am appealing to the Government to send some women Police Officers to Ondo, Akure, Owo and to Ikare.

**An hon. Member :** Which is your constituency !

**Mr Ogedengbe :** Yes, Ikare is my constituency. The uniform of our Police Officers leaves much to be desired. If one takes a good look at two of my friends up there in the Gallery, one will see that they look more like soldiers than Police Officers. This appearance was quite all right in 1914 or in 1920. Sir, Lugard's intention for the Police Officers then

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was to train them as Military Officers to guard the interests of the British. But "the old order changeth yielding place to new." On the 1st of October, 1960, we attained independence and, as Jesus said, a new wine put in an old bottle will make the bottle burst. The uniform being worn by our Police Officers is not good enough for independent Nigeria. It is an eye-sore. We would like to see our Police Officers, not necessarily in expensive dresses, but in something much more elegant than what they wear now, something which would match and befit our climatic conditions. For somebody to wear woollen poultrice, a woollen shirt and woollen singlet in the tropics is ridiculous. I suggest to the Government to change the uniform. I am not an expert in this but I think that a pair of trousers is better than their present knickers. It makes them look just like messengers or gunners in the Army. We do not want them to appear like that.

I will finally talk about politeness. Some of our Police Officers are not polite. I have worked with them on many occasions and have discovered that many of the young elements—

**The Chairman:** You are repeating what have already been said by some other Members.

**Mr Ogedengbe:** I will wind up. I do hope that the Prime Minister would, as soon as possible, announce to the country who is going to be the head of the Nigeria Police.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi):** Very briefly, I consider that this is an opportune moment for paying tribute to the entire Police Force and also to our Police Officers serving in the Congo. They have really done a very meritorious service in that, very recently, a number of high Congolese Police officials visited this country with a view to studying our Federal Police system in Nigeria. This is certainly indicative of the appreciation that our system received abroad.

It goes without saying that there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of our Police Officers.

This House, so far, has heard less of complaints of corruption and bribery in our Police Force, but this does not mean that it does not exist. There are still one or two odd ones but we are not complaining very bitterly about this.

One hon. Member mentioned women Police Officers. The hon. Gentleman happens to come from the Northern Region from where I also come. I agree with him that our women should join the Police Force, but it is our responsibility to encourage them to do so. I beg to disagree with that particular hon. Member in his assertion that the Police Force is not popular.

Very recently the Bornu Native Authority, in trying to improve its Police Force, found it difficult to recruit school certificate or secondary school leavers because they were all anxious to join the Nigeria Police Force where, I must admit, they have better prospects. However, we would still continue to ask the Government to improve the lot of the Nigeria Police Force.

We know that the Government has been doing its utmost to provide better quarters and better amenities, but there is certainly room for improvement.

The year has also witnessed the appointment of a Nigerian as a Police Commissioner. This is very encouraging and we have also been given assurance by the Prime Minister that the Government is doing its utmost to Nigerianise the Police Force.

I beg to support.

11.20 a.m.

**Mr J. U. Odey (Ogoja East):** I have a point to make about recruitment into the Police Force. We are told that the Police Force is to be greatly expanded. I would urge the Government to see that in the process of this expansion those who are recruited into the Force are representative of a good cross section of the country. At the moment, the recruiting centres are based in just a few localities. I would suggest that the recruiting centres be located in provincial headquarters and that adequate publicity should be given when recruitments are to be made because those who live in remote areas generally find it difficult to know when recruitments are to be made. Every effort should be made to see that there is fairness in the selection of people, especially people from the smaller ethnic groups.

I would also be happy to know about the allegation that those who are already in the Force and do not belong to the major ethnic

groups do suffer unnecessary stagnation in their posts. The allegation is usually that if one has no kinsman or somebody who is to cater for one's interest in the Force one remains for quite a long time in the same post ; he does not get any promotion.

In border or frontier divisions of my province—Ikom and Obudu—the strength of the police needs strengthening, or as the Prime Minister has just said they can be made quite mobile. This will help to give the people who live in those areas a sense of security that, in the case of any border incident, they will be adequately protected.

I am in agreement with regard to the recruitment of women police, but efforts should be made to recruit women from every province. I would add that the interest of those women who come from smaller areas should be specially guarded.

Police men who work in provincial areas should be comfortably housed. If one goes into a township area where police men are quartered one finds that there is much difference between a police man living in a township and one living in the rural area. We know these things cannot be done over night but a lot of the quarters for police men in the rural areas need great improvement.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I need not say what our Prime Minister has said but I join him, and I think so do all the hon. Members in this House, to congratulate the Inspector-General of Police who is about to go. I only wish him to remember Nigeria and also to have a long life.

**An hon. Member** : If he does not, what will happen to him ?

**Mr Ekanem** : I am sure he will remember. What I want to say now has been said by me last year during the budget session. I said that there are too many ranks in the Police. The Prime Minister will take note that there are not so many ranks in the Police Force in England. After all, we are trying to model our Police Force on the lines of the British. What is the need being trained for a period of six months after which a man becomes a constable and then a third class, a lance corporal, a corporal, *et cetera*.

The ranks should be reduced so that a man can start as a constable and then become a corporal ; there should be no lance corporal rank. The man then becomes a sergeant and then an inspector. There is no need for the post of a sub-inspector because both are doing the same duties. From the inspector grade he goes to the grade of the superintendent of police. There is no need for an assistant superintendent of police when both are doing identical duties. I would urge the Government to look into this point seriously.

Another point which I want to raise because it has not yet been raised by any Member is that we need more trained men in the Criminal Investigations Department. At the moment, I do not think the strength of the men in the C.I.D. is adequate.

I would like to speak briefly on road accidents. It was said sometime last year on the Floor of this House that there are a lot of road accidents. That is a fact due to speeding and carelessness on the part of the drivers. The country is quite aware of the driving licence racket which exists and which has featured in newspaper reports. I am happy that the police are handling that case now. The time has now come for us to make sure that along all major roads there are speed traps to check speeding.

The road signs which are put up on our major roads, especially at corners and road junctions, are too old and only written in English. The result is that they are very misleading. I am sure it will be necessary to put these road signs in the three main languages—Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba. I say this because a lot of our drivers are not educated, especially those in the Western Region. In Lagos, if one tells a taxi driver to take one anywhere he says *mio gbo*.

At present the Government is paying thousands of pounds a year to landlords. Every police officer in this country is supposed to be a security officer. It is, therefore, not conducive to secrecy or good discipline for policemen to be quartered in private houses in the towns. The tendency is for them to be partial at times and get mixed up. I may just give an example of a policeman who stays in A's house. A goes out in his car and commits an offence and the man on the spot

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is the officer living in his house. The policeman's sense of hospitality dictates to him that he must show some kind of sympathy for his master. As soon as possible, if not now, quarters should be built for the policemen and there should be no quarters rented in towns for them to live in. That will make good for security.

Another point I want to raise is the recruitment of police women. I come from an area where we have this bitter experience. Much as I praise the police, especially the police in Lagos who are over worked, I would very respectfully say that it is no use leaving the recruitment of women police in the hands of policemen. I am saying it from experience. (*Interruptions.*) Hon. Members know it but only want to hide the fact. The experience is that these girls are unable to meet the demands in cash and in some cases there is the demand in kind. Therefore I urge that women police should be recruited by women.

Another point I want to make is in respect of promotion. The frustration in the Police Force is mainly due to one thing. Unless you have somebody there who either can speak your language or is related to you you are bound to be there year in year out without being promoted. We have some cases of policemen who have served for well over twenty years and yet are no more not less than, sometimes, Second or First Class Constables.

Mr Chairman, promotion in the Police Force should be purely on merit, not by the look of the face, not by vivid smiles but by merit and merit only.

The time has come and I am sure our Prime Minister, who cannot be pushed into a thing unless he sees it fit, will see to it that policemen in this country are not used as political tools. No man, no matter his position: he may be a Minister, he may be a village head, he may be an Alkali, he may even be Dandago, he should not give orders to any policeman. The police should only act on orders given by a police officer from the Police Force. How can an outsider just because he is a Minister, just because he is a Member of the House, just because he is an Alkali or just because he is the hon. Member over there—Dandago—tell the Police to do this when they should not have done it.

This happens in this country and I have seen it in my own area. Politicians, Ministers of State and all other important men connected with politics always use the Police to victimise the other people. That is why I am appealing to the Prime Minister to put a stop to this practice without delay.

When that is done, there will be no trouble in our elections. We are anticipating an election around 1964 or earlier as the Prime Minister said. It is going to be worse in future if not checked now. It happens not only in elections but in some other things.

Mr Chairman, I must repeat that the time has come that our uniformed men—

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order. What the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is saying has just happened at Ilesha, so that it is not for the Action Group to tell us. They are responsible.

**Mr Ekanem**: The Prime Minister, in 1960 on the Floor of this House, told us of the difficulty in choosing uniforms for our Police, I realise. But I know that this Parliament or the Prime Minister, on the advice of his Ministers can do the impossible, if it is impossible. He said here sometime ago that this House can even change a man into a woman!

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): It is very easy, by law, but we cannot do this with the Police like that.

**Mr Ekanem**: The sooner the Prime Minister changes the Police uniform to fit the dignity of this country, the better. The Police are grumbling because of their uniform.

I disagree with any body who suggests to this House or to this Government to put up the requisite qualification for recruitment into the Police Force. The Police Force is the only arm of Government where young men who have no means of going into the secondary schools can be recruited. The moment the standard of entry is increased, the more unemployment we will have.

I rather will agree that training for six months is no training at all. Police duties require certain legal knowledge like semi-lawyers for prosecution in courts, and I would suggest that the period of training for the Police Force should be raised to one year.

With the permission of the Chairman, I will come to this policewomen once more because I have a case in mind. They are subjected to certain conditions which I want to tell the House.

**An hon. Member :** You seem to know much about them.

**Mr Ekanem :** I know about them, yes. I am interested in them. Now what happens now is this. If a policewomen wants to marry she must get the consent of the Inspector-General of Police. I am inclined to ask: Is the Inspector-General of Police or whoever he may be to give consent for a girl to marry? Is he her father? The answer is 'no'.

There is another point. This is unfortunate because it happens in many Departments. Fancy a policewomen who has been lured into pregnancy being dismissed. If dismissal is the lot of a policewoman put in the family way, the man who was responsible should also suffer the penalty.

**An hon. Member :** You are going too deep.

**Mr Ekanem :** In fact, any body who is responsible.

**An hon. Member :** What is his offence?

**Mr Ekanem :** The offence is that he has caused this girl to lose her job. In many cases such men refuse to care for the children. Unless the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General introduces legislation that whenever a man gets a child it is his legal child, there are going to be a lot of bastards.

What I want is that any man who happens to put any policewoman in the family way should be equally penalised as the girl. It is a very serious matter because what happens is that sometimes they lure girls to prison and when they want to go and ease themselves something happened, then the man will be free, Why?

I would like to end by asking the Prime Minister to investigate the affairs in the Police Force.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** In contributing to this Debate I should briefly like to point out one anomaly in the promotion system of the Nigeria Police. This is in

connection with various sections of the Nigeria Police. The tendency at the moment is that just because a Police Officer happens to be attached to the C.I.D. or any section of the Nigeria Police he is entirely forgotten in respect of promotion.

Such Police Officers are not at all given promotion as much as those in the general service. So I should like to suggest to the Government that in future when considering policemen for promotions, those in other section should also be considered. I should like to point this to the Government that in future, in considering promotions, those in certain sections should also be considered.

Another point that I would like to bring before the Government is the question of promoting a high standard of efficiency in the Local and Native Authority Police. This is really the responsibility of the Nigeria Police. Of course, at the moment, Local and Native Authority Police get their training through the Nigeria Police Colleges, but still there are rooms for improvement. For instance, facilities for higher training should be given to the rank of inspector and other ranks as well in the Local and Native Authority Police. At the moment, law and order in the country is not only in the hands of the Nigeria Police; Local and Native Authority Police share the same responsibility on behalf not only of the Regional Governments but of the Federal Government as well. It is for that reason that I feel that facilities should be provided for the higher training of Local and Native Authority Police.

One point is that a number of the Local and Native Authority Police now join the Nigeria Police. Those who have been trained by the Nigeria Police Colleges, and who have the same qualifications as the Nigeria Police, do not get the same privileges during their entry into the service of the Nigeria Police. This should be considered.

**The Chairman :** Mr Ogbalu.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** On a point of order. There is a list which is followed here and, according to the list, I think that I am the next man.

**The Chairman :** Under Standing Order 21, all that is necessary is that the Mover be

[CHAIRMAN]

called, the rest is entirely at the discretion of the Chair.

11.42 a.m.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : I wish to associate myself with the congratulations which the Prime Minister has showered upon the Inspector-General of Police because he has done quite a great deal of work for this country. In any case, we are very happy to hear about the proposal to appoint a Nigerian as the Inspector-General, and the Prime Minister deserves our congratulations because he has shown, as usual, that he is progressive, dynamic and acquiesces to the wishes of the country which he looks after.

I have to make this point, that the retiring age of Police Officers should be raised to something sixty, and that compulsory retirement should be stopped because, unless somebody has committed any offence, there is no reason why he should be compelled to retire when he is able to do his work conscientiously, efficiently and ably too.

I have to make the point that our Police have been doing a great deal of work quite all right, but the experience during the last few months in the Okrika riot tends to make some of us feel that the Police have not, in actual fact, been doing their duty well. There is no point why almost a whole town was destroyed, several buildings burnt and the Police were not active enough to bring the rioters to book. I should suggest that a more vigorous Police Station should be established in that island so that the Police will be able to cope with possible future emergencies, in view of the geographical location of the island being surrounded by water and the difficulty of sending Police from the Mainland.

I wish also to suggest that the Government should institute a commission of inquiry to find out the part played by senior police officials during the riots, because there are allegations that some of the police officials are privy to some of the atrocities perpetrated either because they come from the island or because they have got certain relationship with some of the leading personalities in that island. It would be a good thing if the Government would investigate the circumstances leading to the burning of some of the houses in spite of the fact that the Police were on the spot.

It is not my intention to deal with the whole length of Police services in the country, but I have to draw the attention of this House to the Police Station at Awka, my constituency. It is true that new Police quarters are being put up at Awka, but that is really not commensurate with what we had in mind when we appealed on the Floor of this House that the Police Station should be supplied with quarters. The buildings are small and the rooms very tiny. There is no foresight and it will be something not congenial to the interests of this country that we shall be setting up more buildings which are to be condemned after a few years. We have to build houses that will last for many years and which will satisfy our condition.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Inspector, and the Sergeant living there have no quarters. I hope that this will be borne in mind and that new buildings will be set up for them.

I must say that I am grateful to the Government for agreeing to supply the Police at Awka with a Police van. Awka Police Station has been neglected for a long time and the Police have to do their work under a very difficult condition ; travelling a radius of nearly fourteen miles without any vehicle in order to do their duty. In any case, I hope that the remedy will be carried through as soon as possible.

It is very important to note that the Police officials are trying their best to change in many ways to something much better, in my own point of view, and they should be encouraged and not just criticised to the extent of damaging the goodwill which they are trying to establish. It is true that there are some Policemen who are corrupt and who are not doing their work as efficiently and as honestly as they ought to do, but in any case, I think that the Police deserve some encouragement. They have faced difficult conditions in many places, and have faced them with manly spirit.

With these few words, I support.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to one special item under this Head. We have all been speaking, arranging and contributing for the betterment of the Police. We have been planning to build better houses for them. But there is one thing which we must think of. We must consider whether the present Nigeria policemen whom we are now trying to promote



to take the places of the expatriates will actually carry out their duties as efficiently as most whitemen.

**Chief A. F. Odulana :** On a point of order. I know many expatriate policemen who left this country as Assistant Commissioners of Police and things higher, and returned to their homes and become ordinary policemen. I even saw one in Blackpool some two weeks ago, so there is no doubting the fact that our people will do better than most expatriates.

**The Chairman :** That was more of a point of explanation. But I was going to remind the hon. Gentleman that once a European always a European.

**Mr Dame-Oboh :** I am compelled to comment on the attitude of some of our policemen towards the Government. I am from one of the areas in the Mid-West where there was a riot. I must start by appealing to the Prime Minister, that he views it seriously whenever he hears or receives a complaint against any of those senior police officers, more particularly, when they are reported for taking part in politics. He should not take such complaints as mere allegations. I am saying this with every seriousness because if we allow the policemen of this country to take part in politics, it means that none of us is safe or free. I am speaking from experience of what I gathered from what has just happened in my area, the Mid-West, which forms part of a place where rumours had it that there was a breakdown of law and order. As a result of these rumours, several policemen were drafted there. Many senior police officers came; they tried and failed. Disturbance continued to reign until an ordinary Police Inspector came to the area. This police officer did very nice work and he succeeded to restore peace in the area because he did not take sides with either the leaders of the N.C.N.C. or the leaders of the Action Group—the two leading political parties there. I know this police officer very well. Anyia is his name. He is an Ibo chap. He was able to restore peace in the place within a period of a week. Many S.S.Ps. and A.S.Ps. were first sent there but they failed. It would appear that they were not doing the right thing. When they were told to go to

the right, they would go to the left. When reports were sent to them that somebody had been killed, they would not act immediately. They would wait until those who did the havoc had fled before they would send policemen to the spot.

Therefore, if we really want Nigeria to be in peace, we must be very careful as to how we post out the senior policemen. They should not be allowed to go to their places of origin. They have their brothers, their sisters, their fathers and their mothers there and they will not be pleased to see any of them arrested even if they committed an offence. I have an experience of this sort of thing myself. I happened to clash with an S.S.P's brother. Instead of allowing the A.S.P. under him to handle the case in the right way, the S.S.P. sent a sheet of note to him, giving him direction on how to handle that case so that the verdict might be passed in favour of his brother.

When we are in Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu or Port Harcourt, we are well covered because we have better brains and influential men around. But in the rural areas, the policeman is the *Oba*, he is the *Onojie*. The policemen have no regard for anybody no matter what position he holds. Most of the hon. Members here have not experienced what I am talking about. As a Minister, they will not attack you, nor will they attack your brothers. But what of the ordinary man-in-the-street? What of those poor people who belong to the lower class of men?

I am aware that the Police of to-day are doing good job; they are working very hard. But there should be a proper guide and there should be a proper method as to their postings. And we for our part must warn ourselves. We members of different political parties must not use policemen as weapons against our political opponents.

In my area—the Mid-West—we have not got many of our men in the Police Force, unlike the Easterners. The Police Force is all Ibos. They are the *Okoronkwos*; they are the N.C.N.Cers (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** May I appeal to the House: the interruptions are passing from seemly to the unseemly.

**Mr Okoronkwo :** On a point of order. The hon. Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) should refrain from mentioning Ibos. After all, he was praising an Ibo Inspector of Police a few moments ago. What other grounds has he to come back to attack Ibos?

**Chief Dame-Oboh :** I am inclined to believe that the hon. Gentleman was sleeping.

I am glad that the Federal Government has now thought it fit to provide the Ishan Division with a Police Station which is situated at Ekpoma. I am very happy about this, and I am grateful to the Prime Minister for providing my area with a Police Station—the area where people take the law into their own hands; where people are often misled to campaign ignorantly. There is one other thing which we now require and that is buildings. Houses have not yet been provided and that is why hon. Members see me rise quite often to speak. I come from that rural area. These people too require more amenities which they can enjoy, like telephones and a good post office—

**The Chairman :** I thought we were debating the Head on the Police. I do not think the Police have at any time any responsibility for telephones or post offices.

**Chief Dame-Oboh :** All this time I have not been allowed to say anything on the—

**The Chairman :** I do not think your failure to catch the Chairman's eye is a fitting substitute for Standing Order 28.

**Chief Dame-Oboh :** I appeal to the Prime Minister to see that that Police Station is made to become one of the best in the Federation. And I beg to remind the hon. Prime Minister that he should disallow any of these senior Police officers taking sides in politics.

**M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) :** In supporting this Bill I would like to congratulate the Government on the achievement so far made in the Police Department, firstly, for all it has done to Nigerianise the senior posts by training youths here at Ikeja to become cadet Inspectors who, after a short while, become Assistant Superintendents of Police; and secondly, for the maintenance of law and order in this country.

But what I had in mind, and what I think has been touched upon by the previous speaker concerns the Police in this country who act in such a way that they are terrorists rather than being peaceful and friendly to the public. In view of all that has been said, I think the Government should do something about it.

A few days ago we spoke about gambling and robbery in our trains. I think that some of the policemen conspire with the robbers in the trains. I remember that when the Zaria to Jos train, through the Bauchi line, was working I was in the train and the same thing happened. I reported it to one of the policemen—I knew he was a policeman—but he told me it was the foolishness of the person who joined these people in gambling. So I think these things must be checked to remove dishonesty from our Police Force. I beg to support.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) :** Sir, if you look into the Staff List of the Federation of Nigeria you will see that there are 10 expatriate officers above the Nigerian who is at the eleventh point. This is not good enough. Some of these expatriate officers are contract officers. We do not want contract officers in the Police Force. We have Nigerians in the Police who can do the job equally if not much better.

Another important point regarding the Police is that, as said by the hon. Prime Minister, we want complete Nigerianisation of the entire Police Force.

**The Chairman :** I will appeal to the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*), under Standing Order 35, to get on to some other topic of discussion because already the Prime Minister has made a policy statement on what the hon. Member is now repeating. To continue would, in my judgment, amount to tedious repetition.

**Mr Okay :** While I agree with you, Mr Chairman, I want to tell the Government that there are not sufficient Police staff quarters in Port Harcourt, nor at its detachment at Diobu, Port Harcourt.

Another very important point is the matter of office blocks for the Police at Port Harcourt and Diobu. I want the Government to see to it that these office blocks are erected.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I beg to move, That the Question be now put.—(Interruptions)

**The Chairman** : I think we ought to put the Question now.

**Several hon. Members** : No ! No !

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : Mr Chairman, there are about 10 people who have put their names to an Amendment which has not been moved by any one of the hon. Members—

**The Chairman** : I am sorry, I cannot hear what the hon. Member from Abaja and Ngwo (Mr Eneh), is saying.

**Mr Eneh** : I said that many hon. Members have tabled an Amendment but none of those who have spoken had moved the Amendment. And the Prime Minister has not actually replied to the statements made by Members. I would like to move the Amendment or one of the hon. Members named to move—

**The Chairman** : Will the hon. Member from Onitsha North (Mr Ezeani) move the Amendment ?

**Mr L. N. Ezeani** (Onitsha North) : I move the Amendment standing in my name that Head 23 (Police) be reduced by £100.

In moving this Amendment I have to stress that I had in mind the Police post at Otuocha, in Onitsha North. About four years ago the Police were stationed in rented houses and, up to this time, there is no arrangement to review the question of housing for these policemen.

At a certain stage I was told that the land proposed for the building site was in dispute, but now it has been settled and there is no difficulty about the land at all. I wonder why Government prefer to rent houses everywhere in the area for the Police for the past four years, with the result that it does not make for good work.

The second reason why I put up this Amendment is in connection with the attitude of Police drivers. It seems to me that 80 per cent of the Police drivers feel that they are above the law, they do not in any way respect the traffic laws, and I would like to be told whether these traffic laws are made both for us and the Police. If these laws are made for both

civilians and the Police, then the Police drivers should be made to observe the traffic laws instead of coming out and driving any way they like just because they are policemen. In certain cases they have the impudence to arrest people even when they are at fault !

I beg to move.

12.10 p.m.

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Ishan East) : May I make two points very briefly, Sir. Two years ago when it was first suggested in this House that there should be a long grade from Constable to Sergeant grade, the Prime Minister promised to look into the matter and agreed to take certain steps and to let us know in due course. May we now know from the Prime Minister if he has looked into this matter and what conclusions he has reached ?

The second point is that I wish to associate our side of this House with the tribute paid to the Inspector-General this morning by the Prime Minister. We were all in various degrees associated with Bovell over a number of years; although we did not always agree with him, we think he did a good job for this country.

Now, may I suggest that the Prime Minister should not accept the suggestion that our policemen should not be sent to the United Kingdom for further training. I think it is very important that after a change over from the traditional role of the Police as an instrument of colonial power to what we now expect them to be, that they should have every opportunity of going, in particular, to the United Kingdom which—let us admit—has the finest Police Force in the world. I think that we have a lot to learn from that country, and I do suggest that in fact there ought to be more scholarships for senior officers to go to the United Kingdom and see how the Police there behave.

Finally, we are all happy to note the proposal for the Nigerianisation of the higher ranks of the Police Force, but may I say something that requires saying. If Nigerianisation is going to mean a lowering of the standards which expatriate officers set in the past, then we had better proceeded cautiously, because, whatever we may say against expatriate officers—and I have no particular reason to be in love with them—they maintained certain standards of impartiality and incorruptibility in this country. I therefore suggest very strongly to the Prime

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

Minister that in our haste and in our hurry to Nigerianise we must ensure that those same standards are maintained.

**L. Alhaji Daura** (Daura East): I support the Amendment. I have but one observation to make and that is in accordance with the police report published recently. I have seen with great concern the number of Northerners in the Police Force. The number is so small that it places the North in a very, very small minority.

For this reason I appeal to the Federal Government and in particular to the Prime Minister to give the police career a very wide publicity in the North so that it may attract many Northerners to join the Police Force.

Considering the size of the North, the number of Northerners in the Police Force should correspond to the size of the North. Concession should be made to Northerners so that they may join the Force. If it is the standard of education which makes them not join the Force, I say that it should be lowered.

I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister**: Mr Chairman, I oppose the Motion and in opposing it, I would like to reply to some of the points made by hon. Members. Many Members have made a number of points in connection with the efficiency of the Nigeria Police Force, the provision of accommodation for the Force and have requested as usual for Police Stations in various parts of the Federation.

I am very grateful to hon. Members for their contributions, especially to my hon. Friend the Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*), who has had quite a lot to do with the Nigeria Police Force. He has been a member of the Police Council for many years and also has been responsible for the Local Government Force somewhere else.

I want to assure the House that by Nigerianisation we do not mean lowering of standards at all. There are Nigerians who are in the Police Force now and who could really take over from the expatriate superior Police Officers with great credit to the country. When I say that our whole aim is Nigerianisation, I think that needs to be explained a little further.

The Inspector-General of Police is leaving in July. The way my mind is working is that we will have a Nigerian as a Deputy Inspector-General who will take over in a matter of a year. Now in a Region we might have a Commissioner of Police, and in the other two Regions we will have Nigerians as Deputy Commissioners of Police with a view to their taking over in a matter of a year. That means that we are not going all out to Nigerianise at one go. It does not mean, however, that we have not got confidence that these Nigerians will eventually take over. Indeed as far as the ability and all the qualities of superior Police Officers are concerned, I think that these Nigerians that we have in mind have got the qualifications. We hope that the rest of the Force will also follow their example.

Now my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is not here. He dwelt at great length upon Women Police, I would say that after listening to him he seems to me the least qualified person to be entrusted with the responsibility for selecting the women.

It has been suggested that we should try to abolish unnecessary designations; Mr Ekanem, Chief Enahoro and a number of other Members, including Dr Nzeribe and Dr Okeke, as well as my hon. Friend, Mr Ogedengbe, all did say that they did not see the point of having these multiple ranks of Corporal, Lance Corporal and then Sergeant and so on. Chief Enahoro also said that I promised sometime ago to look into the question of a long grade.

We find it absolutely necessary, in a disciplined Force like the Police, to give encouragement to the men and women we recruit into its ranks by creating for them sufficient avenues for promotion. Thus the average Private is in a position to estimate his chances of progress to the rank of Corporal after a given length of service. The same consideration applies to the Lance Corporal seeking advancement to the grade of Full Corporal, and the Full Corporal anxious for promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Indeed it is because of the necessity of having promotion prospects in the Force that we have these many designations. We will, of course, continue to try to see whether we can reduce them to the minimum, but I must

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point out to the House that it is the same thing that occurs in other branches of the Civil Service where, for example, we find the Assistant Secretary, the Senior Assistant Secretary and all the succeeding classes.

Members will see that the aim is always to provide the rank and file of the Nigeria Police with better chances of promotion.

I think that my hon. Friend, Mr Ogedengbe, also mentioned the question of graduates coming into the Force directly. To my mind this idea will be welcome, provided they will be quite prepared to undergo the necessary training required to give them adequate discipline.

I am glad that one of the Members suggested that we should continue to send members of the Police Force overseas. I believe that this is something we must continue. We cannot just confine our policemen to Nigeria and not give them the opportunity of going out, either to the United Kingdom or to America, or indeed to other parts of the world. We shall let them go wherever they like; they will learn quite a lot in the United States. They can be very tough in the United States and I am sure that they will learn quite a lot. Really, I am glad that Members realise that it is very important that we send them out.

These, Sir, are the points which have been made. The rest I will be able to look into when I study the *Hansard*, as we always do. But, in all, we shall do our best to meet the wishes of hon. Members.

*Whereupon the Minister of Foreign Affairs rose in his place and claimed to move, That the question be now put.*

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

*Question, That Head 23—Police—be reduced by £100, put and negatived.*

*£4,967,240 for Head 23—Police—ordered to stand part of the schedule.*

HEAD 24—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY

*Question proposed, That £708,810 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Scheduled.*

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): Mr Chairman, I beg to move, That Head 24 be reduced by £100.

This Ministry has a job so important that no emphasis is too great for it, but its activities are very obscure. It is very difficult to see in what respect the Ministry has impressed the commerce and industry of this country. Researches in this Ministry are fruitless or at least intangible. The commercial officers arrange business for themselves. They are supposed to arrange business for the country but I have yet to know what business they have arranged for this country.

The refund of import duties is quite illogical and corrupt. All these are the duties which are supposed to be done by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry but when one looks at this Head one sees that quite a large amount has been voted for return of import duties. Regarding these refunds, it is not known on what basis it is decided who is to have a refund and who is not.

Trade agreements, I am afraid, are lop-sided. I say lop-sided because certain areas of the world are completely excluded from these agreements. If we are to have all-round commercial and industrial development we must look for help, not only from one section of the world, but from all sections. Regarding the trade with Japan, for instance, it is already known that most of our adverse balance of payments are due to heavy imports of cheap goods from sweated industries. Now, it is the duty of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to see that the trade agreement with Japan is arranged in such a way that that country no longer upsets our balance of payments with cheap articles got from sweated industries.

I cannot see what the Weights and Measures Section of this Ministry is doing—I cannot see it. The Superintendent is obviously not doing any useful work. He and his team should be scrapped.

**An hon. Member** : Forthwith ?

**Mr Oronsaye** : Forwith, yes ! A few days ago I asked some questions in this House about what this Section of the Ministry is doing. The answer was written in the usual official jargon and it was easy to see that quite a lot of effort was put in in writing that reply and, in spite of those efforts, one could see very clearly that there is no substance whatever in the reply. No substance.

[MR ORONSAYE]

The Statistics Department of this Ministry should be transferred to the Department of Statistics. One of the things that I would have liked to see in connection with the Cabinet office (which, of course, escaped attention in some way) was some co-ordination of the Ministries, so that our Statistics would properly belong to the Ministry of Economic Development. Now, statistics is under Commerce and Industry; we have everything under the sun, even Information is there!

I do not think that we can use our money wisely if we keep on duplicating all these offices, so that, another item that ought to have been scrapped in this Ministry is Head 24, Sub-head 116. The Department of Statistics is the place where you have the experts, the people who have gone into all the types of averages. They can tell us, by random sampling or by any of the statistical methods, what is the trend of population, what is this or what is that. But here, in this Department, we are required to spend a good deal of money on this Head for statistics which can more properly be handled by the Department of Statistics under the Ministry of Economic Development.

We have another item of charge, which is Sub-head 31. It is very difficult to see why this Sub-head is there at all. It ought to remain with the appropriate Marketing Boards. It is very easy to see that one of the chief difficulties of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is that it is trying to bite off much more than it can chew. The work that should be done by the Department of Statistics and also the work that should be done by the Marketing Boards, is being done by this Department. Even when one looks at the Estimates one finds that some parts of it show no reason why they should be there at all. Five per cent of the cost of that Sub-head is to be met by the Marketing Boards. Then why keep it under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry at all!

One of the things which I have often stressed in this House is co-ordination. If there is proper co-ordination there will be economy, instead of reduction of salaries, which amount to little or nothing. Co-ordination will reduce the money being wasted (I would not say being spent) the money being wasted on several

duplications. It will help to save this money. So that sub-head should be properly transferred to the Marketing Boards.

Now, under Sub-head 51 we have the people who have made this Ministry top heavy with red tape. It is very top-heavy with red tape. In spite of the money that has been spent and is being spent, there are no visible results. None. Every penny spent on this sub-head is a waste of money and if that is so, there is no reason for its existence..

The same thing applies to Sub-head 71—Other Charges. One has to go abroad to see the grades of produce that is being passed as Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3; in some cases they say Grade 1A. I remember a few years ago, in London, someone and I wanted to strike a certain business transaction. We got to the office of this commercial house and they were very happy to see us. We started to discuss this thing very well, but on getting to a point, they asked, as a matter of interest, "from what country do you come to transact this business?". We said 'Nigeria'. Oh! We saw vividly how their faces turned red immediately. They said that Nigerian rubber is very unreliable—and so also is cocoa. The reason for this unreliability is due to the expenditure on this Sub-head 24 and Sub-head 71. The people grade cocoa, they call it Grade 1, but when it gets to England it is not really what is expected of Grade 1 cocoa—it is Grade 3 or Grade 4. Do you know what happens? We find that many young men, even teachers who are supposed to stay in their classes, leave their jobs to go into these Departments because of certain attractions.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): What are the attractions?

**Mr Oronsaye**: Money!

**The Chairman**: I notice some Members reading newspapers. May I remind Members that Standing Order 27 (3) forbids the reading of newspapers while debate is going on.

**Mr Oronsaye**: Sir, I would strongly recommend that the Produce Section of this Ministry be organised to make it the responsibility of the commercial houses, who in the last resort take the responsibility for the produce that is graded. I am aware that efforts have been made in this direction. I know, for instance, that in the case of rubber

and cocoa, the commercial houses to a very large extent take the responsibility for the grade and in some cases I think they also go into the grading of their produce, because in the final analysis when any produce which is supposed to be Grade 1 gets to England and is found only to be Grade 3, the company loses in the first instance, and this country loses finally. Everyone who receives these things begins to have an idea that this country is unreliable, and that our produce is not regarded as first-class abroad.

Sir, I do not intend to take very much time and I strongly move that this Head be reduced by £100.

I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr S. I. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): If I heard clearly from the Chairman, he said £10, but the Amendment is for £100.

**The Chairman:** The Question is that the Head be reduced; it has been moved. (Laughter).

12.35 p.m.

**Chief M. W. Ubani** (Aba Central): Sir, the duty of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, really affects the trend of our market prices, the siting of industries and arrangements to effect, if possible, some commercial associations with other parts of the world. A few days ago the Minister made a statement in this House which was very highly applauded, but one thing that is lacking in that statement is that while he told us the plans he has for cocoa alliance and a possible arrangement for groundnuts association with other parts of the world the Minister did not say what will happen to palm produce. I watched very carefully and listened very carefully. We feel that the same conditions which have readily led him to make arrangements for an association in cocoa and groundnuts must operate in his mind for all the three stable crops of the nation—palm produce from the East, groundnuts from the North and cocoa from the West. We feel that there are other parts of the world where we can make a shift and enter into alliances in order to stabilise the prices of these high-grade products of the nation. If any country is to rise, definitely the question of the control of its market products must be very well handled.

I do not intend to take much time of the House but I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry that if it was an omission, steps should be taken to have the position rectified whereby arrangements would be made with all countries of the world, such as Singapore, Malaya, Tunisia and Sumatra countries where palm oil is produced. These arrangements should be effective enough (as those made for cocoa and groundnuts). The Minister should see that the alliance is formed.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I rise to contribute to this Head. I think that as the name of the Ministry indicates—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—it is a Head in which we should all have confidence. I can remember quite all right that during the last Session of this House a Bill was passed here to extend loans to the Regional Governments. But to our utmost disappointment people from various Regions—of course, I can speak best of the Northern Region—applied for the loan which was open to them, but no reply was given, Mr Chairman.

**An hon. Member:** Why?

**Mr Lar:** Well, you can ask the Minister. And now these people are being kept in suspense. I think the Ministry should be warned not to keep people all the time in suspense like this. It was on the Floor of this House that a Bill was passed to open the way for the people living in the different Regions, but if you see the list of those to whom the loans were given, of course, most of them are people from Lagos. Nearly 99.9 per cent of the people who got the loans are here in Lagos. Why should that be so? There are plenty of traders in the Eastern Region, in the Western Region and in the Northern Region. Why should the loans be confined here in Lagos? I think that something must be done about this. The Ministry should do something about it, otherwise we shall have no confidence in that Ministry.

**Mr T. I. Etukudo** (Eket West): The Minister of Commerce and Industry rightly pointed out the other day the importance of this Ministry in relation to the execution of the Development Programme, 1962-68. This Ministry, if successfully handled, will eradicate unemployment throughout the whole of the Federation and improve our financial position as well.

[MR ETUKUDO]

He further said that the producers of cocoa have agreed to form 'Cocoa Producers Alliance'. In this case I am thinking that we might not succeed very well except we consider as well to negotiate for a similar alliance in respect of palm produce. It is very discouraging even within the Federation that prices of palm produce are different, so that in the area where palm produce is produced, the people really feel very reluctant at the moment to go and cut the fruits. Now, in order to succeed in the alliance, I think that the importing country should be represented as is the case in the Wheat Council and the Sugar Council.

Secondly, the forthcoming International Trade Fair is mainly to display Nigerian manufactured and primary products and the participating companies from Nigeria—

**The Minister of Information :** Mr Ekanem is coming in with his cap on.

**The Chairman :** I do not know whether it is offensive to some hon. Members. If it is, then perhaps the best thing is to put it off.

**Mr Etukudo :** I was saying that the forthcoming International Trade fair is mainly to display Nigerian manufactured and primary products and the participating countries from Nigeria and abroad will exhibit many and varied products on sale in Nigeria. To this end, I appeal that the Minister should make adequate arrangements for the participation of indigenous companies from the Regions. Foreign firms should not be permitted to exhibit Nigerian products as it tends to re-introduce colonialism through the backdoor.

For over a year now, the Minister of Commerce and Industry made the statement to the effect that retail trade will be completely handed over to Nigerians, but up till now no definite action has been taken. On the Floor of this House a few days ago, he said that he had negotiated with the chairmen and managers of the big firms, but that in the course of it we should not be so fast. That, of course, will not help us because if anyone goes to the rural areas now, one finds vans, lorries going about selling soap in bars, cigarettes in packets, and so on. I think this does not give ample chance to our petty traders, such as women and orphans who are just trying to manage life. I am appealing

to the Minister to take a drastic measure immediately because this system of trade is profitable and it will be very difficult for any company to do away with it except some drastic measure is taken.

It is gratifying to note that the Government wishes to remove the restrictions on amounts to be loaned and the class of property for which loans may be made. People have been complaining of filling and submitting forms for loans but without anything being done to the forms, as no consideration was given to them. Some people were of the opinion that most of these applications were turned down because of party politic. I quite remember an hon. Member who collected some forms sometime ago in 1960 or 1961 ; he thought he would be obliged, but, unfortunately, I think till to-day he has not got anything ; perhaps he is on the way to getting it.

The establishment of a national bank is welcome and will serve as a sort of encouragement to the expansion of industry. The Minister should give every possible encouragement to ventures in the private sector. There are lots of industries to be established. To this end, I feel that we should not centre everything in the Federal Capital. At the moment one finds that Lagos is becoming congested because several industries are being established here and because it is an attraction to every school leaver to run into Lagos with the hope of gaining employment. We in the rural areas are feeling as if we are not part of the Federation, and I am appealing to the Minister that in the course of establishing industries, he should tour the country and see the areas where it is possible for certain industries to be established. I think that by doing so, those in the rural areas will feel the independence of this country. At the moment, many are still of the opinion that we are not free because they have not seen any indication.

The next thing that I would like to touch on is the question of fishing industry. I come from Eket, just a few miles from Ibuno. Anybody who has been at Ibuno will be aware that if fishing industry is established there, it will really produce fish to the quantity, required by the whole of Nigeria. Therefore, I am urging the Government to consider establishing fishing industry at Ibuno and nowhere else.



**An hon. Member :** What about in Lagos ?

**Mr Etukudo :** No. We do not want it in Lagos. Lagos has already got enough.

Finally, I should like to draw the attention of the Minister to the deficit in our trade. We had about a £50 million trade deficit last year; this year the Minister has reported a difference of £1,000,000—that is, we now have a deficit of £49 million. This is a very grave situation which should arrest the attention of the Government. In order to save this situation, I think the Government should devise some means by which some surplus should be created in order to arrest this trade deficit.

With that, I support.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke :** (Awka Central) : I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to speak since the beginning of this Session. The Minister has been doing quite a lot for the Ministry, but we expect that more should be done by him. It is gratifying to note that there is a Cocoa Alliance in respect of export of cocoa, but I thought that this should have been extended to include Groundnut Alliance, Palm Produce Alliance and Cotton Alliance, because these cash crops are the mainstay of our commercial prosperity.

I hope that the Minister will do something to correct the adverse balance of trade which has been the suffering of this country for a very long time. Something should be done to correct this, because what is disrupting the economy of this country is not that we are importing capital goods from England and other places, but that we are importing consumer goods—consumer goods like toys, cameras, clocks and other things that are not of lasting value to us.

Mr Chairman, I do not see the reason why we should still continue to import beer since we have breweries in this country. I think that the Minister should do something to ban the importation of other brands of beer like Heinekens, Becks and Bergedoff. In England they do not drink Nigeria's Star beer. Why should we still continue to import foreign beer here ?

Moreover, it is still a crime in this *era* of our independence for us to drink gin brewed in Nigeria because in the colonial days it was branded by the British as *illicit* ! After we

have tested the fruit of independence we still make it a crime to drink gin brewed in Nigeria ! I think, Sir, that it is here that we want the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see that this side of the Criminal Code is repealed and Nigerian distillers be encouraged to perfect the indigenous distilled gin so as to effectively ban the importation of Whisky, Brandy, Gin, Schnapps and other foreign drinks which make a lot of our people crazy in this type of our climate.

Also, in the list of the articles to be banned should be included cigarettes imported from England, the United States of America and other industrialised countries. So far as we are producing tobacco and cigarettes in the country, we should not allow similar articles to come into Nigeria.

In this connection, I think that since this country is producing cocoa in large quantities, the Government should do something to see that confectionery industry is started in Nigeria so that we can utilise our cocoa in the production of chocolates and other sweets. What happens now is that we try to import everything, sweets and so on, from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other places.

The Minister has appointed a commission of inquiry to consider how we should ameliorate things in connection with Nigerian-Japan trade. But it is not only with Japan that we have adverse balance of trade. What of Hong-Kong ? Hong-Kong has not bought anything from us and what they send to us are nothing but toys, torch-lights, glasses, looking glasses and other things which cannot be said to be essentially necessary for the commercial prosperity of Nigeria. The same thing applies to Norway and Sweden. We import a lot of stockfish from them and they do not see anything good enough to buy from us.

Another very essential thing is match industry. A great many people in Nigeria use matches and there is nothing done by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to encourage the establishment of match industry in Nigeria.

I think it is high time the Minister reviewed the nature of our adverse balance of trade with all the countries of the world, not only with Japan and leaving off Hong-Kong, Norway, Sweden and even Western Germany. Western

[MR MUOJEKE]

Germany is selling to us salt, beer and many other commodities. It is necessary that the Ministry establishes salt industry. We need salt in great quantities. This is not a luxury, it is a necessity and we should do something to see that the establishment of such industries are encouraged in this country.

Now, canning industry—as far as our products are concerned, we still import squash—orange squash, banana squash, lemonade squash, *everything* squash—from such places as South Africa—South Africa who would not like to receive us, who would not like even to see our Prime Minister, yet we take delight in importing all these things from South Africa and South Africa would not like to buy anything from us. The canning industry we have in Nigeria is not adequate for the commercial needs of the country. We have orange plentifully, though they do not last throughout the year—they are seasonal.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): It is not true that we import canning materials from South Africa. We do not import anything from South Africa.

**Mr Muojeke**: I have been to shops where I have seen lemonade and many other things imported from South Africa.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): In 1961, we imported from South Africa a total of £112,000 worth of goods.

**Mr Muojeke**: So, Sir, I must humbly ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see that canning industry is established in Nigeria, especially at such places like Awka, Port Harcourt, Owerri.

I beg to support.

*Sitting suspended* : 1 p.m.

*Sitting resumed* : 3 p.m.

**The Chairman**: It was Mr Muojeke who last spoke. Did Mr Muojeke move his Motion on reduction?

**Several hon. Members**: Yes.

**An hon. Member**: He lost it!

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): A few days ago I informed this House that my Colleague, the

hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry was away from the country in the interests of Nigeria. I now rise on his behalf to support this Head. In doing so, I have to note that some of the points of criticism raised against this Head of the Estimates have already been raised either by questions or in the course of the Budget Speech which my hon. Colleague has already made. I will, therefore, briefly make some observations on some of the points raised.

In challenging the usefulness of the Ministry, it was urged that the refund of import duties should be abolished. That, I think, was Mr Oronsaye's suggestion. I would observe that this would have a disastrous effect on the Government's industrialisation policy which this House has consistently called for. The amount set aside for this refund is, therefore, the price we have to pay for the industrialisation of the country. The increase in this amount, as against last year's provision, shows the extent to which Government policy in this matter, as an incentive to industry, is proving very successful. It will mean foregoing present revenue for future benefits and while some of the industries which we now assist mature, everybody, including Mr Oronsaye, will be the happier for it.

On the question of trade agreements, the suggestion that it should not be restricted to any part of the world is well taken; in fact, this is the basis of present Government policy. For the information of hon. Members, so far only two such agreements have been signed, and Government does not intend in this matter to discriminate in any form. Of course the basis of these agreements is not to sign an agreement just for agreement's sake, but mainly to use them as an avenue of seeking a wider market to sell Nigerian products.

The question of trends of trade with Japan was adequately dealt with in my hon. Colleague's speech to which I have referred. We all deplore the present adverse balance in terms of pound for pound, and we are doing everything to remedy this imbalance. For instance, we are seeking to attract Japanese investment to the country and further steps are being actively examined. But while we seek to correct this imbalance, we must never

forget that Japan's imports suit the pockets of our people and it is incumbent on Government to seek, as a good businessman, to buy from the cheapest market for the teeming populations of our country.

For the information of the House, no trade agreement has been negotiated with Japan yet, but if such an agreement ever came to be negotiated, one of its primary purposes would be to correct the present trade imbalance.

I now turn to the question of weights and measures as raised again by the hon. Member—the Weights and Measures Section which it has been suggested should be scrapped as being of no use. I can do no better than to refer the hon. Member who raised this point to Question No. O.35 and the reply thereto, as to the value of the Weights and Measures Section. I would add that this Section was formerly the responsibility of the Police and has only recently been taken over by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is still being built up, but even from its present performance, we have uncovered numerous frauds in the use of scales and weights, especially in the produce markets.

Hon. Members know how produce buyers and unscrupulous traders use false scales and weights to cheat the poor producers in the village. The purpose of the Weights and Measures Section will be to see that if we talk of 1 cwt of cocoa, then it must be no more or less, and the primary producer would have value for his produce.

About the Statistical and Economic Unit, I would point out that for a long time the need has been felt to have a Unit able to collect and interpret data on trade and economics for the planning of commercial and industrial development. This Unit will provide information which will be a ready source of advice to investors, be they foreign or indigenous. It is therefore particularly necessary to recruit a statistician, for although there is already the Federal Office of Statistics, our experience over the years is that the Office has been unable to supply the type of technical information which is needed in this case.

The point of greater co-ordination of industries is very desirable, but this must not be sacrificed on the altar of efficient and effective service. It has also been made

clear, in answer to questions about research being conducted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, that the Stored Products Unit carried out a research into the preservation of our agricultural products, be they food products for home consumption or cash crops for export. The Marketing Board only pays for the portion of its research which concerns Marketing Board produce. Government will therefore be ill advised to turn over this Unit to the Marketing Board, because in that case the other aspects of the Unit's work would not be carried out. Such research as has been carried out has yielded considerable success in the storage of yams, for example, or rice or corn, in addition to the storage of our export crops.

An hon. Member has called to question the need of retaining the Federal Produce Inspection Service. He is probably aware that the Department of Marketing and Exports has been abolished with effect from the 31st March, 1962. This abolition, however, does not remove the responsibility from Government for the inspection, grading and check-testing of Nigeria's export produce. It is for this reason that this Section is being retained. It has been suggested that the responsibility for the produce inspection service should be left with the commercial firms. This suggestion would be tantamount to appointing commercial firms as both accused and judge in their own cases. But when it is realised that the export duties on Nigerian produce for this year is expected to bring in a revenue of over £10 million, my hon. Friend who raised this matter cannot seriously suggest that the Government should hand over such an important function to commercial firms which owe no account to this House.

It is true that my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in his Budget Speech did mention steps about arranging a common marketing policy for cocoa and groundnuts and that no specific mention has been made of palm produce.

The truth is that Nigeria is the world's largest supplier of palm produce and there is at present no necessity to seek any special arrangement for its marketing. The present fall in the price of palm produce stemmed not from the absence of organised marketing, but from competition with other vegetable oils over which Nigeria has no control.

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

Turning to loans, Sir, the allegation that the bulk of the loans had been granted to people in Lagos is to a certain extent true, but this was because the Federal Loans Act was previously confined to the Federal territory. Hon. Members are, however, aware that this Law had been amended since last November to liberalise its scope and to make it applicable to other parts of the Federation.

**An hon. Member :** Can I get a loan now ?

**The Minister of Establishments :** Oh yes, if the hon. Gentleman applies his application will receive due consideration.

It is still too early to judge the effect of this amendment but it is hoped that whatever criticisms have been made in the past, will be redressed very soon.

My colleague, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, spoke extensively on the question of retail trade by expatriates and so did my colleague the hon. Minister of Economic Development. I will only confirm what they have said by repeating that the matter is being actively examined so as to ensure that not only does this pass into the hands of Nigerians but that when this happens, Nigerian consumers shall in no way be worse off.

Finally, an hon. Member has been critical about the concentration of industries in Lagos. It is Government's desire that as much as possible industries should be dispersed throughout the whole country, but it must not be forgotten, in the final analysis, that the man who has the money to invest is the ultimate arbiter as to where he chooses to invest his money. All that the Government can do or hope to do is increasingly to improve conditions as well as to attract industries to other parts of the country, and in this respect, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is firmly determined to assist.

Sir, these are generally what hon. Members have raised and I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North) :** I should like to speak briefly on :

- Food Canning Industry ;
- Weaving Industry ;
- Cement Industry ;
- Imports and Exports.

I feel that we have different varieties of foodstuff which are seasonal. There are certain times of the year when these commodities can be swept almost with our feet in the streets. There are certain times of the year when they are as dear as anything—yam for instance is seasonal ; all types of pawpaws and condiments are seasonal. I strongly advise that Government should put more effort in seeing to the canning of our different types of foodstuff so that we can have them almost regularly throughout the year. Without food, we know the engine of life cannot continue to move on very smoothly. Any money spent or any money invested in this kind of industry is money well spent.

I turn now to the weaving industry. We are talking about the imbalance of trade ; about the need for more money in the country ; I am sure that quite a lot of money will be conserved in the country if the weaving industry is given priority attention. Roughly we say the population of Nigeria is 40 million ; knowing our people as we do, an average Nigerian has not less than about four types of dresses. On an average, let us say that each one of us spends two pounds *per annum*, that is £80 million on cloths ; that is a very generous guess.

If weaving is done here in Nigeria, we shall know the amount of money that will be kept circulating in the country. Just imagine how much we spend on imported clothing materials ! We have cotton seeds which constitute a greater percentage of the raw materials ; more money could be spent in growing more and more of this commodity. We should have gigantic weaving plants all over the Federation of Nigeria and be proud of our local production. A lot of money will be conserved in circulation in the country.

I understand that there is some sort of competition going on between the locally produced cement and the imported variety ; also that it is always agreed and fixed the amount of Burham cement that should be in the country as well as the extent to which locally produced cement ought to be produced in order that we shall not have fluctuations and that we may not have less than is required or more than is required. Why not concentrate more on the locally produced cement industry, putting more money, doubling up the capacity, as I am sure that this industry would definitely bring a lot of money ?

Gone are the days when buildings were put up without a spoonful of cement. Hardly in these days, could one find any building put up without a great quantity of cement being used. The demand for cement cannot be over estimated. I would therefore urge the Government to please do all it can to double up the production capacity of the cement industries that we have and even establish more. Let us have enough to use and even more than enough to use. We should supply the surrounding countries.

Nigeria is well placed, and considering our position, we could certainly be a sort of supplying centre. If we could order cement from Holland—a place so far away—what would prevent Ghana from ordering cement from us? What would prevent other places from ordering cement from us? Briefly, I am sure that we can be a supplying centre. Nigeria is well placed. We can move to the right and to the left, and we have the coastal advantage. Therefore, I strongly suggest that Government should give more consideration to these points.

The main crops of Nigeria are palm products, cocoa, groundnuts, benniseed and soya beans. Palm products constitute 24.8 *per cent*, cocoa 23.8 *per cent*, groundnuts 21.1 *per cent* benniseed and soya beans .8 *per cent* and other exports 24.4 *per cent* of our annual exports. The Marketing Boards export was about £121 million two years ago and I am sure that with the introduction of mechanical farming we shall be able to produce more goods for export. I will of course warn the Government that as we export we should try to balance it with what we import so that we shall be able to retain some of our money in this country.

Sir, I beg to support.

3.31 p.m.

**Mr D. O. Enefola** (Igala South): I would like to say something about the location of industries. It is true as the Minister of Commerce and Industry told us that it is actually those who invest the money and want to see these industries grow who dictate the location, but we still plead that the Government should try and spread out these industries because it is a way of transforming rural areas into urban areas. Those who have been to Nsukka and have seen the University of Nigeria sited at Nsukka will see how overnight

that project has transformed the little town of Nsukka into a big city. We would like to see towns grow up like that in Nigeria and the only way in which we can transform these rural areas is by locating some of these industries or projects in the educational field in the rural areas where they can have better housing opportunities for the workers. There will be enough room for expansion and there will be healthy growth for these industries.

It will be very useful actually to those who invest their money in this country to concentrate all these industries in Lagos because they will get cheap electricity, they can easily get water supply. At the same time however, they should remember that if these industries are established in the rural areas they will have cheaper labour because here in Lagos the cost of living is very high. If these industries are established in the rural areas the workers will enjoy their work because they will have cheaper food to eat and there will be better housing accommodation and healthier surroundings for the workers.

I will, therefore, appeal to the Government to give a second thought to the spreading out and location of these industries. I think it is injustice for an area that grows a lot of cotton to be without a textile industry and for that industry to be located far away from the source of the raw materials. This is not justified. This is a slight on the people who produce the raw material. For example, we have the soap factory at Apapa while all the raw materials used for the production of soap are got from the rural areas.

I appeal to the Government to make a survey of the whole country and see where there is the possibility of establishing some of these industries so that most of our rural areas can be transformed into urban areas. We cannot continue with the present cities that have already been established before our colonial masters arrived in this country. We want this Government of an independent Nigeria to create more towns and cities all over the country so that those who live in cities and want to visit their native towns can do so and enjoy the same facilities that they have been enjoying in the big cities and towns.

[MR ENEFOLA]

I would also like to say something about local industries. It is actually very nice when one goes to places like the Federal Palace Hotel to find some of our people selling leather bags or objects carved in wood and so on. If one asks for the price one finds that the prices are very high. Actually, they are meant for visitors to this country as souvenirs to take to their countries. But, at the same time, we the indigenes of this country will like to buy some of these lovely articles and display them in our homes and houses but they are always very very costly. So that if the Government will try to encourage these local craftsmen, encourage them to form companies or guilds and help them with capital so that they can improve and produce more ; it will be cheaper for anybody who admires art made from these local materials to buy them and enjoy them. I would like the Government to aid these local craftsmen especially those engaged in the leather industry from Kano, Sokoto, Katsina and other towns in the North. There are many people who have got the skill to make these leather bags from snake skins or from crocodile skins and they are very good. I think it is good for the Government to encourage these local craftsmen to form societies so that they can find capital to develop this important local art.

The next point I want to speak about is the storage and preservation of local crops. It is something that should be done by the Research section of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Again, it is always the ordinary man who suffers. At times we are apt to think of high things and forget little things that matter. Most of our people still live on staple crops grown in this country. If we are to have enough and plenty for people to eat, we must think about the storage and preservation of crops like maize, yams millet and other crops that are grown in Nigeria. We should remember that all these crops are seasonal and the preservation of these cereals, crops, and foodstuffs is still a mystery in Nigeria. At the moment immediately the harvest season is over it is always difficult to get the crop. The only means of storage is in bags which do not last for long. In my own area, some parts of Benue, and other places in Nigeria, where all these cereals are grown in quantity, the farmers store them in bags in hundreds or thousands. When the price is high, that is

about the time when the farmers are planting, you find these things selling very well. They would like to send them to Ilesha or to Lagos so as to get money for these crops. But because they do not know how to preserve them, they often lose a lot because most of them are eaten up by worms, beetles, etc. Most of the crops are destroyed and this is not good economy for our farmers. The Research section of this Ministry should find ways and means whereby these farmers and those who trade in the cereals can preserve them.

Mr Chairman, I will say something about an industry which if developed in this country, will help a lot—that is milk industry. In the North we have plenty of cattle and other animals that give us milk, like goats and sheep, and yet up till now most of our people living in cities depend on imported milk—tinned milk—when we have fresh milk. This in spite of the fact that doctors tell us that anything fresh is more nutritious than the tinned, canned or imported one. We have the materials—the cattle, the sheep and the goat ; we have all these materials available. It is left to us now to combine our efforts and our money and try to evolve this industry. It is very good because, even in Britain, farmers who have cattle have this milk as the bye-product and produce them in large bottles. Sometimes they keep them along the road ; and then lorries or vans take them from the place they milk the cow to the town and sell them fresh. So, if we have such, we can rail them from Kano or Kaduna or Zaria to this city in bottles or jars as fresh milk. The more capital we can get to develop that, the greater quantity we will get. It will be cheaper, and we will thus get the fresh food that is vital to health ; and milk, as we all know, is important because it contains everything that the body requires. It is something that our Government should think of and develop and our people should combine their capital and efforts in order to help these farmers, because the farmers themselves cannot do it alone. The cow Fulani who rears cattle to sell to those who buy them from him and send them to Lagos cannot milk them in large numbers. He wants the money, but he has not got enough money or he has not got the required technique or the technical know-how to develop the milk industry. So, it is left to some of our people—those who know and those who can direct them. I call on the

Government to give the directive. If they give the encouragement, I think we shall develop this milk industry.

The next point is about the fish industry, especially fresh-water fish. We have a lot of fresh water inland.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : No. We have salt water almost everywhere.

**Mr Enefola** : Not all are salt ones. You are thinking about your own Degema area. We live along the River Niger and the River Benue, and fresh water fish is sweeter and better.

Mr Chairman, I am still talking about this fish industry. It is something that will help us with our diet. Something should be done immediately about the preservation of fish. This will help not only those who fish in the open sea but also those who fish in the interior, in Calabar Province and other places where a lot of fishing is going on.

The smoked fish which we find in the market—I know that you big men do not buy fish from the market—it should also be improved because the ordinary people, the labourers, the workers, those who build our roads and those who build our houses, depend on this fish. I do not think that by the time fish is smoked, it loses all nutrition. So, it is better for this country and the Government to think and find means by which fish can be dried and preserved, so that the ordinary man buying fish in the market will easily get fish that will contain all nutritive value.

The last point, Sir, is about some of the things we brew in this country, that are regarded as illegal. I think the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) mentioned illicit gin. It is known that no rich person drinks illicit gin in our own area—

**Several Opposition Members** : You think so? Who tells you so?

**Mr Enefola** : Perhaps some of you here brew it in the creeks and so on. If the illicit gin is a drink, let it be made a drink fit for everybody to take. But if it is not a drink that should be taken by anybody at all, it should not be taken. Up till now, it is called illicit gin—that is, an illegal type of drink that people drink privately or secretly. So the Government should control it now because

those who have no money to drink beer, whisky, or any other stuff that will perhaps stimulate them or make their heads turn go in for this illicit gin which is poisonous I say this because I see many people killed by this drink.

**Several Opposition Members** : No! No! There are good distillers.

**Mr Enefola** : It is poison. My point is that even if Members regard it as a fitting drink, let it be brought to the open as a legalised drink; let it be refined. But I will condemn it because it is not good. The sooner it disappears from our market, the better. The very fact that it is called "illicit gin" shows that it is not good.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : No! The hon. Gentleman is wrong!

**Mr Enefola** : Then legalise it.

**Mr Brown** : On a point of information. I want to tell my hon. Friend that this illicit gin was so named by the colonial masters only to discredit it.

**Mr Enefola** : My point is, if it is good at all, let it be bottled and let people get permit to sell it. At present, there are so many people making this illicit gin. Some, perhaps those who originated it, may do it well, but others who add other types of stuff, pepper, onion and so on—things that are poisonous, very bad and detrimental to health—make it illicit. This is the drink that the common man looks up to when he has not got the money to drink beer or other types of drinks that rich people take.

Mr Chairman, another thing that is rampant in this country and which is bad for the ordinary man, especially those in the cities because in the rural areas, we do not know all about it, is Indian hemp. I do not know how that obnoxious opium enters this country; and it is a shame if the Government cannot do anything to prevent its entering this country. Maybe it is one of those smuggled goods the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) gets across the border in his constituency, I feel such things that affect the health of our people should be prevented by all means by our Government. I have not seen it of course, but I remember the recent court case in which the Government spent a

[MR ENEFOLA]

lot of money to fly a crown witness from England, Miss Collins. We know that these are the things that are bad for the ordinary man ; and the sooner the Government makes a vigorous drive against it, the better.

The Chairman, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

3.50 p.m.

*Where upon the Minister of Establishments 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.*

£708,810 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25.—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

*Question proposed, That £6,063,470 for Head 25—Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I rise to say that this Ministry, if it were possible, should have the money allocated to it curtailed so that the Minister should be given £100 less than his salary.

The Minister is one of my best friends in this Parliament, but I feel that he has been too kind to leave his work. Firstly, I feel that the whole amount of money which this Parliament has been spending on telephone exchange services has been a waste. The reason for that is that the telephone operators and their office are controlling the Minister. Otherwise, how is it that if you want to make a call from here to Kaduna you have to spend at least five to ten minutes before you can get an operator to answer you ? When the operator has answered you, and after you have given him the number, you are forced to sit down and wait ; to be honest and precise you may not get that call through until after a day. If you get it after a day or two, you would get somebody to say that the line is bad. This is a call you have booked after ten hours ! That is why I say that the Minister is being controlled as a servant.

Another point is that I feel that the reason why our telephone services in this country are not up-to-date is due to the fact that the people employed have not been trained to do

their work. One way of training a man is to teach him how to be serviceable, civil, and how to handle the mechanism of the machine he is using. In the first place, they are not polite ; and in the second place, they do not know what they are doing. Otherwise, how is it that when you get through to a line you still find that you will be there for about another twenty minutes, after which time they again ask you to wait because something on their machine is not working ? Is it due to the material ? If it is due to the material, will the Minister not do away with the old machines ? I think that the money we voted for this scheme was spent by, let me use the common word, *wuruwuru*. Our colonial masters directed that we should pay the money and get old things to this place, so that I believe that the instruments they are using are not up-to-date. If that is so, I humbly ask the Minister to examine it and change these old machines and put on new, ones.

It is not necessary that they must be bought from Britain or America. Our Government should find out where they can get good machines which will give better services and then pay and get us something proper. I feel that one of the reasons why we are suffering here is that we arrange to buy from the people we know, and we tend to leave out the people we do not know even though their own machines are better in service. I recommend to the Minister that whenever he is going to buy any equipment, he should make sure that he is giving Nigeria the best machines.

Another point on this question of telephone services is that I do not know whether a place is connected by a direct line because of its population, or because of the name of the place alone I asked this question since three weeks ago and nobody has answered me satisfactorily. I wanted to know how many direct lines there are from Lagos to the principal centres of population in this country. The information which I got (not from the Ministry) is that we have only two lines from Lagos to Kaduna, and two direct lines from here to Kano. Another place that is connected in the North is Jos. If that is true, only three important places in the North are connected with direct lines from Lagos.

In the Eastern Region we have two lines to Enugu, and from Enugu to any other part of the East ; we have one to Port Harcourt ; we also



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have a line from here to Onitsha. These are the only places connected by direct lines to Lagos.

I must be straight-forward in saying that I am not at all against the number of places connected by direct lines in the West. It may be a hundred. I quite agree. But why not connect the other places also? If population is the criterion, why not go and connect the thickly populated centres with direct lines from Lagos? If the situation is that the Ministers have been good enough to connect their places with direct lines, I am happy about that. But let them now connect the other thickly populated centres, both in the North and in the East, with direct lines from Lagos. That is the work we expect them to do.

**An hon. Member :** Which place do you have in mind?

**Mr Abii :** One place which I have in mind is Aba. Aba is a very important trade centre in this country. The position now is that before you get to Aba, you have got to go to Enugu, then from Enugu you begin to look for Aba. Why not connect Aba from here? Onitsha has only one line. Onitsha is a town connecting mostly people in trade. It should have more than one line.

If I come to my home, Owerri, which is the headquarters of a Province, and, for your information, the most thickly populated Division in the Region, why can it not be connected with a line? I do not know. One of the Minister's Colleagues is from Owerri. Is the Minister of Communications fair to this Minister from Owerri?

I now turn to the question of ordinary services of telegrams. Only last week, I think, Members read it in the newspapers that somebody sent a telegram from Owerri to Enugu, and that it took roughly 56 days.

**An hon. Member :** This is the telegram if you want to see it.

**Mr Abii :** I need not read it. Enugu to Owerri for 56 days! It should be used as an exhibit.

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** Under the circumstances, the money paid for that telegram should be refunded to the man who sent it. That money should be refunded if

that statement is correct, otherwise something must be done, and, of course, I see that the Minister of Communications is ready to hand over the money to him.

**Mr Abii :** I thank the hon. Member, but the question does not end with refunding the money to the man. Let us suppose that the telegram was sent regarding somebody who was very ill: an early despatch of the telegram could have helped to save the life of the man. What would be the use of having three or two shillings refund in such case?

My point is that if we have not got the machinery for the speedy transmission of telegrams in this country, we might as well close up telegraphic work. But if we have such machinery, the operators should be made to operate them efficiently. If the delay in delivery is due to the operators not doing their work well, then the hon. Minister should sack them quickly. These telephone operators and telegraphists must be told that they are getting their monthly salaries because of the services which they are expected to render to the public. Once they fail to render those services, they should not be paid—they should be sacked. The hon. Minister should note that there is no point in employing ladies and young men who just go to their offices to sit down reading newspapers, cleaning their hands and doing whatever they like.

I humbly ask the Parliament to reduce the salary of the hon. Minister of Communications unless he can give us a categorical statement that he will institute an inquiry to look into this question of very poor services by his Ministry and that anybody found guilty will be punished.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** A stranger came into the House. I do not know why he should come to the Floor of this honourable House.

**The Chairman :** I have not seen any stranger.

Mr Oronsaye has filed a Motion, in fact three Motions, and I cannot ignore all the three Motions which are the first to appear on the Order Paper. I would only ask Mr Oronsaye to speak generally on the Head rather than move each Motion separately.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I do not intend to take a very long time, but in dealing with the Ministry of Communications it is very difficult to know where to start and where to end. I will, at any rate, start from their poor services.

I am formally moving that this Head—not the Minister's sub-head only, but the whole Head—should be reduced by £100.

The poor services which have been mentioned by the last speaker are only a few of the poor services rendered to the public by this Ministry. They are so many that we can spend the whole day talking about them and at the end of the day we would not have gone half way.

From the point of revenue, this Ministry is supposed to be one of the great revenue earners for the Government. I cannot see how it has set out to do this effectively. Directly and indirectly, the Ministry requires a good economic stimulation.

I would go on to cite an incident which confirms what the last speaker said. A few weeks ago, an important visitor came to me at Abudu, having sent me a telegram to this effect from Ibadan. The visitor came to my house when I was in the office, for I had definitely not received his telegram. The funny thing was that it was this same gentleman who later received this telegram himself when it arrived after he himself had arrived. He came to receive his own telegram!

One has to beg with tearful eyes before one could have a telephone box installation, whereas these telephone services are supposed to bring money. For several years we have been asking for telephone services at Abudu but there has been none, and up till now the replies have always been a series of evasions.

I am told that the rentals for telephone boxes already installed are not paid in some cases. I have been told of some flats in Ikeja where telephone rentals are only paid when the flats are occupied and are not paid when the flats are not occupied.

**An hon. Member** : No work, no pay!

**Mr Oronsaye** : But that is not correct. Every telephone box has a fixed charge which should be paid, whether the house is inhabited

or not. The fixed charge is a permanent commitment on the house as long as the telephone is in that house.

Somebody mentioned something about telephone operators. I do not want to labour myself on that point. I think that every hon. Member knows that if one raises up a telephone receiver in order to have a word or two with somebody else, one only receives abuses in return. Instead of the telephone operator connecting one to the required number, he will only start querying one right from the start.

One day, I became very annoyed about this and I went angrily to the Post Office only to meet a toothless gentleman who was the telephone operator. This man, I think, is easily on the wrong side of things considering the fact that there were only six teeth in his mouth. (*Hear, hear*).

I will go on to the archaic policy of some Post Offices and Postal Agencies. The Post Office is expected to be a place where real service is rendered to the community and, therefore, if any policy is found to be archaic—such as having 24,000 units of business before a sub-Post Office is permitted to operate, and other funny things which are overdue for overhauling—such a policy should be dispensed with.

In the case of Mobile Post Offices, we find that they do not serve the places they are instructed to serve. The Mobile Post Office men themselves choose the places to serve. These men use the Mobile Post Office as a passenger lorry and they take only the directions where there are many passengers to carry. The Mobile Post Office men study the market days of the areas and only travel to those places where these are held so that they could get foodstuffs for themselves and for their wives, and so that they could find passengers to carry in order to get money for the ingredients they buy in the markets.

I would like to comment on radio licences. Times without number we have spoken about radio licences and up till now all that has been done by the members of the Post and Telegraphs Department who should collect these fees is to go about telling radio owners "You know you ought to have a radio licence. Well, you should have one". Even there are some houses which they have not visited at all in Lagos. It is only in Lagos that people know

that radio licences should be taken. In the provinces, there are people who have radio sets in their compounds but have not got licences for them and, at the same time, there are people who have got them in their individual houses or rooms and have not got licences for them too. As a result, money which should go to swell the Federal Government's revenue is being wasted. In fact, these people who should go round and collect the money merely use the opportunity to visit their girl friends.

I have an observation to make on the sale of stamps and postal orders. When one goes to the postal orders section one usually finds girls behind the counters. It is a good thing to employ girls to make these sales ; but what does one find when one visits these post offices? The person who is in charge of this section does not take the trouble to see that these girls do their work properly and, as a result, these girls have their complete sets of cosmetics and manicuring equipment—

**The Chairman :** I think the hon. Member ought to depart from girl friends and their cosmetics.

**Mr Oronsaye :** All right, Sir, I will give up that aspect for the sake of chivalry.

On the question of postal stores, it seems to me that those in charge of stores for the post offices should be very carefully watched. I know of some senior officers—I do not want to mention their names and ranks—the tyres of whose cars have been supplied regularly from the post office stores. This matter is a very serious one which requires a very thorough investigation. This practice does not happen in only one town ; it happens in many towns and when one looks at the whole situation one simply feels very disgusted.

With regard to post office frauds, there is a branch of the post office which deals with these. Quite a lot of money is spent on that branch every year but the existence of that branch has merely given another opportunity to people to make money for themselves. I do not see why this branch of the post office should not be handed over to the Police. It was a pity that I had no opportunity to X-ray the Police Department this morning because it has its own share of the blame. The post office branch uses the police in looking into these cases of fraud. Since the evil is there already,

we should leave the evil in one source instead of spreading the evil to two sources. The revenue of the country is disappearing and the more the sources of fraud the more the money that will be lost. Therefore, what I suggest is that that section of the Department should be handed lock, stock and barrel to the Police.

The Controller of Stores, as I have said, is on a salary of £2,290 *per annum* and yet he allows so much stealing in the stores. I think his salary ought to be abolished altogether.

It is not my intention, as I have already said, to go too far but there are just two points more. With regard to telephone operators, I observe that the salary of a male operator is from £174-£432 and the salary of a female operator is from £174-£381. There is a very marked difference between the salary of the male operator and that of the female operator although they do the same work. Perhaps the Department was thinking of their cosmetics when their salaries were reduced ! Otherwise, I do not see why people who do the same work should not receive the same pay. It is the duty of those in charge to see that these cosmetics and manicure sets are kept in the girl's handbags and are only brought out when they are required. Therefore, these operators should receive the same salaries for the same work.

The other point is the manufacturing of stamps. I have observed that the total cost of manufacturing stamps during this financial year is put at the fantastic figure of £47,520 but at page 20 of the Estimates hon. Members will observe that the estimated revenue from the sale of stamps is £1,490,000. What I want to point out is that the £1,490,000 is not just the money got from the sale of stamps alone. It is from this amount of money that we have to pay the cost of running the mails, the cost of maintaining postal agencies and the cost of other things.

My submission is that that cost of £47,520 is very fantastic and that every arrangement should be made for these stamps to be manufactured in Lagos because we are at the moment talking of austerity. Afterall, when these stamps are manufactured in England the Government still has to arrange their insurance and there are other intangibles which sometimes run into four figures.

[MR ORONSAYE]

Finally, I would recommend that this Ministry should be given a very thorough shake-up and a good dose of the economic stimulant.

4.15 p.m.

**M. D. Bulus Biliyong** (Tangala Waja): I rise to support the hon. Members who have spoken to reduce the amount voted for this Ministry by £100. I must add that this reduction of £100 is not enough because the Ministry has not been discharging its duties as efficiently as the other Ministries of the Federal Government.

For example, if a telegram is sent from Lagos to Gombe it will take a very long time to get there. This reminds me of the telegram which the Clerk of the Parliaments sent to me last year about the Federal Government's intention to postpone a meeting of the Parliament of January. This telegram took a whole month to reach Tangala Waja, my constituency, whereas if one decides to travel from Lagos to that place, one will travel for only two days.

Fortunately, I heard the announcement about the postponement of the said meeting of the Parliament on the radio. Therefore, this means that if an hon. Member has no radio he will not hear anything about the meetings, whether they are postponed or cancelled, unless he is lucky to meet somebody who can tell him the position.

I would like the Minister to take this serious matter into consideration and inform his staff that their performances fall short of public expectations. They should learn to develop a sense of service to the nation.

We people from the remote areas do not mind so much just now about the telegraph which people have been talking about. There are certain things which we want the Minister to restrict about. Firstly, whereas the big towns have post offices, sub-post offices and postal agencies, the people in the rural areas have been totally forgotten. I would like the Minister to know that we want all these things. How long will Nigeria continue to move forward leaving some parts behind? The Federal Government should share these amenities equally among the people of Nigeria. We cannot continue to be DPNC always moving backwards in this country.

We believe the Minister will do his best and this is the time for him to prove to the people in the rural areas that he has their interests at heart. I would suggest that while the big towns are given post offices and sub-post offices, the rural areas should at least enjoy postal agency facilities to begin with.

I would like the Minister to note also that the post office at Gombe which is one of the largest towns in the Northern Region is an eye-sore. We should like to enjoy equal facilities with other big towns in Nigeria. Why should we be left behind, moving backwards always?

I could observe that the Minister is worried about these things because he knows that we are speaking the truth concerning the activities of his Ministry. I sincerely hope that the Minister will wake up and put things right in the interest of the people of this great nation. The people should be educated about the advantages of postal services, starting from the remote areas. There should be improvements in every aspect of our telecommunications services. The letter and telegram delivery system should be reorganised so that people may transact more business with the post offices, thereby enriching the purse of the Government, knowing that their friends will receive their letters and telegrams in time. The present delay involved in the delivery of letters should be remedied.

I beg to support.

**M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara** (Sokoto South): I support this Head of the Estimates I will appeal to the Minister

**The Chairman**: If the hon. Member will speak a little bit more clearly and a bit louder, he will be better heard.

**M. Abubakar Tsofo**: I was saying that I would like to appeal to the Minister to change the telephone call box at Gusau because the telephone call box is used for all services. Whenever people go there to book calls, the operators always send them back to get old coins. Even where the old coins are got, the operators ask people to wait for about ten hours before the call could be put through.

I think it will be much more convenient and easier to use the call box if the box can be modified to take the new coins.

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Secondly, it is quite an effort to telephone from Gusau to Kano or Kaduna and the reason the operators give is that Gusau is not a direct line. In order to be able to get Zaria, for instance, one has to be taken through Kaduna or Kano. I would, therefore, appeal to the Minister to provide Gusau with a direct line because Gusau is an important commercial centre in the Northern Region. This will enable Gusau to contact all other important towns in the North.

Also telegrams take very many days to reach their destination in the North. For instance, a telegram sent at Gusau takes two whole days to be delivered at Sokoto at the earliest.

I also appeal to the Minister to convert the postal agency at Talanta Marafa to a post office and instal a telephone service there because Talanta Marafa is an important commercial centre in the North. This will connect Gusau and Sokoto and the people in the area will have the opportunity of communicating with other parts of the Region. We believe this to be our entitlement as we have a right to enjoy equal facilities as other people in the Federation.

Finally, I appeal to the Minister to undertake a tour of the Northern Region to see things for himself especially the attitude of the operators in the North. These operators are rude and they give all sorts of excuses for delaying calls.

I hope the Minister will take note of these remarks and do something to improve the situation in Gusau area.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central): I do not wish to repeat what others have said because the ills in our Posts and Telegraphs system are so glaring that every one knows about them. I only wish to make a suggestion.

I know of course that the fault does not lie with the able Minister of Communications. For all I know, he is one of the most energetic Ministers we have and he has been doing his best. We all know that these ills have been in existence for years before he took over the Ministry, so that we cannot lay the blame at his door.

I suggest that if it will not be a departure from the normal course, the Minister or the Government should consider the desirability

of making our Posts and Telegraphs a corporation. I believe that if we want to cure these ills, we must have efficient supervision. I think that if it is made a corporation, more efficient work will be done. I will live to discuss the ills in our P. and T. but we go further to say that the Minister should see to it that he spreads the postal services to every constituency. Local Council Headquarters should have a telephone trunk call service so that they might keep abreast of the times. I know, for instance, that in my constituency, there are places that deserve such a service. Isiokpo is one, Igirita is another and Elele is another. These places are strategic points which should get telephone calls easily.

We ask the Minister to reduce this condition of having 24,000 units. This condition is outdated because it was laid down during the old colonial days. Now the people everywhere need these services. There is one thing: we have postal agencies spread over so many places so that it is difficult to get a place with the required 24,000 units. We have postal agencies within towns which are five miles apart so that we can hardly get the required 24,000 units for a Post Office or a Sub Post Office.

I would ask the Minister to consider the Obia Postal Agency which is being converted to a sub Post Office. In view of the influx of population in the area, it deserves to have a full-fledged Post Office. I know that he has it in his plans to build a full-fledged Post Office at mile two Diobu. I would ask the Minister to hasten with his plan because the people there need this service very quickly.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): People are complaining because they have not enough services, but there are so many places where there are no services at all and that is what I am concerned with. I want the Minister of Communications when preparing his White Paper which he proposes to put before the House at the next meeting, to consider putting on services in certain places in my constituency. I want a post office and telephone exchange at Idoani, I want a post office and telephone exchange at Oka.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): On a point of order, Awka has got a telephone exchange.

[MR UMOREN]

Again, very frequently when you book a telephone call, after some hours they tell you that the line is bad. I do not mind the attitude of the person who tells you that the line is bad, who sometimes, in fact very often, abuses you on top of it! But what I want to suggest to the Minister is that our telephone lines should no more be connected in the air; they should be buried in the ground to avoid trees falling on the lines and interrupting the services. Sometimes when these things happen the telephone system between two important towns is paralysed until these lines are repaired. Therefore, I am suggesting that these telephone and telegraph wires should be installed underground and no more in the air.

I do not know how many months now make a Post Office year, but we all know that there are twelve months in the year. Sometimes it takes more than 24 or 36 months to have the 'Post Office Guide' published, which is supposed to be an annual magazine in order to direct the public, I suggest that this useful magazine should not only be published regularly every year, but it is now necessary and imperative that a 'Post Guide'—

**Several hon. Members :** You mean Directory.

**Mr Umoren :** I am talking about the 'Guide' now, it should be published regularly.

And then the post Office Directory. There should be a Post Office Directory which gives information about the North, the West and the East. It is very difficult when you go to, say, Aba Post Office and say, "Please let me have your Telephone Directory" and you cannot get Lagos, you cannot get the number of the Ministry of Communications, you cannot get the number of the Ministry of Information, you cannot get the Prime Minister's line.

This question of 24,000 units of business before a postal agency can be converted into a sub-Post Office can never be overemphasised. We want the Minister to take this very seriously because so many areas are being neglected and handicapped because of restriction. Whoever had it in his head to introduce these 24,000 units had not taken the interests of the people to heart. We want the Minister to reconsider this and bring it down to 16,000. If

these units are brought down, we shall have many more sub-post offices and many more postal agencies throughout the country for our progress and development.—

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : Point of order, Sir. We have five more Heads to deal with before 5.45 p.m. and I find that Members are speaking as if they were speaking on the second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

**The Chairman :** That is not a breach of order.

**Mr Umoren :** Since we have our Development Programme for the next six years, I am going to suggest to the Minister that he should take into consideration areas which are inaccessible at the moment in postal services and get to see that postal services are extended to these areas. For instance, between Uyo and Oron, a distance of 31 miles there is a town with a big hospital, and half a mile from there, there is a teacher-training institute with several schools all around, and there is not even a postal agency there. The Minister should take that into consideration. Between Uyo and Ikot-Ubo, a distance of about 30 miles, there is no Post Office. We would also ask the Minister to take into consideration the establishment of a Post Office at Asutan Ekpe, which is midway between Ikot-Ubo and Uyo post office. Again, time is now due for the installation of a telephone service at Mbiaso sub-post office, which is just about two miles from Etinan which has now got a postal telephone system, and it just needs a few poles to connect the place and install postal telephone communications.

**The Minister of Communications** (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that it does appear that a good number of Members had not bothered to look into the *Hansard* and examine some of the things which I had the privilege and the opportunity of saying here on the 9th of April. I say so with particular regard to the question of the shortage of trunk channels in the country.

I want to recall that I had pointed out that, as a result of the development which has taken place since 1955, the number of trunk channels have increased in Nigeria by 520 per cent. I want to suggest that this is a good record.

I am not by any means suggesting that this is enough. The truth is that, in every facet of our national life we have been overtaken by expansion and it is no less so in the case of communications. I suggested that our objective in the next Programme is to produce 100,000 more telephones in Nigeria. And I want to suggest that there has been a full awareness in all these years of the need for greater channels in the country. Already we have made provision, now, and I want to say that the Ministry has been asking for provisions for three or four years in order to provide more channels, speech channels, throughout Nigeria. We only this year received approval to spend £2 million on providing extra channels in Nigeria.

The position is also that we are bound to think of operating as an economic establishment. All our efforts must be directed first and foremost to ensuring that the industrial development of the country is not held back for one moment because of lack of our services. We know that is happening now, that a good deal of development is being held back because there are not enough telephones in Nigeria, and I want to ask hon. Members to agree with me that, if we are to make a success of the gigantic Economic Programme which this country has adopted, we must address ourselves to putting first things first, and the first thing is to meet the needs of industrial expansion before the needs of the rural areas. I think this is vitally so—(Interruptions). I come from a rural area myself and, so far, I have no telephone in my own home.

During the programme period which is just ending, we opened a total of 124 telephone exchanges in this country. I consider that that too is a good record, and it is on record by the experts—people who deal in communications throughout the world—that here in black Africa we have the best standard of telephones and postal services. This is a fact.

**An hon. Member :** We do not wish to compare with Africa alone.

**The Minister of Communications :** I am myself due in a few weeks to do a tour of the Northern Region with a number of officials, engineers and postal officers, in order to find out what can be done to meet the great demand of our very scattered population in that area.

I want to say that at the moment, parts of the West are much better in this respect than any other part of the country. We are here as Ministers of the Federation to make the amenities which can be provided as equally available to all our people as possible and we intend to do that now. I feel sure that by the time we have completed the programme which we have now set ourselves, there should be no cause for complaint about channels in the country.

**Several hon. Members :** That is better.

**The Minister of Communications :** As to the question of the equipments we will be using, we are determined in our Ministry to-day to examine every source that is available from the point of view of the quality of the equipment, from the point of view of the cost of maintenance, so that we can be sure that whatever is provided for our country will be the best that can be provided at this time in the world.

Now, I want to say a word or two about our operators. I do want to suggest that the problem of discourtesy is not a peculiarity of the Exchanges or the Counters of the Post Office. It is a general problem in many institutions and establishments in the country which has got to be really tackled. Independence does not necessarily mean that the individual undergoes an automatic change himself, but I do think that one approach which we are taking in this matter is that we are trying to make the Post Office a commercial undertaking, a State commercial undertaking, so that we can treat its servants, particularly telephone operators, clerks and so on, as they are treated in the commercial houses where their duty is to give polite service to the patron, and the only time we can do it is as soon as we can have complete control of our staff. That will take some time. We should be able, if it is necessary, to fire a woman for being discourteous or to fire a man for not giving his service courteously to members of the public. We should be able to do so. Unless we are able to do so, it is no use complaining here.

**An hon. Member :** We have given the Minister power. Let him use it.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :**  
The hon. Minister—

**The Chairman :** Is the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) raising a point of order?

[MR BRIGGS]

Sometime ago a South African friend of mine was discussing political disagreements in Nigeria with me; he said, "You people have a country, at least, to quarrel about—we have none." Now, most of the people who criticise the Minister of Communications have at least something to criticise him about, because at least they have telephones and telegraph facilities in their area. We have none at all, good or bad.

Most of the hon. Members who have spoken to-night criticised the Minister of Communications for telephones which do not operate properly, for telegrams which do not arrive early, and for all sorts of things. But they are doing that because they have all these facilities in their homes. We want to get these things in order to complain. A town of the size of Buguma (*Laughter*), with a population of well over 25,000 people, a big town of the size of Okrika, a big town of the size of Tombia, a big town of the size of Bakana—there is not one single telephone exchange in these places; and the post office in Degema is an apology. It is still made of corrugated iron sheets in this year 1962! It was so even before I was born—I found it in that state.

As I have praised him, I would really appeal to the Minister of Communications to please rebuild that ramshackle building which he calls a post office. There is no telephone in a place like Odual. Anybody who has been to Odual will know that it takes a shorter time to go from Abonema to Port Harcourt than it takes from Abonema to Odual; and yet there is no telephone, no telegraphic service. If you send a message by telegram, you might as well send it by letter, because both of them go by the same means—they go by the outboard engine canoe, the outboard engine which the Minister of Finance is trying to kill by excessive taxation!

I come to telephone bills. Sometime ago I got a bill for £82 said to have been a debt which I was owing for 1956, 1957 and '58—bills I am confident I had paid. Bills would not be sent in time. I had a stereotyped letter telling me that they believed that I was owing £82 and that if I had paid I should bring proof to establish this—

**Several hon. Members :** Bring the proof.

**Mr Briggs :** Very well, I had paid it but had lost the receipts; and because these accounts would not be properly kept they have now sent me another bill for £82. It is not as if I am alone—there are many people being treated in the same manner.

One Member spoke about a direct line to Enugu, a direct line to Onitsha and a direct line to Port Harcourt. Port Harcourt is in the old Rivers Province and it is nearer to anywhere in the Rivers. Why should a telephone call which one books for, say, Abonnema or anywhere go through Enugu, which is miles and miles away from Abonnema, before getting to Abonnema? Why can it not go through Port Harcourt to any other part of the Rivers? It could be made in circuits or groups. All those towns and cities that are near Enugu should be connected to Enugu directly from Enugu; all those towns very near Port Harcourt could be connected to Port Harcourt; and all those very near Onitsha should be connected to Onitsha. I am not an expert, I am not an engineer, but if such a thing is possible, I think it would do a lot to relieve the congestion.

I think that the Minister of Communications did tell me that there was a plan afoot for Port Harcourt. I believe that those of us who are in Port Harcourt would be very grateful to him for this news. But I would appeal to him to extend it to places like Coronation Lay-out, which up to the present time—(*Interruptions*). I am speaking about the constituency of the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*). Will he please listen!

**The Chairman :** Considering the amount of seriousness attached to statements made in the House, I do not think any Member should take it upon himself to rebuke another Member if he happens to be talking about his constituency.

**Mr Briggs :** I am sorry, Mr Chairman.

I am now appealing to the Minister also to extend telephone communications to everywhere in Port Harcourt, and as far as to Coronation Lay-out, which is an expanding side of Port Harcourt. It is a very unfortunate thing that up till the moment—I have made representations to the Minister of Communications and he has promised, but he also said that there was no direct line yet. I hope it will be set up within the £2 million scheme.

I beg to support.



**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port-Harcourt): I do not want to repeat what others have said, and I will go straight to my points. I want the Minister of Communications to expand telephone services in Port Harcourt. I want the Minister to erect a post office at Mile 2 Diobu. This will ease the present congestion at the Port Harcourt main Post Office.

I just want to touch one important point arising from the Fifth Report on the Federal Public Service Commission for the period 1st of January to 31st December, 1961, in respect of losses in the Ministry of Communications. There were 89 cases of losses in the Ministry for the year, amounting to £15,751. I know that the Minister is trying to rejuvenate this Ministry. The former Minister damaged a lot of things and

**The Chairman**: Order, order. May I appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw the last statement.

**Mr Okay**: I withdraw. I was trying to say that if there is any hon. Member in this House who complains about the loss of postal services I do not think that our people from the Western Region will do so because they have more postal services than any other Region. Most of the postal agencies were converted into post offices or sub-post offices by the former Minister. The post offices in the Western Region are more than those in the Eastern Region and Northern Region put together.

We are asking for more postal services, more direct lines in the Eastern Region and in the Northern Region. I think that the Minister is doing well as a matter of fact, because he inherited most of the damages from the former Minister. I do not make any apologies in saying this. If you look into the report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1958-59 when the former Minister was in charge, many things were done. These things are now in the report circulated to Members. So there is no hiding it. I am very sure that the Minister is doing very well.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I think the hon. Member is challenging the ruling of the Chair. After you have told him not to mention that matter again, he is still referring to it. How can he go on like that?

**The Chairman**: I think the Chair is vigilant enough to safeguard its own prestige and decision. May I appeal to the hon. Member speaking. I think under the Standing Orders, he cannot question the activities of a Member of the House except by way of substantive Motion. And you may not refer to individuals who are not in this House and who have not got the opportunity to defend themselves. I think that policy has been practised long enough in this House to be accepted by everybody.

**Mr Okay**: I would like the hon. Minister of Communications to make a statement when a post office will be erected at Mile 2 Diobu to serve the community up there.

*Whereupon the Minister of Education 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.*

£6,063,470 for Head 25—Ministry of Communications—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 26—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

£67,020 for Head 26—Ministry of Defence—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 27—ROYAL NIGERIAN ARMY

£4,203,420 for Head 27—Royal Nigerian Army—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 28—ROYAL NIGERIAN NAVY

£782,110 for Head 28—Royal Nigerian Navy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**Chief Obafemi Awolowo** (Ijebu Remo): Sir, if the Minister of Defence is allowed to get off so lightly people will believe that we are afraid of him because he is 'Minister of War'.

**The Chairman**: At least he has got one obstacle.

#### HEAD 29—NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

*Question proposed, That £200,000 for Head 29—Nigerian Air Force—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): I have very little contribution to make in this connection. It is true that at present there is no effort—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): I would say that those of us who were not allowed to say something on the Ministry of Communications are not happy at all. We are not happy, Sir.

**The Chairman**: I am sorry we cannot go back to this Head.

**Mr Amadi**: Yesterday, we approved a Motion in this House for expanding the facilities of our cadet corps in our schools and colleges. I am sounding this note of warning. Very soon this House will be crying for the Nigerianisation of the Air Force. I think now is the time to prepare for Nigerianising our Air Force and, so, I am suggesting to the Minister of Defence that, even though the Air Force has not been established yet, we have to prepare for anything that will happen when the Air Force will be established, by giving preference to the various universities in this country in the establishment of this cadet corps. That is the practice in other countries where an Air Force exists. The Government should establish this cadet squadron now to make the men know something about Air Force while in the university.

We also know, that the Air Force is not something which one just walks into; it is a specialised profession and it takes a good many years for one to be fully qualified either as a pilot, aeronautical engineer or any other profession connected with the Air Force. Now is the time for us to prepare. We should not wait until the Air Force is established before we begin to cry for Nigerianisation.

I am appealing very strongly to the Minister of Defence not only to establish these air squadrons in all the universities in the country—the University College, Ibadan, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and other universities—but also take serious steps to send people overseas specially to be trained for this Air Force.

I am making this suggestion in all seriousness. It is not just because I want to talk, but because I feel that we shall be in a very great predicament if we do not take this step now because the Air Force, as one of the important arms of our power in this country, will be better controlled and better serviced by Nigerian indigenes. This is not like

the arm of the Government or the arm of a Ministry in this country which we leave in the hands of aliens. So I think the Minister will take this into serious consideration.

**Mr A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I must say that we are gratified that we are going to have our own Air Force and we must congratulate the Government and ourselves. There is only one note of warning I want to sound. There can be no efficient Air Force without an efficient Navy, and in getting our planes and materials, I would urge, that we do not commit the mistake of having a white elephant like the H.M.N.S. "Nigeria" which we had which, before getting to the waters, the boilers exploded and we are going to spend £116,000 for refitting it. So, in getting the materials and the planes we are going to use to establish our Air Force, we must get nothing but the best.

With this few remarks, Mr Chairman, I support.

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town): As has been rightly pointed out by the last speaker, there must be an efficient Navy before we can have an efficient Air Force. But the present policy of the Government about the training of officers to man the three Forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—is a very back-ward one. The policy of the Government we understand is to allocate 50 per cent to the boys in the Northern Region, 25 per cent to the boys in the Eastern Region and 25 per cent to the boys in the Western Region, irrespective of qualification. I think this is a retrogressive policy, drawing back the hands of our development in this country. I think the Minister of Defence should make a statement and clarify that position.

**The Minister of Defence** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): I would like to express my great gratitude to the House for passing my Estimates without any comments at all. This is an encouragement, for me to do more and more to justify the confidence of the House.

The point which the last speaker has just raised was raised by the Leader of the Opposition last year and it was adequately replied to. There was no question of people who have no qualifications going into the Army. There is a standard test which everybody has to pass.

With regard to Air Force, I hope in the next meeting of this House I will submit a White Paper establishing our Air Force and then the House will be privileged to know exactly what the Government has in mind by way of establishing an Air Force.

*£200,000 for Head 29—Nigerian Air Force—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

*And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

*Committee report Progress—to sit again Tomorrow.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): About six years ago, the past Head of the Architecture Department in the Nigerian College, Zaria, recommended £10 for the purchase of books in the first year; that meant that in the succeeding years no allowances would be given to Government-sponsored students in that College. The Federal Government accepted this recommendation and later on it was discovered that the £10 would be quite insufficient for the Government-sponsored students there. As a result, the following recommendations were made to the Federal Ministry of Education for the approval of the Government:—

For first-year students, it was recommended that equipment should cost £24; second year, £2; third year, £2; fourth year £2; fifth year £2.

For books, the first year, £20; second year £10; third year, £15; fourth year £8; and fifth year £8.

For materials, the first year, £20; second year £20; third year, £20; fourth year, £20; and the fifth year £20.

Up till now, Sir, nothing has been received from the Ministry of Education in this respect. I would very much like the Minister to say

what happened to these recommendations because those children are suffering much in the College now.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I do not follow the statistics of the hon. Gentleman, but what really happened is that the students of the Nigerian College of Arts each receives £65 to cover the cost of text books and materials. On the 21st of March, 1962, we had recommendations from the Principal of each of the Colleges and the recommendations were accepted by my Ministry. I shall have to investigate as to why they are delaying the execution of these recommendations which we had already accepted.

#### West African Pilot Editorial

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town): I crave your indulgence to refer to a publication in the *West African Pilot* of April 11, 1962, wherein a comment was made about the procedure and about the conduct of Members of this hon. House on page 1 of that Paper, with your permission I will read, it began by saying:—

*Several times yesterday in Parliament, the Speaker was obliged to call members to order. At one time he was forced to say that those MPs who wished to be "irresponsible" should do so outside.*

*"And the gallery was filled to capacity by private citizens, including foreign journalists. And yet MPs are supposed to represent the very best our nation can produce. We said before that some of our MPs shock us by their sense of irresponsibility.*

*Yesterday's noisy scene was SCANDALOUS. And we are ashamed that the Parliament of the nation should be turned into a place only fit for clowns."*

This is a very serious allegation against Members of the House; it is nothing short of a breach of parliamentary privilege and it is a contempt of this honourable House. Under our Standing Orders it is within your right, Mr Speaker, to withdraw the permission which is generally granted to the Press under section 73, and I respectfully invite your attention to that section. Also under the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, may I respectfully invite the attention of the

[MR OMISADE]

Attorney-General to sections 24 and 32 of the said Law? Perhaps the Prime Minister, who has overall responsibility in these matters, could help this House.

**The Prime Minister**: I read the article to which the hon. Member has referred, and I must say that I did not like it. The members of the Press should realise that, to us Parliamentarians, this is our home and we make ourselves at ease here, and it is no business of the Press to come and abuse us. I am very ashamed to read it, because they said they were ashamed to see us behave in that way. On my part I am ashamed that they have written that article.

I would not go so far as to suggest your using your powers, Mr Speaker, to withdraw the facilities afforded to the Press in respect of that particular newspaper, but I do hope that our newspaper reporters who report matters that are dealt with in Parliament should do so with a sense of responsibility, and give us our due.

It is an abuse of privilege for any reporter to start abusing Members of Parliament in the words used by that newspaper, and I hope that all other newspapers would note that we are not going to allow this to happen in future. Let us hope that they will take note.

#### IMPECUNIOUS STUDENTS AT U.C.I.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East): I wish on this Motion of Adjournment, to raise an important matter which affects over 60 students of the University College, Ibadan, who have been asked to quit the College because they are no longer able to meet their financial obligations. These students, who are mainly in the Faculties of Medicine and Economics, were on a three-week holiday, and before they arrived in the College their materials had been folded up by the College Authorities. Some of the affected students are understood to be sleeping on chairs, while others lodge in towns, and their ration of food has been stopped, and they have to live on the generosity of friends.

This is an ugly situation which does not speak well of either the students or the Federal Government that established and maintains the University. Some of the students have already

spent one, two, three or more years in the University and only needed to be helped to finish up.

I therefore call on the Federal Government to save the situation by at least giving these students special scholarships or loan scholarships, and I therefore ask the Federal Minister of Education to make a statement.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): The facts as given by the hon. Member are correct. There are 66 students who are made up of medical students and those who are doing economics, who have been sent out from the University College, Ibadan, because they have not been able to pay their fees. Some of these people have not paid their fees since the academic year, which began last September, and a few of them have only been able to pay their fees up to December.

The Council of the College has decided that one of the rules of the University must be enforced, and that rule is that fees must be paid at the beginning of each term. They have been very generous to these students and have allowed them to stay on for a fairly long time now. But the College Council has thought it fit to enforce this rule.

Although the Federal Government is conscious of the hardship caused to these students, it does not propose to award scholarships. All of them were aware of the financial implications of entering the University College. To subsidise them would be to create an unofficial scholarships scheme which could do nothing but harm and set a most undesirable precedent. If students are aware that such emergency scholarships can easily be obtained, there will of course, be a natural tendency to enter universities without securing adequate financial provision, in the certain knowledge that the Federal Government will pay up, or that there is the possibility of making loans to these students if they, in their last year of attendance, approach the Ministry.

Last year about 212 students were so involved; they made an approach to the Federal Government, the Government of the Eastern Region and the Government of the Western Region, who were able to make a good sum of grant available to them in order to extricate them from their financial obligations. While we thought that we were helping them

out, we never knew that we were encouraging them to enter the University without making adequate financial arrangements. If this is done in all cases when a student knows that he cannot pay his way in the university, he will never learn to apply himself very seriously to his studies and win scholarships or get his people or parents or guardians to cater for him financially.

The Federal Government is not prepared to award scholarships to those who enter a university; we have our scholarships award system, and those who apply will have their applications considered along with others.

ABA/PORT HARCOURT LOCAL TRAIN  
SERVICE

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): Last year the Nigerian Railway Corporation established, to the satisfaction of the people, a local passenger train service between Aba and Port Harcourt—the industrial and commercial heart of Eastern Nigeria. This service really eased the usual congestion in passenger trains in the Eastern Region. Unfortunately, this useful service was discontinued without the consideration of those affected.

I am asking the Government whether, considering the benefits that could be derived by the Corporation from such a local service, the Government could not resume the local passenger train service between Aba and Port Harcourt?

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): There is hardly time to go into details, but I am sure the hon. Member is making a mistake. There is no discontinuance of any service between Aba and Port Harcourt. What happened was that last year two train services between Umuahia and Enugu were discontinued, and this was because there was no patronage and the service was uneconomic, each journey producing only a total revenue of £25-£25 for a train from Umuahia to Enugu—so this had to be discontinued.

I would invite the hon. Member to consult the current railway time-table which will show him the number of train services between Aba and Port Harcourt. There is one every day, each way, a mixed train from Port Harcourt to Aba; there is another one which is a mixed train also which goes from Port Harcourt to Umuahia and returns; there is another one which goes from Port Harcourt to Jos every day passing through Aba and all intermediate stations.

I think that if the hon. Member consults the time-table he will be satisfied that there are adequate train services that pass through Aba between Port Harcourt and Enugu and Port Harcourt and Jos.

*And it being six o'clock, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4(7).*

*Adjourned accordingly at one minute past six o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday, 13th April, 1962

The House met at 9 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that Mallam Muhammadu Gwarzo reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c), they have considered that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday 17th April, as follows :—

- (1) Students' Hostel for Nigerian Students in London No. 78 in the Order Book ;
- (2) Automatic Telephone Exchange for Benin No. 1 in the Order Book ;
- (3) Algeria No. 36 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Special Committee for the revision of the General Orders No. 8 in the Order Book ;
- (5) Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs No. 48 in the Order Book.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## APPROPRIATION BILL : ALLOCATION OF TIME

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

That Appropriation Bill (Allocation of Time) Order (4th April) be amended as follows—

In paragraph (ii), leave out "eight" and insert "five". In the subdivision of days allotted among the Heads of the Estimates, leave out—

"End of 3rd day	..	46
End of 4th day	..	51
End of 5th day	..	57
End of 6th day	..	63
End of 7th day	..	65 and Third Reading of the Bill
End of 8th day	..	621-640" and insert—
"End of 3rd day	..	51
End of 4th day	..	65 and Third Reading of the Bill
End of 5th day	..	621-640"

In fairness to the House I should seize this opportunity to explain why there are a series of Motions standing in my name on the Order Paper this morning.

After consultations with the Opposition, it was agreed that we should bring forward some of the Business of the House so that it may be possible for the House to adjourn *sine die* on Thursday the 19th, (*Hear, hear*). I hope all hon. Members will assist in this matter because if we are to go on Easter holidays from Friday to Monday and then come back just for three or four days before adjourning *sine die*, I am sure hon. Members will appreciate the inconveniences which it will cause all of us and, that being the case, we want to bring forward this Business ; and when I make a Business Statement tomorrow, hon. Members will see that there will be a number of night sittings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and perhaps Thursday next week which will give hon. Members opportunity of still discussing all the Bills as well as more days for the Committee of supply.

I hope that in accordance with the agreement reached, this my Motion will be supported from all sides of this House.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande) :** I beg to second.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** The hon. Minister of Finance has just said that he consulted the Opposition to shorten the period of our stay here. We quite agree with that, but it should be noted, the Opposition has been saying it on the Floor of this House and, I think I had better repeat it now, that in future Budget Sessions like this one should be entirely Budget Session and only money Bills should be brought to this House, during such Sessions.

It is only hoped that the rush over this important Session having been agreed to by all sides of the House, in future Parliament will assemble more often than hitherto. We are sure to adjourn *sine die* on the 19th but by inference we hope we will meet if not early in May, at least in June so that we can deal with various Bills.

I beg to support.

Federal Parliament Debates

1597

[Appropriation Bill :

13 APRIL 1962

Allocation of Time]

1598

**The Minister of Finance :** I am sure that my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) was speaking for himself and not for the Opposition. Surely, he was speaking for himself and not for the Opposition because if he is so insubordinate I am afraid—

**Mr Ekanem :** I just want to correct the impression which the hon. Minister of Finance wants to create in this House. I am not insubordinate at all. My party knows that I am one who submits oneself to discipline. What I said was that we are quite in agreement but that Parliament should meet more often.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am very grateful to my hon. Friend for the clarification. If he had said just what he has just told the House I would not have quarrelled with him ; but it seemed that he was making an inference which any newspaper can take to mean that Government was again rushing the Business of the House.

I must say that he would be unfair and, in that regard, I am sure he was not speaking for the Opposition because nothing is being rushed. If we are agreed that this is the way we are carrying out our business and it is approved by the House, surely, the hon. Gentleman cannot accuse the Government of rushing anything.

As regards the point made that Parliament should meet more often, I am sure that he is speaking the minds of the Members of this House and if that was what he said I would have told him that I would be quite prepared to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the wish of the Members of the House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That APPROPRIATION BILL (ALLOCATION OF TIME),—Order [4th April] be amended as follows—

In paragraph (ii), leave out "eight" and insert "five".

In the subdivision of days allotted among the Heads of the Estimates, leave out—

"End of 3rd day ..	46
End of 4th day ..	51
End of 5th day ..	57
End of 6th day ..	63
End of 7th day ..	65 and Third Reading of the Bill

End of 8th day .. 621-640" and insert—

"End of 3rd day .. 51

End of 4th day .. 65 and Third Reading of the Bill

End of 5th day .. 621-640"

SECOND READING OF BILLS

**The Minister of Finance :** This Motion is consequential and I do not need to say much. I beg to move—

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1),

(i) the day appointed for Second Reading of the Treasury Bills Bill, Internal Loans Bill, External Loans Bill, Trustees Investments Bill and the Companies Income Tax (Appeal Commissioners) Bill be brought forward from Friday, 27th April to Wednesday next, and

(ii) the day appointed for Second Reading of the Saving Bonds and Certificates Bill and the Pool Betting Tax Bill be brought forward from Saturday, 28th April to Thursday next.

I beg to move.

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

*Resolved,* That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1),

(i) the day appointed for Second Reading of the Treasury Bills Bill, Internal Loans Bill, External Loans Bill, Trustees Investments Bill and the Companies Income Tax (Appeal Commissioners) Bill be brought forward from Friday, 27th April to Wednesday next, and

(ii) the day appointed for Second Reading of the Saving Bonds and Certificates Bill and the Pool Betting Tax Bill be brought forward from Saturday, 28th April to Thursday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

That this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit until 1 p.m.

**Minister of State** (*Hon. J. C. Obande*): I beg to second.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : I want to make a very strong protest on behalf of us Muslims in this House and particularly on behalf of my hon. Friend, the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*), that we should not be driven away from our Friday prayers.

Prayers should start at 12 o'clock and if we are to stay here till 1 o'clock, we will not be able to say our prayers to-day. I think the intention of the Minister of Finance is to keep us away from the prayers and drive us far away from God.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : Good Moslems anywhere on the globe find time to attend the House after their holy prayers. There is nothing wrong in that as far as Moslems are concerned.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Hon. S. Lana) : The hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) is not a Moslem. He was merely making that statement in order to do mischief.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit until 1 p.m.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL  
(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Whole House in Committee.*

HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

*Question proposed, That £400,100 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development stand part of the Schedule.*

9.20 a.m.

**M. Abubakar Isandu** (Jos North West) : I am very thankful to have this opportunity to support this Bill. In supporting the Bill, I have a few, but very serious, observations to make.

Looking at the Estimates for the personal Emoluments section of Head 35, I find that the figure set aside for Veterinary, Research, Administration and Works was £107,840 in 1961-62 and £117,360 in 1962-63—an increase

of £9,250. I would have supported this increase whole-heartedly, but for the fact that the day-to-day administration of that Department, with particular reference to the Veterinary School at Vom, is nothing but a failure.

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East) : On a point of order. The hon. Member is speaking on Head 35, but we are on Head 30.

**The Chairman** : I think he is speaking on Head 30. Perhaps if I hear more from him, I will be able to give a ruling.

**M. Abubakar Isandu** : I shall confine my observations to the School. This Veterinary School is the only one in the country and was opened in 1943.

**The Chairman** : It appears to me that you are absolutely speaking on Head 35.

**Several Opposition Members** : Sit down ! You are not welcome !

**The Chairman** : Order. Order. May I refer the hon. Member to the appropriate Ministry, that is, Head 30, Ministry of Economic Development. (*Interruptions*). Order ! The hon. Member seems to be a little bit confused. I advise he resumes his seat before I call upon him again.

9.22 a.m.

**Mr W. Briggs** (Degema) : Government has just launched the country's Six-year Development Programme which has received the approbation of both sides of the House. Further comments on that, therefore, would be superfluous. What all right-thinking people would hope and expect, however, is that this Programme will be pursued and executed vigorously and in a manner which is worthy of this country, and with the crusading spirit of a young country which is anxious to catch up with the rest of the world. Having said this, I think I should nevertheless mention just one or two features which, I think, have not received the emphasis which they deserve.

The more important of this is the problem of the rural areas which, as far as I could see, has engaged the attention of hon. Members from both sides of the House—whether from the North or from the East or from the West. I think the rural areas must be drawn into the



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industrial activities of the country, in order for them to contribute in the fullest measure to the wealth of the country, not as mere appendages to the urban areas as suppliers of labour, but in their own right and with their local resources. The rural areas should be developed along their own lines : by that, I mean that industries peculiar to them should be set up in their own areas.

It is all very well that we want to develop the country ; but if we want to develop agriculture, agricultural industries must be set up within the agricultural areas. If we want to develop the fisheries industries, they must be set up in the fisheries areas. The advantage of this is obvious. One of the most important is easy access to the raw materials themselves ; also it will help in raising the standard of living of the people, the people who at this present moment are living below subsistence level. It will also temper down the political tension that necessarily grows from this kind of thing.

Writing sometime ago on this kind of thing, Dr Kouyabe, the Minister of Agriculture, Mali, had this to say :— . .

*“A special feature of the African economist is the normal variation, geographically, in the rate of economic growth within most national frontiers. The impact of this sharp variation cannot be exaggerated. It creates political problems for areas of unequal economic standing, usually makes unhappy political partners. This is especially so in Africa, where differences in the degree of economic development frequently run along ethnic lines, add economic fuel to the already existing ethnic frictions. Scarce capital could in most countries be most effectively invested in areas which are already fairly well along the road of development ; but to keep their nation intact and to maintain themselves, African countries will have to allocate some investment resources to their backward regions”.*

Sir, that applies to us most forcibly. Most of our urban areas are well developed, like Lagos, for instance. Lagos is the focal point of development in this country. Majority of the capital in this country is brought to Lagos and most of these urban areas. But the rural areas, the so-called backward areas, are completely neglected, and I think in our Economic Programme, that has not received much emphasis.

Still going in in this vein, I am still quoting. Dr Kouyabe says :—

*“It is from raising rural incomes that increased taxes of one sort or another necessary to finance the Government's function in the transition can be drawn without creating inflation.”*

That is a very important thing. You cannot ask people to pay their taxes when they cannot afford to do that. At present, they allow a sort of labour supply. They supply labour to the industrial or urban areas simply because their areas are not developed. So, they stream into these towns and create labour and political problems. In the Eastern Region, there are 28 fish ponds, but none of these is situated in the essential fishing areas at all. There is one fish pond at Umuna which is in the hinterland ; whereas the fishing areas where those fish industries should be situated are not developed at all. They do not have any benefit at all of what they get.

I am grateful to somebody who mentioned the question of oil. That is a very sore point, and we need much more expansion than the present compass of this demands. But I must mention this : if we continue to divide the oil royalties, as at present recommended by Raisman in the Raisman Commission, I think the trouble we are going to get in future will be far more than what it is now. The people from the oil producing areas must benefit from their oil. At the present time, the Regional Governments who are responsible for those areas where the oil is found, take most of the 50 per cent of the royalties with very little or nothing at all going to the areas themselves. I suggest that there should be a radical revision in the mineral oil allocation, so that those areas should also benefit. Their interest should be paramount.

I have tried to speak to some of the oil company executives in private, and they say that we should go to the Regional Governments—the North should go to the Northern Government, or the West should go to the Western Government ; but that is not enough at all. These Governments, permit me to say, Mr Chairman, are run by the majority tribes. The oil is not found in these areas.

[MR OPIA]

but by actually giving them the patronage that they deserve when we find that they produce work equal in quality to that of another foreign combine. We should not think that because a white man is at the head of a business, that business is better than one headed by a Nigerian. This is not so at all. Some of the whitemen do not know the work at all: the Nigerians actually do the work and the whitemen just take the praise for the work. Those of us who are businessmen know this very well.

Not having been given an opportunity to make a speech on the Budget, I have taken this opportunity to speak a bit of my mind. I hope that the hon. Minister of Economic Development will look seriously into some of these anomalies.

9.48 a.m.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : May I, in the first place, take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister of Economic Development (for I did not have the opportunity to do so when the Sessional Paper on the Economic Development Plan was being debated).

I think that it is true to say that we have a very bright future if and only if, the National Development Plan is carried out or executed according to our wishes. We have a future not only for a better living for ourselves but also for the better living of our children, because it is true that the 1962-68 Development Plan, when executed, will give every Nigerian a healthier diet, a better shelter, and better clothing not only in the quantity that we want, but perhaps with some to spare. In this respect, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that effort should be made to execute the Plan well.

The Ministry embraces agricultural, fisheries, and veterinary researches, and I think that it is appropriate if I deal with these three items very briefly.

In the first place, agriculture in this country, most of us admit, is not up to the standard that we would like to see it. In fact, it is true that farming is not attractive at all. It should be made attractive. Farming methods should be revolutionised. In this connection, I am more than grateful to the Government for the £25 million granted to the Regional

Governments towards improvements in agriculture. I only hope that this sum will be spent in the interests of the nation and with a view to improving farming methods in all the three Regions. It is rather difficult to understand that when we have, or think we have, plenty of food to eat and plenty to spare, we still import food from the outside world.

Those who have rivers in their areas have told us in this House that if, and only if, efforts were made, fish would be produced in the quantity required. Those who are lucky enough to be on the seaside have also told us that there could be plenty of fish in the sea. Those of us who come from the North, and for that matter from the extreme North East, along the shores of Lake Chad, feel very strongly that if the Chad Basin is developed to the fullest possible extent, we have every chance of producing beef, not only the quantity we required for our local consumption, but also for export. Nobody will doubt, especially those who have been to Lake Chad and seen the Basin, and that there are millions of heads of cattle there. Those who have had the opportunity also to go further into the water must have seen the inhabitants there fishing, although they are still doing it in the most primitive way.

Why not then develop that fishing industry? Why not then encourage the local fisherman to improve the method of catching fish? If he can throw a hook into the water and catch a fish at a time, why not give him the opportunity to throw more hooks into the water and catch more fish?

I am appealing very strongly to this Ministry to develop without delay the Chad Basin with a view to producing not only large quantities of fish but also with a view, if possible, to canning them. Why should we import beef from outside the country when we have plenty of cattle here?

We can produce wheat in very large quantities not only for local consumption but also for export. I think, if it is proper, I would like to invite the high ranking officials of this Ministry if they have not been there already, to come up to Lake Chad and see for themselves all these things and probably they will be more convinced that we have within the country more than enough food.

(820)

Another item is forestry. We have in Bornu Province not an indigenous but an alien tree, the neam, which, not only in my opinion but also in the opinion of the Food and Agriculture Organisation officials who recently visited Maiduguri, could be developed into something that would certainly benefit the entire nation and not merely the province in which it thrives.

While concluding, it is fair too to pay tribute not only to the officials of this Ministry but also to the leaders of the Governments of the Federation for sinking their political differences and working out a plan which, if properly executed, would give a brighter future not only to the people now living but also to the generation yet unborn.

9.56 a.m.

**Mr J. O. Odeunmi** (Egba North): I always love the statement that Africa is a sleeping giant and is awakening. I also love to think that the heart of this awakening sleeping giant is Nigeria—the heart constitutes the most important part of the structure of a man. I feel that the future prosperity of this nation depends, to a great extent, on how the Ministry of Economic Development puts on its programmes. We have a lot to think about; we have a lot to do to build up this great nation of ours. One of the sources of wealth of our sister country, Ghana, is gold mining. I am sure that Nigeria too is full of a variety of mineral resources and if these resources are tapped to the fullest, it will make Nigeria a really great, powerful and wealthy nation.

Briefly, I should like to speak on water. It is often said and, in fact, we all know it, that in the whole structure of the earth water occupies three-quarters of the area. It is also contended that in the whole structure of man water takes three-quarters. Therefore, the importance of water in the life of man cannot be under-estimated. In this country, we are not used to the expression commonly used in other parts of the world: 'I am going for a wash' or 'I am going to have a wash'; our popular expression is: 'I am going for a bath'. There is an acute shortage of water all over the country and in many other places too. I know that comes under the Ministry of Health and some of my Colleagues may say that health is a regional subject. That

notwithstanding, the Federal Government should give some subsidies for this very important item of man's need, particularly for digging wells and making water available in every nook and corner of Nigeria. We certainly need water for our bath, for washing our clothes, for cooking and doing other important things. There are several items of our daily routine which require lots of water. Therefore, I would suggest that the Federal Government should allocate a certain amount of money as a sort of subsidy specifically set aside to aid the Regional Governments in their pursuit of rural water development.

I would like to say a word or two about the Niger Dam. It is a welcome thing that such huge amount has already been approved for the development of the Niger Dam. I hope too, that when the Niger Dam Scheme is completed and it aids electricity development, our present very exorbitant electric charges will be reduced to the bare minimum.

Long before the E.C.N. took over electricity undertakings in Nigeria the rates were quite normal and reasonable.

I remember that a point used to cost only 2s and if you had four points you paid 8s; but gradually it rose to the zenith when the Electricity Corporation took over. If you have a point of light you are usually assessed, you are given meter, you are given an assessment whether you use that point or not. The assessment is paid together with whatever current is consumed in addition. This makes the rate very very exorbitant and I am sure that every body who uses electric lighting becomes so used to it that he cannot do away with it.

I think that the Minister of Economic Development should bear in mind that when the Niger Dam scheme is completed and electricity is generated through it, special attention must be paid to this point.

Now, the next point I would like to make is the necessity for more and more building materials in Nigeria. Taking only one aspect of our buildings ardex for example is essentially used for roofing. What constitutes the main component part of the material used for the making of ardex is cement. Now that we have cement in the country, I see no reason why ardex could not be produced in very great quantity. Every year a tremendous amount of money is spent on imported ardex.

[MR ODEBUNMI]

If we produce these things locally it will help to save our money, keep out money circulating in our country and the rate of poverty will be greatly reduced to the minimum.

Lastly, I should like to speak about the potentialities of the powers of our local trees. I remember that sometime last year I was speaking to the Minister, now the Minister of Economic Development, about a back of tree which I came across. I had a little bit of it just about one third the size of a coin. It was not poisonous and I know it was not poisonous by the use of it.

I had a little bite of that little bit. I just chewed that little bit and for almost two hours my whole mouth was deadened up to the jaw and everywhere. I gave my mouth a kick I did not feel it.

I spoke to him about the great power embodied in this back of tree and asked him to inquire and make thorough research into it. If the juice there is extracted, it could be used as anesthetics instead of importing more and more of these things. We have lots of things around us.

**An hon. Member :** Are you a herbalist ?

**Mr Odebunmi :** I am not. I have come to know this out of experience. I am suggesting, strongly and humbly, that we have a specialist body set up in the Ministry of Economic Development, who will go into the needs of Nigeria and go into the possibility of producing these things locally.

I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** I think the mobilisation season, as this year is called, would be meaningless if the six-year Development Plan had not been tabled on the Floor of this House. Mobilisation, I think, is the main responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Development. If we need to mobilise our resources it is quite true that the place to do it is within this Ministry.

Luckily we have been blessed with the six-year Development Plan. The only duty of this Ministry is to see that our resources, both human and material, are really mobilised. To begin with, if we really mean it, our produce which we are lucky to have in Nigeria should

as far as possible be mobilised, so to speak. In the North we have cotton and groundnuts ; in the West we have cocoa, and in the East we have palm oil. I am sure that during the mobilisation season it will be quite proper to establish more and more factories, to establish more and more industries throughout the Federation of Nigeria.

I think it is time when the question of leaving rural areas behind should be forgotten. It is time now that rural areas should be given their own Chance because this is their season. Mobilisation will mean nothing if no opportunity is given to rural areas. If we are prepared to mobilise our resources, I am confident, speaking for the North, for instance, that as far as industries are concerned, Kano for example can take it. Any sort of industry can be centred in Kano and it can take it. This applies also to other places where we have groundnuts and cotton.

Gusau was fortunate this year to have its own textiles industry through co-operation between the Federal and Regional Governments. We have our own power station in Gusau, we have rail and road transport and in a few years to come, Gusau will be fully industrialised when more industries shall have been founded there. So the rural areas have now started to be considered in this age.

For instance, as we are rich in cotton and groundnuts in the North, efforts should also be made through this mutual co-operation to have textile factories established in other places where we have similar facilities. For instance Funtua is famous for its cotton produce and we have a power station, water supply, rail and road transport are also available. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to see that textile factories are also established in this area through mutual co-operation between the Regional and Federal Governments.

May I also say that in a place like Gombe in Bauchi Province, we have similar facilities. We have a power station, water supply and rail and road facilities are also available. I think that it is most fitting, in this year of mobilisation, that a textile factory is established in Gombe as well because there are facilities there. The mobilisation age should, for goodness' sake, be a blessing to the rural

areas. I appeal to the Minister to see that textile industries are established in these two places where facilities are available.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central):** In making my remarks under this Head, I hope that the Minister of Economic Development would take it in good faith, and that, having produced the National Development Plan, we all hope that he will use his youth and vigour and bring them to bear on the economic dynamism of this country.

A lot of good points have been made and I am confining myself to the fate of our infant industries in this country. We have seen that our small burdened infant industries are always exposed to the competition of the foreign powers. We have a lot to do in the question of how to protect them from cut-throat competition. There are several ways of doing this. One of this is by patronage and the Government must make it a bounden duty to do all things possible within its power to see that our infant industries are patronised. Without patronisation by the Government, they will die a natural and untimely death.

This patronage can be done in several ways. If the Government were to require, say, building materials, there would be no need to import Portland cement. They must try to use the cement manufactured either in the West or at Nkalagu in the East. Moreover, they should do everything to see that the productions are expanded. The two cement industries in Nigeria are too insufficient for the needs of the country. There is no reason why a cement industry could not be established in each of three or four centres in the North, similar centres in the East and in the West, so as to supply the needs of the country.

Again, another way of patronising our infant industries is by tax concessions. In this respect, I think that it is a short-sighted policy to require our own infant industries to pay as much tax as foreign combines. There must be some differentiation, there must be some encouragement by way of tax concessions. They should also be given substantial loans and subsidies where necessary.

In case of subsidies, I have in mind our dairy produce. Every kind of milk, which is of dire necessity for every citizen in the country, is imported, except the small quantity coming from the Northern Region. There

must be some positive steps taken by this Ministry to see that the manufacture of dairy produce is carried out locally. If it is not economically viable, it should be helped along by way of subsidies.

Again, one way of patronising our infant industries is by protection. There should be measures to protect them by way of import duties. That is the most important way by which we can shut out from our markets consumer goods that are similarly produced in Nigeria. If there are some consumer goods that are manufactured in Nigeria, the way to protect our own domestic products is by the imposition of import duties on the imports.

One other way of helping our infant industries is by publicity. Wide publicity must be given for any products which happened to be brought into the market of the country by propaganda. Propaganda centres should be established all over the most important producing countries of the world like England and the United States of America where the essentials and qualities of our own domestic products are advertised.

Finally, I must not forget to say a few words about our primary products. The Ministry must see that as much as possible of our primary products are utilised for the benefit of the country. I have in mind Palm produce. In case of palm produce, we import all high grade soap we use in the country. Apart from the *Key* soap and the *Duck* soap which we produce all other kinds of soap like *lux* are imported. There is no reason why we should not utilise the products of palm produce to see that the production of soap is intensified.

The textile industry established at Kaduna is insufficient for our needs. If Members will look round the House, they will see that all the articles of clothing which we wear are made of cotton and all the cotton goods are imported. There is no reason why textile industries should not be established in nearly every important town because we use their products a great deal.

It is true that, we produce rubber, but one does not see much of rubber industries around —industries that manufacture plastics, tyres and tubes should be established. They are very important because they are used everyday in the

[Mr Muojeke]  
country. There are many vehicles, cycles, plastic requirements, the materials for which we keep on importing.

I do not wish to waste the time of the Committee but I must say something about our fruits. We must establish canning industries to utilise our fruits which are seasonal. The way to preserve them and shut out foreign imports is by establishing canning industries.

I beg to support.

10.20 a.m.

**Mr S. O. Fajinmi** (Iwo West): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Head. I have some comments to make on economic items.

*The Development Bank.* The Federal Government should be congratulated for this new scheme. The £5 million set aside is meanwhile, sufficient for the start until the Bank is established on its proper footing. The capital can be increased in future. The various explanations about the bank given by the Federal Minister of Finance are also satisfactory. I wish the bank success.

Under this scheme, the Federal Government should try to extend loan facilities to the farmers in the rural areas for the development of their farms.

Here, I wish to call upon the Federal Government to establish a *gari* industry in my area, Iwo, in Oshun Division. There is hardly anywhere in the country to-day that *gari* is not eaten. If it is established it will provide sufficient food for this country; it will also provide jobs for the unemployed people and school leavers.

Reference was made to Agricultural Research in the Economic Development Programme. Some money will be expended on this Research. I call upon the Federal Government to make the result available to the Regions. The Regions are in a better position to apply whatever result you achieve because they have more land space for the purpose. Consult the Regional Governments to make available portions of land in their areas for the establishment of federal farm settlements. That will make our people realise that all the Governments of the Federation lay emphasis on

farming which was formerly regarded as the work for the low-class people. It will also provide more jobs for our people.

I want the Federal Government to set aside a lump sum for the establishment of a fishery industry in my area, Iwo, Oshun Division. We have rivers and if the various dams are established the fishery industry which I advocate will provide us with sufficient fish—sweetest species throughout Nigeria. These fishes can be exported to various countries and that will yield money for this country.

I also call upon the Federal Government to set aside a certain sum of money for the establishment of a cocoa industry. From this industry chocolate and many other things can be manufactured. All these things will bring money for the Federal Government to use. We have many materials which we have not been making use of. If the Minister of Economic Development can implement the projects in the Economic Development Plan it means that in future there will be sufficient money with which to run our government.

I beg to support.

10.24 a.m.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): Without any doubt or hesitation, I must say that this Ministry is of primary importance and the federalisation of it is of extreme urgency. I have reasons to give for that.

It is stated in the Development Programme that £25 million will be given to each Region for development purposes. But I say that this Ministry should be federalised because what we want is the development of hitherto undeveloped areas. We want the development of the rural areas.

Personally speaking, I do not want this money to be given to the Regions because if it is given to the Western Region they will use it in litigation. If you read the paper of to-day you will see that Action Group is trying to drag the Federal Government to court because of Mid-West State.

**Mr G. K. Dada** (Ekiti North West): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is completely irrelevant. We are discussing economic development, not the Western Region Motion on the Mid-West.

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**The Chairman :** I would not say that the hon. Gentleman is irrelevant but rather provocative.

**Mr Udenyi :** What the electorates in the rural areas generally ask Members representing them is, "Are we going to have better roads, are we going to have industries?". That is the aim of any electorate in voting any Member into this House. We need good water supply, we want industries to solve the problem of unemployment in the Regions because if these Regions are not industrialised there will be trouble in this country. I have reasons to give. If you go out there you will see a lot of boys waiting to shout Awo! Omimi! Tafawa! These boys will be the enemies of this country if they are not employed.

I am asking the Federal Government to federalise the Ministry of Economic Development so that the Federal Government will take upon itself to develop the rural areas. If you give the money to the Western Region they may use it for another purpose; give the money to the Eastern or the Northern Region they will also use it for another purpose. So, to be fair to ourselves and to our constituencies we want the rural areas to be developed. Development should not be restricted to Lagos. One man's happiness is no happiness. We do not want only people in Lagos to be happy: this development should be extended to the rural areas because without the places that are now undeveloped, there will be no Lagos.

I beg to support.

10.29 a.m.

**Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar):** The Ministry of Economic Development is one of the most important Ministries in Nigeria. In fact the hope of Nigeria is placed upon this Ministry. I have very few remarks to make but I would urge that these remarks receive some response.

Industry, as I said last time, is a secret thing. As a matter of fact, in Nigeria we have got natural resources to develop and the Ministry of Economic Development should look into them. For example, turpentine is manufactured out of resin and we have plenty of resin in the Northern Region. At the moment, resin is shipped to foreign countries and the turpentine is extracted. The resin is sent

back to us and sold to us for an enormous sum of money. The turpentine is also sold for an enormous sum of money.

If, as a matter of fact, Nigeria wishes to manufacture paint then, in agriculture, the Ministry of Economic Development should seek first to encourage the people to plant flag seeds from which we can produce linseed oil. Therefore, if this industry and the resin industry are developed there will not be any need to buy turpentine from Europe or America, nor indeed to import paint from anywhere.

After all, we have enough colours, we do not need synthetic works at the present time. If you go into a tin mine (or any mine for that matter) you will be able to see natural colours. We have got all these things in Nigeria and all that is required is to develop them. So I would ask that in the agricultural development sought for Nigeria, flag seeds should be planted so that we shall be able to develop a paint industry which will actually cut off most of our needs for foreign paint.

The next thing is research. I know that science is a very serious thing. In most cases people arrive at certain discoveries in science through mistakes. But it is a most wonderful affair to think that, ever since Nigeria has been producing rice, there has been no development in refining our rice. It does not take anything at all to refine our rice. I feel that most probably in the department of research, there might be people who are connected with certain firms overseas and, as such, cannot tell us the exact thing to do in order to bring perfection to certain articles or products which we have got in Nigeria.

In this respect, I ask the Government of Nigeria to point this out to other nations, or send students to study specific research; that is to say, in rice, in tobacco, in all the other products that we have to develop.

We have lingered here all the time saying we are making research into this and that, and that we are manufacturing this and that: we are manufacturing nothing at all. We cannot manufacture anything, and that even applies to the cement industry. As a matter of fact the Nkalagu Cement Industry, I learned, is part of the Portland Cement Company and the Portland Cement Company is producing about 800,000 tons of cement per

[MR EFFIONG-SPATTS]

week. The cement is sold to us and to other parts of the world. If this company is an ancillary of the other company, then tell me how this Company can hope to compete, to produce even up to 400,000 tons of cement per week? If that is done, it means that there is a breach; the mother company at home must of necessity look with a squinting eye at the company in Nigeria, and so the company in Nigeria must continue to complain 'we cannot produce more'. What I am saying therefore, is, let the secret come into our own hands—development should bring the secret into our own hands—and that will give us better service.

I come again to Economic Development. I should think that development should be based on Provinces. In the East, if the Minister of Economic Development goes to one of the provinces, Uyo, or Umuahia Province or any other province, he will be able to find out the identities of production and the disparities of production. Then he will be able to know exactly where he will locate a certain industry. If he finds that the people in one area are famous in farming and that the land is very good, then farming should be encouraged on that site. If the people are famous in fishing, then a fishing industry ought to be encouraged. I think that this will quickly bring development, much more quickly than making generalisations. It would be appreciated if the Minister would, within his competence, go into the provinces and find out the right site for the right industry.

If all our products are developed, it will give an incentive to the people and, as a matter of fact, the laziest person will get up at once and try to help himself. I feel that the minority areas should also be remembered in these facilities. In my own constituency, we have got land, we have got timber, we have got tin and we have got all those things like calcium and oxides of iron and the rest of the things. Therefore, I am advocating and asking that, if this competent Ministry will look into these things, they should bring Nigeria into the arena of developed nations.

I feel that if the Minister of Economic Development should communicate to the Ministry of Works that for development we must have roads. You cannot sit in the interior of the forest looking for data. You cannot

remain in the forest forever trying to find a path to get out. I think he should get in touch with the Minister of Works and say that roads should be cut into the hinterland for the purpose of development; that is part of development. After all, what will you develop when you have a farm in the interior and you cannot take a car there? You cannot take anything there, you become so tired that the whole thing becomes useless to you and you just sit down and do nothing. I am therefore, asking that this Ministry in conjunction with the other Ministries should co-ordinate efforts to develop Nigeria by means of communications: roads and telephones, *et cetera*.

I come to the question of oil that is obtained in Nigeria from palm trees. I think very many hon. Members have been talking about the soap industry. We have got that here. We have got oil in Nigeria, and we have got resin in Nigeria. There is the possibility of developing sodium carbonate and sodium silicate in Nigeria. We have got all these things here, and the only thing that might give us trouble is sodium hydroxides, that is caustic soda. I think with all the other resources we have got in Nigeria it is quite possible that our oil should be turned into these things; even vaseline can be produced from the oil. And I do say this, that even mobiloil can be produced from our own oil. There are so many things.

Therefore, I think that our Development Plan should be centred on specific economic projects which, in the very near future, will enhance Nigeria economy.

I want to say, that in supporting the Estimates for this Ministry I would very much ask that the Minister of Economic Development be congratulated for producing the Plan. With that, I support.

10.38 a.m.

Mr B. A. Ajayi (Ekiti South East): Many hon. Members have pointed the importance of this Ministry; the fact that it is important can in no way be over stated. Although the Regional Governments have their share in the economic development of the country, the Federal Government has an important role to play.

All the Governments of the Federation agree that we need a diversified economy and the Federal Government should do all it can to



encourage the Regional Governments to pursue this objective. As things appear, it is as if the Federal Government is concentrating all its attention on the development of Lagos. I think that the Federal Government should join the Regional Governments in developing the hinterland. If the Federal Government tries to develop Lagos alone I think the Government is courting trouble because the country will be just a one-city country and people will migrate from the provinces and settle in Lagos. Neither the Federal Government nor the Lagos Town Council will be able to cope with the demand for houses, the demand for 'fridges', the demand for water in Lagos, as long as this continues every day. And for this very reason, it is important that the Federal Government develop a change of heart and support generously the Regional Governments in an attempt to establish a diversified economy in the country.

Many people have said that there is need for industries to be set up in backward areas. I associate myself with those speakers, and for this reason I would appeal to the Minister of Economic Development to do all he can to speed up, as early as possible, this Niger Dam Scheme.

If we are establishing industries in backward places, at least, we would expect them to pay their way. The Government cannot continue to subsidise industries. The industries must spring up and grow. At the preliminary stage, we might treat them as 'infant' industries, but there shall come a time when we would naturally expect them to be self-supporting.

Without water or electric power it is idle talk to say that this industry or that must be established at Nnewi or Gombe or Abakaliki. It is only the small industries that should go to such places. For this reason, I would appeal to the Minister of Economic Planning to give priority to the Niger Dam Scheme. The large scale electricity that will be supplied by this Dam will result in cheaper costs of electricity supply in the country, and it will then be possible for all these major industries to be scattered all over the country.

The sum of £25,000 given to the Regional Governments is a good gesture. I have no spite for the Regional Governments, but I support some of the speakers who said that the Governments should give an indication as to

how the money will be expended. I am not saying that it should be made compulsory for them to do this or that, but they should give an indication because this sort of grant will continue and, until we are sure of how a previous grant is expended, it will not be very wise to give another. For that reason, I would suggest that the Governments should give an idea as to how this grant should be expended.

As far as the Research section of the Development Scheme is concerned, I would suggest that we should be sure of where we are going. We have been told, for example, that *gari* has been experimented upon, but I understand that no *gari* that is produced in any of these research stations can compete with those made locally. What then is the use of the research which is going on endlessly year after year, if its result is not as good as that made by the local bakers? I would suggest that whatever we start to do should be done efficiently and very quickly.

Finally, I would suggest that with all these schemes in mind, what really matters is the attitude we adopt in their implementation. It is one thing to have a very grand scheme and it is another thing to execute it. I would therefore, appeal to this Ministry to be very careful in the way these programmes are unfolded because any mistake from this Ministry might ruin the whole scheme which we all regard as very good.

Furthermore, the attitude of the people of the country themselves is important. I am sure many Members of this House must have taken tea or coffee this morning, but I wonder how many of us would think of drinking something like cocoa. A group of boys some-time ago suggested that instead of drinking tea, we can make cocoa our national beverage. If we do that it will help tremendously and will save us money.

It is when you have money in your pocket that you can think of saving. If you have no money in your pocket, or if you spend all your money on food, then you have nothing to save. If you produce cocoa yourself and you drink it, I think that will save you some money. That is the attitude, I think, that we should all adopt: the attitude of liking what is ours, the attitude of trying to buy what is Nigerian made, instead

[Mr Ajayi]

of going to the shop and saying "Well, I will not buy this because it is cheap or because it is home-made and I must buy something else." I would appeal to Members that as much as we have been brought up in the old way, all the same, I think that the time has come for us to change our attitude and try as much as possible to go back to the land and, if possible, boycott the boycottables.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Akor** (Ahoada North East): In supporting this Head of Expenditure, I would like to congratulate the Government on their efforts to improve the standard of living in this country by introducing this 1962-63 economic development scheme. Economic development embraces many aspects of development. A serious plan for the development of industry in this country should be based primarily on the processing of local products. A Scientific and mechanised system of farming should be encouraged. To have this accomplished, I would ask that a group of farmers be given loans to improve their farming system and they will be able to produce better food-stuffs of the grade that can earn them higher income. A serious research in agriculture is of primary importance, as it is only in this way that the Government can achieve the rapid development of this country.

Fishing industry should also receive priority attention. A majority of our people in the rural areas want to eat fresh fish instead of stockfish, because we all know that fish provides protein. The type of frozen fish sold by U.A.C. hawkers in the rural areas is of no use to health. It gets easily decomposed, and even has no taste. The Government should improve this by establishing canning and fishing industries at Port Harcourt and other areas where fish is produced in a good quantity.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**L. Alhaji Daura** (Maska): I rise to support. In doing so I have a few observations to make. Since the attainment of our country's independence, the country has made such rapid progress that I would like to say without fear of criticism that the progress made supercedes the progress made within the last twenty years of colonial rule. This, incidentally, reminds me of a statement made on the

Floor of this House by the hon. Minister of Economic Development, that it is only and only the Nigerian who can work sincerely to develop Nigeria. We cannot therefore afford to rely solely on mercenary aid.

It also is binding on the Government to mobilise all the agricultural, mineral, financial and manpower resources which are at the Government's disposal. To achieve this high and noble objective, as the Minister of Finance put it, "it means toil, sweat and sacrifice". The Nigerian public have got to be educated so as to respond to this challenge that now confronts this country. This can be done in many ways. One of the ways is that the Government should make use of all the information media at our disposal to publicise the importance of investment—by investment I mean domestic investment—and to encourage saving. The people should also be educated or even persuaded to abandon all types of luxuries and to curtail all unnecessary expenditure for that which is noble and that which gives more profitable and lasting benefits.

The training of our personnel is a grave question which the Government has to face with all courage and fortitude so as to be able to execute effectively the Development Programme. Proper management of the funds invested is another question of paramount importance which the Government should look into. Failure to satisfy either of the two questions, that is the training of personnel and the good management of the money that has been invested, would mean the nation heading towards ruin, hardship and even servitude.

While I appreciate the efforts of the Government in raising loans to finance our development, I also express disappointment at the failure of one of the Government's efforts to get better markets for our produce. For, after the world-wide advertisement of our produce, we were disappointed to find that the prices of our most important crops of cocoa, groundnuts and coffee, were appallingly reduced instead of increased. I ask the Government, in future, not to undertake such missions if they are not going to secure better markets for our produce.

Another way in which the Government can improve our resources is to make an extensive survey of the mineral resources in the country. Mineral resources are lying in waste. Take,

for example, old Bernin Gwari in Zaria Province where there are large deposits of iron ore and even gold. Again, in Musca District of Katsina Province there are deposits of raw materials which go into the making of asbestos. I understand also that uranium is found in Sokoto. It is high time the Federal Government did something to explore our resources of petroleum, otherwise the Government of the Niger Republic which, I understand, is now negotiating to exploit the petroleum that is seemingly to be in the same underground layer as that of Sokoto, will drain the petrol in Sokoto. Therefore I ask the Government to give this project very high priority.

I also ask the Government to try to industrialise, using the local materials, where possible. Some time ago the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*), made mention of industrialising Gusau, Funtua and Zaria, where electricity has already been provided. We can make use of that electricity to develop our own resources and, at the same time, we would be giving employment to the unemployed and raising the general standard of living of the people there.

With these remarks, I support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): Point of order, Mr Chairman. Nobody has moved this, and I would like to do so.

**The Chairman**: Order. I think you have got your name down. You can move when it is your turn.

**Mr A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North): Mr Chairman, we have before us the new Economic Development Plan. It is a gigantic plan involving a colossal sum of money. It is my view that the implementation of this Plan will devolve, to a very large extent, on the Ministry of Economic Development.

The only observation that I want to make is that as this is a plan involving such a large sum of money, we want this Ministry and the Government to realise that both this Parliament and the nation will not tolerate any waste whatsoever. If this money is to be spent (and it is usually said that hard-earned money must be prudently spent) we ask that it must be properly spent and that it should be used in buying the best materials for our projects wherever they may be found in the world.

The second point is the proposal to establish what is called an Agricultural Credits Institution. I am asking that the operation of this Agricultural Credits facility should be under the control of the Ministry of Economic Development because we are saying that we want diversified economy in our country. It will not help us if we put our eggs in one basket. The emphasis is now shifting to industrialisation and, in doing that, we cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that we must also develop our agriculture. What is very important is that the implementation of this scheme should be entirely under the direction of this Ministry and that it should be judiciously and reasonably executed.

Now, the question of industries: It is my view that the emphasis on industrialisation is rather lop-sided. By this I mean that the control which this Government has over the National Economic Council is not sufficient. We on *this* side of the House have advocated several times that there must be a set plan of our priorities. In this country to-day anybody can come and establish an industry, disregarding the fact that there may be a glut on the market in connection with that particular industry. I think that this Government must put its foot down and we must say that "this is the type of industry which we want to be established first because we feel that it must have the highest priority".

To-day, nothing stops anybody, as I have said, from establishing an industry. It is very difficult to regiment establishment of industries, but I think that we must give this Ministry power to refuse a licence for the establishment of an industry where we feel that there are other pressing needs of the nation in the establishment of a particular type of industry other than the one which is proposed. If we do not do that, there will be unnecessary competition, there will be a glut in the market and what should be done first will not have been tackled first.

I will ask the Ministry to consider the encouragement of the establishment of what I will call the "cottage industry". Some people call it "village industry" and others call it "small industry". If we look at the history of the countries of the world that are industrialised, particularly Japan, we will find that, before the war, the Cottage Industry

[MR AKINLOYE]

accounted for over sixty *per cent* of their industrial scheme. Cottage industry is cheaper, it does not cost as much as a large-scale industry.

I will give an example. Hon. Members in this Committee have pointed out that there is cotton in various important centres in the Northern Region. Now, if these cottage industries are established around these areas, probably they will manufacture yarns, for instance. These yarns would be transferred to the larger industries to produce the cotton we need. The reason why Japanese goods, before the War, were so cheap was because the labour employed in producing these goods were very cheap.

People say that Japanese goods are not as good as other countries' goods, but if we look at what is happening to-day we will find that Japanese pocket radio sets and things like that are taken to the United Kingdom and America, relabelled with 'Made in England' labels, whereas they are all Japanese goods. We should not let anybody deceive us. Moreover, the price of Japanese goods suits the pockets of our people—they are cheap. If one goes to Kingsway Stores and sees a pocket radio set made in the U.S.A., one cannot buy it for less than £16, but at the other shops the N.E.C. radio, which is a copy-right name of Japanese goods, sells for only £3 to £5 and is as good as any in the world. Therefore, I hope the Minister will encourage the establishment of cottage industries.

The other point I would like to speak upon again is the question of statistics and accurate information. In establishing industries in this country, one of the pre-requisite requirements must be accurate information as to the potentialities in the country and the market for the articles to be produced. All these things are lacking in this country to-day and I would urge the Minister of Economic Development to see to it that there is accurate information, statistics which will be made handy to prospective industrialists as to what and what are required in the country, what is the market (for instance) for glasses, the market for iron sheets, the market for tumblers, and so on, so that we can arrange the industries to produce the adequate quantity of the materials we need in this country.

On oil exploration, I would like to drop a note of warning to the Minister. I do not know whether he is aware that these oil companies that are given concessions to explore oil in Nigeria are fabulously rich and that they create what is called artificial shortage. All of them, as you can see, have their interests in Iran, in Jordan, and so many other places, from where they get oil. They know the requirements of oil in the world to-day. If it is 'X', for instance, and they know that by producing and refining our oil in Nigeria the supply will be 'X plus 1' it is in their own interest to keep the 'plus 1' away. And so they can afford to spend £2 million, £3 million in exploring an area, they will find the oil but they will come back to say: "Oh, nothing doing, there is no oil there at all!" This is done in order to protect their own interests in other lands.

I would warn the Minister that whenever any of these explorers will come to us and say that there is no oil in Kano, and no oil in this place and that, we must take this statement with a grain of salt. There must also be another clause inserted in the agreement with these companies that so long as they come and say that there is no oil, nothing stops this Government from giving the same area to another prospective explorer the following morning. If that is done, you can be sure they will not have the opportunity of creating for us in Nigeria here what I shall call artificial shortage.

I support the Head.

11.05 a.m.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): The Economic Development Plan presented here by the Minister of Economic Development will actually solve so many problems facing this country. In fact, what I should like the Minister of Economic Development to do is to see that many local industries are established. We should make use of our local materials—our local products must be used, products like palm produce, groundnuts, hides and skins, and cocoa. We must plan our industries to make use of these local products.

Big soap industries must be established in order to make Nigeria one of the famous soap producers in the world. This would also

reduce the cry that the price of palm produce is on the decrease. If we establish many soap industries in this country to-day, we will be able to export soap to other countries in West Africa and some parts of the world. Other by-products of these industries will also help to ease unemployment in the country.

Groundnut oil as well can be used to manufacture soap and I think that the Federal Government should now make every effort to see that these industries are established.

At the same time the Minister should try to get in touch with other countries of the world that will help us, and not to depend on Britain, America, or the Western World. These are the people that supply our locally consumed tinned foods, or the manufactured goods that we buy. We buy so many things from these countries. Therefore to ask them to come here to industrialise our country means nothing. They will not do that, because if they do so, their own market will fall.

We should look to other countries of the world—those that have no business with us in the country to-day, those whose firms are not yet established here, and they will come here to compete with the existing firms, rather than to exploit us.

The planning of our economy should not be left in the hands of those who have stakes in this country. I know quite well that in the past we had so many expatriates here directing the affairs of our economy, but to-day, I think the best thing we should do is to re-examine some of those plans made by these men before they left. It is that light that I would like to call on the Government to re-examine the Niger Dam Project. £68.1 million is really a very fantastic sum and we must take into consideration that those who made these plans made them to promote the interests of their country. At the time those plans were made so many things were in fact, taken into consideration. These expatriates will supply the manpower, they will supply the materials and they will also supply the technical know-how. Therefore, I think it is high time we re-examined this scheme; it may cost the country less if it is properly re-examined.

The country should also make every effort to help the farmers of this country. The farmers are not encouraged and this is rather unfortunate. I hope that by giving them loans

they will be able to introduce scientific and mechanised farming which will solve the problems of shortage of food in the whole country.

All the industries we have to-day are dominated by aliens and I want the Minister to give more loans to local industrialists.

For instance there are those who produce soap in the country. I know them, especially those in my constituency; many of them produce soap but there is no possible way of advertising their soap because they have not got the money. If they have got the money with which to buy vehicles and advertise in the national newspaper, they will make a lot of progress.

The existing alien firms buy their soap in blocks, load them in vans and lorries and go about selling them, thereby crippling the indigenous industrialists. I know of two or three who supply their manufactured soap in blocks to these alien firms. If the Government gives them sufficient loans they will be able to progress in their business and make more money for the country.

I beg to support.

**M. Abubakar Isandu** (Jos North West) : Speaking on this subject of Economic Development, I would like to—

**An hon. Member** : The hon. Gentleman was given an opportunity to speak on this very subject this morning.

**The Chairman** : I remember he was a little bit confused and I said if he collected his facts I would give him another opportunity.

**Mr D. O. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : Is it because this gentleman is in the Front Bench that he is given another opportunity ?

**The Chairman** : I have already explained that he had the first opportunity in the morning and he was a little bit confused. I promised him that after having collected his facts he would be given another opportunity.

**M. Isandu** : Speaking on the subject of Economic Development I would like to associate myself with those who were fortunate enough to get the chance of speaking before me, who strongly emphasised the importance of building more industries in this country and encouraging the already existing ones.

[M. ISANDU]

I would like to say that it is not good and I would be the last person in this Honourable House to support any further Trade Agreement. The major products of our nation such as tin, oil, groundnuts, cocoa and palm oil should no longer be exported outside the country. Rather, we should invite these people to come into this country because when all these important products go abroad, they do little about them. Some of them are just heated, some of them are fermented, some are turned into paper and returned to us at very high prices to continue.

When we call for more industries in this country, we do not only mean Lagos but the towns where these important products are obtained should receive the priority of getting these industries and when these industries are established at these various places the people of the areas should be trained and encouraged so that they will know how to do the work themselves. I would like to say, if I am not very much away from the point, that Plateau Province, or Jos in particular, produce the best and the largest quantity of tin in the whole of the country. The Division has been doing a lot on the Development Programme of this nation and the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, should start thinking from now about how the poor inhabitants of that Division should be compensated for their lost land.

Roughly 50 years ago, that Division was covered with useful trees and grass, and it was also suitable for farming. But as time went on, the trees were cleared up, giving way to quick erosion which is now beyond reclamation. The land has now been rendered useless, the living standard of the inhabitants is getting lower and lower and some of them have already started to cross the provincial boundary—some to Zaria and others to Bauchi—looking for where to live. I call on the Chairman to look at the very dangerous and precarious position in which these people find themselves.

Those left behind have not got the technical know-how as to join the expatriates and their Southern brothers in the mining fields. They are now serving as daily-paid labourers on 1s-6d to 2s per day. We look forward to seeing something done to rehabilitate these people.

Recently, one mining industry was opened there, affiliated to that of William Harvey at Liverpool. That company, exports not less than 32 tons of pure tin daily. In view of the quantity of tin obtained from that place we want to be considered somehow.

On Economic Development, I would say that it is not sound and it is an abuse of the economic stability of this country to continue importing commodities like Irish potato when it can be produced here in the Plateau. I call on the Federal Government to do something to restore our land and make some research to see that things we import from outside countries are produced within the country.

With that, Sir, I beg to support.

11.22 a.m.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (M. Waziri Ibrahim): When people appreciate their problems and start to talk about the solutions of the problems—economic or political—they are on the road towards a better condition of living. The more I listen to hon. Members in this House, the more I become convinced that we have realised our problems. Now, the question is how to solve them, the methods of solving them.

We appreciate that agriculture is important to the country, we appreciate that we must industrialise and we appreciate that research into agriculture, forestry and veterinary should be more practical, and so on. Therefore, I have very little to say on the observations of hon. Members who have pointed out the things we should do and the things which we should not do.

What have we been saying? Hon. Members say we must have modern methods of agriculture so that we do not have to import food-stuffs, that we should produce more commodities and export them; that we have to be careful about borrowing. I think that there is a clear understanding of our problems. It all goes to the same basic fact that all of us are struggling for existence and for better living; we in Nigeria and also the foreign investors. We know that as we struggle to improve our condition, the foreign investors, I mean the trade firms who do distributive trade and transport, who have been in this country and have been benefiting very much strengthen their control over the country. As we struggle to free ourselves, they struggle to maintain their position. This is one of our problems.

In spite of the fact that the very people to whom we look for capital and technical know-how are the same people we want to replace in one form or the other we hope to achieve our economic freedom. Then you see the extent of our problem and you can see how difficult the problem is, Mr Chairman.

I know, as all hon. Members know, that it is human nature to live at the expense of others : sometimes by killing, sometimes by suppressing, sometimes by deceit, sometimes by telling lies and the rest of it, to justify the exploitation of the unfortunate ones. With animals, it is the same. With human being, during the history of human beings, the same fact has been proved. People live at the expense of other ; in our own case, we are just struggling to free ourselves.

The imperialists who have been fortunate in having an early start in economic and scientific development are on us. They use our cheap labour, they take our raw materials and make the maximum profit out of it. Millions of them abroad depend on us ; the lives of millions of Europeans are directly connected with what we have in our country. Millions and millions of Europeans depend for their livelihood and for their better conditions of living on the exploitation of countries like Nigeria.

Therefore, this is the struggle. Here are people who have been accustomed to having a better living at the expense of we the unfortunate ones. Now, we want to get out of it. Are we going to find it easy ? It is not going to be easy.

But the most satisfying thing is that hon. Members have recognised all these and, therefore, they quite rightly say that too much dependence on foreign loans will lead to eventual control of this country by the foreign powers. That is absolutely true. Now let us reduce the problem to the simplest form. Anyone of us, if we have servants in our houses, they farm for us, they sweep our houses, they cook for us, they fetch water for us ; if these servants try to come up, to free themselves and come up to our own level of living, the natural thing for us is to resist ; that is why our economic problem is so very difficult.

I know, for example, many hon. Members would have liked us to produce an economic programme on a line like this ; I am just going to illustrate it. Hon. Members say banks in the country are in foreign hands ; then somebody would say, but why not put £10 million in and establish commercial and development banks and assist the thousands of our businessmen who need overdraft facilities ? He says we are not going to take over anybody's banks, but we are going to have £10 million banks all over the country to compete and to help our people, since the existing banks do not honestly extend credit facilities to our people to the extent we want ?

Then the next point, he says, all right, after having £10 million for banks, there is nothing wrong in that, but we have not got private capital, we have not got rich Nigerians to raise £10 million so the argument is, there is nothing wrong in having Government put in the £10 million for the sinking of commercial and development banks. Then he next says £10 million for an insurance company, so that we do all the insurance business and also the insurance of our export crops, and he says that there is nothing wrong in that. We are going to allow the foreign Insurance Companies to compete—we are not going to take over anybody's company, but then our people will patronise the State Banks and the State Insurance Companies.

Then there is also the talk of modernising agriculture, he would say, "Why not bring in 1,000 tractors to the country so that each constituency would have say two tractors with mobile workshops with the technicians attached ; these tractors will be used on hire basis so that if a village of say 300 people is now handicapped by lack of ploughs and so on, the tractor and the plough would do the job and they would be charged for the service ?" Then in order to quicken the modernising of our agricultural system, he says "Why cannot we do something like that ?" How right he is ?

Then he says, for example, "Why not put in £1 million for the growing of fibres, so that we produce sufficient fibres to manufacture bags for our produce ?" We import some millions of pounds worth of bags every year. He says that in Tanganyika, and Kenya, sisal and other fibres are used, and the export of fibres

[MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]  
is one of their main export items. Then he says, "Why cannot we do the same thing?" Hon. Members go further and say "We have got this iron and steel industry, for which we have got £30 million". That is quite right; and they say "As all the Governments have considered this project as a national project, why then, in the case of finding a bank, insurance company, partnership in shipping lines, *et cetera*, cannot the Regional Governments and the Federal Government knock out a certain amount of money from the other projects and have these banks and insurance companies?"

Now, to me, these lines of argument are perfectly justified, but I think all hon. Members agree that we have made a good start. Since all hon. Members appreciated our little efforts, then the right thing for them is to presume that the rest of the things which they think should be done will also be done in due course. We cannot hurry up, because even if we hurry up, we depend on foreign capital and technical know-how and therefore speed is impossible. For this reason, even if we want to do all these things we just simply cannot, because the foreign investor just does not come in and invest because we ask him to—he comes in, makes a study of the situation in the country and makes a forecast of what the country will be like in the next twenty or thirty years—that is, the political stability! They have all been scared by nationalisation in other countries; so they are now very cautious and they come in and make investigations before they put up their money—which is quite understandable.

In the technical know-how, our programme of technical education will assist in giving us the number of technical people we require. One can see that it is only after we have solved the man-power problem and after we have introduced measures to enable our people to build up a private capital, that we shall do all the things we want even at a risk. When a man has his own money and he thinks of an idea—the money is his, and if he is convinced, he puts it in, with the belief that he is going to succeed, and probably will fail. But if it is somebody else's money, he tells him "This project will not pay—therefore I am afraid I am not going to give you the loan".

For example, the Niger Dam project—all hon. Members have praised it, but do not

be surprised if the International Bank comes and says "Well, look, you have to defer this part of it—I do not see the use of your irrigation, I do not see the use of your navigation, I do not see the use of all this—you have to defer it." Do not be surprised, because the lender wants to lend when he is fully convinced that he is going to get his money back.

**An hon. Member :** Are you anticipating that ?

**The Minister of Economic Development :** No, I am just illustrating. I am saying that if we have to borrow money, then there are obstacles and dangers, the worst of which is that there is the danger of eventually becoming under the control of the lender, and there is the danger and the frustration of not being able to do things in the way we want—no matter how convinced we are by our ideas.

These facts are very clear and hon. Members appreciate all. There is no cause for despair; we are going to solve our problems, but I know that all hon. Members realise the quickest way of economic development, but they do not want it—I am sure they do not want it. Oh, no !

Well, then, hon. Members know that struggles for economic development in other countries have resulted in really big troubles. Now, take the case of the United Arab Republic—

**An hon. Member :** That is a backward country.

**The Minister of Economic Development :** All hon. Members know that the United Arab Republic wanted to go on with its economic planning in the way the people wished; they had to take measures which were very, very seriously resisted by the Western Powers; propaganda machinery was set up against the United Arab Republic, calling them Communists, calling them all sorts of names. They persisted, and the result is now that they have achieved spectacular results.

Now, I know very well that hon. Members do not sincerely want any measures which will create trouble in the country, because it will not be hon. Members who will create the trouble—I tell you most people underrate the imperialists. Do hon. Members think that it is difficult for imperialists to create trouble in this country in six months? Trouble that we cannot foresee?



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Therefore, for such reasons, the necessity to go very slowly and cautiously comes in. We know very well that there are really shorter ways, but even if all hon. Members tell me that the country is prepared, I honestly doubt it.

Again, we in this part of the country seem to be a bit different from the Europeans in one respect; for example, has it ever occurred to you that we pity even those who exploit us? That is one of our characteristics! We are sympathetic even towards our exploiters, which is, I am afraid, a very very bad gift. For this reason, then, one can see that there are many things which must be put together before one can bring about bold, spectacular and quick economic changes of the type hon. Members want.

I am very grateful to all hon. Members. We should not be discouraged. As I said, there is no cause for despair—we shall solve our problems; may we be given the strength and the courage to bear the heavy task that lies ahead of us.

*Whereupon the Minister of Education 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.*

£400,100 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**The Chairman:** First of all, I think I should appeal to the House at this stage. Discussions so far have covered all the Heads agreed under the Ministry of Economic Development. Now that we have many people interested in Education, is it the wish of the House that I put the other Heads?

**Several hon. Members:** Yes.

HEAD 31.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

£264,870 for Head 31—Agriculture (Research)—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 32.—FISHERIES SERVICE

£57,410 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 33.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

£108,190 for Head 33—Forestry (Research)—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 34.—STATISTICS

£192,690 for Head 34—Statistics—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 35.—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£248,850 for Head 35—Veterinary (Research)—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 36.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

*Question proposed, That £2,705,250 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I will join those people who have called upon the Government to take a greater responsibility in bearing the cost of education here in this country. The Government must take more responsibility for education development throughout the country. Each Region must be given grants for education according to need.

In the Economic Development Programme, I saw that the Regions were given a flat rate of £2 million each regardless of their need. It is not enough to divide available grants into equal shares for the Regions. The East Regional Government Universal Primary Education was curtailed for lack of funds. The Federal Government must examine the situation because these children are Nigeria children. They are suffering for lack of funds, not of their own making but just because their own Region is not rich enough to finance their education. Now our human resources must be improved; I think we should make investment in education one of the greatest industrial projects in this country. If we give £10 million to this project, it would not be too much.

The Federal Government is responsible for education for Lagos, but our Federal Government gets the greatest share of the resources of the revenue that this country has and apportion them as it sees fit to the Regions. Lagos is not Nigeria, but Lagos is in Nigeria. To concentrate all the monies and squander all of them to educate a few thousands of children in Lagos is not being fair to the Regions. We have a lot of wastage here in Lagos. There are, for example, two big institutions in Lagos—King's College and Queen's College. They have tremendous facilities. Now, with a few facilities we have—

**The Chairman :** I think it may be a mistake on my part, but is Dr Okeke moving to reduce sub-head (1) by £10 or sub-head (41) ?

**Dr Okeke :** I am moving to have it reduced and I am making some observations in support of my Motion.

**The Chairman :** Order, order ! We have got a series of Motions and we propose, as much as possible, to accommodate at least some of them. I think it will guide the House much better if we know which one exactly you are moving.

**Dr Okeke :** Sub-head (41), Mr Chairman, and I am just coming to it.

**The Chairman :** I think sub-head (41) deals with King's College, and sub-head (1) deals with the general administrative responsibilities. Now, if you are moving on that you will be accommodated, but if you are going to concern yourself with sub-head (41), then you have got to discuss King's College.

**Dr Okeke :** I see that sub-head (1)—

**The Chairman :** Order, order ! I have given you the general directive on the matter. On sub-head (1) you can discuss the general administrative policy, so if you are moving that, it is just for your guidance and for the guidance of the House so that when you finish, we put the Question on that one and finish the matter. I think you can refer generally because after that, others may have the opportunity to make their own comments.

**Dr Okeke :** In the administrative machinery, for example, it is administrative to apportion facilities so that King's College facilities and the facilities that we have at the old Yaba Higher College could be marshalled into proper distribution and that when we have the University of Lagos, which we are now trying to build, we can reapportion administratively these facilities, so that instead of building more quarters for our University, we can use some of these facilities as a nucleus of the Lagos University and start immediately to operate because time does not wait for anybody. I am saying that, administratively, we have extensive facilities here in Lagos which we are wasting on a few thousands of children, and that other secondary schools here which are not equipped to the tune of one-twentieth

*per cent* are doing equally the same amount of work as these fabulously equipped institutions which we are keeping here in Lagos—maybe as exhibit, but they do not exhibit anything.

I beg to move.

11.50 a.m.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : I think I should support this Amendment which was moved by Dr Okeke. Looking through the Order Paper, hon. Members will see that I have put my name down to move an Amendment to reduce the whole Head by £100. That is why I feel that I should support this Amendment in order to place my reasons for supporting this Amendment on record.

I will like to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Ministry, through the Minister, one out-of-date event which still exists in the Ministry of Education. This is the question of teaching history in our schools. History text books written by our colonial masters to justify their action in colonising our country are still being used in our schools. It is time this is abolished. I see no reason why we should allow our school children—the future generations of this country—to be taught history written by expatriates purely to justify the reason why they conquered Africa and Nigeria in particular. This should be scrapped and the Minister should see to it that Nigerian authors and historians are encouraged to write the history which our school children can read. This will prevent our children from having a colonial mentality—

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North) : On a point of order. When this matter was raised on the Floor of this House, the Minister of Education said that no aid will be given to the African Authors' Association and that is the point the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is making.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** This is a very serious matter and the Federal Government should cooperate with the other Regional Governments to see to it that the history text books used by our children at the moment are changed. Mr Deputy Chairman—

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : On a point of information, Mr Chairman. Whoever is on the Chair is Chairman and not the Deputy Chairman.

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**The Chairman :** Will hon. Members please take note.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** I think it is most unbecoming in this age when we are independent that efforts are still being made through our own Governments to implant colonial mentality into our children. I appeal to the Minister of Education to take this very important matter into consideration.

I would also like the Minister to make efforts to see that higher education is made a Federal responsibility. This is very important because judging from the dire need for higher education in this country, the powers given to the Regional Governments on higher education are too much. I think that it is appropriate if the Regional Governments are only allowed to train our children up to the secondary grammar school level and the Federal Government should take up the responsibility for higher education all over the Federation.

One point which was made clear by Dr Okeke in moving the Amendment for the reduction of this Head is the concentration of educational facilities in Lagos. The Minister of education is for the whole Federation. If this is so, then these institutions which are concentrated in Lagos should be distributed throughout the Federation. Lagos, by virtue of its being the capital of Nigeria and the Federal Territory, is having enormous facilities in all respects, including education. The Lagos Town Council should be given some of the responsibilities that are now in the hands of the Minister of Education. In the Regions, for example, Native Authorities—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** It seems to me that the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is not aware that the Lagos Town Council is responsible for primary education in Lagos.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau :** The Lagos Town Council may be responsible for primary education in Lagos, but one can see the enormous amount of money in the Estimates allocated to the Ministry of Education for education in Lagos, which shows that Lagos is having more than enough of facilities. We want to see that the Minister of Education is not only for Lagos but for the whole Federation. Therefore, I feel that Lagos alone

should not be given all these facilities; the whole of the Federation should have similar facilities.

I beg to support the Amendment.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** I rise to support the Amendment. I feel that a lot of capital is being poured into very few schools in Lagos but that the output of these schools has not measured up to the amount of money invested in them.

For instance, in regard to King's College and Queen's College, if we are going to speak the truth, we expect that in the West African School Certificate, they ought to have 150 candidates every year. For the King's College where the sum of money put there can be equal to the total for five or six schools in the Eastern Region put together to produce only a number equal to that of one school in the Eastern Region means that we are not utilising the resources of that College. I am suggesting to the Minister to consider the necessity of expanding the classes so that in a year, we shall have at least 150 students passing out annually with the West African School Certificate, and at least 50 with the Higher School Certificate.

The type of buildings here are just equivalent to the type we see at the University College, Ibadan, or the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Even they are almost of the same structure as a university but they are just ordinary secondary schools. And when you consider the number of graduates teachers there—I do not know whether all of them are in fact—

**Several hon. Members :** All of them are graduates.

**Mr Chiedozie :** What we are saying is that resources are available within the Lagos area in the educational sphere, but we feel that the hon. Minister can take advantage of the education population, and in view of the pressure of all the students who are clamouring for secondary education, the classes should be expanded to have about five or six streams of Class Five who would do the West African School Certificate.

The same thing applies to Queen's College. I feel that if there is increased capital in these colleges, there must be corresponding increase in productivity; and the same thing applies also to the Emergency Science Centre. We feel that it is a very commendable achievement

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

on the part of the Minister that this Centre has been helping the students. But I want the Minister to note that after they have studied there, no effort has been made for them to go ahead to the universities, because I believe that the Emergency Science Centre is an intermediary stage for students to avail themselves of the opportunities for higher education. Many of them after that are stranded or they become only half-tutored. I want the Minister to consider if the Emergency Science Centre should not be developed and expanded to be an arm of science training faculty in the University of Lagos. That will enable him to utilise some of these big buildings which are harbouring few classes.

It is quite clear that the Regional Governments are made to carry heavy responsibilities in expenditure, particularly in education; and with the amount of money I see available to the Federal Government, I think that Regional Governments should be assisted to carry this burden. If that is not possible in the new Constitution I think it should be revised so that education, from primary to the secondary and university levels, should be made to be solely a Federal concern. The idea is to allow the amount of money which we have available to be utilised in these universities; and we feel that the Regional Governments have got a lot of responsibilities, and their responsibilities are far in excess of the resources available.

The population in the Regions: for instance the East has 8 million at the moment with a possible increase after the census; the North is 19 million at the moment, and the West is about 7 million. When you put all these populations together and think of the amount of money needed for their education, you will believe that a lot of money is kept in Lagos. Therefore we feel that the hon. Minister (it is not the fault of the Minister) should do his best to take advantage of the resources available in Lagos in order to put it into such use as will encompass the Regions as a whole. If the revision of the Constitution is not possible now—I know the Minister has an ingenuous capability—he can use his ingenuity and be able to get these resources and make the Regions to provide for their own educational resources. I wish to add just this, that, in view of the difficulties created by the Con-

stitution, the Minister ought to sit down and think of how to help these Regions. The Regions are suffering, and we want him to help us.

I beg to support.

**M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafara** (Sokoto South): I rise to support the Head as it is; and in doing so, I have only a few remarks to make because the Federal Government is to be congratulated on its stand in the distribution of Federal scholarships, especially by giving the Northern Region more share. But the Federal Government should do more, that is, in consultation with the Regional Governments, to get more institutions built in the rural areas. I feel sure that if the Federal Government asks other Regional Governments to establish more institutions in the rural areas, the Regional Governments will agree, so that people in the rural areas will have more life abundant in their own areas. But if it is to be built in Lagos alone, I think it is not fair.

Finally, I want the Government to consider that the proposed Lagos University should be named after our beloved and respected Prime Minister, that is, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.

I beg to support.

12.05 p.m.

**M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): The Ministry of Education has been very responsive to advice from this side of the House. I remember that in 1960, when the Minister put forward a scheme for 540 scholarships a year, I suggested then that the minimum that should meet the needs of the country should be 1,000 scholarships a year. I am very pleased that this year, the Minister has taken to that suggestion and has made the scholarships now to be 1,050.

I am going to make a few suggestions to the Minister, and I hope that he will again consider them. The educational system of this country needs a complete overhauling. In the past, we have been following the educational system of the British; and now that we are independent, we should make adjustments in the educational system of the country. I would say that there should be a universal free and compulsory primary education of six years

throughout the country. This would be worked out in conjunction with the Regional Governments. This six-year period of free and compulsory primary education should be followed by three-year period of junior secondary school and then the secondary school to be followed by four years' course of senior secondary school education. Now at the end of the senior secondary school in the fourth year, students face the final examination which will entitle them for direct entry into university.

At present, in two of the Regions, in the North and the Western Regions, and also in the Federal Territory of Lagos, we have what is known as secondary modern school. These secondary modern schools are just blind alleys. There are no secondary modern schools in the East. In the West and the North and the Federal Territory of Lagos, you have these modern schools but after the pupils have left these secondary modern schools, they still want to go to the grammar schools. The system of the secondary modern schools as it is in England is quite different from what it is in this country.

In England, at the age of 11-plus, you have the entrance examination to the secondary schools. Then the best of the candidates are taken to the grammar schools, the next best are taken to the technical schools. It is only the rejected ones that are taken to the modern schools. But in this country, it is not so at all. It is because of the insufficiency of secondary schools that you find that some students go to the secondary modern schools here, not because they are not good enough to be in the secondary grammar schools.

Therefore, the need of this country should be that everybody should have the opportunity of going to secondary schools. Then you have junior secondary schools instead of secondary modern schools. After the primary school let there be junior secondary schools or junior high schools, of three years' course, and from there we can send some of the pupils who can do academic work to the senior secondary school, or to the trade school, or to the technical school. That should be my suggestion to the Minister of Education.

Now, the Minister, in his proposal, puts forward the closing down of the Emergency Science School at Lagos, and that a National

High School will take its place. I would like to make this suggestion that the Emergency Science school has served the needs of this country because we have students from all over the country, not only from Lagos, attending this Emergency School, and it is a free place. It is free to all. It is just a system of free secondary school, and I think it should continue like that. Though you may make it a high school it should be a free National High School for the whole country for the teaching of science alone.

This National High School should not be for Lagos. We have other secondary schools in Lagos which can be for Lagos alone. This one should be for the whole country and is to serve the needs of the whole country, though located in Lagos, and it should be free as it has been since its inception.

The next thing I would touch upon is the entry into our Universities at present. In the Governor-General's Speech he said that there is going to be an Academic Council for the five Universities. It is very good indeed. I think there should be the same entry standard for these Universities. If we do not have an entry standard setting out the same requirements what it would bring is that later on some of these Universities will be looked down upon as the kind of Universities which are not of a high academic standard. So, we should have the same standard for entering any of the universities. Either two or three advanced level subjects at the General Certificate of Education with other four or five ordinary level subjects in addition. Let it be agreed. I think that this Academic Council will be in a position to do that, and it should advise the Minister about that.

It is necessary that these five Universities should have a sort of common entrance, so that students can move from one University to another, that is, if a student gains admission to one of them that should entitle him to enter any of the others.

At present four Scottish universities have the same type of common entrance so that if a student gains admission into one Scottish University the same qualification entitles him to enter any of the other universities. I think that something like that at this initial stage will have to be done in the case of our Universities.

[MR AJASIN]

One point more is about allocation of funds to these Universities. Ibadan University College should not be singled out in this case. All other universities should also be cared for in the same way as Ibadan. The other universities are also for the whole of Nigeria. The difference is that they are located in the different Regions. They are going to serve the same purpose. A person can go from here in Lagos to Nsukka or to Ife, or to the Ahmadu Bello University in the North. Students should be able to move about to any of these universities in any of the Regions. They are not specially meant for the Regions in which they are situated. I would like to say that the funds which are meant for these universities should be evenly distributed among the five universities.

Also, the funds which we receive from philanthropists overseas, these American Foundations—Carnegie, Ford, and others, should be evenly distributed. It should not be for Ibadan University College alone. We have developed Ibadan to a certain extent, and these new universities should be developed also.

The same thing also goes for scholarships. Now, scholarships should not be only for Ibadan. Some of these scholarships should go to these other new universities, like the University of Lagos which would start to function this year. Some of the scholarships that would be awarded this year for medicine can go to the University of Lagos. If Ife University is also going to start its faculty of medicine some of the scholarships as well as scholarships in other faculties should go there. The scholarships which are going to be distributed should be distributed evenly among these five universities, and it should not be concentrated on Ibadan University College.

I beg to support.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): I would like to oppose the Amendment, because the Minister of Education is one of those Ministers of whom we are very proud.

You may be aware, Sir, that the Chairman of the Scholarships Board happens to be his Parliamentary Secretary, and this Parliamentary Secretary has been doing a good job of work. On account of that I would like to say that

dealing with Education Lagos should not be considered to be Nigeria, because the money which this Government is spending on Education is being spent on Lagos. With the Yaba Technical Institute here in Lagos, the King's College, and the Queen's College, there are very many facilities already in Lagos; and not only that I would also refer to very many magnificent buildings which are being put up for primary schools. In this respect I would ask the Minister to revise certain aspects of the educational system now to make it possible to give certain grants to the Regional Governments.

Well, take the Yaba Technical Institute into consideration, more than £200,000 was voted and the maintenance is about £50,000 annually. That alone is sufficient to cater for almost two or three Provinces in Eastern Nigeria.

I would like to touch on the question of admission of candidates in some of the institutions of learning such as the King's College and the Queen's College. I realise that the West African Examination Council does the entrance examination, but normally when students are selected to the two colleges in the final analysis it is the College Authorities in Lagos which make the final selection. We have the feeling that those of us in the East or the West are normally not allowed to enter the King's College.

What happens is that even though one passes one might be sent to one of the Colleges in Lagos instead of being sent to the King's College. We have to ask that this be looked into, that is, the allocation of students who pass the entrance examination set for them.

I would like to speak on the scholarship system. I understand that students who are given scholarships must satisfy certain conditions, and in doing that we would like the Minister to bear in mind many things when awarding scholarships to people from the backward areas.

There are facilities which could be made available to them—that is, if the Minister wants to help them he could give scholarships in some other subjects for which one does not need to have high qualifications. I would like to ask the Minister to examine this with his experts. I think it is time that they overhauled our present educational curriculum so that our educational system could comply with our present needs.

I find that our students study about America, Europe, Asia and so forth without knowing a thing about Nigeria. It would be a very fine thing if we started teaching them from the known to the unknown, instead of starting from the unknown to the known. The result now is that a Nigerian boy who has passed the General Certificate of Education examination is able to tell one about England, Scotland and Wales, without being able to tell one about Kano or Katsina. We ask, therefore, that emphasis be placed more on our own country Nigeria, instead of focussing attention on other parts of the world.

With this, I support.

**The Chairman :** I think that under this Ministry we have at least about three Heads. It would perhaps be a good thing if we do away with this Amendment so that Members can talk generally on the three Heads and we could therefore dispense with all of them at the same time.

*Question, That Sub-head 1 of Head 36—Ministry of Education—be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

**The Chairman :** May I sound a note of warning? In view of the number of people who are interested in education, I urge Members called upon to speak to be brief. Anyone who is likely to be long-winded or who may carry on for more than five minutes may not catch the eye of the Chair very easily.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order. The time is now twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock, and we still have ten further Heads to consider before we can complete the day's job.

**The Chairman :** That point of order by itself is a most unwarranted waste of the time of the House.

**Mr W. Briggs (Degema) :** I will hardly take more than two minutes, in speaking on our scholarship system. My general impression is that the grant of scholarship is not properly or evenly distributed. Several times, when the list is published, one finds on looking through the list of scholarship winners that it is concentrated in particular parts of the country. It does not go round enough. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to take note of

this. Perhaps the reason may be that membership on the Scholarship Board has not been properly distributed because not every part of the country is represented on the Scholarship Board. I would suggest that that anomaly be removed.

The next point I wish to consider is the post of the Chief Federal Adviser on Education. I think this post is a sinecure. We have the post of Chief Federal Adviser on Education; we have the post of Permanent Secretary and all sorts of posts in this single Ministry of Education. In this time of economy, I suggest that the post of Chief Federal Adviser on Education be incorporated with the duties and functions of the Permanent Secretary. The calibre of the person holding the post of Permanent Secretary should be such that he could advise on education generally. I do not therefore see the reason why there should be a Chief Federal Adviser on Education and a Permanent Secretary. The duties of these two officers could easily be incorporated. I strongly suggest, therefore, that in future the post of the Chief Federal Adviser on Education should be incorporated with that of the Permanent Secretary.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** This Head, Education, is an important Head which deals with an important Ministry. We all agree that about three-quarters of the hon. Members of this House were once teachers. We therefore know the importance of our—

**The Chairman :** Quite frankly, there is very little time for preambles, Mr Lar.

**Mr Lar :** What I would like to say is that teachers should be encouraged by being given scholarships. In fact, 65 per cent of the scholarship awards should be given to teachers. Teachers are now disgruntled and are not cheerful. The tendency now is for many of them to leave the teaching fields for other fields. What will happen if this continues? In future we may have no teachers. I am therefore advising the hon. Minister to consider seriously the position of the teachers.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the question of qualifying tests. I think these must be scrapped forthwith, because it is a sort of barrier to any of our young men. I

[MR LAR]

know of one brilliant person who was not allowed to sit for an examination because he had not passed the qualifying test. That man later on obtained a degree, having gone about it in another way. I therefore think that this requirement must be scrapped. Apart from Nigeria, I do not think that there is another country which demands that the students must pass the qualifying test before they can take the General Certificate of Education examination. Already, Ghana has abolished it.

With these few words, I support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : In view of the shortness of time, I will just quickly rush through one or two of the points which I would like to make.

One is alarmed at the number of graduates we have in the King's College and the Queen's College, both in Lagos. In the King's College there are about 24 graduates, and there are about the same number of graduates in the Queen's College. In spite of this huge number of graduates, from the School Certificate results which came out recently, these two colleges only produced about 60.

I would, therefore, like one to compare these two institutions with other secondary schools elsewhere in the country, for example, the Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha. In this school where there are less than eight graduates, they had over fifty successful candidates. This is equally true of the College of Immaculate Conception, the Christ of the King's College and other secondary schools.

**The Chairman** : I certainly will not accommodate any repetition. We want fresh points. If a Member has no fresh points, I am sorry he has lost his opportunity.

**Mr Mordi** : One other point I would like to mention is about the discrepancy that teachers suffer in voluntary agency schools. I want to give some examples. When a boy who passes three subjects at the advanced level in G.C.E. goes to the teaching profession he is placed on a salary of £221 *per annum*, whereas if he goes into the government service he is placed, at the worst, on a salary of £312 *per annum* and if he is put on the C.2 scale he is placed on a salary of £450 *per annum*. I

think this is very bad and very discouraging to boys who otherwise would have liked to go into the teaching profession to help.

I have noted also that the teachers in the voluntary agency schools have been omitted from the National Provident Fund. This is very bad.

There is also a third point which I would like the hon. Minister of Education to consider and that is about the system whereby the present four-year course for Higher Elementary Teachers and the two-year course for Lower Elementary Teachers will have to be joined so that they would have a three-year course. The system whereby teachers do a two-year course for the Lower Elementary Certificate and then come out to teach for at least two years before they go back again for a two-year course for the Higher Elementary Certificate seems to me to be an unnecessary repetition of courses. It will be better for the Federal Government to copy the example of the pilot scheme which is now taking place in the Western Region. I personally recommend this scheme whereby a boy who has done two years in a modern school and who decides to teach can go into the Teachers' Training College for a three-year course after which he gets what is known as the Teacher's Certificate which is equivalent to the Grade II certificate.

I beg to support.

12.33 p.m.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : I think that hon. Members who have spoken have raised many salient points to which I have to reply. If I am able to finish in time, they will not be precluded from making further observations about my Ministry. It will not be possible, however, to deal with all the points raised one by one but I shall do my best to answer certain points which I think are the most important points in what they already said.

I shall have to implore hon. Members to do all that they can to read the Constitution so that they will be able to know that education in Nigeria is a decentralised subject and that this decentralisation is not my own making. Most of the points which they have raised are regional responsibilities and it is neither my wish to supplant my colleagues in the Regions nor to



impinge upon their educational authorities. I would like them, as I have said earlier on, to know the difference between my responsibilities as the Federal Minister of Education and those of my Regional colleagues as the Regional Ministers of Education.

On the question of having some of the secondary schools in Lagos as a nucleus of the proposed Lagos University, it may be gratifying to hon. Members to know that in order that the University may start this academic year as the Federal Government wants it to do, we have started putting up three buildings—one at the Saint Gregory's College compound, another at the Baptist Academy compound and the third one at the Queen's College compound—so that when the University opens in October, the staff of the university will be temporarily housed there until such a time that we will be able to have the buildings of the University of Lagos erected.

I now come to the question which the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) described as 'out of date' and that is the teaching of history in our schools. The question of syllabus will eventually be dealt with by the Joint Consultative Committee which is made up of Regional and Federal representatives. This has been a moot question for some time now and I agree with him that it is high time that this was corrected.

The hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) raised the question of encouraging our authors. He jumped up to say that the Federal Government refused to help them. I have to warn him very strictly that the more he talks about this authorship and the Federal Government financing it, the less chance he will have. When I delivered my budget speech, I made it crystal clear that the Federal Government would be sympathetic towards this question raised by my hon. Friend but he has continued, inside and outside this Chamber, to talk about help to authors. There are very many other organisations which need help also. I say that he is trying to close the little chance he has in getting assistance from the Government.

An hon. Member raised the question of the King's College and some other hon. Members supported him in saying that the staff of the King's College were so many that they had little to do. I am saying that the staff of this College are fully occupied and that the ratio

there is one tutor to eighteen students. I think that is enough. (*Interruptions*). There is one thing that hon. Members must understand—King's College is regarded as the Eton of West Africa. We must maintain that standard which is already established.

**An hon. Member :** That is an out-dated idea.

**The Minister of Education :** It is not out-dated because, recently a boy from King's College was sent to one of the most outstanding public schools in England. When he got there, he was given a scholarship by the United Africa Company to do a two-year course. It will be gratifying to hon. Members to learn from me that this boy occupied the first position until he left that institution of learning in England.

Another boy was sent to this same school. When he got there the general impression was that a Nigerian would never occupy a second position and, to maintain that belief, that boy was in the first position until he left that school.

I think that King's College is doing a great deal to deserve our praise. This is not only in the academic field. It is only in King's College that we have students, from all over the country, coming together to live together, to work together and to play together. In realisation of the fact that we should act as members of the same family, the school has done a great deal to cement the unity of this country.

I have to say a few words in connection with what was said about the Emergency Science School. The Emergency Science School has done a great deal of work. I told you when I was speaking during the Budget, that 481 students have passed through this School and that out of this, 160 have already had their G.C.E. (Advanced) and a few others are awaiting their recent examination results, and over 80 per cent of them gained direct entry into Universities. I think that is a very good record.

**An hon. Member :** You are doing well. Go on.

**The Minister of Education :** *The National High School.* If the Emergency Science school is, in the final analysis, called the National High School, it is only a change of name. The word "national" shows that it

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

will accommodate students from all over the country, and whenever the National High Schools are built in the Regions, we believe, and it is our aim to see that those schools enrol students from all over the world, not only students from the Regions in which the schools are situated. It is national and it must be national in everything pertaining to it.

The setting of standards in the universities is now almost not my business. When the Academic Council is established, it will see to this point which Members have raised. All I need say at this moment is that that observation is noted.

I have also to thank my hon. Friend, Mr G. O. D. Eneh, for the very dispassionate appraisal of my efforts in the development of education here in Lagos. I know he is saying the minds of many hon. Members. Hon. Members' words of encouragement always have, so to say, spurred me to do more and to try my best to merit the confidence they have in my Ministry and the very good praise they have always showered on me.

The question of merging the Chief Federal Adviser's position into that of the Permanent Secretary is a suggestion which I am not prepared to accept. My Permanent Secretary, though extremely efficient and is known as an international Civil Servant who has distinguished himself in the field of education, have been working almost 24 hours in the day, and you should not ride a willing horse to death. He already has got more than he can do and I think what hon. Members would have advised should be that two more people should be given him as assistants or deputies so that he might carry out the very gigantic educational programme which we envisage. (*An hon. Member: Well, give him Group 2A*). The Permanent Secretary, before we had so many Universities in this country, had been working very hard and the fact that our functions are increased should be a very good case to reinforce my argument that he needs more people.

Well, as for our Universities, we will always see that the five functions required of a university are adhered to: one, which is the imparting of knowledge; the other, the discovering of new knowledge; the application of knowledge, and the integration of the various

bodies of knowledge and, what is more, the development of the student as a complete human being.

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town): Mr Chairman, there is only one point which I want to make. I want to appeal to the Minister of Education to use his good influence to persuade the Provisional Council of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, to change its name to "the University of Nsukka". Tomorrow it may happen that we have another university and I do not see anything which can prevent its being called the University of Nigeria, Sokoto, University of Nigeria, Enugu. I think this is very confusing and I have never seen any place—

**An hon. Member:** What about Ahmadu Bello?

**Dr P. N. Okeke:** Point of order. I do not think that the name of the University of Nigeria is now under discussion. There are so many universities in the world which reflect national unity but they are situated in certain regions in the state. For example, take the New York University.

**The Chairman:** The hon. Member is making a point of debate and not a point of order.

**Mr Omisade:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Except in Nigeria, I have not seen a place where a university is named after a country—

*And it being 12.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the Heads under discussion, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.*

£2,705,250 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 37.—ANTIQUITIES

£98,790 for Head 37—Antiquities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 38.—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

£95,530 for Head 38—National Archives—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICES MATTERS

£494,420 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

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[Adjournment]

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[Adjournment]

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HEAD 40.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

£757,750 for Head 40—Pensions and Gratuities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 41.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

£2,505,360 for Head 41—Ministry of Finance—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 42.—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

780,070 for Head 42—Board of Customs and Excise—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 43.—INLAND REVENUE

£236,090 for Head 43—Inland Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LAGOS HOUSING SCHEME

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): Some time ago, a scheme known as the Surulere Housing Scheme for the low income workers was introduced by the Federal Government in order to help the low income workers in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Government clearly laid down the conditions which must be fulfilled by applicants for the approval of the L.E.D.B. before those houses could be allocated to the low income workers at a rent of 14s per room.

In recent years those conditions of filling the necessary forms and submitting same to the L.E.D.B. for approval before allocation of rooms are no longer necessary. What is now necessary is for one desiring to occupy rooms in those locations, whether a low income worker or a high income worker or someone who is not in the Government Service, to walk into the office of the L.E.D.B., pay a 'tip' of £12, collect the keys and then occupy the quarters.

I should like the appropriate Minister to investigate this allegation and make a statement whether this scheme which was intended for low income workers has now been converted for the use of high income workers.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Hon. Musa Yar'Adua): The correct designation of this Housing Scheme is—Lagos Housing Scheme, 1955. It provides for 1,300 low-cost houses allocated on two sites in Surulere. By the end of 1958, the construction was completed and the houses occupied.

The main qualifications for tenancy were :—

- (i) Income not to exceed £300 per annum ;
- (ii) Five years continuous employment ;
- (iii) Not less than ten years residence in Lagos township at the time of application.

4,400 applications for the 1,300 houses were received and the allocations were made on a points system of priority, determined by the length of continuous employment, length of residence in Lagos and the size of family in relation to existing living conditions.

The economic rent of the houses on a room-per month basis is approximately 50s-0d and, as a result of a capital grant by the Federal Government, these rents are subsidised so that occupants are charged 16s-6d per room per month inclusive of rates.

With the exception of 64 houses reserved on the instructions of the Government for the temporary occupation of persons displaced from the site of the new Mainland Hospital, all the houses have been allocated in accordance with the priority-points system. No exceptions have been made either by the Lagos Executive Development Board or as a result of instructions from me. The number of vacancies occurring in this estate now that it has been established is seldom more than one a month, and when the vacant houses are allocated, the same system is applied. Both on the occasion of the first occupation of these houses and subsequently, the condition of a minimum of five years continuous employment has been enforced and the applicant has been required to provide evidence of his salary from his employer. It is, therefore, quite impossible for any worker, whether on a high or a low income, to walk into the offices of the L.E.D.B. and expect to collect keys for the number of rooms that he wishes to occupy. There is no evidence that bribes are either demanded or received and there is no record of any specific allegations in this respect.

## NIGERIAN DEPORTEES FROM IVORY COAST

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** (Urhobo East): Quite recently, rumours had it that about eight Nigerians have been deported from Abidjan in Ivory Coast. I would like the Minister concerned to confirm these rumours and make a statement regarding the circumstances leading to the deportation of these people.

**Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (M. Nuhu Bamali): It is true that some Nigerians have been deported from the Ivory Coast but, according to information received, only six people have been deported. There are conflicting reports on the cause of their deportation, and I am therefore not prepared, at this juncture, to make a statement until enquiries, which are already going on, have been completed. I hope, however, to be able to do so before the House adjourns finally.

The names of the deported people are:—

Mr A. A. Opara (Native of Owerri);

Mr A. R. Ebinum (Native of Elu-Isoko);

Mr N. L. Epu (Native of Igbedi);

Mr A. Ajao (Native of Ede);

Madam Alice Fregene (Native of Sapele);

Madam Comfort Ovho (Native of Elu-Isoko).

I will only add this that my Ministry is taking these things very seriously and we have asked our Ambassador in Abidjan to contact the Ivory Coast Government and find out more facts about these allegations, and also we have asked the Ivory Coast Ambassador in Lagos to contact his Government and try to get more facts about this deportation.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): Is it untrue that an Ijebu lady and another lady from Degema were involved?

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at 12.57 p.m.*

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[E.C.N. Administration]

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Saturday, 14th April, 1962

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

The following Papers which have been published as Legal Notice Nos. 25 and 26 of 1962 respectively in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* Nos. 25 and 29 of March, 1962 copies of which have already been distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

(a) The Customs Tariff Duties and Exemptions Order, 1962, Legal Notice, No. 25 of 1962 ;

(b) The Excise Duties Amendment Order, 1962, Legal Notice, No. 26 of 1962.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Business of the House

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to make the following business statement for the coming week :

On Monday, the Committee of Supply will consider Heads 52-65 of the Estimates, and the Appropriation Bill will be read a Third time.

On Tuesday, Second Reading, Committee, and Third Reading of the following Bills will be taken :

The Legal Education Bill ;

The Parliamentary Disqualification (Northern Provincial Councils) Removal Bill ;

The Mid-Western Region Bill.

On completion of this business, the rest of the day will be devoted to Private Members' business.

On Wednesday the Committee of Supply will consider the Capital Estimates, and the consequential resolutions for the necessary expenditure from the Development Fund will be moved. Motions on the following subjects will also be moved :

(a) concerning the transfer of the balance in the Reserve Fund ;

(b) concerning transfer from the Personal Advances Fund ;

(c) concerning transfer from the Consolidated Revenue Funds ;

(d) for the amendment of the Schedule to the Stamp Duties Act ;

(e) for confirmation of the Customs Tariff Order ; and

(f) for confirmation of the Excise Duties Order.

On Wednesday also, the Second Reading, the Committee stage and Third Reading of the following Bills will be taken :

The Treasury Bills Bill ;

The Internal Loans Bill ;

The External Loans Bill ;

The Trustee Investments Bill ;

The Companies Income Tax (Appeal Commissioners) Bill.

On Thursday, Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading of the following Bills will be taken :

The Exchange Control Bill ;

The Central Bank of Nigeria Amendment Bill ;

The Banking Amendment Bill ;

The Savings Bonds and Certificates Bill ;

The Pool Betting Tax Bill.

A Motion will be moved concerning Supplementary Capital Estimates for 1961-62.

Finally, on Thursday, the House will adjourn *sine die*. To make this possible, night sittings will be necessary on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We shall also be prepared to sit on Thursday night if this should be necessary.

E.C.N. Administration

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** I should like to take this opportunity to inform hon. Members of certain recent steps which I have taken with a view to strengthening the organisation of the Electricity Corporation, including the remedying of certain weaknesses which have come to my notice.

As it seems to me to be especially important to ensure that members of the Board should be fully aware of the important responsibilities which fall upon them, I have circulated to them a comprehensive letter setting out very fully a summary of some of the principal statutory functions of the Corporation and the responsibilities of its individual members ; the high standard of conduct which I expect

## [MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]

from each one of them and the necessity to eschew any tribal or similar considerations when dealing with Corporation's matters, and at the same time, emphasising that the Electricity Corporation is a national corporation and that even those Board members appointed to represent special interests must approach their tasks in a national, and not in a parochial or tribal spirit.

I have also given a categorical warning that I will take immediate action against any member of the Board suspected of corruption or interference with the management in staff matters. I have further informed the Board that it is essential that the system of recruitment and promotion should reflect the national view-point to which I have just referred, and I have directed the Board to satisfy itself that such system of recruitment and promotions operates fairly.

Again, it appeared to me that the Board had, in the recent past, quite rightly too, laid emphasis on building up the finances of the Corporation and on expanding its activities with the result that the personnel management side of the Board's functions had not received sufficient attention. I consider that greater emphasis must now be laid on the personnel management side and that—while it should not, of course, take over the detailed functions of management—the Board should ensure that the staff available to the General Manager are suitable and experienced men and that they are employed on appropriate duties and that they are supported, where necessary, in their work of carrying out an enlightened personnel policy.

Now that the Corporation's finances have been placed on a sound footing, I have accordingly directed that the Board should recognise that good personnel management, staff and trade union relations are of the utmost importance and that it should take steps to ensure that my wishes in this matter are implemented. For the same reason, I am asking the Corporation to explore the possibility of reducing the electricity charge (which, according to the many complaints made to me, and my personal observation, I must admit is comparatively high), provided, of course, that this can be achieved without adversely affecting the extension of electricity to areas not at present

being supplied, or the Corporation's contribution to the financing of the Niger Dam's Project. However, this is by the way.

I have further stressed to the Corporation the importance of collective responsibility and mutual loyalty of both Board and management in reaching decisions on personnel matters and in carrying them out.

I have also taken steps to ensure that the Corporation is carrying on its day-to-day activities in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance under which it was established and of all other relevant electricity legislation.

In order to bring the Corporation's procedure for the award of contracts into line with recent policy, I have directed that the award of major contracts should in future be referred to me for ratification before any commitment is entered into by the Corporation.

As I was convinced that the general security arrangements within the Corporation were inadequate, I have directed that these should be drastically tightened up.

With a view to widening the experience of senior Nigerians employed on its administrative side, the Corporation has, at my suggestion, arranged to send Dr J. A. Banjo, the Assistant General Manager (Administration), to Harvard University on a year's study leave for the purpose of studying business administration.

Members may be aware that the term of the contract appointment of the present Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Corporation expires next month; he has notified the Chairman that he does not wish to be considered for a further period of service, and it is therefore necessary for the Corporation, with my prior approval, to appoint a successor. I have given this matter considerable thought and I am convinced that, bearing in mind the enormous development programme envisaged in the next few years, and taking into consideration all the prevailing circumstances, it would be advisable for the Corporation to seek an experienced successor from outside its present staff, and I have indicated this view to the Chairman. It is not, however, my intention to approve the appointment of any such expatriate in that high office for more than a tour, or at the most two. The purpose is to get the Nigerians eligible for this post to acquire the necessary experience in as short a time as possible.

While the statement which I have just made contains an outline of most of the more important measures which I have taken, I have further measures still under consideration on which I am not, of course, at present in a position to comment. However, I should like to stress that, although I have considered it necessary to take these steps with a view to strengthening the organisation and efficiency of the Corporation, I would not wish in any way to convey the impression that the Corporation is not already functioning successfully.

Furthermore, I should also like to stress that both the Federal Government as a whole, and I personally, fully appreciate the extent of the Corporation's great contribution in recent years to Nigeria's development and its even greater and more splendid plans for the immediate future. My sole concern is to assist in the full realisation of these plans, and so help me God. (*Hear, hear*).

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

That this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit until 1 p.m.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** : I beg to second.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : We all realise why it is necessary to extend the sitting of the House by one hour, but I would like to submit that we are prepared to forego our weekend and I would therefore suggest that there should be a night sitting to-day. I would like to ask the Minister to consider the possibility of a night sitting.

**Mr I. A. Brown** : I beg to support the suggestion of my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*). We have very many important Heads to discuss to-day and there is no use in trying to rush these things. I would therefore very much support that we have a night sitting to-day in order to afford Members the opportunity of going through most of the delicate Ministerial Heads with a view to giving their suggestions.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit until 1 p.m.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Whole House in Committee.*

#### HEAD 44.—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

*Question proposed, That £2,133,240 for Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations stand part of the Schedule.*

9.25 a.m.

**M. Muhammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta) : I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, and it reads that "Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, Sub-head 1—Personal Emoluments, item (1), the Minister's salary, be reduced by £1,000"

As hon. Members are fully aware, out of this £3,000 shown in the Estimates, austerity has already claimed £300. So if we cut the Minister's Head by £1,000, then the salary will read £1,700 ! It is my intention to press for a division on this Amendment, and I appeal to the Members of the Council of Ministers to allow a free vote on this Amendment. The country will then learn by the result whether it is only the *Sarkin Bai* who is vehemently opposed to the Minister's uncompromising attitude, or the majority of the Members of the House.

I should like to assure my Friends on the N.C.N.C. Bench that I am not moving this Amendment because the hon. Jaja Wachuku is an N.C.N.C. Minister—after all, he has claimed to be above the N.C.N.C. I am moving this Amendment because the hon. Jaja Wachuku has remained adamant and high-handed in his attitude, and because he is not even ready to co-operate with the members of his staff in his Ministry or the general public. Furthermore, the Foreign Minister does not work in the best interests of this country; and this is true. The Minister himself will this morning hear

[THE SARKIN BAI]

serious allegations from Members of all sides of the House and he should therefore be ready to defend himself.

It is not my intention to make these allegations because I have done so before, but in any event I should like to lead in this connection. I think there is nothing—

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): I do not know whether it is proper for the hon. Member for Dambatta (*M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) to discuss the personal conduct of the Minister.

**The Chairman** : Discussion of the personal conduct of a Member is not allowed, but I think he is relating his discussion to the Minister's work in his Ministry, although of course he has not referred, as yet, to the economic side of it.

**M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** : As I said, I am going to make only one allegation and I hope the Minister will make a statement on it.

There is nothing more shameful than for a Nigerian Minister in the person of the hon. Jaja Wachuku with all his knowledge of political science, with all his belief in nationalism, to submit to imperialistic manoeuvres. It was Portugal and not the United States and Britain, as I claimed in my last speech, which instigated the Minister to table the "1970" resolution at the United Nations. And he knows in his heart of hearts that he did not consult the Prime Minister nor did he consult the Cabinet before tabling that amendment. In fact, it was a Portuguese who drafted that resolution for him, and I want him to make a special statement on this.

As I have said, this is the only allegation I will make and he will hear from more Members of this side of the House. But I should like to appeal once more to the Federal Government to set up without any further delay a committee on foreign affairs, consisting of Members of Parliament. This committee should be given wide powers and should be directly responsible to the Prime Minister. A mere Posting Committee will not solve our problems and I maintain that it is suicidal to leave this whole Ministry in the hands of the hon. Jaja Wachuku.

Without dragging this point too far, I am commending this Amendment to the House. I believe it is timely and it is the only thing that will make the Minister retrace his steps.

I beg to move.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : My original Amendment was for a reduction of the sum of £10 and not for a reduction of the sum of £1,000—

**The Chairman** : Will the hon. Member please speak louder.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** : I said that the original Amendment which I filed personally was for the reduction of the sum of £10 from the salary of the Minister, sub-head 1, item 1 of Head 44—

**The Chairman** : Unless you are speaking on the Amendment, then I think you will have to wait until we have disposed of it.—(*Interruptions*). I have just said that, for the time being, the hon. Member from Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*) can only speak on £1,000 and not on £10.

**Mr Eneh** : The intention of this Motion is to bring home to our Minister of Foreign Affairs the necessity of seeing that this Ministry is run to the best interest of this nation. It is our view that there are so many squabbles within that Ministry and the Ministers of State within the Ministry and the Minister himself are not co-operating to the satisfaction of this Government.

You will realise that I tabled a Motion asking this House not to approve the Motion of this Government which was tabled at the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Government worked very hard to see that the Permanent Representative had to withdraw it. That Motion was therefore withdrawn. It is the view of this House that if a Motion of such far-reaching importance is to be tabled at the United Nations, I think this Parliament should be consulted or, at least, the Council of Ministers for that matter should vet it and see that the Motion is in the best interests of this Government.

Although we say that we do not want to lead Africa, that we are not angling to lead, in certain circumstances, leadership is thrust on somebody, and it is the honest view of this House that if the fighting forces in Africa want Nigeria to lead them, the Foreign Ministry should be geared to the full in order to lead the



whole of Africa. I have in mind the fact that most of the freedom fighters in Africa—instead of referring their cases in the first instance to Nigeria have a way of referring them to one or two other States, and even sometimes pass through Nigeria to other countries without referring the matter to Nigeria. They come here just because their planes are stopping in Nigeria. That is a very bad thing indeed.

This Government should be prepared to lead. In leading Africa, we are not trying to force it on anybody but we should fulfil the conditions necessary for others to apply for our leadership.

Another point is the question of Rhodesia. I do not know why this Government has to recognise the Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland which is not even recognised by the United Nations. Why should this Government negotiate at ambassadorial level and allow their Ambassador to stay in Nigeria and send our people to Rhodesia as if Rhodesia is a fully self-governing nation? I have always detested the view that the Prime Minister of Rhodesia should be invited to the Prime Ministers' Conference in London and it is most annoying now that we are self-governing, that we should exchange Ambassadors with the Rhodesian Federation.

The intention of this Motion is only to bring home certain facts to our Foreign Minister. For instance, many of our people are being deported from various countries in Africa, and steps are not being taken to look into their property. You are aware of the recent deportation of our people from the Cameroons and you are aware of what happened yesterday when the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that our men were deported from Ivory Coast. It is the view of this House that Nigerian citizens anywhere on the Continent of Africa should be proud of their citizenship and should be protected.

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Ishan East): Is it in order to speak about the general policy of the Ministry or just on the Amendment?

**The Chairman**: If the Member had not moved an Amendment, then it would have been in order to speak generally. In fact I would like that because it saves the time of the House

but as he has moved now, I think we had better dispose of the Motion first before we speak generally on the Head.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I appreciate the speech made by the Mover of the Amendment but I am inclined to think that much as the Amendment speaks of the office of the Ministry, by implication, the hon. Member is discussing the conduct of the hon. Minister in the person of Mr Jaja Wachuku. I therefore would suggest very humbly to the hon. Member for Dambatta (*M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) to withdraw this Amendment and file a substantive Motion to censure the Minister of Foreign Affairs. If any Member of the House feels, he is allowed by democracy to file even a Motion of censure on the Prime Minister, and I think such a Motion will then have its full discussion.

**The Chairman**: Order. I think the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is going a little bit far.

**Mr Ekanem**: With all that is within me, I am opposed to the Amendment.

**An hon. Member**: It is a free vote.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In contributing to this Motion I feel that it is appropriate for one to consider whether the Motion moved by the hon. Member for Dambatta (*M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) is appropriate. One can judge from our role in the present circumstances that we have an urgent need to prove ourselves a true sovereign nation with a true policy of non-alignment. Furthermore, one can say that as has often been said on the Floor of this House if this country wants to play a leading role in African affairs in particular and in world affairs in general, we are bound to face the many circumstances which confront us. Judging from our present role in the affairs of this worried Africa, judging from our role in this reshaped Commonwealth, judging from our role at the United Nations which needs to be reformed because of this rapidly changing world, I am quite sure that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not pulled its weight to face the problems facing us in Nigeria. Although we cannot prejudice the forthcoming White Paper on the recent Conference of African Heads of State held in Lagos, one is bound to say that the

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

proposed Charter can only deal with matters affecting independent African States. If that is the case, what of the other countries of Africa which are not yet independent? What steps have we, on our part, taken to make those countries which are not yet independent, become sovereign independent States on their own?

During the Speech from the Throne I think I made a point that Nigeria should not only deal with countries which are already independent but that it should equally give its attention to countries which are not yet independent, countries like Angola and South West Africa. Those are the countries that need our help most.

What I want to see is that this country, which is bound to lead these nations, should give its support to countries which are not independent now and unless we do this and we take active participation in that problem, I think we are lacking in our duties.

Coming to the Commonwealth, I am quite sure that the Prime Minister made a great success of expelling South Africa from the Commonwealth but may I point out that the Commonwealth itself is now being reshaped. Those in the group of die-hard imperialists are now being transformed into liberal/socialist camps. I mean, for example, that a country like Canada is starting to prove—

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): Sir, you have just ruled that the House will not debate policy matters on Foreign Affairs but it appears that my hon. Friend is not speaking on the Amendment.

**The Chairman**: I did not say "policy matters" but matters of personal character, a discussion of personal character which does not relate to the activities in the Ministry.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau**: I say that an example of this change is the role played by Mr Diefenbaker who contributed, with the support of our Prime Minister, to the expulsion of South Africa from the Commonwealth. This, in itself, is a point to show that the Commonwealth itself is now being reshaped. I should like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for goodness' sake, to avoid giving the impression that we are British stooges because circumstances, I dare say, show that we are still a

satellite of the United Kingdom. So I feel that this Ministry should pull its weight according to the changing times.

If I may speak on our relations with different parts of the world, I should say that, as I have often made clear on the Floor of this House, our economic and trade relations prove that we are still depending on a certain section of the world. As we all know, we were brought up to this standard by the Western world; this is quite true. If their kind of democracy is different from that of the East, what of the countries which are neither in the West or East? Let us leave the East if we hate it. What of countries which are not in the Western or Eastern bloc? What efforts have been made by this Government to reflect our own declared policy of non-alignment?

I think one can conclude from our actions that we have certainly failed in our duty to carry out our own declared policy of non-alignment. For this reason, I entirely support the hon. Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai, and the Motion which he moved. I quite support it.

**M. Aminu Kano** (Kano East): Sir, may I make my contribution, irrespective of the Motion moved, now?

**The Chairman**: Order. Perhaps I had better dispose of the Amendment first and then we can speak generally on that, provided nobody moves another Amendment.

9.48 a.m.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I would like to reply to the statement made by the hon. Mover of this Motion. I thought he was going to say something substantial but I did not know that—like his remark last time—he was going to make a statement which has no foundation whatsoever.

I have never met a Portuguese or a Portuguese diplomat, since I became Foreign Minister or before, as the case may be, to discuss anything that has to do with African affairs. I have never met one to discuss anything of this nature. How much more for the Portuguese to draft a Motion for me? That is the allegation that he made.

Secondly I do not understand Portuguese. If there is such a draft it would be in Portuguese and would be translated for me, and neither

any Minister of State nor staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can say that any such correspondence has ever entered that Ministry. And I am sure the Prime Minister has never received any such thing.

How the hon. Member got his information and from what channel, I do not know. I am hearing this for the first time. So, if the hon. Member's case is based on that (and I know nothing about it) I can only say "Not guilty", and unless he has some other source of information, with the greatest deference, I think this type of allegation is most unfair.

I would like Members to make statements based on facts, not fancies. Then I would be in a position to answer them fairly accurately. Where they make a point, we can admit them. I am big enough to admit a mistake. Nobody is perfect. But to make allegations not based on anything substantive but just to smear one's character or the efforts that one is making for the country, I think, is, putting it mildly, extremely unfair.

**M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): Point of order, Sir. I think it is very difficult for people in Nigeria to go to the United States to get all this information. After all, we got all the information from here. We heard of all that the Minister did in Geneva in that day.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs:** I do not know what he heard in Geneva and so on.

And secondly, he alleges that the motion was drawn without the knowledge of the Prime Minister or anybody. I want to say that since I took over this Ministry, and when I was Minister of Economic Development and was doing my work for the United Nations, there has never been a single major decision that I have taken or executed without the knowledge of the Head of the Government of this country—without his knowledge and approval. I do not act arbitrarily; it is not in my nature; it is not in my education; and it is inconsistent with my profession. So, Sir, if this is the only argument he has, I think it is quite clear that there is nothing at all—there is no case for me to answer. (*Applause*).

Naturally, it is the practice of this House—and I notice a long list of Members that want to debate on the Head. Well, that is part of the practice of this House and they would like to find information on what we are doing. That is right and proper, in order to see that we are expending the money they are voting for the purposes which it is meant to serve—that is right. I can assure hon. Members that when it comes to that stage I shall listen to what they have to say and I will then later on in the day make a statement about the Ministry, about its difficulties and its successes. If hon. Members know of any failures, they may say so. I think we have had a number of successes, particularly that the Ministry has been in existence, as far as I am concerned, only since July 17th last year, when I was appointed. Before then the Ministry was in existence in another form. But as the substantive Minister of Foreign Affairs, I was appointed on the 17th of July, 1961 and I can only be answerable for things that happened between July and now, and anybody debating on things that happened before then must look for the answer elsewhere, not from me. I would like to give you the date—17th of July to now, if Members are attacking me personally; but if it is the Ministry as such, naturally, I am in a position to give you information from the last Budget Session to the present Budget Session.

**An hon. Member:** And after that?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs:** We leave that to the future.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

**M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai:** Point of order. I still maintain that there are many serious allegations against the Minister. but because I am the Government Whip, I am not in a position to do so on the Floor of this House. In any event, if it is the unanimous wish of the Members of the House that I should withdraw this Amendment, Mr Chairman, I beg to withdraw.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mallam Aminu Kano** (Kano East): May I first begin by saying a few words on my attitude towards the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When I say that, I appreciate how

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difficult it is for a Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a country like Nigeria to go without mistakes. There are bound to be mistakes, even with other countries. Other nations make mistakes. I believe that we should wait for our successes in order to see how we can protect ourselves. I have had the privilege of working with some experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially in the United Nations, and that afforded me an opportunity not only to see something about the work of the Minister himself, but also about all the others of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In that light, may I first of all offer my congratulations to the Minister on some of his activities, and may I offer certain suggestions now as I see the way we are going ?

As the hon. Member for Dambatta (*M. Mohammed Muhtari*) has said, we must have a Foreign Affairs Committee of this House. It is very important that we must have a Foreign Affairs Committee. This Committee is not meant to push around the Minister : it will be meant to assist him in his work. It is the practice all over the world. There is a Foreign Affairs Committee in America, in Britain.

**The Chairman :** There is a Motion coming on this subject, which I think we had better leave until we come to the stage.

**Mallam Aminu Kano :** I think it is high time that the Minister of Foreign Affairs appointed an Inspector of Embassies, who will be going round the Embassies to check up on their work. It is the practice in England, in America. There must be somebody, an inspectorate, whose duty will be to go to Nigerian Embassies all over the world and return a report to the Minister.

We must have an Education Attaché in London, in New York, because if we appoint an ordinary Diplomat to be an Education Attaché, he knows very little about the system of education in other lands—so we must have someone qualified in education to be an Attaché, at least in London and New York. We have so many students in America who need guidance and help. We have plenty of students in Chicago, in San Francisco. These our students need someone who not only knows the profession, but who knows what the work is about.

**An hon. Member :** Ex-teacher !

**Mallam Aminu Kano :** Well, I am an ex-teacher, but the hon. Member is an ex-store-keeper !

Sir, we must have Commercial Attachés in some progressive Western centres. In Chicago, for example, we have wealthy Negro capitalists who are interested in this country but who have nobody to negotiate with. Commercial Attachés are therefore important in these places, and it is high time that we had a High Commissioner in Ottawa. We cannot afford to regard Canada as just a member of the British Commonwealth. Canada is more important to me politically, than Britain, and Canada has a better future than Britain. Within the next ten years, Britain will be a satellite of Canada (*Laughter*).

**The Chairman :** This is not part of our Foreign Affairs policy.

**M. Aminu Kano :** They have opportunities for us in their universities, in their medical schools, in their institutions. Let us immediately open an office of High Commission in Canada, and in the Western countries in Europe. Brussels, for example—we cannot afford to just neglect Brussels. This is the headquarters of the European Common Market, and whether we like it or not, it is a fact. Britain has just entered the Common Market. We must have somebody in Brussels who will be reporting to us, who will be telling us all that is happening ; otherwise, if we allow Britain to speak on our behalf, to negotiate on our behalf and then report to us, it will be most insulting. Therefore, we must have somebody resident in Brussels. Especially as this Common Market is a reality, we must accept it as such.

Geneva is the European headquarters of the United Nations ; it is also there that we have the headquarters of international organisations like the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organisation, *et cetera*. Someone must be there as our eye and must be reporting to us all that is happening. We must not just sit down in Nigeria and allow a High Commissioner of the Commonwealth to give us information.

The immediate opening of our Moscow Embassy is of urgent necessity. We must open our Embassy in Moscow to-day. This is

necessary for several reasons. Whoever is sent there must start work in September, and before then he has to acclimatise. We must therefore open the embassy in May or June so that the ambassador may be acclimatised because of the terrible winter. If an ambassador is sent to Moscow in September or October, he will be frozen.

**The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson):** I would like to know whether the man sent there in May will be withdrawn during winter in September?

**M. Aminu Kano:** By that time he must have acclimatised.

The other reason is that Russia is too big for us to take for granted because the whole of the Soviet Union territory is as big as Africa—11,000,000 square miles. How can one play about with such a big country? Russia is as big as America and in the next few years Russia may be bigger than America. We cannot inherit the prejudices of Britain in some countries. We must see that we negotiate with Russia and open an Embassy tomorrow morning.

**The Chairman:** Tomorrow is Sunday!

**M. Aminu Kano:** When we say 'the youngmen of to-day' we do not necessarily mean that: we mean the modern men; and when we say the men of tomorrow, we do not literally mean tomorrow: we mean those who are coming after us.

We must open the Embassy immediately because we are on the various Committees of the United Nations with the Russians. We have contact with them; we discuss with them, and we negotiate with them in different Committees. Why should we then begin to dilly-dally about our opening an Embassy in Moscow?

It is also very necessary to open an Embassy in Prague immediately because we have been dealing with the Czecks for a very long time, and we cannot afford to allow the British Ambassador in Prague, or any member of the Commonwealth for that matter, to negotiate for us. Why can we not do it ourselves? I am not claiming that Nigeria has the money and trained men to send overnight to all parts of the world, but there are certain centres which are necessary and we must close our eyes and do them.

May I ask the Minister what is holding up the posting of our ambassadors to Ghana, to Dakar, to Leopoldville, to Addis Abbaba, to Cairo and other African countries? What is the delay? Why should there be such delay in sending ambassadors to these countries?

The Minister must also speak about the policy of 'Black Africa'. Here, I would like the Minister to tell this House exactly what that policy means because I very often feel that when he begins to emphasise that policy of Black Africa, we may be in danger of attacks from other countries. Whether we like it or not, Egypt, Tunis, Libya and Algeria are in Africa—I know they are Arabs by blood, but the fact remains that they are Africans, and if we begin to emphasise the policy of 'Black Africa' and at the same time Pan-Africanism, we may find ourselves in a very embarrassing situation sometime. I therefore think that this House needs some light upon the policy of 'Black Africa' regardless of White Africa.

May I say also that our policy towards Egypt is very vague. I cannot understand why we are not as friendly with Cairo as we are with Addis Abbaba—anyway, we do not seem to be. Sometime ago, I asked for a passport to go to Egypt—this was simply a test case. I got it but they put "three months only". Why that should be so is not understandable to me. I got the passport on the 3rd of April, 1962. Why should I spend only three months in Egypt whereas in the case of Britain, it is unlimited; America, it is unlimited, and even I can go to Portugal for an unlimited time; but Egypt in Africa I can only stay for three months, and we talk of Pan-Africanism? I refuse to believe that everything elsewhere is bad and that only our office in Nigeria is good. Our office in New York is good; our office in Washington is good. We only need to ginger up and do more.

May I also say that our policy must not only be consistent, it must also be bold. Dealing with world powers does not mean that we have to be passive and show timidity. India, for example, is as aggressive a nation as Russia in dealing with America or Britain, and yet Nigeria to-day does not receive one per cent of the aid given to India by the United

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States of America. One will find, for instance, that Mr Menon of India is not liked by many people in America—he is not liked at all—because he is always frank with them, and one will think that as a result of his attitude and speeches and the way of negotiating with the Americans, India will not get American aid. But India to-day receives one hundred times the aid that Nigeria receives. I would like us to be not only straight but bold in our dealings with these Americans. It does not pay us to be lookwarm.

Two things are giving me some head-ache; the first one for example, is the question of foreign honours. Can we not design our own honours? Can we not have something like the Grand Cross of the Niger or the Grand Crescent of the Niger? We always hear in the morning in June every year that the Queen has been graciously pleased to grant honours to Nigerians.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** The question of determination of honours is a matter for the home Government, not for the Foreign Ministry.

**The Chairman :** I think it is both internal and external because at the moment we do receive foreign honours.

**M. Aminu Kano :** I am not trying to disgrace anybody here who has got foreign honours, but what I am trying to say is this, instead of sitting down and accepting foreign honours we should do something. The other day I heard that one of our Parliamentarians was decorated with an insignia by a foreign country; we can also design our own which we can confer on friendly countries.

Secondly, I think it is depressing to see the Ambassador of the Soviet Union still in the Federal Palace Hotel. In the diplomatic and consular list, it will be found that all the staff of the British High Commission—over twenty of them—have got quarters in Ikoyi and in Apapa and all the staff of the United States Embassy have got quarters in Ikoyi and in Apapa. At the same time, here is another country which is bigger than the United States of America without quarters. Since last year we agreed to open an Embassy in Moscow as they opened an Embassy in this country;

they are still in the Federal Palace Hotel, the Federal Palace Hotel which looks like a place where there is going to be a funeral.

I think we must see that the Minister of Foreign Affairs finds quarters wherever it can be possible, whether in Ikoyi, in Apapa or in Surulere, for the Soviet Embassy, so that we may reflect the policy of non-alignment; otherwise people will say, "What are you doing?"

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador is also still in the Federal Palace Hotel. Is there anything wrong about Saudi Arabia? Why are they still in the Federal Palace Hotel? And yet this Government was able to find quarters for all the diplomats of the United States of America and for all the diplomats of the United Kingdom High Commission. This is very unfair.

**Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Nuhu Bamali) :** While it is the policy of this Government to grant land for foreign Embassies to build houses, it is not Government policy to grant houses.

**M. Aminu Kano :** I am sure that it is not Government policy to grant houses to these Embassies, but how are we able to get houses for the United States Embassy and the United Kingdom High Commission?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** If I may give the hon. Gentleman information so that he may go to another point, only last night the Soviet Ambassador informed me that they are now in Ikoyi and that they have got an office in Lagos.

**An hon. Member :** Only last night?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** He told me this last night. So he is not in the Federal Palace Hotel any more.

**M. Aminu Kano :** We are pleased to hear about that, but what about Saudi Arabia? I would like to say that we should relax our attitude towards these countries. How can we say we are non-aligned while our actions can be interpreted to mean that we are in alliance with certain powers.

I now come to some specific questions about Africa. Sometime ago, I cannot remember his actual words, but the Minister of Foreign

Affairs had a television interview in Ibadan where he made reference to Angola and to Algeria. He said that Nigeria could not recognise the Government of Algeria of which there was no Parliament and, in fact the Algerian freedom fighters can be ranked with Angolans. Well, he was correct to say that, but to-day, during the last three weeks, the freedom fighters in Angola have established their Headquarters in Leopoldville and they have established a Government—the Provisional Government of Angola.

What I am afraid of is, if there is going to be an opportunity for another Conference like the last Lagos Conference of African Heads of States, I am certain that Monsieur Adoula will come along with the Provisional Government of Angola and when they come, if they are allowed entry even as observers we shall be embarrassed. If they are allowed entry as either observers or as participants, what about Algeria which we denied entry when they came here?

I want to say that this country should be careful with events taking place in Africa. And are we not going to recognise the Provisional Government of Angola? Left to me I should say we must immediately recognise the Provisional Government of Angola and let Portuguese go to *hell* if they do not like it.

Our policy must not be allowed to be reproached. We cannot approach international affairs with prejudice. International affairs are matters of diplomacy—we are not friends and we are not enemies to anybody; we are only just equal to everyone. That should be the position. I do not want anybody to love us. I do not want Britain to love us or America to love us. I do not want Russia to love Nigeria. What we want from them is respect and what we want to gain from them. Therefore, our policy must not be based on prejudices.

I beg to support

10.15 a.m.

**Chief A. Enahoro** : I think that very little can be said on an occasion like this which has not been said in this House before. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will find that the criticisms which he has to listen to this morning are probably a repetition of what had been said in this House from time to time.

We all appreciate the Minister's difficulties, but I think, that in the field of his African policy, the Minister's policy is most ineffective.

We need to do an analysis of the prevailing circumstances on this continent to-day, as a necessary back-ground against which the Minister must formulate his Pan-African policy. In my own opinion, those prevailing circumstances are, firstly, the continued existence of colonies and dependencies on this continent in such a manner as they no longer exist on other continents.

Secondly, the fact that most of our newly emergent African states are not viable—they are small units dependent on Europe economically and for their man-power which is a legacy of balkanisation. It has been said elsewhere that the sight of Presidents of petty states driving about with motor-cycle escorts—people who are no more than mayors of municipalities and so on—lowers that office and the regard which people should have for Heads of States. We ought to do something about this. Without wishing to give any offence to some of our African countries, the sooner we can do something about merging some of them, I think the better it is going to be.

Thirdly, there is another prevailing circumstance—the rear-guard actions of the old metropolitan states which people call neo-colonialism. In that field, I do not think that this Government is doing enough, but I will come to that. Then there is the question of racialism. It is our desire to keep the cold war out of Africa, not to be involved, for example, in the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is from time to time some suggestion that this Government is not altogether neutral in that regard. We on our part must realise that Israel is an accepted fact and it has been said in this House before. We would like to see the Minister put that into practice; we cannot wish Israel out of existence—it exists.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** : There is an Israeli Ambassador here.

**Chief Enahoro** : I know we have an Israeli Ambassador here, as the Minister says, but how do we deal with that Ambassador? I do not wish to go into that, but we know some of the things going on.

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Furthermore, there is our desire for rapid economic progress, our desire for Pan-African unity, our aspiration to play an effective role in world affairs, *et cetera*.

Now, the Minister may think a lot of his own policy, but to the majority of Nigerians, for various reasons, that policy is incomprehensible. In any case to illiterate people it is bound to be incomprehensible, but to the articulate minority—and I think we have said it on the Floor of this House—that policy is not sufficiently dynamic. To African nationalists—I think it was Mr Kaunda who was reported to have described our policy as one of “vacillating moderation”. Hence one finds that these nationalist organisations all over Africa have their headquarters outside Nigeria. I should have thought that if we were pursuing a dynamic policy, we should be able to attract them, and to give the leadership which is our heritage. I will say a few words about this leadership which we are afraid of in a few minutes.

As far as the neutralist nations are concerned, they do not think that we are truly neutralist ; they think we are partisan ; as far as the West is concerned—and we have done a lot to woo the West—if the Minister would read his foreign papers, and I believe he has heard comments, as we have, in diplomatic circles, the West itself is disappointed with our policy because they think we have failed to assert ourselves, that we have failed to be a bridge between the moderates and the radicals, and that we have not played a dominant role.

I think that as far as the West is concerned that dominant role means bending over the rest of Africa to be pro-West. Nevertheless from their own point of view and from the standpoint of their interest, our policy has been disappointing because we have failed to keep the African Continent friendly to the West. As far as the East is concerned, our policy is also disappointing ; they think that we are still tied to the apron strings of the old colonial powers.

Thus we have a policy which pleases nobody and this is true.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** It pleases us !

**Chief Enahoro :** Obviously it must please the authors of that policy, but a policy which does not make friends for this country cannot be a successful policy. Indeed, how can it be otherwise ? I myself cannot understand our own foreign policy or the application of it. We say we are neutral ; we refuse to take up the scholarships from Moscow, in an age when we are short of trained men. We do not open diplomatic missions in some of these countries, in spite of repeated promises by the Minister to do so.

We co-sponsor a motion asking France to recognise Algeria ; we do not recognise Algeria ourselves. I am confused myself, and I am sure that most Nigerians will find themselves in the same position in which I find myself—I am unable to understand the application of the policy approved by this House.

Even at the Lagos Conference—I dare say that the Minister will regard the Lagos Conference as one of the major achievements of his term of office—but if we struck a balance sheet of the Lagos Conference, I am sure we would find that what Nigeria achieved by that Conference is : publicity, and improved relations with Heads of State. I cannot say that we have achieved much else as Nigeria—and for that we paid £100,000 ; and we are going to bear the cost of the African Secretariat ! Now, for Africa as a whole I think that what was achieved was agreement to establish a Secretariat and agreement on the Charter, the Charter itself being the fruits or the outcome of that gradualism which both Monrovia and Lagos are now thought to represent.

I do not think that even the Minister of Foreign Affairs can claim that at this time when others are talking of a Joint High Command, of a common foreign policy, of an organic union, that this represents a policy of dynamic change.

Such comments as one has heard in diplomatic circles suggest that we came out only second-best at the Lagos Conference, and it is painful to have to admit that we came out only second-best, firstly because they say—I do not know, but they say—that our Foreign Minister is not a smooth performer, that he is not the smooth performer that he should be. (*Some Government Back-benchers : Who told you ?*)



I hope it will be agreed that Ministers are in office for their policies to be examined. The mere fact that the Minister of Foreign Affairs happens to belong to the N.C.N.C. does not mean that we should not talk about him.

As I was saying—it is said that the Minister is not as much of a smooth performer in office as a Foreign Minister, and that the image of Nigeria which he projects personally is not one to make friends for Nigeria. Accusations have been made against him outside the Floor of this House in overseas papers and on the Floor of this House and in this Committee to-day by people like the Member for Dambatta (*M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sakin Bai*). It will not pay us not to pay any attention to these accusations and to such criticisms.

The second reason why it is thought that we did not come out best at the Lagos Conference is because of the intricacies of French African politics, and I am not at all certain that in drafting the policy which the Minister took to the Lagos Conference—if he did—sufficient account was taken of the intricacies of French African politics.

Thirdly, there were too many people at the Lagos Conference who were scared by the bogey of Nkrumahism. Now, let me say that the mere fact that in certain fields we seem to have regard for what Nkrumah does, does not mean that we go all along the line with him on all his policies. I hope we are pleased to call ourselves democratic, and we ought to say that what is happening in Ghana is not democracy. Nevertheless, as far as Pan-Africanism is concerned, I think that we are allowing him and Ghana to take the lead—we must admit that; and that there is something we can do about that—I will make a few suggestions later.

Now, it is my own belief—

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** On a point of order, I think that some back-benchers are making provocative statements.

**The Chairman :** I did not hear any of them.

**Chief Enahoro :** If the hon. Gentleman would listen to me, perhaps he would not hear any provocative statements from behind.

As far as the Lagos Conference is concerned, it has also been suggested in the overseas press that Nigeria had to retreat at that Conference

on a number of issues. I dare say the Minister will tell us that it was necessary for him to compromise in order to get what he got out of the Conference—that is one point of view. Another point of view—my own point of view—is that the Minister, or the Nigerian Delegation, ought to have been much firmer on the question of Algerian representation, a target date for independence of African States, and on the question of the delayed adoption of the Charter.

We know that that delay was caused by the intransigence of the Brazzaville Group, but I am not at all satisfied that if our Foreign Minister had been a smoother performer, we could not have overcome that intransigence.

I think myself that any successes that we can claim—such moderate successes as we can claim—in the field of foreign affairs, can be attributed to the inherent advantages which Nigeria itself has : our position, our size, our history, our democracy, our way of life. That is a very solid foundation on which to build, and we want to see evidence, *we want to see evidence*, that the Minister is building on that foundation.

One does not want to sound unduly censorious, but I think that basically the ineffectiveness of our Foreign Policy can be blamed in two respects on the Prime Minister himself. Firstly, it seems to me that the Prime Minister believes in pre-destination.

I have known the Prime Minister for some thirteen years. He does not seem to me to be a man with a ruthless ambition to be where he is to-day; but since he is there, he believes that fate decreed that he should be there, and that, if fate decrees, Nigeria too will arrive.

**The Chairman :** This is a religious doctrine which I think we should not discuss.

**Chief Enahoro :** I am sorry, Sir. I was going to suggest that the Prime Minister, to my mind, is projecting that on to the field of foreign affairs. That is all I wanted to suggest—not to attack that belief, for it seems to me a mistake. I think that no nation can get anywhere unless it wants to get there and unless it works to get there. Whatever we may do in our personal lives, whatever we may believe in personally, that reasoning applies to all of us.

As far as the nation is concerned, we have got to be ambitious to get somewhere; we have got to work to get somewhere. I do not think it is

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enough for us to say that we do not wish to lead Africa but if fate decrees, then we may lead Africa, otherwise why do we have a Development plan? We might as well sit back and say that if fate decrees there will be an Iron and Steel Industry; if fate decrees there will be a bridge over the Niger and so on! We have got to plan for these things and to work for them, and the planning which Government has shown in respect of the other Ministries, I am afraid, is not yet evidenced in respect of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Secondly, I believe in the sincerity of the Prime Minister when he says that he has no desire for Nigeria to lead Africa. I think he sincerely believes that we have enough internal problems and that the leadership of Africa would be an extra burden which we are not ready to bear. One can disagree with him, but yet concede his sincerity on that matter. I do not believe that we can abdicate what is after all our heritage. We have a responsibility on this continent and we must discharge that responsibility. If we refuse the mantle of leadership others will wear it only too gladly.

I do not think that the position is irretrievable. It is easy to be critical. The Minister has reminded us that he is less than a year in office and so I think one ought to be kind to him. However, we warn him that in October there will be a general review of the work of that Ministry, and then he will have no excuses to offer.

May I suggest for the Minister's consideration,—just to summarise the suggestions made from time to time from all parts of this House—first of all, that this Government ought to give direct assistance to freedom fighters throughout this continent. Other Governments do it and they do not seem to suffer from it. It was once said—I cannot remember whether it was the Minister, but it was once said—that these are the niceties of diplomatic life and that one might offend other nation if one did certain things. If Ghana can get away with it, I do not see why we cannot get away with it. The Ghanaians do not hide what they are doing, why do we hide our own? What are we ashamed or afraid of? If it is true according to the Minister that we are doing more than Ghana is doing let us know it, let us see it, let Africa see it, let the whole world see it. Why should we hide it?

Secondly, I think that the Minister ought to get the co-operation and the collaboration of his colleagues at the United Nations to try and urge the Assembly to bring the remaining dependencies in Africa under trusteeship. It is true this will be resisted, but I do not think, that it will be impossible to achieve. Instead of his programme calling for independence by 1970 let us have a five-year programme. I do not subscribe to the belief that all the nations of Africa can wake up, with due deference to Mallam Aminu Kano, tomorrow morning and organise their affairs properly, but I think if there were a three or five-year programme leading to independence we would have gone a long way to rid this continent of colonialism.

Some of the suggestions I have to make are already being pursued by the Minister. I do not think there is any point in going over them—the integration of our economies, zonal institutions—but there are one or two others which I hope he will take into consideration.

I suggest that more active steps should be taken to maintain close accord and collaboration with Negro States outside Africa, and that steps ought to be taken to promote Afro-Asian solidarity. I do not think that Nigeria is playing her part on the question of Afro-Asian solidarity and I do not think that this Government is doing enough to collaborate with Negro States outside Africa. I think that this Government—and that is a matter for the Minister of Information perhaps—that this Government ought actively to propagate political and economic democracy on this continent.

I do not think we can build a wall round ourselves and hope that as long as we are democratic, it does not matter what is happening in the rest of Africa. Democracy even inside Nigeria is already under very great pressure, various pressures, and I think if we find ourselves surrounded on all sides by despotism, I do not think even our democracy can hope to survive on this continent. Therefore we must push out. I do not think we should wait until our democracy is assaulted from the outside.

It is true that this is probably the internal concern of some of the countries concerned but even in order: preserve our own chosen

way of life ; to preserve our own democracy, it is necessary for us to convince the rest of Africa, or to do what we can to convince them, that this is the best way of life. I do not think that Nigeria can survive as a democracy if it is the only democracy on this continent. It will not survive.

I would also suggest that machinery ought to be promoted for co-ordinating the efforts of various African Governments towards the liberation and unification of Africa. It is true some work was done at Monrovia and in Lagos but even if it were true that we are helping the nationalists in other part of Africa, would it not be far better for those nationalists if such work were channelled through one organisation to whom we could make grants ? I think we ought to stand together on a matter of this nature. It should not be a question of competition between Ghana and Nigeria and Guinea. We ought not to be competing to help the Angolans. There ought to be an organisation through which we can all channel whatever aid we are able to give.

Also I think that we ought to play a very active role in the All-African People's Conference. That conference has already done a lot for this continent. It is a pity that one of our political parties—I am not in a quarrelsome mood this morning—one of our political parties is not represented at that Conference. I think it will strengthen our claims to leadership on this continent, at least it will make our presence felt, if we play our part on that Conference.

**An hon. Member :** Which party is that.

**Chief Enahoro :** It is the N.P.C. As the Minister knows himself, about four or five African States merely used their political parties as a front and whatever aid the A.A.P.C. receives and gives to nationalists on the rest of the continent is provided by the Governments of these countries. I suggest that that may be the case here too.

Finally, whilst not wishing to anticipate the Motion coming next week, I would like to warn the Minister that the demand for an All-Party Foreign Affairs Committee will receive the support of this Side of the House.

Thank you.

**M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) :** It is gratifying that our foreign policy is that of neutrality. This in itself has won this country a good name, but may I ask : What is our Government doing to unite the two factions existing in the Continent of Africa ? I saw a pamphlet a few days ago believed to be written by the President of Ghana. In it he suggested three steps to be taken by a United Africa. The first was having a Joint Military High Command ; the second a common foreign policy for the Continent of Africa ; and the third, overall economic planning.

I think this is putting the cart before the horse. The Continent of Africa is not yet united. I think our duty first and foremost is to use all our skill and diplomacy to implement true relationship and common understanding between the Casablanca and Monrovia Groups, before suggesting these three principles.

On the question of nuclear weapons, I would call on the Federal Government and all other independent countries to come out boldly and condemn the atrocious and inhuman practices imposed on innocent human beings by the two great Powers of the world. To-day all talk, about disarmament is politics. Hon. Members will agree with me that only a few weeks ago Mrs Khrushchev called upon the two Powers to throw their deadly weapons into the deepest part of the ocean.

A few days ago our Foreign Minister returned from Geneva where he had been attending the 17 Nation Disarmament Talks and he told the people of this country that the talks seemed successful, but I think hon. Members will agree with me that it was after this meeting that the French Government announced its intention to explode another atomic bomb in the Sahara Desert. If such a thing is done successfully, the Eastern Bloc will accuse the French Government of aggression, while congratulatory messages will be pouring into France from Great Britain, the United States and other Western countries. With this in view I suggest that the Foreign Minister of this Government should not attend any more disarmament talks because these militant and pugnacious countries are not serious over the disarmament talks ; they only want the other countries to know what powers or scientific achievements they have.

[M. ISANDU]

Attending this type of conference and making no effective contribution will only add to our austerity measures and also belittle us in the eyes of the world. So, I suggest that we had better stay away until we too reach the stage where we will be able to produce our own atomic bombs. Then we can join the big powers.

The memory of those scientists who taught the world how malaria can be treated and how dog-bites can be dealt with and how the aeroplane can fly and how locomotive engines can move, remains green and will continue to be green in our minds; but we will never thank those people who have wasted the money of the world to make atomic weapons. After making the destructive weapons they have called a meeting to see that we put an end to the armament, but everything has proved abortive.

Finally I wish to deal with the foreign diplomats in this country. If the allegation is true that Government has given certain pieces of land in the Victoria Island to build ambassadorial houses, I must warn for the security of our country, it is not right to give these people certain pieces of land to develop themselves. I would suggest that we scatter the foreign diplomats in this country all over the Lagos Island. If this warning is overlooked, one day the children of this country who go to the Victoria Beach every day and every weekend to use the beach will find it very difficult and consequently a segregation camp like that of South Africa will be made there.

I beg to support.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I have just a few observations to make in moving the Amendment to reduce Sub-head 1 by £10.

In moving the Amendment I will make the following observations. First of all, I would like to make the point on which many speakers have seen harping time and again when there is a debate on foreign affairs. That is, accusing this country of being pro-Western in attitude and activities. Let me re-emphasise that we are pursuing a policy of non-alignment but not a neutralist policy. We are not aligned but we are not neutral. We can never be neutral and it is unfair to accuse this Government and this

nation of pursuing a pro-Western policy after we have been under the democratic tutelage of democratic Britain for over fifty or sixty years.

We cannot in a day or two or even in a matter of years dispel the principles which we have imbibed from a democratic country like Britain and America. Certainly, we are a democracy. If you ask which camp we belong to, we have been under democratic principles and institutions for over one hundred years. Russia has not been here at all. We want them to come. We do not know the ideology of Communism or totalitarianism yet, or any other ideology. The one we have had is democratic principles which is pro-Western and there is no harm in our pro-Western attitude (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman**: There are too many loud private discussions. If hon. Members wish to confer, they should do so in under-tones. Some of their voices are rather large voices and are so magnified by the microphones that they drown the voice of the speaker.

10.50 a.m.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): The importance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs not be over-emphasised. In a world where much is going on, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is bound to be a very busy one. Delegations and economic missions or diplomatic missions, discussions on armament—all these are the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a very busy Ministry indeed, and there is no point to begin to envy the Minister of Foreign Affairs in his multiplicity of assignments. And to say this is to recognise the responsibility in his portfolio. It is a very difficult one for young Nigeria having appointed a young Foreign Minister who will be beating weight with old diplomats all over the world; and it takes a knack to stand his ground. To say this is not to notice that there are certain shortcomings in the personal relationship in our Minister of Foreign Affairs. But his performance overseas has helped to place this country on the map of international diplomacy.

For example, the first time that this Minister was at the U.N., his performance was so efficient and so liked by other nations that he was appointed to lead the Investigation Committee at the Congo, and his services there were a credit to all of us here in this country, and we read

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about it. We all know about it. The truth must be said ; we must tell the truth and give credit where credit is due, so that when we criticise, it will be appreciated in the language we use.

I want to make a point that is disturbing me, and that is that I have been hearing reports about the performances of our secretaries and clerks and other diplomatic corps overseas. It does not seem to me that we send our ablest men to beat wings with these bait Americans or English or Italians wherever they are. We do not send our best boys overseas. Before we send any boys overseas to serve in our diplomatic corps they must be properly trained, properly briefed, and we must be sure that they will hold their own ; because to send boys from the University College of Ibadan over to America—those who have not crossed the seas before—to go over there and talk with Americans, I think, will heighten their inefficiency. Many of these boys have no experience. They do not even know how to answer the telephone, much less talk to Americans. And these are the boys that we want to cement our relationship with Americans ! When these boys cannot understand what these Americans say, because they have not, perhaps, been associated long enough with Europeans to understand their lingo, you could imagine how they could begin to negotiate for anything with those people overseas.

I am making a point that we must, before we send boys overseas to take appointments in our foreign service, make sure that they are well trained, if possible, send them for two or three months overseas somewhere for training before they are sent to where they are. It is not enough to be able to type in an office. Sure enough, the work of the Secretary-Typist may be the one that will be done in the office alone. But in the midst of typing, somebody may come in and want some information or other things, and the Secretary-Typist will not say, "I am only a Secretary-Typist, I will not talk".

I support the hon. Member for Kano East (*M. Aminu Kano*) in asking for the creation of an Embassy in Moscow. There is nothing wrong in that. But have we the manpower, the qualified personnel to be able to work efficiently in Moscow ? We cannot work on sentiments. Emotionalism is not enough. We must have an efficient group to be able to

stand on their own in Moscow and do the real job we are sending them for. Until then, we are forced to work either through the British Embassy or the American Embassy, or any other Embassy that will want to work for us until such a time as we are able to train our own personnel.

And this brings me to the question of training personnel. Have we any place where we train our diplomats ?

**An hon. Member :** There is a school of diplomacy at Nsukka.

**Dr Okeke :** Well, if there is a school of diplomacy at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, we should take advantage of it, and speed up the training of Nigerians to be able to work in our Foreign Service. But we cannot have an efficient Foreign Service without people who can speak many languages, and we cannot solely depend on British, American or Russian interpreters, when we go to work in a country where the language is other than English. We have to train our own personnel.

This brings me to a point about the services of our foreign diplomats. There has been a complaint by our politician diplomats who are heading our Embassies overseas that certain personnel under them who are appointed to the civil service feel that their own is a political appointment where it should be a civil appointment, and, therefore, they somehow do not quite co-operate with the foreign diplomats who are holding political appointments. This should be investigated by the Minister, to make sure that those Secretaries—First Secretaries and Second Secretaries—working under our diplomats overseas do not constitute a cog in the progress of those diplomats. They must fully co-operate until such a time as we are able to change from political appointments of Ambassadors to civil appointments. Otherwise, they must remain under those politicians who are politically appointed, and they should serve efficiently under those politicians.

**Some hon. Members :** In conclusion.

**Dr Okeke :** Finally, Mr Chairman—I have lost some of my notes, but I will conclude by saying that much as we are saying these things, we are saying them in good faith, so that the Minister will be enabled to put his house in order and work for the efficiency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[DR OKEKE]

I will sound one last note: that is about the squabble between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information. I hope that the two Ministers will get together and apportion portfolios. After all, they are all working for Nigeria, and we need information, whether at home or overseas—whoever informs does not matter. We want Nigeria to be publicised. We want what we are doing to be published. Somebody has mentioned that wherever you go you always hear of Ghana; in New York, it is Ghana; in London, it is Ghana. We too want publicity. Whether what they are doing is right or wrong, you hear about it. We want to hear what we are doing in this country. We want the world to hear us. Many things we have done in this country—for example, hon. Members have spoken, and when we speak and we do not hear that over the radio and we do not read about it in the newspaper, when Members go back they begin to convince their constituents that they have spoken in this House, it will take a long time because many of them cannot read. The same thing applies to a nation. We may do everything that is good. But if the world does not know what we are doing, they may say that we are not doing anything. And this is the difference between America and Russia, because Russia gives their own publicity. America works very quietly. Democracy does not make noise at all; that is the difference. Therefore, we must talk about what we are doing. We must propagandise what we are doing.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): As I said the other day during the debate on the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne, it was rather very amusing when an announcement was made that our Foreign Minister was travelling to Geneva to attend a Disarmament Conference. It rather puzzled the most astute brains of this country that a country that cannot arm herself even with modern rifles should very proudly go out as far as to Geneva to take part in a conference in order to disarm other bigger nations. I was of the opinion that the Minister of Foreign Affairs would be able to arm this country even with good matchets but not to oppose. I thought that the Minister would think of arming this country before taking the responsibility of

wasting the revenue of this country in travelling all the way to Geneva to disarm other bigger nations. I want the Minister to tell us how he is going to disarm these nations. Is it with an empty hand?

It was true that on the Minister's arrival at the London airport he made a press statement to the newspaper men, that he was travelling to Geneva with an "empty" head, or with an "empty" mind, as the case may be. I say that this sort of travelling should be abolished in future. It is an unnecessary luxury. Instead of wasting this country's revenue in attending most of these international conferences, it would be much better for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to remain at home and concentrate on trying to help build our Army in this country one way or the other.

Most of the criticisms now on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I may say, are medicine after death. The Minister of Foreign Affairs sometime last year, on the Floor of this House, made a categorical statement that it was better for him to take care of his constituency than to be made a routine Minister. That was the time when the Prime Minister could have taken immediate steps to relieve the Foreign Minister of his responsibility, because he seems to have no confidence in his duties since he was appointed to be Foreign Minister.

I just want to bring in some few points about our Foreign Minister, and in doing so I would not hesitate to ask the Prime Minister to relieve the present Minister of Foreign Affairs of his office if the Prime Minister actually wants to improve that particular office in the immediate future.

**The Chairman**: You can only reduce sub-head 1 by £10.

**Mr Brown**: The first thing that the Foreign Minister did at the United Nations was to join America in propagating that the two Chinas should take seats in the United Nations, when he was fully aware that it is on the small island of Formosa that the Americans have their military base. The Americans having lobbied our Foreign Minister to join America and Britain in asking for the two Chinas to take two seats in the United Nations in order to enable America to retain its military base in the Island of Formosa, our Foreign Minister knowingly

and wilfully joined hands with America and Britain in voting for the two Chinas to take seats in the United Nations. Immediately after that, it was announced that America had granted a loan of £80 million to this country, and that this loan was subject to conditions which were to be prepared and reviewed by Congress annually. As a matter of fact, this in effect means that if our Foreign Minister refuses to play the role of the Americans and the British people, certainly the Congress may have to vote against any annual instalment being granted to this country. I am saying that that was one of the conditions under which our Foreign Minister wilfully filed a Motion which was very recently withdrawn, that most dependent African countries should be granted independence as far as 1970.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : The hon. Member is imputing improper motives.

**Mr Chairman** : The Minister can deny that.

**Mr Brown** : The other point that I would like to put in is that at the height of the Congo crisis, a German airliner carrying ammunition and arms to M. Tshombe was allowed to stop at Kano airport to re-fuel, and this happened with the full consent and knowledge of this country's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : If I remember correctly, this particular incident was raised and the Minister of Transport had to answer some questions in connection with the aeroplane in transit. I had nothing to do with it at all.

**The Chairman** : I think it was adequately dealt with.

**Mr Brown** : We shall want the Foreign Minister to deal with it also.

The very recent event was during the last Conference that our Foreign Minister attended in Geneva, when he left this country a few weeks ago. The first stop that our Foreign Minister made was in London where he had to confer with Mr Macmillan, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and where he was given all the necessary instructions about our foreign affairs before he went to Geneva. On his return from Geneva, he did not bother to pass down to report to his Cabinet or to the Members of this House, but he also called at 10 Downing

Street where, surely, the Foreign Office of this country is based, to make his report to Mr Macmillan.

I must say with firmness that the recent attitude of the Foreign Minister is something that can convince the outside world to believe that this country, having been granted political independence, is still going West completely. This impression was not entirely wrong because the Foreign Minister who went out of this country to attend this Conference in Geneva, who ought to have reported direct to the people of this country which delegated him to that Conference, rather took directives, while going, from the Prime Minister of Great Britain and reported to him on his return.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki) : The hon. Member is wrong, and he is imputing improper motives. He is really wrong.

**The Chairman** : Order ! Quite a number of hon. Members have been speaking on matters which actually cannot be substantiated. I do not know whether this is one of them, but in such a delicate matter it is better for Members not to make allegations that they are not sure of.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** : I think I had better nail this at once. It is not true that I met Mr Macmillan to receive any instructions from him. It is true that when I was passing through London I met him, and for the Foreign Minister to meet the Prime Minister of England when Parliament was meeting is a credit, and it shows the importance attached to this country.

Secondly, I want to say that when I was returning, I did not see the Prime Minister. In fact, I received some invitations from some Ministers, but I refused to accept any invitation from anybody, and I came back here and reported to the Prime Minister.

All the allegations are false, untrue, and without an iota of truth. They are being made deliberately with a view to derogate the achievements of this Government.

**Mr Brown** : I wonder whether the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs is aware of what is going on in the Embassy of Nigeria in the United States.

Sometime ago, a Nigerian in the person of Mr Udochi, was appointed to represent this country in our Embassy in the United States.

[MR BROWN]

It was not long after his appointment that we read in the newspapers and heard over the radio that our own Ambassador in the United States—Mr Udochi—had taken the trouble to name his child after the President of the United States of America.

**An hon. Member :** What is wrong in that ?

**Mr Brown :** There is a lot wrong with that action. I want the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to tell us how many Ambassadors from other countries now in Nigeria have taken the trouble to name any of their children after the Governor-General of this country, or after the Prime Minister of this country or after he himself, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I, therefore, strongly feel that our present Ambassador in the United States has now become a staff of the State Department in that country and that it is high time that the gentleman was recalled back home for questioning with a view to being given the sack. He is lowering the integrity of this country in the United States.

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) :** A person's child is the person's personal responsibility and it is not the duty of the hon. Member to tell the gentleman what to name his son.

**The Chairman :** While the conduct of officials and Ambassadors abroad can be examined to some extent, I think that this one is very personal case. In any case, it does not come within the scope of sub-head 1.

**Mr Brown :** I now come to the question of our representation in the Island of Fernando Po.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye :** I do not think that the hon. Gentleman can speak on Fernando Po now because that is a different sub-head altogether.

**The Chairman :** He has not spoken on Fernando Po yet.

**Mr Brown :** I was saying that it is time that the Minister took the necessary steps to give us a full-fledged embassy which will take care of our people in Fernando Po and the islands surrounding it.

Now to the question of foreign titles in this country. I am calling on the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the

Prime Minister or the Cabinet, to see that immediate steps are taken to abolish most of these foreign titles being imported to this country. If one looked closely into these foreign titles, one would see the amount of colonial mentality attached to them.

I well remember someone who was very active during the days of our fight for independence. Immediately we became independent in 1960, this man was among the first list of Nigerians to be granted the title of M.B.E. As from that time, this gentleman became slow in talking about anything discreditable to the British interest in this country, and he became more interested in attending tea parties with the British residents in his province.

Certainly, if we really want to minimise the degree of colonial mentality in the minds of our people, it is time that we should receive less of these imported titles.

**Several hon. Members :** Not less ; we should abolish all of them !

**Mr Brown :** Yes, all of them. We should take immediate steps to see that we set up a committee which will recommend our own national titles to be substituted for those British titles which have already been granted to some Nigerians.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi :** We do not want to hear any more wild allegations from hon. Members. I will be very pleased if the hon. Gentleman will be told to respect the dignity and responsibility of this Committee and to know his own worth. We do not understand what he is saying. He should remember that he is not in a bar.

**Mr Brown :** I would like to take this opportunity to warn that hon. Gentleman who was only a Councillor before he was voted into this honourable House that if he is interested in receiving British honours or British titles he should go down to London and remain there in order that he may get such honours. He will not get them in this country.

With independence in our hands, I think that it is time that we did away with most of these imported titles.

**Several hon. Members :** All of them ; all of them.



**Mr Brown :** Yes, all of them. If our own Governor-General could refuse receiving most of these British titles, I do not see any reason why those who claim to be leading this country to political and economic independence should stoop down, during the course of their struggle, to receive these foreign honours in an independent country. It is entirely wrong. They should refuse all these C.M.G., K.C.M.G., *et cetera*.

**The Chairman :** I think it is high time also that we insisted on the correct parliamentary procedure. When a Motion is moved to reduce sub-head 1 by £10, it means that you can only speak on the activities of the Minister concerned. It seems to me that Members are wandering rather too far away from that.

**Mr Brown :** The activities of the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs during the recent Conference of Heads of African and Malagasy States were really very disappointing to many of us. I can well recall that there was some struggle for power between the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the hon. Minister of Information. Their struggle for power actually made that Conference suffer some sort of indignity.

We want the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Prime Minister, to define the duties of the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the duties of the office of the Minister of Information.

We know that the Prime Minister for some time took charge of the Foreign Affairs Ministry before this Ministry was subsequently handed over to the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. I cannot remember whether any step was taken at all then to define the duties of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to differentiate them from those of the Minister of Information. If that was not done then, I say that immediate steps should be taken so as to avoid a recurrence of the incident which took place during the African and Malagasy Heads of States Conference.

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji (Nsukka West) :** The language of the hon. Gentleman is not proper. For one thing, he has not been able to prove any of his wild allegations and he has also

misquoted the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs by saying that the hon. Minister had said, when he was Minister of Economic Development, that he would prefer looking after his constituency to being a roving Minister. The hon. Minister did not say that. What the hon. Minister said on the Floor of this House was that he preferred looking after his Ministry to being a roving ambassador.

**The Chairman :** The Minister is here to defend himself.

**Mr Brown :** What I would object to in this Committee in future is an hon. Member to be referring to the speech of another hon. Member as being *wild*. That is an unparliamentary language and most of these hon. Members who were not trained properly before they were voted into Parliament ought to be told that they cannot say such a thing to an hon. Member.

We are not here to joke; we are here to represent the interests of our people.

**The Chairman :** He did not say that your speech was wild; he said that the allegations in a part of your speech were wild.

**Mr Brown :** My allegations may appear to be wild and that is why we want the Minister to be present here to give wild answers to these wild allegations. As a result of what I have just said, I hope the Minister will take it upon himself to explain to Members of this House what actually took place during the last Lagos Conference when the pressmen were not given the opportunity to cover the proceedings of that Conference.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye :** The hon. Gentleman is speaking on sub-head 31 which is the Reorganisation of Information Equipment, *et cetera*. I think he should have waited until we got to that sub-head. I suggest that the hon. Member has nothing more to say.

**The Chairman :** As he has finished his speech, and in order to avoid repetition, it might be better to put the question on the Amendment on this Head.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

11.22 a.m.

**Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West) :** There are very many allegations about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I

[M. YERIMA BALLA]

am not going to put the weight of these allegations on the shoulder of the Minister of Foreign Affairs or on the shoulders of the Members of the Cabinet. I am going to criticise generally those things that need to be criticised.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the heart of the nation and when it is destroyed the whole nation, and not only the Ministry, is destroyed. It is now eighteen months since we got our independence from the British imperialists and we enter these early stages of our dealings in international diplomacy, we must do so with great care with the care of a surgeon operating on a patient.

On the 17th of April, 1961, the Prime Minister laid down in Parliament the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but they are not yet to be debated. During the next session sufficient time should be given for this Committee to debate them thoroughly. We want to know our views on African affairs and our relationship with other African countries. We want to know our stand on the Berlin crisis and the existence of two German states. We want to know our stand on the disarmament talks because Nigeria was invited to attend the 17-nation Disarmament Conference. As a matter of fact, our Foreign Minister has just returned from Geneva where he has been attending the Conference.

Disarmament is connected with the modern methods of purely scientific warfare, and I do not know whether the Minister went to that Conference with a technical expert. At present, Nigeria has three universities—they are the universities at Ibadan, at Nsukka and at Ife where there are many Nigerian scientists. These scientists must be appointed to give the Minister good advice in the technical field. The Minister is only an expert in the diplomatic field and not an expert in the technical field. It is very hard for a captain to be called upon to operate on a patient.

During the last session of the General Assembly, I listened to the radio—this is not an allegation—and I heard a report of the resolution made by our respected Foreign Minister on the two Chinas. I say that although he is the Foreign Minister, I am an expert on the affairs of China. Formosa has a population of nine million and it is an island just off the mainland of China. Out of the nine million people in Formosa only three

million people are Chinese and those three million people have the control of the Government which is now supported by the United States of America. There is no reason why there should be a fight between the Chinese in Formosa and those who actually control the Government in China. Therefore, there is no reason why we should accept two different Chinas; there is only one China because the two Governments are the same.

I now come to the reorganisation of our overseas embassies. We have very many embassies which need to be reorganised. In the whole of Asia there is not a single embassy and in answer to this statement the Foreign Minister may say that if he asks us to give him some money we may say that there is no money. I agree that there is no money but by reorganisation we can open an embassy in India which will also look after Ceylon, Nepal and Burma. That means that one embassy will serve the purpose of three embassies. We can open an embassy in Japan which will also look after Hong Kong and Malaya. We may have in Asia and China about four embassies. At the same time, we shall have another embassy in central Europe. Now we have an embassy in Bonn which is looking after some European countries. We can open only one embassy in a Scandinavian country which will look after Sweden, Norway and Denmark. We can even open this embassy in Copenhagen.

Now I come to the internal reorganisation of our Foreign Ministry. This is our domestic problem. In Nigeria, the Foreign Minister has two Ministers of State to whom he should assign specific duties. One Minister should be in charge of the Commonwealth relations and the other should be in charge of African affairs.

I would like to suggest that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there should be several Deputy Permanent Secretaries under a Permanent Secretary. One Deputy Permanent Secretary should be responsible for African affairs, another for European countries including America, another for Asia Affairs excluding India and Japan, and another for South East Asian Affairs including Indonesia and so on.

My next point is the question of Passport. I know much has been said on this subject. As I said last year, I do not see any reason why our Passport should not include countries of

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Eastern Europe and Egypt. I wonder if there is any explanation. I appeal to our dynamic Foreign Minister to see to it that it is possible for anyone holding a Nigerian Passport to visit any part of the world with it. This will promote African unity especially when one notes with regret that Egypt which is part of Africa is omitted in our Passport. We are an independent nation and we must strive to be independent of any other nation in all things.

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Ishan East) : Will the hon. Member please explain. When he gave a lecture at Leipzig University this is not what he was reported to have said there.

**M. Yerima Balla** : I want to speak about our delegation to the United Nations. I wish to suggest that any resolution intended to be tabled at the General Assembly by Nigerian representatives must first of all be referred to the Parliament for approval and consent. The Parliament is responsible to the whole nation and Parliament must have a say in these matters.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : Nigeria will not be happy if the other countries in Africa—

**An Opposition hon. Member** : I am referring to Standing Order 63 (9) and (10). With all due respect I know that the Chairman has the right to call any body whose name does not appear on this list, but it appears to me that it is more common now to call Members' whose names do not appear here than the Members whose names actually appear here. Also it appears now that if you want to speak more often, you must first cross the carpet to the N.P.C. and sit on the front Bench. Then you have a right to speak.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I am certainly unaware of any Standing Order which says that if a number of Members choose to put their names against any particular Motion that the list must be exhausted before any other is called. I think Standing Order 21 merely provides for the mover of a Motion to be called and after the seconding of the Motion I do not think there is any obligation on the part of the Chair to call on any particular individual. Besides, there is also a proviso that in Committee a seconder is not necessary.

I think so far the Chair is in order. It is unfortunate if the eagerness of the hon. Member is not met on this occasion. **Mallam Lar.**

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : On a point of order. The hon. Member is not Mallam Lar. You called him a Mallam. He is not a Mallam, he is Mr Lar.

**Mr Lar** : The hon. Member raised a point of order that my name is Mr Lar—

**The Chairman** : The point of order was directed to the Chair. I know that you are learned enough to be called a Mallam, there is no objection to that.

**Mr Lar** : I was saying that Nigeria will not be happy if the rest of the countries in Africa are not completely free. This Government must do something about the nationalists in—

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order. I point to Order 63 (9) and (10).

Any Member may move an amendment to reduce by some pounds the sum to be allotted for any Head of Expenditure or in respect of any sub-head included in the Head or of any item included in the sub-head. When several such amendments are proposed to the same Head of Expenditure they shall be called in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper and each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called, and debate on each amendment shall be confined to the sub-head or item which is sought to be reduced.

There are two points here. One is that the whole Head has not been moved by anybody so far. The only amendment that has been moved here is to reduce sub-head 1. Amendment on item (1) was moved and withdrawn but the next one was a Motion to reduce sub-head one. There is none yet to reduce the whole head or any Motion at the moment.

11.40 a.m.

**The Chairman** : Order, as far as I am aware, it has been thought that with so many Members ventilating their views, we might as well speed up proceedings and not be terribly meticulous in pursuing these finer points. Apart from this Head of Estimates, we have got several more and certainly, if it is the wish

THE CHAIRMAN]

of Members to exhaust the whole day talking about one Head of Estimates, I think they can have what they like but I am sure that many will go away grumbling that they have not had an opportunity to discuss some other Estimates. May Mr Lar please continue his speech.

**Mr Lar :** This Government must review the position of our workers in Fernando Po. They should not only review the position but must also do something to annex that Island to Nigeria. We should also make our stand clear on Welensky's restricted franchise in Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Our belief is 'one man, one vote' and we are vehemently opposed to the idea of Welensky's system of franchise in that Federation.

We should also make our voice heard and be ready to help the nationalists who are struggling for freedom in Algeria. This Government should try to recognise the Provisional Government there. We should also make our views clear on the South African *apartheid* policy. As I have already said, we would not be happy if our brothers there are not free. This Government, therefore, should do everything possible to help our brothers who are in that position.

**Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East):** An hon. Member is describing the hon. Member as a 'carpet crosser'. That is not accurate, he did not cross the carpet.

**Mr Lar :** This Government should establish Embassies in all the independent countries of Africa. We should not be satisfied with establishing Embassies or High Commission's Offices in England or in Canada alone; we should also have Embassies, for instance, in China, Japan and other European countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to Presidents Kennedy and Khrushchev. This Government should do something about these two men. We are tired of the threats from the two blocs, in fact, I do not think that there is any sense at all in having disarmament talks when there are threats of resuming nuclear tests as was recently announced by President Kennedy. Nigeria should not support that at all.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South):** Mr Lar is now thanking the Government for the scholarship given to his wife.

**The Chairman :** If the hon. Gentleman means to ridicule Mr Lar, he should find a better platform and perhaps a much more acceptable subject.

**Mr Lar :** I know that the Opposition are annoyed because I have gone away from them. I shall never be on that side of the House again.

**The Chairman :** Order, if we stop coming home, with such a great noise, nothing will be done here.

**Mr Lar :** As I have said, we should do something about our workers in Fernando Po. We should try to annex that Island to Nigeria.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** *rose—(Loud interruptions.)*

**The Chairman :** I do not think that it is at all necessary for us to remind ourselves that after all this is the Nigerian House of Parliament and not a County Council.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu North East):** I only want to make one point and not to recount what other Members have said. It relates to the death of the late T. O. C. Ojiako, our first Ambassador to Western Germany. I want to say that the arrangement which the Government of the Federation made to bring his corpse home for burial was a great one and everybody welcomed that move. But there was something depressing and I would like to say that from henceforth there should be a clear policy on how we treat Ambassadors who serve this country abroad and die.

When he was brought back to Lagos, one would have thought that the Minister of Foreign Affairs would have been at the Airport to welcome the corpse. But then, the Minister was busy with a very big conference—the Summit Conference. But arrangement could have been made for several of the Ministers to be present at the Airport. It is most disgusting that such a thing could have happened whereas in Germany itself, full military honours were given to the Ambassador of this country. It is most disgusting. In Germany itself military honours were given to the Ambassador of this country. He was representing Nigeria as its Ambassador. Why do we call Ambassadors "Their Excellencies" We do so because

they represent this country. When his corpse arrived at the airport of Nigeria, no Minister was there at the airport. It is very disgraceful. What is the happiness in having this nation? We have the Military Force; we have the Police Force. Why did they not form a guard of honour and bid him farewell? In the Eastern Region both the Premier and his Ministers were at the airport to receive his corpse and send it home and see that it was given a fitting burial. But here it was all quiet at the Ikeja airport. That sort of thing should never happen again in this country. I want to use the opportunity in this House to say that people who serve their country and die and their corpses are brought back here, must be given all the honour that this country can afford to give.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Before I begin to reply to the statements that have been made, I think it may well be necessary for me to reply to the last remark made by the hon. Member for Orlu North East (*Dr Mbadiwe*). I regret that the provision of guard of honour and ordering Ministers to do certain things do not come within my competence. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. I do sincerely appeal to the House that this particular subject matter is one that should cause sorrow rather than violent expression of disagreement and I think perhaps that hon. Members will accord the occasion the respect and solemnity that it deserves, and should make observations in deep solemnity and silence.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** The nature of this particular incident was a serious one and the Foreign Ministry did everything within its competence to make sure that a servant who had served his country was properly treated as he deserved. We had letters from the dependents who appreciated what the Ministry did. I am sure the Government will welcome a suggestion from any hon. Member if it is made elsewhere, and perhaps not as it has been made in an open House here. I would say this, that we all appreciate the spirit in which it was made, this incident was the first occasion when a thing like this has happened. Therefore, if there had been anything that had been done that an hon. Member

felt was not up to standard, I think this is only a first occasion and I am sure the Government will take good note of what the hon. Member has said.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** On a point of order. I do not think that it is too much for any Minister to say that he is sorry on occasions like this. We know that the Government has not had past experience in this matter and that this type of mistake is not unheard of. But, it is not also unheard of for a Minister to say, on behalf of a Government, that he is sorry.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** I can only deal with what is within the competence of the Foreign Minister. We made a provision and a Minister of State went all the way to his home to be present there and our officers at the Airport presented everything that the Ministry could do. But the scope of remark goes beyond the immediate competence of the Foreign Ministry. That is what I am saying. All I can add now is that they have been taken note of and will be brought to the notice of the Cabinet. I only hope that this will be the first and the last occasion when servants of the State will return under that condition.

A lot of things have been said about the activities of the Foreign Ministry. I want to express my appreciation of certain remarks that have been made by some hon. Members. Some have been able to appreciate the difficulties that this Ministry has to face, particularly this being the youngest of all the Ministries. I know that my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, will remember the struggle in 1952 to get the training of our personnel for the foreign service in anticipation of independence, the trouble that we undertook at that time, and we were told that such a thing never existed. I think, when he left and went back to the Western Region as a Minister, the battle continued. It was not until 1956 that we succeeded in getting a White Paper published to start training for foreign affairs. The initial recruits were only ten. And at the time of our independence you will be surprised to know that the demands of independence were much greater than the supply at that time. In the Prime Minister's Office, we only had a Division for Foreign Affairs. It was only after the 1st of October that a Ministry was created, so that we have a lot of difficulties with regard to personnel.

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

A number of points have been made on which the Chairman has ruled already. The question of a committee on foreign affairs will be discussed when the subject comes up.

The hon. Member for Kano East (*M. Aminu Kano*) mentioned the need for an educational attaché in London. There is one already there. He referred also to commercial attaché. In the Consulate Division of the Foreign Ministry we do have to do with consular matters.

**M. Aminu Kano :** On a point of clarification I said that there is a need to put educational attaché in London and New York, not only diplomats to deal with education. People who are versed in education should be put there to deal with educational matters. That is what I said. Of course, I know that there is one in London.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** The posting of Educational Attachés is always done in full consultation with the Ministry of Education. Therefore, I think the Minister of Education is best qualified to know the type of people who should be there.

I may say here that we do appreciate the sentiments about the opening of a High Commissioner's Office in Ottawa. That is being considered. As for the question of opening an Embassy in Moscow, I want to say that that has definitely been decided upon and, within this financial year, we hope to open an Embassy in Moscow. (*Hear, hear.*)

Similarly, it is the intention of the Government to open an Embassy in Cairo. It is not true that the Government discriminates against the U.A.R. and favours Israel. Here in Lagos we have the U.A.R. Embassy and the Israeli Embassy, and this is consistent with a non-alignment policy.

As for the question which was raised about passports: I am happy to inform you that, whereas this limitation in passports was one of the relics of colonial days, it is now a policy in the Ministry, since the reorganisation when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took over the question of passports, that all passports issued to adults should have an endorsement that will be valid for all parts of the world. Therefore the limitations which had been imposed before will be removed. (*Hear, hear.*) Therefore, if the hon. Member has suffered a certain

amount of discomfort and indignity because of this limitation of three months, he can now be assured that if he returns his passport the appropriate endorsement will be recorded, and he will be as free as our Constitution.

It was further stated that the policy statements of India are bolder than those of Nigeria. Although they have loans and advances from various overseas countries, I would like hon. Members to remember, when criticising Nigeria, that India is about 15 years old. Members talk of Ghana: Ghana is five years old. This country is only 18 months old. And talking of the achievements of this country within 18 months, I think those hon. Members who have been to the United Nations know that there are States that have been there for 14 years, some 10 years, but have not got one-third of the way that Nigeria has got within 18 months. And if the representatives of Nigeria did not perform creditably in that International comity of Nations, I do not think that it would have been possible for Nigeria to break through that hierarchy to be where she is to-day.

I have already said, in answer to the question of the Soviet Ambassador being at the Federal Palace Hotel, that I had it from his mouth that he has accommodation in Ikoyi now.

**An hon. Member :** What part of his body did you expect to hear him speak from? (*Laughter.*)

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** I did not want to use the expression 'horses mouth' because this is a human mouth.

I must express appreciation of the remarks made by the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) in his carefully reasoned discussion. I want to say that, although I do not agree with him in all that he had to say, I certainly have a healthy respect for the opinion he has expressed. Wherever we find views that are feasible, practicable and certainly consistent with our policy, we will take adequate notice of them and make effective use of any constructive suggestion that is made. All we want is that, at this formative period of our foreign policy, we need constructive suggestions, or constructive criticism—we do not mind; we are not above criticism, but it should be made in good faith. Cons-

With regard to the question of a Charter, I hope when these things are published in the not I **An hon. Member** : Unfortunately, they do

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structive criticism that is designed just to cast aspersions or a slur on anyone's character, or things that are false, that have no truth about them, just to hit a newspaper headline—things like that are meaningless and just irritating and do not help at all. Rather, they tend to belittle the stature of the country. The damage is not done to the person but to our country, and, it is a great disservice to this great country.

I am happy to see that Chief Enahoro realises that most of the independent African States are not viable, and, consequently, there are concomitants following these non-viable states. Therefore, I do not think his suggestion that we must do something to force this Pan-Africanism on some of the Heads of State makes sense. Even somebody who walks on foot feels very proud that he has a pair of legs to walk on, and if you try to push him down or prevent him from walking on a pair of legs while you are driving your car, you may find that he may resist. And I do not think that it is the intention of the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) to suggest that Nigeria should use her obvious size, population, or perhaps better economic position to force any of these States to do something against their will. This Government has made it clear that it is not the intention and it is not the policy of the Government to throw its weight about. But if we are going to be effective in the leadership which is being thrust upon us, we must prepare ourselves to be able to bear the burden of leadership. We have got political independence.

Now, the Six-Year Economic Programme is just like giving substance to the hollow body of the State. The hon. Member mentioned the question of non-viability. We also want to make our country viable enough to be able to resist these tendencies that have affected the other States that may not be in a position to fend for themselves. If we are going to have a policy of non-alignment and to be consistent with it, we must have definite stamina to be able to withstand that.

I am happy to note that Chief Enahoro remarked that neither the West nor the East is happy with our policy. It means really that we are pleasing none and that we are

consistent with the policy of Nigeria, because the stated policy is that this Government will examine every problem in its own light and take decisions which are in the interests of Nigeria and not in the interest of any State. Therefore, if it is said that neither the West nor the East is happy about our policy—the West says that we are not pleasing them in the way they like; or the East says that they do not like the path we are following—then I think that shows that Nigeria and the Government are following the declared policy of non-alignment, and not the policy of neutralism.

We have said it before on the Floor of this House, and elsewhere, that in matters pertaining to the African continent we cannot be neutral; in matters pertaining to common humanity we cannot be neutral. For instance, in the question of the atom bomb and the possibility of it wiping out the human race, we cannot be neutral because we happen to be members of the human race. But when it comes to a particular policy of a group of states or a group of powers, then we have to say 'No' when necessary and when we see it is "Yes", we shall say "Yes", but we shall be the final arbiters of our attitude.

The question of the Lagos Conference which Chief Enahoro mentioned—I want to make this clear that it is not true that the purpose of the Lagos Conference here was necessarily primarily to bring the Casablanca powers here.

I want to say that this Government on the initiative of the Prime Minister when this country became independent, tried that. You had the Brazzaville Group for instance, the Casablanca Group in existence before our independence. Then you had Nigeria, Ethiopia and the other countries that belonged to none. On the initiative of the Prime Minister, the attempt was made to bring all together—it was at Monrovia.

As you will remember certain people from Mali and Guinea of that Group sponsored this and Liberia offered to play the host. Unfortunately, at the last moment something happened and they backed out. But the Conference went on and the Conference arrived at a certain decision and set up a Sub-committee and the Sub-committee was authorised to perform certain functions. They performed that function at Dakar. They had a report to present.

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

The other day, when the newspapers were busy polluting the air with everything, they did not know that one of the leaders of the people was here with me. I explained matters and, before he left, he appreciated the position, the peculiar position, our methods and our tactics. We appreciated their own point of view and he agreed. He made a statement and he was quite happy. What else do you want me to do? I cannot go on the mountain top and begin to shout Nigeria is this, Nigeria is that. The man spoke and you read in the paper.

Without Nigeria it would have been impossible for them to do what they did in New York and it would have been impossible for them to set up this thing. And none of these people who have been shouting would have done such a thing.

Why should we deride ourselves? The time has come when the papers in this country and the leaders of this country should begin to appreciate themselves and begin to say, "if you do not say thou art, you must say I am." The time has come when we begin to appreciate the work that the Government is doing. Only eighteen months of independence and we have been able to do that.

Now, if I may go on into the international field, within eighteen months we have been elected into the International Law Commission and the Minister of Justice is a member. Today we have a Nigerian on the 38th floor as one of the Under-Secretaries; we are in the Angola Committee; we are in the 18-Member Disarmament Conference.

Now, it has always been a matter between the power blocs. It was through the instrumentality of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister and of the Delegation of Nigeria that we have convinced the big powers to bring in the non-aligned countries into their conferences. At first they did not want to introduce them. To-day there are eight non-aligned States in that Conference and we happen to be one of them.

Now, you talk of African leadership. Leadership is a fact. It is not a theory. When leadership occurs it occurs, and that is all. And if Nigeria is going to lead Africa it will lead Africa at the appropriate time. But we should not be talking leadership, leadership, leadership. That is for the future to tell and it depends on how—

**Chief Enahoro :** Who is the leader now ?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** There is no leader of Africa, as far as we are concerned. There is no leader of Africa and the African States do not want any leader now. At the appropriate time they want to work in harmony, as brothers and friends and sisters; as members of a common household, to work out a common policy and that is exactly in the Charter. You will find there is a provision in the Charter for co-operation. We believe in Pan-Africanism but we differ in the methods.

**An hon. Member :** On a point of order, Sir, the Minister has exhausted his time.

**The Chairman :** Under Standing Order 31 (2) it is the prerogative of the Chair to decide when time expires. But may I take this opportunity to plead with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to please wind up in three minutes' time.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Thank you, Sir. Now, I am glad that the Opposition does not seem to like all that I am saying because it takes the thunder out of them. But, I want to say here—

**An hon. Member :** We say Nigeria is the leader !

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** You are entitled to—

**The Chairman :** I observe that it is the Opposition that is anxious to point out that the Minister has exhausted his time, but they do not seem to be co-operating with him in letting him wind up.

**Chief A. Enahoro :** On a point of order, Mr Chairman, I do not think it is right, with due deference, that if one or two Members of the Opposition make remarks you should say that it is the *entire* Opposition. I submit that that is not correct.

**The Chairman :** I do not think it was the intention of the Chair to indulge in an overstatement, but I think actually they should restrain their followers from being so expressive.

**Chief Enahoro :** With due respect, Mr Chairman, I think it is the Chairman's place to restrain hon. Members.



**The Chairman :** I must say this is a very enjoyable exercise but I am glad the Opposition are prepared to accept a one-sided appeal for restraint now.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Now, I think it may be necessary, before I wind up my speech here, to let the House know some of the things with regard to the establishment of Embassies because a lot of Members have clamoured for the establishment of Embassies and to know what we have been doing so far. Now, before independence we had a High Commissioner's Office in London and then we had an office in Washington, Jedda and Khartoum. But since, we have an office now in London, Washington, New York, Jedda, Khartoum, Fernando Po, Accra, Monrovia, Buea, Yaounde, Leopoldville, Freetown, Bonn, Abidjan and Dakar.

During this financial year it is proposed to open an Embassy in Cairo, a High Commission Office in Nyasaland, then an Embassy in Rome, Addis Ababa, New Delhi, Karachi, Moscow and Conakry. I am thinking, also, of the possibility of having a High Commissioner's Office opened in Ottawa in Canada, and possibly an Embassy in Brasilia, that is, if the Government is generous enough to give me all the money that I ask for.

I want to point out that when Members clamour for the opening of these Embassies they should remember that there is a problem of personnel, apart from the finance.

**Several hon. Members :** Yerima Balla, Yerima Balla.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** I do not know those who want to go to China, I do not know how many of them speak Chinese.

**Several hon. Members :** Yerima Balla.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Yerima Balla is an expert in Chinese ?

**Several hon. Members :** Yes !

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Do you know whether he speaks Chinese ?

**Several hon. Members :** Yes !

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** He does ? Well, a lot of ground work will have to be done to pick the personnel. And it is not

just anybody you see whom you pick. There are certain things that must be gone through, certain processes in selecting personnel, and not only for the foreign service. Do not forget that the Foreign Ministry has also a home service and the home service has so many divisions and perhaps under normal circumstances one-third of the whole staff of the foreign service should be in the home service because it is here that you formulate policies and give directions to those who are serving you abroad.

We have this problem of personnel, apart from finances, and when Members make this remark, they should remember this.

I think, with the time at my disposal, I have been able to express to the Committee what we have been trying to do and I am sure the Committee will agree that, within the eighteen months of its existence, Nigeria has been able to get itself fairly well established and we hope, during this financial year, to be able to do more and to be worthy of the assignment that is given to this Ministry by the Government of the Federation.

12.30 p.m.

*Question put and agreed to.*

£2,133,240 for Head 44—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 45.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*Question proposed, That £3,451,000 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** In moving this Amendment I shall be very brief indeed because the time is very short. It is appreciated that the Minister of Health has been doing very much for the Ministry but I would like to point out that last week a girl whose knee broke while she was playing was taken to the Orthopaedic Hospital at 4.30 p.m. but she was not treated until about 9 p.m.

I would also like to speak on the expulsion from Nigeria of Dr Bruno Gans because he spoke about a hospital for the children of this country—

[PRIME MINISTER]

really in need of some groundnuts and some fish, some beans and, in fact, that they were in need of those foodstuffs which are very very rich in nutrients. We, therefore, decided in the Federal Government that it was a matter which the Government should do something about and not to ask the whole country to do it.

And so, we have now decided to send 200 tons of groundnuts to Dahomey.

Togoland was also equally affected, and so we decided to send 150 tons of groundnuts to Togo.

These will, of course, be paid for from the funds of the Federal Government and I hope that during the Committee Stage on the Estimates at the appropriate place, the Minister of Finance will move for this additional money to be provided by Parliament.

Now, Dr Mbadiwe seems to suggest that Nigerian private citizens should also take part in giving this assistance apart from what they are indirectly doing by the Government giving the assistance to those two countries. But I do not think we have reached that stage.

A request was never made to us by Dahomey or Togo for second-hand clothing. I think,

newspapers, when they want to be mischievous, sometimes can add whatever they like. They said that we were requested to send even some second-hand clothings. If we were requested to send clothings, I think they would want clothings but not second-hand ones.

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

**The Prime Minister :** I think *gari* is not one of those foodstuffs which are very rich in proteins. They might have it elsewhere but we are sending groundnuts because no other country appears to have any surplus of groundnuts to send, and so we are very lucky. Also, Sir, I must thank the Northern Regional Marketing Board for the assistance that they are giving us in selling us these 350 tons of groundnuts. That is the position.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) :** The Minister of Labour has asked me to defer my matter till Tuesday.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at one o'clock, p.m.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Monday, 16th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

## Federal Supreme Court

**O.253. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, how many appeal cases from the Regions were disposed of by the Federal Supreme Court, and how many are still awaiting action since 1961.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice** (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): 377 appeal cases from the Region were disposed of by the Federal Supreme Court during 1961. There were 188 appeal cases from the Regions pending at the end of that year, of which 33 have since been disposed of.

**Dr Okeke**: Is the Minister aware of the considerable delay? That is my point. If 188 cases were pending last year and 33 have been disposed of, and now he says there is no delay, what possible explanation can there be?

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): That is a separate question.

## Delay in Disposal of Appeal Cases

**O.254. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, why there is considerable delay in the disposal of appeal cases in the Federal Supreme Court, and what plans he has to remedy the situation.

**Mr Okafor**: I am not aware that there is considerable delay in the disposal of appeal cases in the Federal Supreme Court. The amount of such delay as there is will be greatly reduced when the new Federal Supreme Court building is completed, and the Court can sit in two divisions.

**Dr Okeke**: May I submit that the first part of the answer contradicts the second part of it, and that I will bring specific instances to the awareness of the Minister later on?

## WORKS AND SURVEYS

## Contracts

**O.255. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many contracts were awarded in the year 1961-62, and which contractors were given the contracts.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (M. Usumanu Maitambari): This Ministry awards so many contracts during the course of a year that a complete list of contractors to whom contracts were given would be a very long one indeed. The Minister, however, will be pleased to answer questions the Honourable Member may ask in regard to individual contracts.

## FINANCE

## Government's Assets Abroad

**O.259. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Finance, what the value of the Federal Government's assets abroad is, and in what countries they are held.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye): The Federal Government's assets abroad total about £29 million held in the United Kingdom. This figure excludes real property assets required by the Federal Government to house its Embassies abroad. As stated in the Minister's Budget Speech, this will be used to help the financing of the 1962-68 Development Plan.

**Mr O. C. Ememe**: What about the assets in Australia? I think he has forgotten about those.

**Mr Lamuye**: The only assets so far as I know held overseas is £29 million.

## Excess Expenditure

**O.260. Mr A. A. Odurinde** asked the Minister of Finance, how much was spent from 1st April to 30th September, 1961 in excess of the expenditure authorised by the Appropriation Acts during that period, and what was the authority under which the amount was spent.

**Prince Lamuye**: The Minister is not yet aware of any excess on the expenditure already authorised for the 1961-62 financial year. I

[PRINCE LAMUYE] any event, it will be impossible to know of any excess expenditure until the accounts for the financial year 1961-62 have been finalised.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** : Is it not surprising to hear from the Parliamentary Secretary that it is not possible to know how much is the total of the excess of expenditure on the votes of each of the Ministries? Does it mean that they do not keep D.V.E.A. books?

**Prince Lamuye** : I think I would require a fresh notice for that.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : Will the Minister tell us when the accounts for 1961-62 will be ready?

**Prince Lamuye** : As soon as they are ready we shall publish them.

#### Customs Duties

**O.261. Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Finance, how much was realised by the Government as customs duties from April 1959 to 31st March, 1961.

**Prince Lamuye** : From 1st April, 1959 to 31st March, 1961 revenue from import and export duties of customs realised a total of £127,229,237. In the same period excise duties realised £10,829,515.

#### Government Guests

**O.262. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, how much has been paid to date by the Government for the accommodation of their guests at the Federal Palace Hotel.

**Prince Lamuye** : Apart from the Government's Hospitality Vote under the control of my Ministry, most Ministries have separate votes for meeting the expenses of official visitors. These votes are not specifically for the settlement of hotel bills only nor is it Government's policy to accommodate its guests at the Federal Palace Hotel only.

The information required will necessitate a longer and detailed scrutiny of a large number of vouchers issued by the Ministries and Departments and charged against those vote for visitors and for hospitality since September 1960 and it is impossible to obtain the details within the present meeting of the Parliament.

Should the hon. Member, however, wish that this exercise be carried out in spite of the difficulties involved, I would cause the information to be passed to him as soon as it was obtained.

**Chief A. F. Odulana** : I personally appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Finance and his predicament in being asked to get all these figures, but if we all think that he is fit to be the Minister of Finance and he cannot give us full details of what we need in this Parliament, to whom will he give them?

We want the information and we want to know how much has been paid to that Hotel. We agree that he cannot give it now, but we want it at a later date, otherwise something will happen.

**Mr S. J. Umoren** : May we also ask the Minister when he is giving this information to see that it is circulated to all Members of this House; not only to the particular Member who asked for the information?

**Mr O. C. Ememe** : May I know if the Minister could not get these figures from the hotel itself?

#### Smuggling

**O.263. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, if he has started using helicopters in helping to stamp out smuggling.

**Prince Lamuye** : No Sir. When the possibility of supporting preventive patrols by air reconnaissance was first considered, the helicopter was regarded as the most suitable aircraft for the purpose. I agree it has many advantages but further study by my hon. Friend and the Minister of Defence showed that the cost of operating such a machine was prohibitive and in the interest of economy an alternative had to be found.

After careful consideration, it was decided to order small fixed wing aircraft to a type which we were satisfied could undertake effective patrolling. These machines will eventually form a wing of the Nigerian Air Force.

#### Foreign Loans

**O.264. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, how much has been received by Government up till the end of November 1961 as foreign loans and how much has been paid to date as interests on the loans.

**Prince Lamuye** : Since 1957 a total of £25,098,364 in loans and £1,634,793 by way of interest payments, Sir.

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Warders and Wardresses

O.265. Mr K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Warders and Wardresses respectively are at present employed by the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (Mallam Aliyu Zungun): There are 2,323 Warders and 76 Wardresses on the permanent establishment and 130 Temporary Wardresses at present.

Federal Government Prisons

O.266. Mr K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many prisons are controlled by the Federal Government.

Mallam Aliyu Zungun: Forty-seven prisons are controlled by the Federal Government. These are located as follows:—

	Prison	Prison Camp
Northern Nigeria ..	3	2
Eastern Nigeria ..	25	1
Western Nigeria ..	16	2
Federal Territory ..	3	—
	47	5

Mallam Aminu Kano: Is the Minister contemplating taking other Prisons in the Northern Nigeria?

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki Sardaunan Bida): The Federal Government is not actually contemplating taking over other prisons in the country without prior consultation with the Regional Government concerned.

Mallam Aminu Kano: Will the Minister therefore set up machinery for such consultation?

Alhaji Usman Sarki: A new Notice is required.

Mr Orosanye: Will the Minister explain how many of these Prisons have the requisite arrangement for borstal institutions.

Pool Betting

O.267. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many pool betting organisations have registered in Nigeria up to the 28th February, 1962.

Alhaji U. A. Ahmed: The number is 330 as follows:—

Pools registered under the Companies Act .. .. .	29
Pools registered under the Registration of Business Names Act—	
Federal Territory ..	67
Western Region ..	174
Eastern Region ..	45
Northern Region ..	15
	301
Total .. .. .	330

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Textile Mills

O.269. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether Government will consider establishing textile mills in various parts of the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the answers to Questions Nos. O.269. O.270 and O.271 are not yet ready.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed: Why are they not yet ready?

Coal

O.512. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether the Government of Japan has fulfilled its promise of buying large quantities of Nigerian Coal; if not, what steps are being taken to reduce the present imbalance in Nigeria-Japan trade.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: The Government of Japan never formally promised to buy Nigerian coal, although the impression was received from unofficial Japanese statements that large quantities might be purchased. In fact no such purchases have so far been made.

Regarding the imbalance of trade with Japan, the hon. Member will recollect that on the 5th April the Minister informed the House that the subject was receiving active expert enquiry, and that he would, on receipt of the report of the experts, discuss appropriate steps with his colleagues.

**Trade Agreement with Russia and China**

**O.514. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if Government has any plans to enter into trade agreements with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed**: The Federal Government is prepared to consider entering into trade agreements with the U.S.S.R. and the People's Republic of China.

It will be recalled that the Nigerian Economic Mission visited these two countries last year.

**National Austerity Policy**

**Chief A. Enahoro** (*By Private Notice*) asked the Prime Minister if, in furtherance of the new national policy of austerity, he will initiate discussions with Regional Premiers with a view to securing a reduction in the large number of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Provincial Commissioners in Nigeria; and if he will summon a Conference of all interests concerned on the question of efficiency in the public services of Nigeria, particularly in the P. & T., Police, Hospitals, *et cetera*.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, as to the first question that is consulting my Colleagues the Premiers of the Regions, I think the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) will agree with me that by the Federal nature of our Constitution, the Regions are autonomous in these things. I can give advice, but I think it is the responsibility of the Premiers to decide the number of Ministers they will have. Of course, I can see the Premiers and tell them this but I think on this question of austerity measures because of the cut in salaries of Parliamentarians and Ministers we should go as far as the hon. Member is suggesting.

For myself, I do not believe that the number of Ministers in the country is in any way affecting very adversely, or will in no way contribute to a very large measure, giving the Governments the necessary money for carrying out their Development Plan. I feel that we are a young country trying to develop, and the more we distribute responsibilities in our Cabinets, I think the better. (*Hear, hear*).

It is not only that the Ministers are discharging their responsibilities but they are also learning their new duties and the more trainees we have the better for the country in future.

The second point is about economies in the Services. At one time, it was suggested that we should have a unitary service but my experience was, in 1954, when we adopted a Federal system, I personally thought that the Federal Service will be a much smaller service and the Regional Services will also be smaller services. I must say, that I discovered that instead of becoming smaller, these services are growing bigger and bigger.

I also think that in some ways we might be carrying passengers on our staff, that is, in the Federal Service there might be passengers, in the Regional Services there might be passengers. Whether we can have an operation to reduce these people, whether we cannot, I think the Government Services in the country are also doing valuable work. If we find in future that we have got too many Clerks, too many Assistant Secretaries, very soon, this country will be industrialised and the industries will absorb these people. Now, if we cut down their numbers, there are no places for them to go to. But after a few years, when industries have been established, if we cut down the numbers, there are different fields where they could be engaged, so, they will go to these places.

The hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) is also very well aware of an Organisation which we have that is, the National Council on Establishments. All the Regional Governments are represented in that National Council and I am the Chairman. There we discuss staff matters, we discuss grades and salaries of different grades of people that we employ in our Services and we try to reach uniformity and also try to have a common standard for the services in the Federation.

These are two very important points and I hope that the Premiers of the Regions will see to it; I will not call it a waste, I have many Ministers here in the Federal Cabinet, we have many in the West, many in the North, many in the East and I still think they are all performing their functions very well and, at the same time, giving more people the training in these new responsibilities so that in course of time we shall be like the older countries where

they have got plenty of people to draw from. Here, because of our being young, we have got a smaller field to choose from and, as I always say I want this country to be served by the best as far as possible.

Though I very much appreciate the two questions asked by my hon. Friend—and I think they are questions which we must constantly keep in mind—I would not go as far as suggesting as he did that because of austerity measures we should have a cut in Ministers. I do not think that a cut in Ministers or a cut in this will be austerity measures. At the same time why did hon. Members not suggest that we reduce the number of Members in this House by 300. I think that will be quite all right. If we are 20 we can work much easier and quicker. What we shall do will be an examination of the whole thing. Let the Western House of Assembly be composed of only 12 members, the Eastern House of Assembly of 18, the Northern House of Assembly of 20, the Federal House say 28 and the Houses of Chiefs, I do not know. It is not for me to speak for the Senate, whether it will exist or not is a different matter.

So, quite seriously, I think the two points raised by the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) are worth considering every-time, but I feel for some years to come Nigerians need positions where they can train themselves for the new responsibilities which are every day putting themselves forward to us. Though, of course, as I said the hon. Member's points are to be constantly borne in mind.

**Chief Enahoro :** My second question was not to effect savings in the Public Service, but efficiency. I refer to one example only. In the P. and T. if you dial 94 for a trunk call for 10 minutes there is no answer. There are examples of that nature—efficiency in the Service.

**The Prime Minister :** All of us have experienced what the hon. Member has said. I think I entirely agree with the hon. Member. But I would also say this, because I am very highly impressed by the performance of the Nigerian Civil Servants. Immediately after Independence, they thought it was a challenge to them. Many of them are now working overtime and giving in extra hours of work

without asking for any additional pay. Of course, when I dial P. and T. myself, I do not get them sometimes. (*Laughter*). It is true.

What we shall do, hon. Members, is to continue telling the Minister of Communications and his officials that this service is paid for, and it must be efficient; and we will continue to do this. But if some people decide to neglect their work and go away, I hope the Public Service Commission will take drastic measures. (*Hear, hear.*)

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL LINE

10.32 a.m.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I wish to draw the attention of this hon. House to certain statements made on April 5th by the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*), in which most improper and unfounded allegations were made against the Chairman of the National Line.

Sir Odumegu, not being a Member of this House, is unable to defend himself against the unwarranted attempt of the hon. Member to stain his character, and so, I seize this opportunity just to explain the position and give the House the facts.

The first allegation is that Sir Odumegu, rather "this man" as Mr Brown chose to describe him, as soon as he assumed office as Chairman, sublet his own house at No. 12, Bank Road, Apapa, to the National Line for their use as offices, and got an advance rent for twelve years: this was the allegation. The facts are that the property concerned is first of all, not in Bank Road; it is in Creek Road. And *no* rent has been paid in advance for this accommodation.

**An Opposition Member :** Who owns it?

**The Minister of Transport :** I am telling hon. Members. Listen. On the contrary, Sir Odumegu's conduct has been most proper in this matter and helpful to the Line, and I will explain. The rent negotiated between the Line and the Ojukwu Transport Limited is moderate. The rate was 24s per sq. feet, a figure which is very much below the alternative demand made by certain other landlords in the area. I understand that a similar accommodation was offered by the Nigerian Investments Co. Ltd. to the National Line

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]  
for 45s per sq. feet. But the Ojukwu Transport gave a similar office accommodation to the Line for 25s per sq. feet. I leave it to the House to judge for themselves whether there is anything improper about that. There was a saving of 20s per sq. feet by the fact that the property was obtained from the Ojukwu Transport. The National Line in fact owes it to Sir Odumegwu that it has got the offices at this moderate rate.

The second allegation is equally untrue. It concerns a property leased by the Ojukwu Transport at 8 Macpherson Avenue. This property was originally leased to the United Africa Co. Ltd. together with other properties by Ojukwu Transport. The rent, in the first place, was £2,000 per year, but the lessees (that is U.A.C.) subsequently agreed to pay ten years rent in advance, that is, to the value of £15,000, and thereby save £5,000. These are business people. Instead of paying every year £2,000, they prefer to pay £15,000 for ten years and save £5,000. That was the arrangement between the Ojukwu Transport Ltd. and U.A.C. Ltd. This house was previously occupied by the expatriate staff of Palm Line, who were technical partners with the National Line for the staff of Palm Line. The effective rate, therefore, is £1,500 per annum. When the Line took it over after the shares of the technical partners had been taken over by the Government the market value of the property was £2,500. Here again, the National Line has also benefited from the transaction.

In all these matters, the main thing is whether anybody in authority has used his position to gain extra advantage; but where a person has even foregone what he could get from other sources, I do not see any stigma in such a deal at all.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)** : It is wrong ! It is morally wrong !

**The Minister of Transport** : Now, the third allegation concerns the house at 4 Park Close. This property was acquired by the National Line at the same time as the house at 8 Macpherson Avenue, when the departure of the technical partners made it necessary (*Interruptions*). The fact is this. When the National Line took over the shares of the technical partners, they also took over some

staff. The staff were seconded from both Palm Line and Elder Dempster to the National Line: that is why this became necessary.

As I was saying, this property was being negotiated for by the General Electric Company of Nigeria at an annual rent of £1,500. As the National Line wanted the accommodation and could not get any accommodation, they got it at £1,250—a reduction of £250 was made. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! The House is getting very noisy.

**The Minister of Transport** : I am sure, that many hon. Members here know that accommodation in Lagos is not easy to find.

**Several Opposition Members** : We do not know !

**The Minister of Transport** : It is true. If you are fair-minded, you will believe that. It is difficult to get in Lagos.

The other allegation refers to one of the ships of the Nigerian National Line.

**Mr Odulana** : On a point of order. I do not want the Minister to mislead us here. He is misleading you, Sir, in this way.

**Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North)** : In view of the fact that we have Head 55—the Ministry of Transport—to discuss, would it not be proper for the Minister of Transport to hear more Members' remarks before replying, because more facts are coming in ?

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! I think I would take care of that.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** : I have finished with all the properties. I am now dealing with the allegations about a ship—one of the ships that caught fire. It is true that one of the ships caught fire. This was widely reported in the newspapers, and I am quite sure that the hon. Member, Mr Brown, must have read this from the newspapers. It was unnecessary for me to make a statement, because the news had been published some months before this House was convened.

There is no secret about the fire. Investigations have been caused, and it has been found out that the cost of repairs would be about



£13,000. But this would be fully met by insurance policy which was taken out when the ship was purchased, so that there will be no loss to the National Line.

**An hon. Member :** What of loss of life ?

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** There was no loss of life or anything like that.

Now, there are very many minor inaccuracies in the hon. Member's allegations which I do not think it is necessary to bother the House about, but I would like to suggest that sometimes when hon. Members are here getting certain information, it may be better for them to meet the Minister concerned and find out the facts. I want to say that I am always prepared to discuss with hon. Members any information which they have got and which they want to be clarified.

Finally, I want to assure this hon. House that the Nigerian National Line is being efficiently and successfully administered, and that it is making substantial profits with which it has been possible to undertake a progressive expansion of the Line.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) :** As the Shadow Minister of Transport, I do not think it would be quite correct for me to be meeting the Minister of Transport.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I seek the indulgence of Mr Speaker to please clear behind me the Parliamentary Secretaries who are obviously disturbing me.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! It is really disturbing, and I do take the advice of the Minister of Finance. But in future I will take note of those who make the noise and disturb the Ministerial Bench as well as the House and sometimes myself. I think I would be rather strict on that.

**Mr Brown :** I was saying that it would be quite improper for me to be meeting the Minister of Transport and Aviation all the time to discuss all such important matters in secret. I think it is quite proper that I disclosed them, and I am going to disclose more during the Debate on the Head of that particular Ministry.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) :** I am not trying to challenge the statement of the Leader

of the House, but I want him to mention names. He should mention the names of the Parliamentary Secretaries who were making the noise.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I think on this occasion Mr Lana is not included, but on many other occasions he made more noise.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

“That at this day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.”

**The Minister of Transport :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That at this day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Whole House in Committee.*

HEAD 52.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

*Question proposed, That £1,213,800 for Head 52—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** I rise to move, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £10. In moving this Amendment I do not wish to get the Minister removed. In fact, if raising his salary would make him more efficient, I think I shall recommend it. With these remarks, I have some few points to make, and that is the question of the allocation of plots on the Lagos Island.

This is a very important matter, and I should like the Minister to see that in future all the allocations of plots must be made to the

[MR MUOJEKE]  
citizens of Nigeria—the Nigerian nationals—and that if Nigerian nationals to whom the plots have been allocated go further to assign them to aliens, the purported assignment should be declared null and void.

Moreover, apart from the allocation of plots on the Lagos Island, rents on all houses, whether private or official, in the whole of Lagos should be controlled, at least, for the benefits of the civil servants. The cost of living in Lagos is rising. Last time an hon. Member said that it costs more to leave in Lagos than to live in London, and one of those things which contribute to raise the cost of living in Lagos is the exorbitant rent which the landlords are collecting from poor tenants.

On this occasion I think that the house of the British High Commissioner in Lagos which is wedged between the State House and the Prime Minister's House comes to mind. This house further stands closer to the house of the Minister of Finance, the Nigerian Parliament buildings, and, what is more, the Members' flats. We remember that the Nigeria Office in London is located in an obscure Lane right away from the Houses of Parliament; from 10 Downing Street, and from all official houses; whereas in Nigeria, we see it fit to locate the British High Commission at the most important and strategic point in Lagos. I am not imputing improper motive, but I think that the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs would be wiser if he considered removing the British High Commissioner from his present quarters.

There are too much of slums in existence in Lagos. Lagos is the capital of Nigeria. For this reason, more attention should be directed to the important questions of clearing slums in Lagos and getting rid of mosquitoes. I think that we have advanced scientifically and medically to the point at which we can ask for the co-operation of the hon. Minister of Health to help to see to it that all mosquitoes in Lagos are wiped out.

It is rather distressing to find our hotels, drinking and eating houses infested with undesirables and, I am sorry to say, prostitutes, particularly in Lagos. I think that the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs should clear Lagos of these undesirables.

**Some hon. Members :** Cleared to where ? To your house ?

**Mr Muojeke :** The best way to clear these places of these people is by seeking and providing alternative employment for them.

**An hon. Member :** And finally !

**Mr Muojeke :** And finally, Lagos should be rid of this disgraceful play of "Eyos" called "Adamu Orisa Play". We cannot tolerate acts of vandalism and brutality in the Federal capital of Nigeria. This play should be abolished by Law. It is disgracing this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

10.57 a.m.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : Mr Chairman, I think we can well discuss the whole Head just to save time ?

**The Chairman :** I think that it will save the time of this Committee if Members speak generally on the Head rather than on individual items.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I have no doubt, Mr Chairman, that you must have become a bit disgusted with the monotony with which hon. Members from the rural areas (*Hear, hear*).

**The Chairman :** Point of order, Mr Muojeke.

**Mr Muojeke :** Point of order, Mr Chairman. I wish to inform—

**The Chairman :** That is not a point of order; you may not inform him !

**Mr Muojeke :** I wish to inform him that there is no difference between—

**The Chairman :** Order, order. If you are raising a point of order, Mr Muojeke, what is the number of the Standing Order that you are raising ?

**Mr Dosunmu :** Hon. Members representing the rural constituencies have been invariably requesting the Federal Government to stop providing services for Lagos. I am sure that all such statements must have fallen on deaf ears.

We should be proud of the Federal Capital of Nigeria, and it should gladden the heart of every Nigerian that Lagos receives its proper dues. If we only go next door to Ghana and see the city of Accra, that would be enough to make us ashamed of Lagos as a capital city.

**An hon. Member :** How does the hon. Member know that ?

**Mr Dosunmu :** I have been there. It should, therefore, be a pride that the Nigerian Government makes Lagos worthy of her position.

**Some hon. Members :** It is, it is !

**Mr Dosunmu :** But the irony of it all is that the beneficiaries of the services obtaining in Lagos, in the main, come from the grumbling constituencies. If one visits any hospital in Lagos—

**An hon. Member :** Nobody is grumbling.

**Mr Dosunmu :** The people on my left are always grumbling that Lagos is having more than its share.

The Government realises that it has not done too much for Lagos ; in fact, it has not done enough.

The main point which I would like to make is in respect of Lagos herself. This point is linked with the question of housing and reclamation of land in Lagos. A careful reading of the Economic Programme will convince everybody that the Government is alive to the problem, for it is made abundantly clear there that unless Lagos is replanned, the position is going to be worse in a question of a few years.

**Several hon. Members :** Extend Lagos. Extend it.

**Mr Dosunmu :** To where ? The answer is not the extension of Lagos. If Lagos is extended, it must surely have a boundary somewhere, the same problem is surely going to arise. Therefore, the answer is not in extending Lagos even as far as to Sokoto or Kano.

What is important is that the hon. Minister should get in touch with his counterpart in the adjacent area of Lagos so that there could be established a sort of co-ordination between the Lagos Executive Development Board and the Local Authority responsible for planning the areas adjoining Lagos—Ikeja, *et cetera*. It should be possible for the two bodies, being so near to each other, to work together

so that the development of Lagos would be planned with that part of Western Region. This sort of co-ordination between these two authorities is what we really need now. Lagos cannot really be planned and developed without spilling over into the Western Region. It would present a very nice sight if the development is so balanced that immediately one steps out of the Federal territory one does not step into a shabby and unplanned area. It is only fair and correct to have co-ordinated planning in Lagos and its adjoining area. But the answer is not in annexing any part. The answer is for the Governments to work together—the Local Authority, Ikeja, and the Lagos Executive Development Board.

But that is not the only problem, I am not going to dwell much on it because the hon. Minister has said in the Economic Programme that the Government is looking at the problem in an overall manner and that it is even inviting overseas experts to come and advise them on how to handle the situation.

I am going to suggest that something be done on the question of the immigrant population of Lagos. There is no question about that. Nobody likes to restrict people's movements. They are bound to come to their capital city because it is their own but, again, in so doing we do not want to make the position in Lagos worse. There are many ways of doing this restriction. If we are careless about it and leave it unchecked—the position will be worse. If we make it shabby and overcrowded it will soon lose its position as a respectable capital of a big country like Nigeria.

**An hon. Member :** Then, extend Lagos !

**Mr Dosunmu :** As I said earlier on, the answer is not extension. It is only an ignorant man who will say that that is the answer to it.

In tackling this problem of the development of Lagos one idea that occurs to me is that the Government, in order to divert this immigration into Lagos, must establish some satellite towns around Lagos. These towns should be full and complete in themselves. Social services, schools, dispensaries and, in fact, all the necessary amenities should be so provided that the attraction that Lagos offers will not be typical of Lagos alone.

[MR DOSUNMU]

Surely, if people outside Lagos have a full town where they can send their children to schools, get good hospitals, good water to drink and enough food to eat, they will be less interested in coming to cause unnecessary congestion in Lagos. That is the solution that has been applied in many other countries.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister to explore this possibility instead of further reclaiming land in Lagos and building houses on top of houses. The Government should spread out outside Lagos and acquire large areas of land, and develop them into towns so that these itinerants from the Eastern Region can be domiciled in these parts of Lagos.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** The hon. Gentleman has accused the people from the Eastern Region of causing the congestion in Lagos. Surely if Lagos is the Federal Territory, everybody, and not only from the Eastern Region alone, has a stake in Lagos.

**Mr Dosunmu :** If these towns are established outside Lagos people who love to come to Lagos will, at least, have places where they will have all the enjoyment they like.

Another solution which has been suggested is that—and it comes largely from the Members opposite—the Government should try, during this period of industrialisation, to locate industries in some important centres in the rural areas (they say in Owerri) so that these will offer some other attractions to them and the urge to come to Lagos will subside a bit. That is all I have to say about that and, as I said earlier on, I do not intend to anticipate the Minister because he has the matter well in hand as evidenced in the Economic Programme.

I would like to talk again about the Ministry. We are very happy with the decision of the Ministry that the Land Registry should have a sort of self-government as shewn in the new Estimates. It has always been the view of those of us who have business to do with the Ministry, and that view has even been upheld by the Commissioner who was sent to look into this matter, that the Land Registry should not be a part of the Lands Department but rather it should be an arm of the Judiciary because what they do largely relates to legal matters. What the Minister is doing now is a

very sure step towards that direction and it is welcomed.

I will only enter a plea at this stage that the members of the staff of that Ministry need more encouragement than they are receiving from the Government at the moment. Many of the officers there have long remained in their positions without prospects of promotion whereas one hears everyday that in many departments new posts are being created and Nigerians are being given chances to prove their mettle. One finds that for the past ten years, in this Division of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, very little has been done in the way of encouraging these officers who are doing satisfactory service.

I do not intend to be longish in my address on this matter but I would like to say something that relates to me personally. When I say *personally* I mean the people of Lagos as such. I cannot resume my seat without saying that the people of Lagos, I mean the people of Lagos as distinct from the residents of Lagos, are feeling that—(Interruptions). The Constitution itself recognises the difference.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) :** On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman's people want to deceive us by saying that they are the inhabitants of Lagos. The Federal Government is rehabilitating and increasing the population of Lagos and the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) is complaining against that. I protest against that.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I have been asked to define who are the people of Lagos. Certainly, they are the people who have no other place to claim. We know ourselves and I personally cannot claim to have any stake in any other part of the Federation. The people of Lagos can be narrowed down. I am not being parochial about this matter, but the new dispensation ushered in by independence ought to make life more abundant for everybody—the Lagosian, the Easterner, the Westerner and the Northerner. We Lagos people are feeling that in the present dispensation, we are not receiving our fair share.

It is true that in according representation to Lagos in some boards and corporations the tendency is to appoint just anybody resident in

Lagos. It is certainly not fair to us to appoint these people who have adequate representation from the regions of their origin, for the result is that the only chance that is left for the people of Lagos is taken away in a subtle manner.

I plead with the Minister to understand my feelings in this matter. We are not asking for what is not ours; we are asking for a fair share in the new dispensation. Lagos wants to be represented by its own people. It is certainly not fair to say that Lagos should be represented by somebody who not only feels that he is from the East, the West or the North—

**An hon. Member :** One Nigeria! It is one Nigeria when it suits the hon. Member!

**Mr Dosunmu :** This is not one Nigeria! I got into this position by the vote of the people who elected me.

When the Government is distributing its bounties Lagos people must be taken into consideration. We are entitled to our own share of whatever is given to the people in the regions, and in giving this share we want it to be limited to the people of Lagos. We should be the beneficiaries of these good graces from the Federal Government. I am seriously appealing to the Government through the Minister of Lagos Affairs, that whenever it is necessary to accord representation to Lagos it must make sure that it is only the Lagosians who are appointed and not those ordinarily resident in Lagos.

There are some of us who have no other home except Lagos. We have no other claim except to Lagos. I am not an Easterner; I am a Lagos man.

I will end by repeating that appeal and I am sure that it has fallen on well-meaning ears. There are some people who are not satisfied with their own things and want to take other people's things in addition. I will appeal to the—

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, we appreciate the plea of the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) but I thought he was going to plead for the chiefs to receive salaries.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I shall end with that plea. I beg to support.

11.10 a.m.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** I think the Ministry of Lagos Affairs is one of the Ministries which should be congratulated by every reasonable person both in this Committee and outside it. Judging from the tremendous development which was made by the Government and which is still being made, one is bound to admit that the Government is very alive to its responsibility in Lagos.

I should like to say that, with all the developments which have been made and which are still continuing to be made, the Government should see that in the present Six-Year Development Plan, the outcome of which is a long term programme, Lagos is also treated in the same manner. I feel that the Government should think seriously of the position of Lagos in terms of not only 20 or 30 years, but in terms of 100 years to come.

The Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*), has made a point that Lagos being the capital territory of Nigeria with its limited land, so to speak, is bound to be affected by commercial and other concerns outside Nigeria. Apart from that we have our own administrative problem as well as the Federal Capital. I feel that the hon. Gentleman's suggestion should be seriously considered.

I want to speak about the extension of Lagos boundary. One can see that the Western Regional Government is highly concerned about the problem of Lagos. For that reason, one can see that through its political strategy Ikeja is now highly industrialised. All industries in Western Nigeria are centred in Ikeja area in order to create a barrier for the proposed extension of Lagos in future. Therefore, I insist that the hon. Gentleman's suggestion should be seriously considered now.

There is one other point which I should like to bring forth in this respect, and that is the question of the development of Lagos. One can see how roads have been highly standardised but there is a poor contrast if one travels in the Lagos interior.

[M. GUSAU]

If one goes to the back streets of Lagos, one can see that the Federal roads are very bad, nothing to be compared with the major traffic roads such as the Marina and those elsewhere. There is a contrast between the road system in Lagos which should be seriously considered. The interior roads are so bad that one does not feel one is in Lagos while travelling along them. They should be developed to the best standard. On the question of Lagos development, therefore, the road system should be considered.

Whether that is the responsibility of the Town Council or our own as Federal Government, I do not know, but it should be considered.

There is also one point which I should like to bring to the notice of the Government. That is the question of our war memorial. I know that paying homage or placing a wreath on the tomb of a known warrior is regarded as a formality of international standard. Now that Nigeria is independent, I believe such formalities would have to be introduced in the country.

Where we have our present war memorial is a spot immediately on entering into Lagos. In the future if such occasions as placing wreath or ceremonies are to be undertaken, it will cause enormous road congestion and traffic interruption. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Lagos Affairs to see that the war memorial should be removed from where it is at the present moment and placed in a more proper place.

**An hon. Member :** Like where ?

**M. Gusau :** The Tafawa Balewa Square, for instance, will be suitable because so long as we are going to adopt this international formality whereby if a Head of Government or a Head of State visits our country, he may perform such ceremony, I think the present place where the war memorial is, is not suitable. It should be removed from there and put in a proper place.

There is one point which I should like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Lagos Affairs. Even from the speech of the Member

for Lagos Central, (*Mr Dosunmu*), one can judge that much is being done for Lagos and Lagos alone. This is a serious matter. We Members of this House are not at all against anything made or being done in Lagos, yet Lagos is not the only responsibility of the Government. The curious thing about Lagos is that the Ministry of Lagos Affairs provides certain facilities and amenities for which the Lagos Town Council itself should be made responsible.

**An hon. Member :** Give an example.

**M. Gusau :** Health is a good example. You can see from your own Estimates that the Ministry of Lagos Affairs is also responsible for this. My point here is that I think it is time that the status of the Lagos Town Council should be made much more clear. We do not know what it is. If the Lagos Town Council is like every Council of its own status, then we can know how to place it. But at the moment we do not know its responsibilities and its status compared with other Councils. I think that it is time that the status of the Lagos Town Council was made much clearer.

**An hon. Member :** What do you want to know ?

**M. Gusau :** What I want to know is that from where we come, we have our own local Councils. Apart from the local councils we have our own Regional Governments.

I know that here in Lagos, the Lagos Town Council is the only local Council directly responsible to the Federal Parliament. It is neither a Regional authority nor has it gone up to that standard, and that is the reason why I said that it should be made clearer.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** I would like to say that I congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for his readiness every time to help whenever problems concerning Lagos are brought to him and it is most pleasing to find that even hon. Dosunmu agrees to this and that shows the awareness of the Minister and his readiness to do what he has to do.

Mr Dosunmu has tried his best to bring out some artificial distinction between those who live in Lagos and those, very few people like

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him, who come from the Mid-West. I am saying this quite seriously that hon. Dosunmu is a Mid-Westerner and he is, in fact, one of the subjects of Chief Okotie-Eboh.

**An hon. Member :** He has denied it before.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** He cannot deny that he is a descendant of Chief Ologun Adodo.

**The Chairman :** This is not part of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs.

**Mr Ogunsanya :** The sum total of what he has said of Lagos and his forceful part, all go to show and make a ready case for the extension of Lagos Boundary. In spite of what may happen in the future, it is my wish that some day, hon. Dosunmu will live to see Lagos extended.

A case has been made about the question of appointments to Boards. Some of us who, during the time the hon. Dosunmu and others went to London to prepare a Constitution for Nigeria, solidly supported a unitary form of Government for this country still believe that Nigeria is one and one only. Nigeria is not four countries. In any event, on this question of appointments to Boards, the thing about it is that we must accept the reality that once it is a question of party patronage to Boards, it is impossible to limit it whenever appointments are being made.

There are two categories of Board appointments at the Federal level. There are a number of Boards like the E.C.N., the Ports Authority and Railway Corporation, wherein the Regions are given specific representation and wherein no provision at all was made for Lagos. We say that this is an anomaly but that would not be a case for changing it without amending the *status quo*. I am in support of the *status quo* being amended and in Lagos being given specific representation. A near thing to that has been done with the E.C.N. wherein the consumers in Lagos are given one seat. I would say and would join hon. Dosunmu in a plea for more specific representation on these Boards for Lagos. That would be a better idea than barely saying that when the Minister has to nominate people as between those who live in Lagos, he should discriminate. That would be a very sorrowful thing to do.

But there is one Board, the L.E.D.B., which is to my mind, like the Ikeja Town Planning Authority, a purely local thing.

Even in this, it is impossible in the choice of Members of the L.E.D.B. to limit it to a certain part of the people living in Lagos or as hon. Dosunmu said, specifically those who according to his definition, are Lagosians. It is impossible because the issue of Lagos Town planning is a universal issue for everybody who lives in Lagos and has some financial property or other interests in Lagos. There can be no discrimination in this.

We have in line to point out if Mr Dosunmu himself is quite aware of what is happening in his party, a man like Sam Ikoku is a Member of a Western Regional Government Board. We do not oppose him.

**Mr W. Briggs (Degema) :** Who are the 'we' ?

**Mr Ogunsanya :** I mean those of us who are Nigerians, I do not mean 'you' amphibians. We know very well that Sam Ikoku is a Member of a Board in the Western Region and he is not a Westerner. We support that because that shows clearly that we have one Nigeria. Mr Ikoku is in the Western Regional Government Board, we support it. He is representing the Western Region there. The Government cannot deny it. If we ask Mr Akinloye, he cannot deny it. This is a thing which we support, we are not opposed to it. It is a case of supporting Nigerians wherever they come from to be appointed to serve in Public Boards and Corporations in their own country.

Something has been said about the allocation of plots in Lagos. I think that hon. Members are very well aware of what is happening. I myself did not agree, personally, not as a party man, to the hon. Minister balloting hundreds and hundreds of plots in South West Ikoyi, but which is the best way to do it if it is given to one man or the other, Members will criticise. As a result, balloting was done and I know one or two people related to some hon. Members on the Opposition who won in the ballot and the next day, they started bargaining to sell these plots out. There are hundreds of cases like that and the hon. Minister will find that it was necessary for him to delay drafting of the leases to see to it that in the final re-assignment of these plots, the interest of Nigerians is maintained. The hon. Minister inserted a

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clause in all the leases that there shall be no assignment to non-Nigerians. After all, that is really an idea and a satisfying reason for all of us to praise the Minister in his work. It is not easy to be a Minister. There are a number of young men who would otherwise not have got anything and who make hundreds of pounds out of these transactions.

Finally, I want to make a plea to the Government, and that is, the raising of the status of the Lagos Local Government. I want to appeal to the Government to agree to raise the local Government of Lagos to the status of a city and I think that hon. Members themselves will like to see their own capital, the capital of their own country raised to the status of a city.

I beg to support.

11.30 a.m.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I would start my comment from where the hon. Gentleman, Mr Ogunsanya, left, and that is on the question of the allocation of plots by the L.E.D.B. which is under the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. He has spoken about the allocation of plots in South West Ikoyi and the scandal connected with it, particularly with respect to those who are now hawking this land. I want to ask the Minister of Lagos Affairs to look into this matter seriously. There are other land apart from South West Ikoyi layout. There is a stretch of land on the road to the Bar Beach. There are other stretches of land in other parts of Lagos which we have reclaimed. And rumour is around that Ministers, Parliamentaries Secretaries and important officers of this Government are the people who are now owning the land in these areas.

It is not only that. The rumour is also around that they are hawking this land. I have one concrete example where an acre of land adjacent to the Federal Palace Hotel is now being hawked about in the name of Ministers of this Government. It is a very serious matter and I am saying this with all seriousness and with all sense of responsibility. There may be rascals who are doing this for their own self-gain. So, I think it calls for a very careful investigation from the Minister, and this House

is entitled to a full report as to what is happening about this land deal. It is scandalous enough to say the least.

My second point is that the Minister should consider inserting another clause, apart from the one mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr Ogunsanya, in all the leases which the Government or the L.E.D.B. is going to give with land allocated to anybody who are Nigerians. There should be no transfer. There should be no assignment, no sub-lease of any land which is undeveloped. It is only by that that we can curb this racket. If land is developed there should be nothing stopping the owner or the lessee from selling, assigning or sub-letting. But the undeveloped land which people get at nominal rate from the Government and transfer tomorrow morning for thousands of pounds, is a big racket. Therefore, if there is a clause entrenched in the lease that there should be no assignment, no sub-lease, no selling, I am sure that this racket will stop.

I want to congratulate the Minister on the provision of the division of Registration of Titles. I hope that this is going to be real registration of titles. We formerly had here Registration of Deeds and Land which was of no value whatsoever. On the same piece of land you can have registration Deeds numbering six, seven, eight even up to twenty, and another man comes tomorrow morning to the Land Registry with a spurious Deed, and they register it again. So, it is of no use. But if it is a question of registration of title, where the title is registered and no other person can register the same title without due and proper investigation, I am sure that those who deal in this city with the question of land and title will have more security and confidence in our attitude.

The Ministry of Lagos Affairs is also responsible for registration under Perpetual Land Registration Ordinance of voluntary agencies and educational institutions; in other words, the organisations which are not established mainly for profit making. And in order for them to own land they must be registered under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Ordinance. The only thing I want to point out is the unnecessary delay which applicants for this type of registration experience in this Ministry. I have in mind that a particular organisation called the Young Ansar-



U-Deen Society having their establishment covering the whole of Nigeria, applied for registration. It is very unfortunate to report that for the past fifteen months—

**An hon. Member :** In Lagos ?

**Chief Akinloye :** Of course, in Lagos here. Even if one is in Kano one has to register here. That is the law. It is a federal subject and whether it is a voluntary organisation in Kaduna or in Ibadan or anywhere else, it has to register here.

For the past fifteen months this organisation has not yet received its registration. I hope that the Minister will look into it. I understand also that Cherubim and Seraphim have not been able to get their registration through. If the Minister will ask the officers in this particular division to see to it that they give expeditious attention to registration under this particular Ordinance, it will be very good for the country.

I would like to refer also to another very important point. I think I will congratulate this Ministry again for the substantial financial assistance which the Federal Government is giving to the Lagos Town Council. Under various Heads, such as "Contribution in lieu of Rates on Federal Property" and also "Grant for Maintenance of Traffic and Street Lights" the Federal Government is making a total grant of £814,319 to the Lagos Town Council. I think it is very good and for this we should congratulate this Ministry.

The only point I would like to make is that this particular assistance makes the capitals of the Regional Governments jealous of the Lagos Town Council and of the financial assistance that the Government is giving to this Council. I only hope that the other Governments will follow suit. It cannot be denied that any capital city, whether it is under the Federal or the Regional Government, is the responsibility of that Government. Therefore, the Federal Government must do everything possible to make Lagos, as the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) has said, befitting of the capital of Nigeria.

I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : May I also join those who have spoken before me in congratulating the Minister of Lagos

Affairs. He really deserves our congratulations when we see the rate at which Lagos is developing. It is growing fast and it is certainly much cleaner than any other town in the Federation. We have nothing against its development. But with some caution, I would like to say that those of us who come from the hinterland would like to feel, once we are in this Territory, that we also belong to it. It is in fact developing with finances derived from all over the Regions. Therefore, it is regrettable that the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) spoke against, perhaps, the influx of people from the Regions. It is regrettable that he should term them as 'immigrants'. This is our land; we are all Nigerians, and it is our tax. I do not know what my hon. Friend thinks of me when I say this, but I hope—

*Whereupon Oba S. A. Oladiran 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.*

*£1,213,800 for Head 52—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 53.—MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER

*Question proposed, That £272,320 for Head 53—Ministry of Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.*

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Hon. Maitama Sule) : *rose—*

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not challenging your ruling, but I think it is very important that the hon. Minister of Mines and Power, and any other Minister for that matter, should listen first to whatever criticism is actually made before he makes his speech. Otherwise the Minister will be obliged to intervene from time to time in order to answer the points that are raised by hon. Members, in which event there will be very little time for us to contribute to the debate.

**The Chairman :** Are you introducing new orders ?

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** Hon. Members will appreciate that, in the past, I have made Ministerial Statements on specific points : I did not deliver my budget speech. Now I think it would be fair to hon. Members

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to say something about the whole Ministry in order to give them something to talk about. It is for this reason, therefore, that I am making a short address to Parliament in order to give hon. Members an idea of what the whole Ministry is doing and what it had been doing in the past.

With the introduction of the 'Mobilisation Budget' every Minister is mobilising to help to execute the gigantic Economic Plan before us. Hon. Members do know that our main problem to-day, like all the other countries of the world whose economy is expanding, is the economic development of the country with a view to raising the standard of living of our own people. This standard is, comparatively speaking, low but can, with our determination, be made high, and we can hope to catch up with the more advanced countries of the world within as short a time as possible. But the whole thing depends on the successful planning of our economy, which in turn is partly dependent on the availability of data on the mineral resources of the country.

Power also plays a very important part and we have now come to a stage in our development when we cannot do without a cheap and plentiful source of energy. In these circumstances therefore, hon. Members will appreciate how anxious we are in my Ministry to supply these essential ingredients for the development of our country.

Before I delve into this subject, let me first refer to a couple of points which I would like to touch upon regarding the way the Estimates of my Ministry have been set out this year. In the past, the Electrical Inspectorate Section of my Ministry, which is purely a technical section, used to be shown, rather inappropriately, under the Administrative Division of the Ministry as if it were part and parcel of that Division. This anomaly has been rectified in this year's Estimates, with the Electrical Inspectorate appearing as a separate Division.

The second point is that the Geological Survey Division is shown as a completely new Head (Head 54) from the rest of the Ministry. This is purely an administrative step suggested by the Accountant-General to remove the present difficulties arising from the rest of the Ministry being self-accounting while the Geological Survey is not. It does not in any

way indicate any special status for the Geological Survey Division, and the Ministry still remains a fully integrated one.

This year, I am sure, is going to prove a most exciting one for the Ministry and, I believe, one that will bring results beneficial to the people of this great country. The task of the Ministry has increased immensely and will increase yet still in the future. With the development of the oil industry, the discovery of new processes for the coking of Nigerian coal, for the utilisation of natural gas, for the production of iron and steel, for the generation of electricity by harnessing the waters of the Niger and for the discovery of mineral resources by aerial survey and other methods, it has become a matter of the highest priority to assemble within the Ministry of Mines and Power a strong team of Nigerian administrators and specialists fully capable of developing Nigeria's mineral and power resources in co-operation and harmony with other interested parties, private or public, indigenous or foreign, whose efforts they will not only supplement but also regulate and inspect wherever necessary in the national interest.

The Geological Survey Division of the Ministry will devote most of its efforts to the geological mapping of the country which is the basis of all modern methods of prospecting. It is however one thing to obtain the necessary geological data on the field and quite another to actually produce maps of a high quality which would enable full advantage to be taken of the technical data amassed in the field. The Ministry is therefore trying to arrange, under technical assistance, to get the geological maps published abroad wherever facilities for such publications are not available. Technical papers on mineral deposits, water supply and geological problems will also be published.

In areas where economic minerals are known to occur, investigation work will continue to be vigorously pursued, and so also will the search for new deposits of minerals. Under the Canadian Technical Assistance Programme, an expert was recently made available to my Ministry to investigate how best an airborne geophysical survey could be applied to speed up the evaluation of Nigerian mineral resources. This expert has just completed his study and will submit his

report and make recommendations to the Ministry for its implementation. There is also a United Nations' expert on mining geology who is working in close collaboration with the Geological Survey on a survey of mineral resources outside of recognised mining areas. This survey will continue during the year and a programme of priorities for the development of economic deposits discovered will be drawn up.

The ground water survey which the Ministry undertook in the north-east of this country has yielded results which are of immense economic importance to the people of the area and it is proposed to continue similar surveys in other parts of the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions.

I have already made a statement in this House during this Session about the conditions of service of Nigerians in the mine fields. I am determined to see that the conditions of service of the workers are in line with present day trends by the provisions of improved educational facilities for the children of the workers and better health and housing facilities for the workers. I do not anticipate any difficulties from the employers on this subject, and I believe that the Ministry will not be forced to introduce mandatory legislation before the employers take steps to improve matters.

The Ministry will continue to explore ways and means of ensuring a greater participation by Nigerians in the tin industry and will not only encourage them wherever possible, but will also see to it that they are not discriminated against in any way whatsoever.

The Ministry will seek outside aid to improve methods of prospecting and recovering tin and fine columbite which has already been mined so that the greatest yield may be obtained from the country's mineral resources.

I have already made a statement during the current Session of this House about Government's decision to participate with Shell-BP in establishing an oil refinery and also about Government's decision to exercise an option to purchase 30 per cent interest in an oil company to be formed by AGIP *Mineraria* of Italy. Quite apart from the direct interest which Government has in these new ventures, my Ministry has the statutory function of

supervising the activities of the various companies. To this end, the training of Nigerians for the Hydrocarbon Section of the Ministry will continue so that by the end of 1962 the Senior Staff of the Section will be made up of one Chief Petroleum Engineer who will be an expatriate on contract and four Nigerian Petroleum Engineers. Two other Nigerians are at present training in the United Kingdom and another is expected to join them shortly.

For sometime now the Mineral Oil Safety Regulations have been under review and a revised version will be issued during the year.

The Electrical Inspectorate Division of the Ministry will continue to carry out the safety inspection of electrical installations throughout the Federation. Every effort will be made to recruit Nigerians so that when the Niger Dam Project, which is essentially an electricity project, is completed there will be Nigerians available to play an effective role in inspection work.

I have already made a statement about the steps that I have taken to improve on the administrative set-up that I have found in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. I will now touch the various projects which the Corporation has in hand and hopes to complete during the year and those which it proposes to commence during the year.

The construction of the Afam 20 m.v. gas turbine will be completed during the year and so will the extension of the Oji Power Station, the linking up of Warri, Sapele, and Benin and the supply of electricity to Awka in Eastern Nigeria.

I wish to give the House a catalogue of projects which the E.C.N. will commence during the year. I think that it is necessary to do so because there is, understandably, a tendency to talk more of the short-comings of Statutory Corporations without mention ever being made of their many successes, and the hundred and one new projects which they have to keep going in addition to maintaining their already existing establishments.

The E.C.N. will commence the following developments during the year :—

The reconstruction of Lagos distribution involving the erection of a 33KV network ;

The erection of the Aba to Calabar 33KV transmission line and development of Ikot Ekpene and Uyo ;

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The extension of the 13KV line from Ibadan to Erinle ;

The erection of a 33KV line from Shagamu to Abeokuta to provide bulk supply to Abeokuta from Lagos ;

The construction of new Kaduna 'B' Power Station extension using large diesel plant ;

The plant extensions to the following power stations—Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Akure, Minna, Benin and Oshogbo ;

The development of supplies at Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, Asaba, Gbongan, Nguru and Oturkpo from Corporation's funds ;

The development of a further four rural schemes (villages to be selected in consultation with Regional Governments) from E.C.N. funds ;

The erection of a 13KV line linking Kaduna with Zaria and Kano ;

The reconstruction of distribution at Port Harcourt, Ibadan and Kano ;

The new gas turbine power station at Ughelli ; and

The first extension to Afam Power Station of 20MW.

The Corporation's development expenditure during the year is expected to cost five million pounds, 60 per cent of which will come from the Corporation's own surplus and reserves.

Over and above the projects which I have listed, the Corporation hopes to complete during the year the planning of its Second Phase of New Town Development Programme. The selection of towns to be electrified, as Members are now fully aware, is the responsibility of the various Regional Governments, but the Corporation anticipates that a total of forty towns in the Federation will be selected for electrification.

The Electricity Corporation is fully aware of the need to pursue a vigorous policy of Nigerianisation of the industry. To this end, we have arranged for an expert to be made available under the United Nations Technical Assistance Board Programme, to review existing arrangements and make recommendations for a programme aimed at achieving the complete Nigerianisation of the industry within the next few years. Meanwhile, the E.C.N. intends

to work in close collaboration with Federal and Regional Authorities with respect to the training of craftsmen and technicians to ensure that there are no unnecessary duplication and wastage of efforts.

The Corporation is fully aware of its responsibility to this country in the industrial field by virtue of its being the chief supplier of power to industry. In order to encourage the development and establishment of industries, it will continue to offer special tariffs on favourable terms to industrial undertakings wherever possible.

I now turn to the Nigerian Coal Corporation. The Corporation anticipates an increase in the demand of coal during the year by twenty to thirty thousand tons. To meet this anticipated increase would mean a production target of 630,000 tons for the Corporation.

The Corporation hopes to embark upon a drilling programme intended to prove the reserves of coal in the Enugu area, in order to meet any increased demand that may arise from other countries or from new industries. Large scale experiments have established that coke can be produced from Nigerian coal, but while this may prove to be the beginning of a happier future for the industry, it is not the intention at present to open new mines but to develop the existing ones. Investigation is being made of the possibility of tapping outside markets.

A review of the financial position of the Corporation is being undertaken and the question of a subsidy to place the Corporation on a sound financial basis is being considered with the Ministry of Finance.

Speaking generally of my Ministry as a whole, I consider that the main task of the Ministry during the year will not only be to keep pace with development but also to keep ahead of development in the survey, mapping, investigation and exploitation of mineral resources and in the promotion and regulation of the mineral and electric power industries. In addition, I consider it a most important aspect of the function of my Ministry to ensure that it is the resources of Nigeria that are exploited, rather than the citizens of Nigeria and that Nigerians derive the maximum benefit, directly or indirectly, as a result of the country's resources exploited. These functions can only

be effectively performed if there are well trained Nigerians in every arm of the Ministry. This is why the training and encouragement of Nigerians will be the key note of the year's work within the Ministry and in the two Statutory Corporations for which the Ministry is responsible. This is why the Ministry has ensured that in the oil industry, for instance, one of the most important new criteria in the granting of concessions is the extent and quality of training which the companies propose to offer to Nigerians in their employment. The unreserved welcome which the companies gave these new criteria as being in their own interest as well as in the interest of Nigeria is most gratifying, and I am sure that members will agree with me that competition between the companies in the field of Nigerianisation will not only be exciting to watch but will also be of immense benefit to the country.

We all are making our humble contribution to make Nigeria a greater Nation, a greater Nation capable of wielding more influence in the Continent of Africa so that together with our sister African countries we may build a united strong and economically viable Africa, an Africa that will be indispensable in the fertilising of the soil of mankind. We are dedicated to this task. And so help us God.

12 noon.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I beg to move that Sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, not because I want to be too critical of the Ministry of Mines and Power, because really ten pounds is not much to be critical. The Minister has presented his short replies to our remarks both at Question time and in ordinary reference to some speeches, and also has just made another big statement in which he has quite ably dealt with many of the intriguing points which we have been raising from time to time. That shows the efficiency of the Minister who is dedicated to the service of the nation and who knows what he is doing.

For example, when this House was convened, many of us from the provinces were steaming very much because of the high cost of electricity in our own areas and the Minister has very ably stated his policy in respect of the high increases and promised to cut them down. Thus one finds nothing to criticise about that point since he has ably dealt with it.

I want to make a point here about the frequent power failures all over the country, the frequent shut-downs of electricity supplies, whether in Lagos or in Onitsha, in Abeokuta or in Enugu. These are too frequent and I think something is wrong somewhere and the Minister has not been able to explain why we have to have so many at this time, when so many people are making use of electricity.

We must modernise our electricity supply and give the Nigerian consumers of electricity confidence and security. With increased use of electricity in this country and with many people depending more and more on the electricity supply, any power failure or interruption, however brief, may mean untold losses to business men, discomfort to people who are in air-conditioned offices, discomfort to housewives who store so much food in the refrigerator and it may mean the imprisonment of hon. Members in an elevator because over at the flats just a week ago, four hon. Members were trapped in the lift, where we live, and it took about one and a half hours for them to be released by the P.W.D. (*Laughter*) And this is no joke!

**An hon. Member** : We know nothing about this. Were you one of them?

**Dr Okeke** : I was not one of those trapped but I am making a point. We have inherited decadent, obsolete electrical equipment from our colonial era and this must be rectified. We cannot afford, in this country, to import discarded electrical equipment from any country at all. We need the best that is possible for Nigeria and nothing but the best can suffice for our country. When we import electrical equipment surely enough we are in need but we have our money to pay for it and it is not supplied *gratis*. So they must send to us from overseas the best up-to-date modern equipment for electricity supply which they have in their own country because we want to make the best use of it. What is supplied to us should be good too. We do not want to inherit any obsolete, decadent, discarded materials just because we are a young country in need. Surely we are not beggars; a needy person is not considered a beggar.

I must mention some points about oil companies. The Minister has made very strong promises and this shows the alertness

[DR OKEKE]

and vigilance of a Minister who knows the score. He has made many points about concessions to oil companies and says these companies are going to be formed and that participation is expected of our Government. I want to say that the present arrangement whereby oil companies are given virtual monopoly in prospecting and extracting oil in this country will beget untold hardship in future.

Certainly to-day we have no technicians, we have no capital and no equipment with which to exploit our oil resources but tomorrow our children will have the necessary know-how, the skill, the equipment and the capital to venture into oil extraction. But they will find, to their dismay, that we have to-day signed away, with a stroke of the pen, all the oil resources in this country, just as our grandfathers sold Lagos and we said they were ignorant, they were intimidated and they were illiterate. But to-day, if we sell our destiny, are we going to tell our children that we are ignorant? We are not illiterate and we must demand from these oil companies a 50-50 participation and our Minister has been able to give us a measure of assurance. But we want him to be firm in assuring this House that we want a 50-50 participation from oil companies, not only from one company from Italy (and we do appreciate the gesture which that one company has made, we do quite appreciate it) but we want other oil companies, whether from America, from England or from Russia, to give us concessions that will not, tomorrow, displease our children.

We must demand from them such participation. At least, if we cannot take full advantage of that to-day, in practice, because we have not got the know-how and the capital, then it will be on paper, in theory, until we are able to take full advantage of it. In entering into agreements with these oil companies, we must not sign away 50 or 90-year leases; we must provide for periodic reviews. For instance, in twenty years it must be reviewed because what we know now, to-day, our children will know more of in twenty years. This is to the advantage of these companies and to the advantage of our children.

We are aware of what happened in Iran. If they had provided for a 40 or 30-year

review of the conditions and terms of agreement, there would not have been chaos, but the people found that they had to abide by the agreement signed by their forefathers before they were born. When they were pushed to the wall they struck and struck drastically and things went out of hand then. We do not want these things to happen. I am not advocating it; but I am saying we must be judicious in our approach to these agreements so that, tomorrow, we will protect the future of our children and the future of the investors. For, after all, it is to their own advantage that there be order and conditions that will be conducive to their continued extraction of oil in this country.

I want also to ask the Minister if he would encourage these oil companies to prospect in a wider area and perhaps reduce their prospecting licence first, so that they could cover a lot of ground. In my constituency, for example, there are certain areas which look as though they contain deposits. If wider areas are covered then we will be able to have enough places to select from in order to determine where extraction can be economically viable.

I beg to move.

**M. Sarki Dalhatu Yola (Gaya South) :** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the debate on this Head. I congratulate the Federal Government for its negotiations for getting more foreign investors to come to Nigeria and search for oil.

I want to say a few words but may I know from the Minister whether he is aware—

**The Chairman :** The question is, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £10. May I remind the Member for Gaya South of that proposition?

**M. Sarki Dalhatu Yola :** What I want to know is whether the Minister is aware of the rumours of the existence of oil in Kano Emirate. The oil is in the Ririwai area and there is some gold in Sumaila area. We have a proverb in Hausa and I do not know whether the Minister is such a man that it would apply to. I quote: "Irrigate the grass and leave your wheat to dry".

Again, I want to appeal to the Minister to supply my constituency, Gaya, with electricity. It is more heavily populated than Ogbomosho and Ijebu-Remo which have had this facility

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for a long time. May I hear from the Minister whether he is trying to ignore Kano Emirate with these facilities.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West): As I come from Plateau Province, which is the centre of mines in West Africa, I have a few words to say about mines. I hope the Minister of Mines and Power will visit Plateau in order to advise many Nigerian private miners there to come together and form a big company. I think that would help to bring about what we want, namely, the nationalisation of the tin mines in that area. The people who are in private mining in that place are not opposed to co-operating with each other; therefore if they come together to form a firm things will be better.

I have to ask the Minister of Mines and Power to see to it that labourers in the Plateau Minesfield are paid better wages. It is not good enough for a labourer who starts work at 7 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. to be paid only between 2s-6d and 3s. I hope the Minister will look into this.

I would also ask the Minister of Mines and Power to ask the Government to build more industries in Plateau Province, because there are thousands of people there without jobs. They are just breaking into houses and they have also become robbers. If the Minister could consider this, things would be better.

Before I take my seat, I have to say something about my constituency. I have been saying here in this House that the Minister of Mines and Power should tell the reason why an acre of land in the Regions costs between £30 and £40, while in my Division (that is Plateau Division), an acre costs between £4 and £5. It is the same value of tin and also the same value of acre. So, I would be grateful if the Minister would take note of this point.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. U. Ihe** (Okigwi North East): I have only one observation to make under this Head. I was listening to the Minister of Mines and Power when he was mentioning the towns to be supplied with electricity and Okigwi is entirely omitted. Last year, the Minister told us that he would instal electricity in Okigwi *only* with the co-operation of the Regional Government, and the Regional Government has agreed and a

letter received to that effect. We are surprised to see that Okigwi is entirely omitted. Could the Minister kindly include Okigwi in the scheme?

**Alhaji Aminu Tafida** (Binji Tangaza): In rising to support this Head, I should like to make a few remarks. In spite of the obvious efforts that are being made by the hon. Minister for conducting research into Nigerian mineral resources, I believe there is more room for further research.

There is gold in Sokoto Province. It is said that petrol can be got there; there is also a certain amount of galiner in parts of Maru in Sokoto Province. I dare say that the Minister should therefore arrange for prospecting. There was a time when Mobil Oil went to Sokoto to prospect for oil and they said there was every hope of getting petrol in Dingaye near Sokoto.

There were many miners in the Zangara area, but, unfortunately, when the last War broke out they packed away and most of them joined the Army. Later on, some of them came back and stayed there for some time, but later on also went away. I appeal to the hon. Minister to inquire whether there are miners who are interested in prospecting and, if there are, they should be encouraged so that the people in that area may secure employment.

In congratulating the Minister of Mines and Power, I hope he will use all the power that he has to see that prospecting is carried out in this area.

I also wish the Minister to supply Rabah with electricity. Such amenities were given to Ogbomosho and Ikenne and I see no reason why they should not be given to Rabah.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. O. Ogundipe** (Ogbomosho South): In contributing to the debate on this Head, my praise goes to the Minister of Mines and Power for the introduction of electricity in many parts of the Regions and most especially in my constituency (my own town), Ogbomosho. The presence of this Minister was very much noticed by the entire citizens of the town during the switching-on ceremony of that electricity supply. I am sure it will continue to remain in the minds of the people for ever. But I would like to say that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. Electricity which

[MR OGUNDIPE]  
has appeared in the main streets of the town should be extended to many other parts of the town. A host of others are still deprived of this privilege. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see to the extension of the amenity to the other parts of the town. Furthermore, the charges for electricity in this particular town are very exorbitant. I would like to draw attention to the fact that a point of electricity costs 5d as against 3d in other places. This fantastic cost has forced many of the people to disconnect their lights while others are afraid of installing same in their houses.

The most important disadvantage of this exorbitant charge and which is poisoning the minds of the indigenous people is that small scale industrialists have had to move out from this place to establish somewhere else where charges are less. I shall continue to be grateful to the Minister if immediate halt is called to the present state of affairs. Before independence it was discovered that there are mineral deposits around this town and the area was thus earmarked for prospecting. So bright was the prospect that a flag was flown. So, it is time the Minister of Mines and Power directed his Geological Surveyors to that area to see what minerals are in that place.

If the Chairman will not rule me out of order, I would like to comment briefly on the Ministry of Transport. I would like to say—

**The Chairman :** I am afraid you can only speak on Mines and Power.

**Mr Ogundipe :** With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) :** At times we are given the opportunity to criticise, but I think in this respect we will say the truth. This our Minister is not only progressive in outlook but is dynamic in achievements. I think his Ministry is one of the best and this is an opportunity to congratulate him. But I want to say one or two things which I wish him to do. With reference to sub-head 51—that is Mines Division—I want him to look into the conditions of those people they call Mines Rangers and Sub-Inspectors whose duties are to tour the whole fields in Nigeria. They are given respective divisions, they travel on cycles, sometimes 20 to 25 miles a day as Mines Rangers. I think the time has come

when they have to be properly equipped. When they go to the bushes, they are not properly equipped; they go only on cycles instead of motor cycles and these sub-Inspectors who are so treated are recruited from secondary schools.

I think one of the things which make our students from colleges not enter the technical sections in various departments to-day is the unattractive nature of the field work. In those days when Europeans went to the field, they had kit-cars, and so on. I remember they were properly equipped with camp beds and so on. The students recruited from colleges ought to be encouraged and in this respect I would like to cite some departments—Geological Department, Survey Department and Agricultural Department. The tendency is that our students do not want to join these departments. The conditions there are not very encouraging no adequate equipment and the allowances are poor.

This also is what obtains in the Mines Department. These people who go to the fields travel on cycles everyday. I know some of them. Already they are totally battered by riding cycles. I feel that the Minister should look into these poor conditions.

I support the Minister in his Nigerianisation Policy there. I am quite happy that we have Nigerians there who are near the post of Chief Inspector. I know very well that the Chief Inspector of Mines is doing very well in agreement with what the Prime Minister said sometime ago. He said that the Nigerians who hold posts to-day always accept these posts as a challenge. That is to prove their mettle when conditions are the same and I am very happy that those now being promoted in the Mines Department are doing excellently well.

I want to refer to sub-head 71—Training and Research. I appeal to the Minister that the mining school in Jos, should be properly equipped and the type of Research Instructors there should be those who are trained in Mining Engineering—not Ex-Servicemen—so that our students there would be properly trained in research work. For example, in the United States of America, mining technology is not a small thing. As revenue from mining is one of the most important aspects of our income I feel that the mining school such as is envisaged should be of a very high standard



so that it will be an arm of a university. In fact, I suggest that this mining school should be an arm of the proposed Lagos University so that enough of technical equipment should be put there and research made a very important subject because if we have not got research technologists and mining engineers, I do not think we will be able to know the type of mineral potentialities Nigeria has at the moment.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I wish to thank the Minister for his recent statement on the conditions of workers on the Plateau. I think there is one thing that the Minister has left out, and that is, on the Plateau to-day, about 10 per cent of the population are T.B. sufferers—that is, tuberculosis. About 10 per cent of the population suffer from this dangerous disease known as tuberculosis.

A reliable investigation, even though not scientific, has proved that there exists a virus in the province which when contacted results in miners suffering from this terrible disease. I think the Federal Minister of Mines and Power should see that the miners are given the most modern equipment and that hospitals are built there so that the conditions of these workers might be improved and their health properly looked after.

There is another point. After the land has been exhausted, by the drilling of all the minerals, the miners are always reluctant to reclaim the land. I think the Ministry of Mines and Power should force the miners to do something about the land immediately it is exhausted.

Not only that. These miners have been on the Plateau for about fifty years and no schools are established there; nothing of that sort. I, therefore, call on the Minister of Mines and Power to urge these miners to build four up-to-date technical schools; that is, they could build one at Akwanga; one at Lanchang in the Lowland Division; one at Pankshin, in Pankshin Division and one in Jos for Jos Division.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

12.30 p.m.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): On Friday last week, the electricity supply in my home

town Owo was switched on by the Premier of Western Nigeria and for that I will say "thank you" to the Minister of Mines and Power for getting the E.C.N. to do the work. The next body to be thanked is the Western Regional Government for giving the loan to the E.C.N.; but for the Western Regional Government giving the loan, it might not have been possible to install electricity in that area. That is a fact.

Now, I want to speak about the very high cost of electricity supply. It should be remembered by the Minister that the loan for the installation of electricity there was given interest free. Why is it that the cost of electricity is so high when the loan is interest free? The cost of electricity supply is 5d per unit there.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): On a point of order. The hon. Member for Owo South (*Mr Ajasin*) has not been to Owo since the switching on of the electricity and he is not aware that the light was disconnected from Lagos so that there is no light in Owo at all.

**The Chairman**: That is not a point of order.

**Mr Ajasin**: The hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is ignorant of the place. The Power Station is at Akure and is not connected with Lagos at all. So I am asking the Minister that he should reduce this cost from 5d per unit to 3d or what it is at Lagos or at Ibadan. The cost is very high. He has promised that he would see about the reduction but we want something specific. There should be no conditions attached such as if the reduction will not affect the cost of the Niger Dam or the cost of installing electricity in other places. Such conditions should not come into it at all. The cost is rather high and should be reduced.

The same thing applies to the standard cost of buildings. It is not only the cost per unit that is high but also the cost of other things like the standard cost of building. Then comes the question of poles. The poles supplied in the towns cost about £7-10s each. Several houses are supplied with electricity from one pole and yet it is only that person to whom the pole is supplied who pays for it, he is the only person who bears the cost. The other people are not expected to pay. So I think the

[MR AJASIN]

E.C.N. should be responsible for the cost of these poles. The consumers should not be responsible.

The other thing that I would like to speak about is the survey of the mineral resources in the country and particularly in the area from which I come, that is, my Constituency. I would like the Minister to get these Geological Surveyors to go there and see what minerals they can get from that place for the development of the country. These are the things to which I would call the attention of the Minister, and I hope that he will take them into consideration and then give a reply when he comes to reply to observations.

**M. Aminu Kano** (Kano East): Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Minister. Secondly, I think the Minister should be advised to organise a scholarship scheme or a much more broader scheme of scholarship for mining and electrical engineers. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that it is not only a question of people being confined to where we know. When we want to send students to study mining and electrical engineering, we send them to highly technical and industrialised countries—those countries that are highly technical. But these countries are not necessarily confined to the West.

I understand, that Rumania has the best schools for miners. That is my information. Well, let us explore the possibility of sending some of our students to Rumania. I understand also that there is a school for miners in Indonesia. Why can we not design scholarship schemes to send students to Rumania and Indonesia? And then Western countries like the United States of America who are experts in oil mining should not be set aside.

Thirdly, the Minister should be advised to look into the possibility of salt production in Nigeria. We buy salt outside this country and we import salt worth £2 million a year. In 1958-59, this country bought about £2 million worth of salt.

**An hon. Member**: That is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**M. Aminu Kano**: I know this is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but when I sent a letter from the United Nations

to the Minister of Economic Development urging him to start salt production, he referred me to the Minister of Mines and Power, and said that it is entirely his responsibility to survey the possibility of salt production and that before he handed the letter over to the Minister of Economic Development he would allow his views to be passed over to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

So, I am certain that in the area of Badagry, there must be a possibility of salt deposit. There is a Committee—a Committee of the United Nations—for this kind of work. The United Nations had sent two experts on this kind of work to Venezuela and Tunis and they made a report of their investigations in these two countries to the United Nations for the production of salt. Why can Nigeria not utilise the services of this Committee of the United Nations, ask them or just write a letter to them to come here, survey our salt areas, and the possibility of salt production so that we may have our own salt?

Fourthly, may I say that when one is driving from Kano to Katsina, a few miles before reaching Katsina, there is an area which is swampy and marshy. I suspect that there is something present in that area. Some people had gardens and what is called *lambu*, and there was a time when one gentleman dug a well and the well did not produce water, and then when he continued to dig the well the water smelt of gas or petrol or something. This was miles away from all the oil dumps in Kano; nobody can tell us that it might be a leak of oil dump. If one continues driving right up to Sokoto, there are instances of such areas. Therefore, I would like the Minister to carry out a new survey. I do not believe that we should continue with the practices of the Colonial days—with the Imperial powers the tendency was to tell us what they wanted us to know. I would like a new survey of our mineral resources so that we may know the wealth of the country.

The Minister in his speech this morning made reference to what he called "selected areas" for supplying electricity. I have not studied the way and manner by which electricity is being supplied in towns and big cities, etc., in Nigeria, but I feel that the Minister should also make an assessment of towns which are growing. One can see very well that places like Gwarzo and Kafan-

chan, for instance are areas which are expanding every day. Kafanchan is just near the Plateau and Kura Power Station can supply Kafanchan with electricity; and many other towns like Kafanchan around Zaira Province could be supplied. Why can we not make an assessment of towns which are growing in importance? We could even start putting up the poles—we could do that; many countries all over the world do it, instead of waiting until a big town asks for electricity. A survey needs to be made, instead of waiting for about five years when such cities will have populations of about 50,000 people. The poles could be erected now and left there until they are needed, then when the time comes the wires can be put up. There are so many towns which are now growing in importance, and I think that the Minister should pay some attention to this.

May I say that the agreement which has been reached with this Italian Oil Company is welcome? But I want to say that we are going to meet competition of various forms from the Shell B.P. Company and from the Mobil Oil Company—there is no doubt about it. We must remember the experience of other countries like Iran in the days of Mossadique—most of us have forgotten it. We should remember that we are a new nation and that we are dealing with very clever experts, not only in international negotiations, but in economic negotiations, and that there is a way and manner in which a country may be strangulated economically. I ask the Minister not only that we should be very vigilant in connection with the agreement with the Italian Company, but also that he should look ahead for any trouble that might arise between this new Company and the old-established companies like Shell B.P. and Mobil Oil.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji L. Daura (Maska):** I support the expenditure under this Head.

Whilst doing so, I should like in the first place to thank the Minister for providing electricity to my Constituency, Funtua. Electricity has been supplied to Funtua, and I would ask the Minister to explore the possibilities of extending this electricity to Bakwori—a town of about 30,000 persons, just eight miles from Funtua.

This will at the same time help to reduce the unit cost of electricity, which is a present 5d per unit. It is possible that quite a number of consumers will be obtained in Bakwori.

Another point is that the electricity which has been provided to Katsina for at least twenty years now is still on a very high unit cost. The consumption at Katsina is very great, and the number of consumers there rightly justify the need to reduce the unit cost. At times when one asks for electricity to be installed in one's house, one would be told that the Power House could not take more consumers. If that is the case, why does the Ministry not instal another engine, so as to supply adequate electricity to the people resident in Katsina? At the same time, this would help to reduce the unit cost which everybody in this House seems to be complaining about.

Another thing that I would like the Government to do so as to reduce the cost of this electricity is to expedite the construction of the Niger Dam, so that electricity will be cheap and will be available anywhere it is required.

I would also like to point out one important question to the Minister of Mines and Power, and that is the possibility of the presence of coal in Katsina on its border with Sokoto. I would like to see that the Minister does something by initiating surveys so as to confirm the presence of coal in this area. The other day I mentioned about asbestos being present in the Maska district of Katsina. I would also like the Minister to explore this.

**An hon. Member:** The hon. Member for Maska is not an expert.

**Alhaji Daura:** I am not, but I have seen it, and I am certain that it exists there—I have seen it myself, and I was on the preliminary work of investigating the presence of asbestos in that area.

With these few remarks, I support.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule):** May I take this opportunity to say how extremely grateful I am to hon. Members for the constructive suggestions that they have made on the Floor of this House. I can assure those hon. Members who have not had a chance to say anything that if they are still willing to make such contributions, they can meet me outside—certainly not for blows, but for consultation.

[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]

Let me say this here on the Floor of this House that I have been greatly encouraged to see the interest that hon. Members have taken in the three most important things of my Ministry—oil industry, source of energy and geology. These are most important. They are most important also to the development of this country. I have told you my attitude about the oil industry, and let me repeat once again, before I answer the questions that have been asked during the course of this debate, that oil, I believe, is very important in our economy and if any industry is going to dominate the economy of the country, any Government that is deserving the respect and confidence of the people cannot sit with arms folded and let such an industry be monopolised by a certain group of companies. It is for this reason, therefore, that I am trying to encourage as many oil companies as possible from different parts of the world to participate in this oil industry. (*Hear, hear*).

My only criteria are that whatever oil companies that come into Nigeria to operate must be reputable oil companies and they must have the technical know-how. I am not prepared to allow the adventurer type of companies that will come to Nigeria and make a mess of our oil industry thereby giving the wrong impression to the people that are genuinely interested in developing this industry.

And again, oil, I believe, is extremely a very complicated industry, and in dealing with all oil companies all over the world Governments must be vigilant. And I am doing so.

One other thing that I must bear in mind (and the Ministry is always bearing that in mind) is that in order that we may be able to get the best and the most from this oil industry, I must have Nigerians trained in the various fields of the industry so that they may know the secrets of the industry so as to enable me to know how to deal with it. (*Hear, hear*). And believe me, I will not leave any stone unturned in order to get the Nigerians trained so that they may be properly qualified. (*Hear, hear*). I do realise, however, that there may be some politics in the oil industry, but I do hope that whatever politics there may be in the oil industry in Nigeria, may not be to the detriment of Nigeria.

The question of power: I have said in my statement this morning that we have reached a stage in our economic development when we cannot do without cheap, plentiful source of power. I will repeat this again, but what I can do at the moment is to explore the possibility of reducing the high cost of electricity which I have admitted is high. In the meantime, I have made a policy decision that wherever possible, if an industry is going to be established and it deserves such concession, I will ask the E.C.N. to give it special tariff in order to encourage it. It is necessary to give concessionary tariff to certain industries in this country in order to encourage the growth of industrialisation, and this I am doing in all reasonable cases, But I would like to point out also that if I am doing this, I will also help to bring down the cost of electricity for the domestic consumption because if there is large consumption by industries, then the cost will come down and the cost of domestic consumption will come down also. I am doing that.

As for the geological mapping of this country, I am doing that. I have got technical assistance from Canada; I have got technical assistance from the United Nations; I am asking Geological Survey Department to intensify its geological mapping throughout the country. The idea is to keep ahead of our economic development so that at every time we have data available for the mineral resources of this country, because it is only upon that that the success of our economic planning and economic development entirely depend.

People have talked about black-outs in this country. I have apologised to the people. This is something that is rather unfortunate. I have got some experts in Lagos now to investigate into the causes of this break-down and to report to me. Not until such experts have reported to me shall I be in a position to make any further statement. I ask hon. Members to bear with me, therefore, until such time when such a report is submitted to me and when I shall be able to make a statement and take a decision and therefore guard against the future.

Mention has also been made about the occurrence of oil in certain parts of Kano. The question of finding oil in any part of the area, in any part of the world, is something that is not certain. It may well be that there is oil in

Kano, in Oshogbo, in Ijebu, in Sokoto, or anywhere else. As far as I know, some years ago an oil company went to the North in search of oil. They searched for oil in the Sokoto area; of course, they were not satisfied that there was oil. As far as I am concerned, the proof as to whether there is oil or not in any area in the world is to drill. Therefore, I am encouraging all the oil companies to look wider afield and to exploit wherever they think it is economically possible to do so. I believe that if any oil company finds oil in any part of the world or in part of the country and is satisfied that it is economically viable to exploit that oil, they will certainly do so because it is in their own interest. But I am encouraging any oil company that comes to look all over the country and find out if there is oil in commercial quantities which they can exploit for the benefit of themselves and the country.

The question of supplying electricity to various towns is something that I have made clear to this House. There are three ways of doing it :

(1) if the E.C.N. carries out an economic survey and is satisfied that it is economically viable to supply a certain area with electricity undertaking, we do so direct from our funds.

(2) Where we are not sure about the economic viability, we ask the Regional Governments if they can lend money for the supply of electricity to that area, and if they do so, you will agree with me that they will have to select the towns. He who pays the piper must dictate the tune !

(3) We sometimes supply electricity to rural areas as an experiment. Forty towns will be electrified this year and hon. Members can go back to their respective Regions and ask the Regional Governments to consider their areas for inclusion in our next economic programme.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that the points that have been made by hon. Members will be taken care of. I cannot certainly reply to all these points here on the Floor of this House, but once again, I take this opportunity to thank hon. Members and to say that I am particularly happy to see that they have taken interest in oil, power and geology.

Thank you, Sir.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

£272,320 for Head 53—Ministry of Mines and Power—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 54.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

£127,010 for Head 54—Geological Survey—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

#### HEAD 55—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

*Question proposed, That £940,150 for Head 55—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Haikali Maigari** (Kauru Lere) : In contributing to the debate on this Head, I would like to confine my speech to the activities of the Nigerian Railway Corporation. I have the fear that in future not many people would like to travel by train. It may surprise the Minister when I say that not many people travel by train these days. To travel by this means of transport is killing. It is killing in that many times the trains always run behind the scheduled time and nobody would like to be late for his business. One wonders why all our trains run behind time everyday.

When I asked a member of the staff of the Railway Corporation, what he told me was that the Railway line that we have in Nigeria was too narrow. For this reason, if the driver of any train decides to run faster the train may derail. The highest speed which our trains run is 30 miles per hour whereas in Britain, America and other countries of the world trains run at a speed of about 75 or 85 miles per hour. Indeed because of the slowness of our trains, not many people are interested in travelling by train these days. They prefer travelling by motor vehicles or by air.

Trains running from Kaduna or Zaria to Lagos are at times empty because people dislike the slow speed at which the trains run. I am, therefore, calling on the Federal Government, especially the Minister of Transport, to check the present anomaly in this service. As a means of solving these problems, I will make the following suggestions—

(1) The existing tracks of our Railways must be widened ;

(2) Limited Trains should run from the South to the North daily.

(3) There should be a short cut Railway line from Lagos to the Eastern Region.

[M. MAIGARI]

Finally, I would like to ask the Minister not to take the matter of gambling and robbery in trains lightly because we are the sufferers of these bad practices.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I am very grateful for being given the opportunity to speak on this Ministry again. This Ministry was indeed very progressive, very dynamic and very historic during the days when the Prime Minister, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, was the Minister of Transport. Ever since that Ministry was handed over to the present Minister of Transport, the Ministry has degenerated to the point of dancing to the tune of British music throughout the past year.

I want to tell the Committee that there is one secret in the Ministry of Transport that we have not known for some time now. There is an arm of the Ministry known as the Nigerian National Line. This Line only exists in name. In reality, it is the British National Line that is being operated in this country under the cover of the Nigerian National Line.

Last month, we heard over the radio an announcement by the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line, or the would-be Nigerian National Line, from Port Harcourt that the Nigerian National Line made a net profit of £300,000. We heard this only on the radio. Mr Chairman, do you know that ever since this National Line was established some four years ago there has never been a time that the Minister of Transport has submitted an audited account of this Corporation to Members of this House or to the public up to this present time?

I am surprised that a Corporation established with millions of pounds of the public funds of this country was being audited by radio! I want the Minister of Transport to tell us when he is prepared to submit the audited account of this branch of his Ministry for Members of this House to know how the funds of this Corporation are being handled—whether they are running at a profit or at a loss.

Another point that I would like to bring to the notice of Member is that when the National Line was established, we were told that the headquarters of the National Line would be situated here in Lagos, but to my greatest surprise, I have discovered that the headquarters of the Nigerian National Line/British National

Line is situated in the United Kingdom and that it is only a branch of it that we have here in Lagos.

There is an expatriate Manager based in the United Kingdom; there is another General Manager by name Mr Todd—

**An hon. Member** : Do you know his salary?

**Mr Brown** : Oh yes, it is a little above £5,000. This Todd is also based in the United Kingdom. There is also another man, Mr Johnson, who formerly was serving under the Elder Dempster Agencies on a salary of £1,250 per annum, but was later seconded to the Nigerian National Line on a salary of £3,500 per annum! In addition to this, I wish to tell hon. Members that this arm of the Government is also carrying five managers and General Managers, all of them based in the United Kingdom. Will the Minister please tell us whether we are running a British National Line or the Nigerian National Line? If we are running the Nigerian National Line, why not bring all these chains of officers or Chairmen and Managers from the United Kingdom to this country?

Another point I would like to make is that of all these Chairmen and General Managers we have in the United Kingdom, there is no indication as to how many Nigerians are attached to them for training in order to take over from them in future.

I was surprised this morning when the Minister of Transport was trying to defend the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line. In trying to defend the Chairman, he did not actually deny any of my allegations made the other day on the floor of this House about the Chairman, how he was misusing his office in having to sublet three of his buildings to the Nigerian National Line at a time that he was the Chairman of that Corporation.

Now, there is one question I would like the Minister of Transport and Aviation to answer: Of all the three houses sublet or leased to the Nigerian National Line by the Chairman, if he was not appointed as the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line, would he be in a position to sublet any to the Nigerian National Line?

**Several Opposition Members** : No!

**Mr Brown** : Is he the only landlord in Lagos?

**Several Opposition Members :** No !

**Mr Brown :** The Minister of Transport was trying to claim that it was more economical to the country for the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line to have leased his houses to the Line than if other landlords not in authority in the Line were asked to sublet their houses for the use of the Nigerian National Line. (*Interruptions*). Someone has just asked me if I am a qualified economist. I admit that I am not, but I am in a position to balance my budget annually. (*Laughter*).

The Minister was trying to tell us that when the Chairman was leasing those houses to some other companies, he was receiving a heavy sum of money from those companies ; but when he turned round to lease the houses to the National Line, of which he is the Chairman, he received less rents. I want to say that when the U.A.C. and other companies were taking those buildings on lease or on hire, the Chairman was not even sure of continuing to derive future benefits from those companies. But in giving these houses out to the Government, he made sure that as far as he remained the Chairman, even if it be for the next 200 years, he would be receiving rents from the Government. Therefore the argument of the Minister of Transport in this direction is defeated.

It was not my intention to hit at the Minister himself in discussing this transaction, but he has willingly brought himself into the picture this morning. I am in a position to link the Minister himself with the racket going on in that Ministry, so that he may be able to defend himself before Parliament adjourns on Thursday.

In the Eastern Region, that is to say at Port Harcourt, the same practice of a person being charged with the responsibility of carrying out the duties of our Government for the interests of the nation is also in vogue. At Wharf Road in Port Harcourt, there is a building to-day being occupied by the Nigerian National Line.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** There is no Wharf Road in Port Harcourt.

**Mr Brown :** The hon. Gentleman does not live in Port Harcourt ; if he did he would know that there is a street known as Wharf Road there.

**Mr Briggs :** Not in Port Harcourt, Sir.

**Mr Brown :** Call it Wharf Road then, or what you may ; whether Wharf Road I do not live there, but I know that there is a building there, being used as the office of the Nigerian National Line. I want to ask the Minister of Transport who owns that building. Is it not true that the building belongs to the Minister himself and that he sublet this building to the Nigerian National Line ?

**The Chairman :** I think the hon. Member is going a little bit too far.

**Mr Brown :** Mr Chairman, may I come back from Port Harcourt to Lagos ? Formerly, the Nigerian Railway Corporation issued air warrants for their passengers to travel by air to any destination on the prescribed air travel form issued to clients by W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Ltd. Commissions accruing therefrom were paid to the Nigerian Airways.

**An hon. Member :** Where do you get all this information ?

**Mr Brown :** If the hon. Gentleman wants to know, I am the shadow Minister of Transport and Aviation. I happen to be in a position to know everything about that Ministry.

To our greatest surprise in 1960, the outgoing Chairman, the last British expatriate Chairman of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, took a different line in dealing with this situation. He appointed a private agency in the United Kingdom, and the issuing of warrants was then transferred from the Nigerian Railway Corporation to this private-owned agency in London—known as Davell and Company (London) Ltd., 10 Ryder Street, St. James, London, S.W.1. Thus the commission formerly paid to the Airways is now being paid to a private-owned agency which does not even handle the booking at all.

I do not usually make accusations or allegations about things I do not know, and the Minister, when replying, will do well to tell the Committee how the duties which were formerly performed by the Nigerian Railways came to be transferred to a private-owned agency which answers to the address I have just quoted.

This allegation which I am making against the Minister is a serious one which cannot be ignored, and I must say that when Sir

[MR BROWN]

Abubakar was the Minister of Transport, the question of making appointments of Chairmen and Board Members to relatives did not exist in that Ministry. We therefore urge the Government to appeal to the present Minister of Transport that he should follow in the footsteps of his predecessor in that Ministry.

I must say that when the Nigerian National Line was established, as it is existing to-day by name, the people of this country were shocked to learn that a man in the person of Sir Odumegwu Ojukwu was again appointed as the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line. This office is the ninth office of Chairman that this gentleman has been appointed to. I do not know what will happen during this Six-Year Development Programme that we are talking about; if we adopt this same method in dealing with the issues to be involved in this Six-Year Development Programme, we shall one day wake up to see that the money which is being contributed by the common people for the benefit of the common people shall have been usurped by those who are already in a richer position.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): Mr Chairman, may I point out that the hon. Member is imputing improper motives.

**Opposition Members** : No, no !

**The Chairman** : Order ! No doubt this is an argument in which the Minister can defend himself.

**Mr Brown** : We call upon the Prime Minister, through you Mr Chairman, to take immediate steps by calling upon Sir Odumegwu to resign his chairmanship of the National Line. If he refuses to resign, we ask the Prime Minister to take steps to sack him. We must set an example of this gentleman and thus demonstrate to others that we can see beyond our noses. We must set an example for those people who will be charged with the responsibility for various functions during the Six-Year Development Plan.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): Mr Chairman, it is a principle accepted in this Parliament that we do not attack people who cannot be present here to defend themselves.

**The Chairman** : I should not think he is directly attacking the person concerned. The appointment and dismissal of such a person, as far as this House is concerned, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport.

**Mr Brown** : Mr Chairman, you will notice that in the Nigerian National Line there is a distinct set of service conditions for the expatriate officers, which is nothing like that applied in the case of Nigerian Executive Officers being employed in the Nigerian National Line.

I want the Minister to tell us why this is so. If this arm of his Ministry is not a British National Line, if it is really a Nigerian National Line, why draw conditions of service only for the expatriate and at the expense of the Nigerian Executive Officers employed under this Ministry ?

I want the Minister to tell us what steps he is taking now to train Nigerians to be able to qualify themselves in the near future to be able to take over from the expatriate officers overseas. As a matter of fact, I would like to say that the time has come when we must increase the number of Nigerian Executive Officers in that particular Department. At present we can only boast of four or five Nigerians, and these Nigerians, I was made to understand, are even driven to resign as a result of there being no immediate future prospect for them.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt): The hon. Member is holding brief for a certain group of people. The hon. Member is holding a type-written document from certain civil servants. Let me tell the hon. Gentleman that his arguments are based on false premises.

**The Chairman** : Order ! I do not think there is anything wrong in his holding a type-written document. As far as his arguments are concerned I would not say whether they are false or not until they are disproved.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): I want the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) to know that the hon. Member is an ex-Policeman.

**Mr Brown** : I want to make this quite clear, and I am repeating it for the third time that when Sir Abubakar was the Minister of Transport he always took the trouble to go



round his Ministry's arms one by one in order to check up the administration of the many arms of his Ministry. I am here to tell you that ever since the present Minister was appointed as Minister of Transport he has confined himself to that fashioned room along the Marina. His office is so well-furnished and air-conditioned that he would never like to leave that office in order to go round and see how all the arms of his Ministry operate.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : The hon. Member speaking is making a personal attack which is almost a way of envying the Minister, and I think it is jealousy that is driving him into that.

**The Chairman** : Order. I very much dislike unnecessary raising of points of order in order to get an opportunity to contribute to the Debate.

**Mr Brown** : I want to urge the Government to do less in furnishing the offices of most of these Ministers in order to enable them to be up to their responsibilities. As a matter of fact, investigations will prove that our present Minister of Transport ever since he was appointed has taken no trouble at all to visit any section of the arms of his Ministry whatsoever. He is depending solely on correspondence, and he receives direct dictation every day from the United Kingdom before he carries out anything at all in this country. I want him to deny that the present Nigerian National Line is not existing only in name and that the National Line we are operating in this country is not the British Line.

I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £100.

3.43 p.m.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South) : I think my hon. Friend was simply labouring to make unnecessary impressions. What he has been trying to do has been to mislead this House. After all I think the Minister of Transport is one of the Ministers who are very energetic. This Minister is a typical gentleman; he is very efficient and dynamic. My Friend who was making wild allegations has no reasons to support his case. He was only trying to imagine things which actually do not exist. He was trying to confuse the issue, and there is no doubt the Prime Minister has great confidence in the Minister of Transport. We all know that it was a Ministry

which was formerly under the able Prime Minister that was handed over to the present Minister, and the hon. Prime Minister did this because he knew the Minister was capable. (*Loud interruptions*).

**The Chairman** : Really a number of people have been giving us a lot of trouble. Perhaps I would like to say that Mr Briggs, Chief Olu-gbade, and Dr Okeke are among those who have been interrupting. I am not going further to name others.

**Mr Ikeh** : I think this being the highest Legislature of this country certain individuals and Members of the House must take into account the importance of the speech they make in this House. After all it is shameful if somebody could be used as an agent to come and say things which do not exist.

The hon. Member for Uyo (*Mr Brown*) must realise that when a person becomes a Member of this House he is supposed to be very responsible. Hon. Members should not for the reason of getting some bottles of beer outside this House bring on the Floor of this House wild allegations.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : Point of order. The hon. Member should contribute to this Debate in a constructive way. He must be able to quote facts and figures to disprove the allegations of Mr Brown, and he should not refer to bottles of beer.

**The Chairman** : There is nothing wrong in drinking bottles of beer but as far as I know no hon. Member has misbehaved as a result of drinking bottles of beer.

**Mr Ikeh** : The hon. Minister of Transport has lived up to expectations. His Ministry has been bringing about developments ever since we got our independence. We have had, for instance, the new Jet Air Service which was launched quite recently. By this service, one can travel from here to London to about eight and a half hours on any of these jet planes. This is really a very important achievement, there can be no doubt about it. His Ministry is also contemplating to have passenger vessels in addition to our present cargo vessels. Arrangements are now being made for our National Shipping Line to operate passenger service, there is no doubt that this is a good achievement too.

[MR IKEH]

In fact, the hon. Minister has done very good work. Through his efforts, the N.E.D.E.C.O. has been doing dredging work on the River Niger and the River Benue. The N.E.D.E.C.O. has also done some dredging work near Lagos.

I would, however, like to remind the hon. Minister of the promise which he made sometime ago. In the former House, an important Motion was moved concerning our inland waterways. It was then proved that one of the important waterways in Nigeria, the Cross River, is not only an inter-Regional waterway but is also an international waterway because one can sail along that river to the Cameroons and Fernando Po. The hon. Minister, at that time, promised that N.E.D.E.C.O., after it had completed its work on the Rivers Benue and Niger would transfer its equipment to the Cross River in order that it could use the equipment to carry out hydrological survey and dredging work on the river so as to make it navigable; this will lead to an expansion of trade between us and the Cameroons and also the countries beyond.

It must be realised that now that we have a naval base at Calabar, the importance of the Cross River is enhanced. Although I am not a lawyer, I know that in International Law, a country is not supposed to have its naval forces or its ships going beyond that country's territorial waterways. We had a training base in the Man-o-war Bay in Southern Cameroons but since the Plebiscite, we have had to go there with every caution. I do not know whether the Federal Government still has that training base but we must find another place where we can train our boys. I think that Calabar would be an ideal place for such a training base as there is already a naval base there.

We must, however, do the best we can to widen and dredge the Cross River so that big vessels can go up the river. I am, therefore, reminding the hon. Minister of the promise which he made at that time that he would see to it that the Cross River is improved.

A ferry service has been launched along the Cross River between Abakaliki and Obubra. We are grateful that that ferry is now operating and that another ferry will operate between Itigidi and Ediba.

There is one important service which is lacking at the ferry station—telephone service. It is important that there should be a telephone service at the station so that users of that ferry would be in a—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): The hon. Gentleman is talking about telephone service being operated somewhere. Are we now dealing with telecommunication? We have finished with that aspect. The hon. Gentleman is, therefore, irrelevant.

**The Chairman**: I think that although he is irrelevant he is collecting facts.

**Mr Ikeh**: The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*), should realise that telephone service is essential in order that the ferry service may run efficiently. There must be a means of communication so that users may know when the service is available and when it is not available. I therefore urge the hon. Minister of Transport to do the best he can to fulfil his promise and to provide a telephone service at the ferry station.

I beg to oppose the Amendment.

**M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafata** (Sokoto South): I rise to support the Head as it stands and, in doing so, I am asking the hon. Minister of Transport to make a level crossing on the Gusau-Kaura line near the railway station. This level crossing will shorten the distance to the commercial centre in Canteen area from Gusau town. This request has been several times on the Floor of this House, even during Question Time, but nothing has so far been done. I hope that the hon. Minister will do something about this request in the very near future.

I am also asking the hon. Minister to put barriers at the crossing near the Gusau Motor Park. This dangerous crossing on the Trunk A road from Sokoto to Zaria is in the centre of the commercial area of Gusau. There is nothing to indicate to a man trekking along this crossing either from Zaria or Sokoto that there is an on-coming train going to or coming from Kaura. Previously, the volume of noise made by the coal-consuming trains was enough warning to pedestrians and motorists but now the comparatively noiseless new trains do not give such a warning. It will, therefore, be helpful if barriers are erected at the crossing.

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I hope the hon. Minister will improve Gusau airport because the Regional Government will in due course establish some factories in Gusau town. If this airport is improved it will be most useful especially during the rainy season.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi** (Egba North) : This is one of the rare occasions when you are referred to as "Mr Chairman" and I can be referred to as "Mr Speaker".

I want to concentrate on the local needs of this country. First and foremost, I would like to speak on the railway crossing points. I think that the time has come when we should start to think of getting rid of these level crossing points and substitute over-head bridges. Such a change will bring several advantages with it. We can see the privileges that we derive from the over-head bridge at Ikeja. If there were no over-head bridge at Ikeja, we all know the amount of inconvenience that we could have suffered from the trains and the lorries. The other advantage is that we shall have less accidents and less delay.

There were occasions when vehicles had knocked against the gates at the level-crossing. At Ilugun level-crossing I remember once when a vehicle driven by one Mr Griffith knocked against the gate, and since then it has been known by his friends as Griffith's gate. These accidents have caused some inconveniences as well as personal injuries.

If we have these over-head bridges, we shall have a better and more efficient transport system. It should be remembered that when delay is reduced, people will be able to time themselves, and the inconveniences that we always suffer when there is a queue of vehicles waiting for the train to pass, will be avoided.

Another place where there is a very urgent need for an over-head bridge is at the Yaba Roundabout, near Igbobi. This should be taken up as early as possible. It should be one of the items of construction work for this year.

I would like to speak briefly about the plight of the bus conductors. All is not well with them and there are lots of complaints.

**An hon. Member** : That is for the Minister of Lagos Affairs and the Lagos Town Council.

**Mr Odebunmi** : I did not know that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. I thought it was the responsibility of the Minister of Transport. Usually, the Minister of Lagos Affairs and the Minister of Transport work hand in hand.

I would like to speak briefly about petrol ration, because it affects transport.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. Petrol ration has nothing to do with the Ministry.

**Mr Odebunmi** : There is no transport without fuel : they are interwoven. I would like to see transport being conducted in this country with ordinary water some time.

There is a great need for a level crossing at Opegi. If immediate action cannot be taken to provide an over-head bridge now, it should be included in a future programme. We certainly do need a level-crossing there in order to be able to reduce the number of accidents occurring at that point.

The work of the Minister of Transport and that of the Minister of Works are interwoven because without rails, trains cannot move, and without motor roads, our vehicles cannot move.

Anybody in a vehicle will certainly pity the condition of pedestrians on the Lafenwa Bridge during the rainy season. For over a year now complaints have been lodged that people there suffer terrible inconvenience, but nothing has been done to rectify the position. I only wish that the Minister in charge will have the opportunity of working along the bridge on a rainy day. I am sure that when he gets home with his clothes soiled, the next day he will order that something be done to remedy the situation.

Speaking on the aviation, I think that it is necessary to encourage our secondary school leavers to join our Air Force by arranging occasional flights for them. This will enable them to develop some interest in aviation.

I beg to support.

4.06 p.m.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I oppose this Amendment. I need not belabour what has already been said, but I think it is unfortunate that views purported to be expressed over issues of general policy are so pointed as to appear as calculated attacks on

[MR AKWIWU]  
the construction to hurry up and complete it before the next rainy season. It can be very difficult to do that kind of work in the rainy season. It is both inconvenient to the users and very wasteful to the people constructing it.

About Port Harcourt Airfield, it was stated in the Speech from the Throne that the airfield in Port Harcourt will be increased to 7,500 feet. All others are being increased to 10,000 feet. May I ask, what is the difficulty in increasing all of them to a uniformed length of 10,000 feet? After all, Port Harcourt is increasing in its importance everyday. We are having more passengers than the airline can handle in Port Harcourt. Let us look at the mighty oil industry going on there now, quite apart from the fact that everyday, big industrialists are landing and taking off. I think it is very important and necessary that Port Harcourt airfield should no longer be looked upon as a back stage. It should be given a place of importance and priority. If we want to make any other one 10,000 feet long, we should make that of Port Harcourt 10,000 feet and make it so equipped that it can handle any plane that any other airfield can handle in Nigeria.

We quite appreciate that perhaps in these days of austerity, we cannot get all that we want. But I have said before that we want a good airfield at Orlu. I once pleaded for the new Railway line to pass from Umuahia, Owerri to Orlu and Onitsha and find its way again to Enugu. I could not get that. Why do we not have an airfield? It is very important because the areas between Onitsha, Owerri and Port Harcourt are very densely populated and, within this area, there is no doubt that there is going to be a high concentration of industries. We must start thinking ahead of our transport facilities. If we cannot have this railway line, let us have the airfield.

**Mr W. O. Briggs :** I would like to inform the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) that most Orlu people are now in Port Harcourt at miles one and two, Diobu. Therefore there is nobody now at Orlu.

**Mr Akwivu :** If that argument is to be accepted, that is the more reason why there will be no difficulty in constructing one because Degema is crowded up, Port Harcourt is crowded up and Orlu has the land.

We would like to know what is happening to the proposed airfield at Onitsha. We want some definite statement to be made about it.

To wind up, there is an aspect of transport which it seems to me, that the Minister of Transport is overlooking and that is the question of road transport. Road transport seems to be no man's child in the transport field in Nigeria. The Minister of Commerce and Industry does not quite think it is his own line, the Minister of Works does not think that it is his own baby, the Minister of Transport is far too concerned with railway lines, airfields and ships. Who owns road transport?

**The Chairman :** Will the hon. Gentleman speak on the Ministry of Transport?

**Mr Akwivu :** All I am trying to get at is that the Minister of Transport should identify himself more closely with all the transport systems in Nigeria. He should not adopt an attitude of indifference to some, merely because it is a matter in which so many Nigerians are connected and involved that they find that, probably, it would not be an easy problems to tackle. I think that in the very way that they ensure that the railway rates and operations and river traffic are regulated, they must come to it to see that when they have been good enough to prescribe rates for road traffic, they must have an organisation for ensuring that the rates are kept to; so that we may know that they are really keeping abreast with all their responsibilities and doing their best for them.

**Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East) :** The system of transport at present is not quite clear. In the first place, the Minister feels like staying in Lagos, probably for ever and will not go out, I cannot tell. He does not tour at all. He finds it particularly difficult to reach parts of the Northern Region with the exception of places where new railway extensions are being constructed. He has never been to Kabba Province at all, especially Igala Division from where I come. I hope that the Minister will take note of this and try to tour, instead of staying in Lagos alone. We know that Lagos is the capital of Nigeria but Lagos is not Nigeria, it is within Nigeria.

Another point is about the private passenger boats plying between Onitsha and Asaba.

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These boats are very bad. The service they give is not at all satisfactory. They always load people in these boats and keep too long a time before they move. At times, passengers have to be loaded up in these boats for over three or four hours before the boats move across the river.

Another appalling condition is about the tickets. The condition is such that passengers always find it very hard to travel by these boats. For instance, on their tickets, they state that as soon as passengers have paid, whatever happened, their money could never be refunded to them. There was a case on a certain occasion when we were travelling. As soon as we had paid, the boat was moving towards Asaba and in the middle of the river, I discovered that instead of going forward, the boat was moving backwards. When I asked the local engineer in charge of the boat, he told me that the boat could not move forward, instead, they liked to go backwards. He did not tell me the reasons for this. He deliberately refused to refund my money to me. I had to alight and join the Government ferry. I am happy the Minister is listening very attentively to me. I hope that he will try to put the situation in a better position.

Another point is that in this very boat it is stated that the luggage of passengers is carried at owners' risk? That is to say, any loss sustained by any passenger will be the responsibility of neither the boat owner nor the local engineer. For this reason, the people controlling the boat are fond of shifting people from one seat to another. On many occasions, these boats are filled up with robbers and pick pockets, and these rogues continue picking money from passengers' pockets. Under these conditions, if nothing is done to remedy the situation, passengers travelling across from Onitsha to Asaba will continue to suffer.

Another thing is that we from Igala Division suffer a lot. Our suffering occurs when we try to travel from Shintakun across the River Niger to Lokoja. On many occasions, the ferry provided over there does not come at all. And there is no Catering Rest House at Shintakun. In the whole of Kabba Province we have only one and that is at Lokoja. Travellers who come all along with their vehicles, whether from the Eastern Region or from the Northern

Region, trying to go across to Lokoja, to the Western Region or probably to Lagos, have thus to spend some nights at Shintakun.

Another thing is that in most cases the engines of the ferry are too small. On many occasions they fail to lift up to two saloon cars at the same time. The condition is not good at all. I am appealing to the Minister to see what he can do to put things right.

I am saying that the Niger bridge which is at present under construction should have been constructed between Shintakun and Lokoja. I think that it is through the Minister of Transport that we in Kabba Province lost this opportunity. What is more? The fare which he placed on the ferry plying between Shintakun and Lokoja is too high. It is £5-2s. Quite often I have appealed to the Minister in Parliament for some reduction, but my appeals have always been in vain. I will be very grateful if the Minister can reduce this exorbitant fare which has led to a reduction in the volume of traffic between those places. I know that the construction of a bridge depends mainly on the volume of traffic between two or more places.

When I speak about Igala Division in Kabba Province, I should also speak about the ferry service between Lokoja and Kontonkarfi. This is a very short journey across the river, linking Lokoja, that is Western Region, with the North. I cannot suggest that a bridge should be constructed but let there be a very good and efficient ferry service which can help to transport vehicles easily across to Kontonkarfi. From Lokoja to Kaduna is a question of three to four hours journey. Due to the lack of a ferry service across that river over there, the journey is prolonged and unnecessary delays are also caused.

Another point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister concerns lorries. In garages all over Nigeria—it is not limited to one region, it is all over the country—one will find lorry owners packing people like sardines. Another thing is that they keep too long and waste a lot of time in garages. In the Western Region particularly, one will find drivers who, after loading some people who are not real passengers but who pretend that they are travelling, continue driving all over the town just to deceive people that their lorries are already filled up and would be driving off

[MR EKANEM]  
one from Aba through Aba Ngwa—hon. Jaja Wachuku's town—to Ikot Ekpene, thence to Uyo and Oron. If you do this, I think we shall be doing a lot for this nation and for posterity. All those who have spoken (including "K.O.K." who has been speaking here) have just missed one important thing as far as air service is concerned.

If, we go to Ikeja we see the set of workers there. They are men and girls. First, about air stewardesses. There is need for more of them to be employed and to be properly trained. Their present uniform I think reflects favourably on the dignity not only of the air transport but also of this country. But what we want is proper training, training in manners. We should employ more air stewardesses and give them proper training because it is by getting in contact with the important personalities that travel to or from Nigeria that they can equally project Nigeria's personality as any Minister here will do.

In June last year the hon. the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, was travelling with me from Lagos Air port. The air craft was on the ground. It was not checked until we took off. Then they said to the Pilot "Come back, come back, something is missing". On that day there were international personalities at the air port. The first plane that took off was brought back. The second one took off and was also brought back. There is too much delay and waiting. This shows that the ground Engineers are inefficient. You better look into this matter.

If you want to go there, do not wear a suit, wear Agbada so as to do your work well. Now this is a very serious matter. It shows inferiority, because a lot of these ground workers are Nigerians. It shows that we still have that colonial mentality by saying that this is European work. It is our work now. We must bring it home to them that they must do this work in order to help project Nigeria's personality.

This is a serious point and I think my friend, the Minister of Justice will bear me out that we stayed more than one hour at the airport. What then is the need of travelling by air. If I were to take off in my car, by the time I have spent one hour I should have driven past Ibadan.

**An hon. Member :** Can you do that in one hour ?

**Mr Ekanem :** Yes. I will do it by driving at 80 miles per hour. If you take this matter lightly, it would not augur well for the future.

I do not want to waste the time of this House but I must reiterate. Send a launch or two to ply along the Cross River as far as is navigable. Construct gates at all level crossings throughout Nigeria. Construct an East-West Rail Line to connect Lagos and a rail line from Umuahia to Calabar, Umuahia to Oron or Aba to Oron.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*Several hon. Members rose.*

**The Chairman :** May I remind hon. Members that we have quite a number of Heads that we need discuss to-day and I think you better leave it to the Minister of Transport to speak.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Chairman, Sir.

**Chief A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order. I want to know if Transport is important in the aspect of Nigerian development and economy because in Westminster they discuss Transport for a whole week. Here, now, we have not discussed it for two hours and the Minister wants to reply. Let us finish and then he will reply.

**The Chairman :** This is merely a technical point and I have asked the Minister of Transport to reply to points that have been made by hon. Members. That does not mean that I am going to close the debate on the Ministry. It is your business to see that you fairly distribute your speeches on the various Heads, not my own.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** I would like to start by saying that it is quite stimulating sometimes for us to see Members interested in the work of our Ministries and criticising such work, although one would like to hear criticisms that are a little less vicious and cantankerous than has been the case with some Members. First of all I would like to say that in the work of the Ministry, the policy of the Ministry is to place Nigeria's interest above everything else.

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1809

[Appropriation Bill :

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Committee]

1810

Somebody said that the Ministry was being run from London. We have heard this sort of thing said before but I would like to remind him that, for instance, the agreement between Nigerian Airways and B.O.A.C. and Elder Dempster Lines was entered into in 1958 for fifteen years but I was able to get this agreement terminated by mutual agreement after only three years. That does not sound like getting dictation from the U.K.

**An hon. Member :** Hon. Minister, it was made by your own man.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** I do not want to name somebody who is not here and I do not say who made it.

Also the Nigerian National Line Management Agreement—(and I notice that the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is very much interested in the National Line) he will also realise that the Operational Management Agreement was made for six years but that also, after three years, I was able to get it terminated, and it is fully ours now.

The National Line has made consistently large profits since it was launched. I would like hon. Members to be able to compare the progress made by the National Line with the progress made by the National Lines of other countries in West Africa and in other parts of Africa, and then they will be able to appreciate the great progress that is being made and also the great efforts that are being put in by those appointed by us to manage such agencies as the National Line and the Airways.

I want to say that I would have been quite delighted to bring the audited accounts of the National Line to this House but, unfortunately, the National Line is not a Corporation, it is a Company, and therefore the Auditors' Account does not come here. But I am quite sure that the hon. Member who raised the question of accounts will be shown the audited accounts if he cares to see them. There is nothing to hide.

Also, I would like to say that I do not like going into certain matters on which I made a statement this morning—the question of the National Line and offices and so on. I have said enough about that. I do not want to say more about it at this time. But all I would like to say is that the gentleman who was appointed Chairman of the National Line is a man who has distinguished himself in

business management in this country and is one of the many businessmen in Nigeria, who are Nigerian, of whom we are very proud—people who started in a very humble way and have been able to build themselves up into big businessmen. That was the only consideration that we had when I made the appointment of the present Chairman of the Nigerian National Line—the fact that he has the capacity and the experience to manage it—and I am glad to say that he has managed it beautifully and the Line is running very well indeed.

Now, Sir—

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : Point of order. Under Standing Order (*Interruption*).

**The Chairman :** What Standing Order ?

**Mr Brown :** I think Standing Order No. 25.

**The Chairman :** Order ! Standing Order 25 refers to Rules of Debate.

**Mr Brown :** Under Order 25, I want to ask the Minister of Transport : Does it mean that if one is not a big businessman, he stands no chance of serving this country ?

**The Chairman :** That is a question.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** The conditions of service for Nigerians who are in the National Line are being worked out. In the case of the senior ones, most of the employees, especially the expatriate employees, have been on contract. In fact practically all of them are on contract. In the mean time, Nigerians are being trained ; the training scheme is very intensive and we are speeding up the training so that in a few years' time, the entire staff of the Line will be Nigerian. We have, at the moment, one in the U.K. office, and quite a number in the Nigeria Office. The Manager of the National Line in the Port Harcourt office is a Nigerian and, in fact, all the officers there are Nigerian.

The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) said that I had not visited the various departments and Corporations. I want to tell him that, there again perhaps, he was not properly informed, because I have visited them all and I do visit them fairly regularly. In fact, I visited the National Line office within the last two months.

**An hon. Member :** By telephone ?

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** *Visited.* One does not visit by telephone ! I went to see what they were doing. And talking about the luxury of the offices, I must say that the hon. Gentleman, Mr Brown, must have a very peculiar sense of luxury, because my office is a very modest office indeed, very, very modest indeed, and if he calls that "luxury", I wonder what sort of a condition he would describe as "ordinary".

**Mr Brown :** I was there and inspected the Prime Minister's office in London.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** The Prime Minister ! Incidentally, I will not go into that because I am sure that the hon. Gentleman has never been to the Prime Minister's office in London.

**Mr Brown :** I have been ! I have been !

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** If I may go ahead because there are some other Heads to be dealt with. The hon. Member for Izi South (*Mr B. O. Ikeh*) spoke. I thank him for the constructive comments which he made, and I would like to assure him that the Cross River and the people who live in that area are not forgotten by the Federal Government. This Government is a very democratic Government. We treat everybody with the same degree of care and sympathy as we treat others, and therefore the Cross River and the people in the Cross River area are not forgotten. At the moment, consultations are going on between my Ministry and the corresponding Ministry in Eastern Nigeria to arrange for the hydrological survey of the Cross River. We have done the Western Niger Delta ; we have done the Eastern Niger Delta ; we will now come to the Cross River, so that no part of the Federation is being forgotten at all.

The hon. Member for Egba North. (*Mr J. O. Odebunmi*) spoke about overhead bridges. I did not want to disturb him because he is a very quiet gentleman. I did not want to say it while he was speaking, but that is the responsibility of my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Works and Surveys, and he may have something to say about that when his turn comes.

The hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr E. C. Akwivu*) spoke about level crossings and gates. I have noted the points made by my hon. Friend from the North in regard to the level crossing near Gusau. I have taken note of that and we shall do what we can to improve the situation there. The hon. Member for Orlu South East spoke about level crossings. Most of us have had experience of that. One day I was going to Ibadan, through the old Abeokuta road. We came to the gates and they were closed and one would think that the train was quite near. One thing is that there are safety regulations on the railway. These regulations must be adhered to because if we start to relax them and ask the gatekeepers to wait until the train is within say, twenty or thirty yards, if he delays, there might be a very bad accident. However, I will look into this and find out exactly what the shortest distance is from where the train is at any particular moment to the next level crossing to see whether it will be safe to reduce their distance. But I am sure that hon. Members will agree that, in this matter, safety is of the utmost importance.

The Port Harcourt aerodrome is being looked after. The runway will be lengthened. But my hon. Friend, Mr Akwivu, said that he wanted a 10,000 feet runway. At the moment there is no runway in the whole of Nigeria that is 10,000 feet. We are proposing to lengthen the runway at Kano, which is a major international airport. But as far as Port Harcourt and other important airports on the internal service are concerned, we shall do our best to make them adequate for the internal service. If the time comes when any of them is transformed into an international airport, then further lengthening of the runway can be undertaken.

I want to seize this opportunity to say to hon. Members that responsibility for road transport is not my own. I have no constitutional responsibility for road transport, even though I am the Minister of Transport. As you know, the traffic side is dealt with by the Police ; the maintenance of roads is by the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

**An hon. Member :** Which is for the Ministry of Transport ?



**The Minister of Transport :** Mine is what I have been talking about—air, water, railways and sea. These are the things that I look after. Until I am given constitutional responsibility, I cannot do anything about road transport.

Now, the hon. Member for Igala North East (*Mr Tokula*) says that he wants me to go on tour. I want to say that Ministers go on tour to various areas where they have any project of their Ministry. I do not wish that Ministers should gallivant all over the place. If that started happening, he would be the first person to complain that Ministers are going about enjoying themselves. Therefore, if there is an airport or railway station or train crossing, or anything that concerns my Ministry, then I can go to see the progress that is being made. But if I am on holiday and the hon. Member sends me an invitation, I will be very glad to visit his constituency and perhaps his home.

I want to say that I have visited Lokoja to see what the Department of Inland Waterways is doing, and I passed through parts of his constituency, I take it. I am sorry to hear that he had an unfortunate experience when going by private ferry from Onitsha to Asaba, with the ferry going backwards instead of forward! But I want to wish him luck and I hope that in future it will be forward ever and backward never! (*Laughter.*) My good Friend, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has been grateful for what is being done at the Airport at Calabar. I am very grateful to him for showing his appreciation for that and for the dredging work done.

As regards responsibility for Inland Waterways, I would also like to say that all inland waterways are not the responsibility of the Federal Government. Most inland waterways are Federal waterways and those we look after; the others are Regional waterways. I am going to look into the point made by the hon. Gentleman regarding ferry service to the particular areas that he has mentioned and see whether the responsibility is ours to start with, and if not, whether anything can be done.

As regards the question of ports in places near Calabar such places like Opobo and Oron—I would like to say that Opobo Port was included in the last hydrological survey

conducted by our Consultants, NEDECO. The report is now being studied by us and it covers all the way from Akassa at the mouth of the Niger to Opobo. That has been covered by a survey and the result of the survey is now being studied.

Hon. Members must appreciate that with this gigantic Economic Programme before us, we cannot undertake any further opening of ports if the cost of doing so is going to be prohibitive. But I cannot commit myself for the Government. All I would say is that we will study the report and see what will be the best thing to do for that particular area.

As regards the Asaba Crossing, I will look into some of the complaints that have been made, but I am told that since—I have not been going that way now—I have always been doing my journeys to the East by air) but I am told that a lady is in charge now of the turnstile and that the revenue to the Department of Inland Waterways has gone up by 30 *per cent.* I should say that they are doing very, very well indeed. I hope, anyway, to look into the points made by the hon. Member for Enyong South as regards inconvenience suffered by hon. Members at that crossing.

*Nigerian Airways.* On this subject the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) wants the air hostesses to be given good training. We are doing our best to give them good training and I think that they are showing up quite well, as the hon. Gentleman has said. More of them are being recruited now because the first ones that have been trained have justified their training course and the money spent on it. They have turned out very well indeed and more of them are being trained.

Talking about delays, I think that in civil aviation, the most important thing is safety. On many occasions even when I myself had to travel, it has been necessary for the plan to return to the airport after taking off. That is because the pilots do not want to take any chances at all. I am sure hon. Members would not like me to suggest to the pilots that once they take off they should keep going, no matter what the state of the aircraft was. Safety is the best thing, and I have no doubt that Nigerian Airways have created a very good record as regards safety over the past few years and we should encourage them to do so.

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

In any case, the present fleet which operates the internal service is getting quite old, although the old planes are being properly maintained and all the essential parts are new because of the spares that are being used all the time. But hon. Members would like to hear again that before the end of this year, we shall have a new fleet for the internal service, and these will be larger planes. They will fly at a much higher altitude—up to 20,000 or 22,000 feet—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : What does the Minister want up there ?

**The Minister of Transport** : When the plane flies so high, it is above the clouds and is steadier and passengers feel much more comfortable.

**Mr Ekanem** : What about fares ? Reduce fares.

**The Minister of Transport** : As regards fares, it depends really on the traffic that it is offering. If there are more people travelling and if the planes are full all the time, then Nigerian Airways can think of revising their fares on the downward trend. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to appeal to hon. Members to make Nigerians more air-conscious. This is very important.

Finally, I would like to thank hon. Member for the suggestions which they have made.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central) : I have to commend the hon. Minister for his noble efforts, not only from what he has explained but also from what is obvious. I would commend him, especially for his efforts in trying to Nigerianise the Nigerian Airways.

I have listened very attentively to the hon. Minister's speech and I was trying to see if he would give assurance that in building the Niger Bridge, the East to West railway track would be included because many hon. Members have harped on that and it is very important. I was just waiting to see if he would give us that assurance, that the East to West railway line would be constructed as it is very vital to the economy of this great country.

**The Minister of Transport** : I would like to say that the responsibility for the Niger Bridge is that of my colleague—the Minister of Works.

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : Another point which might have been an omission is the question of the Onitsha Airport because hon. Members have also mentioned that, and I hope that perhaps in future statements, the hon. Minister may give us that assurance. However, I must be grateful to the Minister for what he has said about the Port Harcourt aerodrome.

I was bitterly disappointed in going through the Six-Year Development Programme and also through the Governor-General's Address, to find that no mention was made of Port Harcourt aerodrome and it is my belief that that airport is very vital indeed.

As I talk about the Port Harcourt aerodrome, many of us who come from that place at times wonder why it should not take the right name because it is situated at Umuomasi. If the Lagos Airport should answer Ikeja, I do not see any reason why that place should not answer Umuomasi Aerodrome because we would not like that place to lose its own identity. That is just by the way.

As a matter of fact I gathered that the lease of that land has not been signed up till to-day. The hon. Minister should please check on this. If it is true that the lease for that airport has not been signed he should please make the necessary arrangements.

**An hon. Member** : Are you the landlord ?

**Mr Onwuchekwa** : It is my constituency.

Another thing I would say is that the economic measures taken by the Railway Corporation are very commendable indeed, but there is one thing lacking. I think it did not go very far because fantastic allowances are still being paid to members of the Board, especially when they travel. They travel by coaches and all these are sources of waste which I think the Minister will do well to investigate. The allowances are fantastic and if we want to economise, I think we should begin from the top—right from members of the Board.

Again, I would like the Minister to cause investigations to be made in the Ports Authority, although the allegations are not as bad as they are in the Railway Corporation. I would like allegations of nepotism in the Ports Authority to be looked into because many

workers there are frustrated as a result of nepotism. I would like a thorough investigation to be made in that Corporation.

On the whole we have to commend the Minister for his noble effort. I beg to support the Head and oppose the Amendment.

**Alhaji Aminu Tafida** (Binji Tangaza) : I should like the—

**The Chairman** : May I appeal to the hon. Member please, in view of the disturbances going on around me, please to take a few steps forward or backward nearer the microphone so that we could hear him.

**Alhaji Tafida** : As I was saying, I should like to congratulate the Minister, but yet, I should like to ask the hon. Minister to make a categorical statement as to why Sokoto should not be considered for the extension of a railway line from Gusau, Kaura Namoda or another short route to Sokoto. I know very well that twenty years ago, Sokoto Native Authority was asked by the Government whether a railway line was wanted. Unfortunately, the proposal was rejected. Now, it is high time that Sokoto was considered for this extension.

My chief reason for pointing this out to the Minister is that there are many things to be transported from Sokoto to the South. For instance, all the meat which the hon. Member for Ijebu Remo (*Chief Obafemi Awolowo*) eats come from the Northern Region. Also, the *Akara* consumed by the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr P. E. Ekanem*) comes from the Northern Region. The chicken and guinea fowls eaten by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition are brought from Northern Nigeria.

Another important thing is that there is every possibility of setting up a cement industry in Sokoto. I would invite hon. Members to look around the Northern Region and it will be seen that only Sokoto is without a Railway line. What we feared in those days has now been remedied. The only reason for rejecting the railway extension was that, in those days, it was feared that people from the South would come and drain all our food to the South. That is not so now. (*Laughter*).

I am appealing to the Government to consider this important project. We are not in a hurry. We can wait for the completion of the Kuru-Maiduguri line.

I beg to support.

5.30 p.m.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** : My hon. Friend, the Member for Uyo South East (*Mr Brown*) had exhaustively dealt with the Nigerian Shipping Line. He knows his subject and he has a very great insight into what has happened there.

There are one or two things, however, which I would like to mention and which, probably, he had forgotten. Firstly, none of the Directors, I repeat, *none of the Directors*, of the Nigerian Shipping Line has any knowledge about shipping at all—most of the African Directors. Because of that, they employ an expatriate manager who is regarded as an expert on shipping to advise them. This expatriate is a Mr Johnson and I was glad my hon. Friend, Mr Brown, did mention him.

There is also one thing that I should mention in this connection and that is that this General Manager, this Mr Johnson, is a nephew of the Managing Director of Elder Dempster Agencies. I am sure that all hon. Members will see in this the obvious disadvantages we shall find ourselves in and the possibility of our interest being compromised to the advantage of the other rival when it comes allocating things like contracts for the shipping line and other businesses in which the Conference Line and particularly the Nigerian Shipping Line will be interested in. I am suggesting that this is a gross anomaly which should be corrected.

I would not personally object very much to the employment of an expatriate General Manager; I would not. I feel, and I believe I have always said it on the Floor of this House, that anybody who is capable of doing a job of work for us should be employed to do the job, whether he is *white* or *black*. It is a matter of indifference to me. In a situation like this, however, in a vital aspect of Nigeria's economy, for an expatriate—not only an expatriate General Manager but also such an expatriate—to do so closely connected with a rival shipping organisation I think is an anomaly in this time of our life.

**An hon. Member** : Somebody says he cannot understand you.

**Mr Briggs** : He should understand. It is English I am speaking. I know he does not understand English, so he had better forget about it.

[MR BRIGGS]

As I have brought out these two points, I will leave the Nigerian Shipping Line.

**An hon. Member :** In peace.

**Mr Briggs :** Yes, in peace, as my hon. Friend has said.

I would appeal to the Minister in regard to the Rock Island between Abonnema and Port Harcourt. This place is called *Ikukiri*. Anybody who has been travelling in that area knows the number of lives that have been lost between Abonnema and Port Harcourt. Many lives and property have been lost there. Launches passing through there go aground. In any low water there has been extreme danger by these launches going aground and causing a great deal of accidents, loss of lives and loss of property.

I come to the wharf in Abonnema town itself. It was built for the B.O.P. and it is being operated, I think, jointly by the Conference Line. I am appealing to the Minister that he should take it up, the Federal Government should take it up, if they have not yet taken it up. The Palm Line is an agent of the Conference Line there and it is not only the construction but also the general arrangement which is bad. There is lack of shipping space and I am appealing to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation to take it over and improve it.

Then I come to Abonnema wharf in Port Harcourt. The Deputy Chairman, who is the present Chairman, mentioned something in his speech. I would not have mentioned this if he had not done so. It is said that those who live in glass houses should never throw stones. That place is the greatest standing rebuke to the Nigerian Ports Authority. There is no one single improvement that the Ports Authority has done on that wharf at all. I am sure that the Deputy Speaker who is the present Chairman does not know anything about it and I am sure that he has not reached that place for a very long time.

**The Chairman :** I think that if the hon. Gentleman is making some comments on a speech made on the Floor of this House, he should refer to the name of the individual who made the statement because the statement was never made from the Chair.

**Mr Briggs :** He is the hon. Gentleman. The person who made the speech is the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** I am sure the hon. Gentleman does not mean to be contemptuous of the Chair. This is a ruling from the Chair and not a point raised by an hon. Member.

**Mr Briggs :** Well, Mr Chairman, the hon. Gentleman who made that speech I was referring to was none other than the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr E. C. Akwivou*). Mr Chairman, I am sure that my hon. Friend, Mr Akwivou, does not know Abonnema wharf very well.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, Mr Chairman, the Member for Degema (*Mr W. O. Briggs*) should not make such a remark about the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr E. C. Akwivou*) when he is not on the Floor of this House to defend himself! (*Laughter*).

**The Chairman :** The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) was referring to a statement made by a Member of the House.

**Mr Briggs :** Mr Chairman, that remark is a point of disorder! Now, Abonnema wharf, as I said before, is in a very bad state of repair and anybody who has been there will never dispute the fact. I am, therefore, inviting the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation to be there, I should say, just for ten minutes and he will come to the same conclusion and he will see the unsatisfactory condition of that wharf. That wharf is not only in a bad state of repair; it is also inadequately equipped for the traffic there.

I think the wharf was formerly made for about three or four launches, but to-day there are about six launches and about up to over seventy out-board engines coming from all over the Rivers Province right from as far away as Brass, Abonnema and other places. It is that single port that serves all of them, with a terrific scramble. If one goes there, one will see that there is no space at all for any river craft, whether out-board engined canoes or launches because not only the out-board engined canoes, not only the launches, but also the ordinary canoes compete for space in that wharf.

During the rainy season access to the wharf is completely impossible. In front of it there are timbers piled up and I do not know why the timber dealers should pile up the timber there. They spoil the whole of the road and it is completely impossible for any car or even the pedestrians to go up to that place because the road is not tarred. From Abonnema wharf to a point near the B.O.P. there is no tar so that one has to wade through mud and swamp to get to the wharf. I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation to please do something about this.

Anybody who has been at this wharf will bear me out that there is no shed or shelter for people who are waiting. Nothing at all is there; there are no conveniences of any kind and yet my hon. Friend said quite a lot has been done there.

I wanted to speak about Asaba ferry, but I must say that I was satisfied with the explanation that the Minister of Transport gave, so I am not going to mention it. The Oron-Calabar ferry was also mentioned by an hon. Member, and this also is quite satisfactory, but there is one aspect of it that I want to mention, and that is that up till now I understand the ferry is still being run by the Elder Dempster Agency. I do not see the reason why the Federal Government cannot operate ferry transport between Oron and Calabar. Up till now these expatriate firms are being allowed to make enormous profits at our own expense. What prevents the Federal Government from taking over?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Point of order. I learn that the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) himself is a Brazilian and an expatriate. Why should he talk so much about expatriate enterprises?

**Mr Briggs**: I am sure my hon. Friend is not conversant with the names and families in Nigeria, or he would have known that I come from one of the oldest families in Nigeria?

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*Whereupon Mr S. D. Lar rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Question, That Head 55—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—be reduced by £100, put and negatived.*

*£940,150 for Head 55—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 56.—COASTAL AGENCY

*£131,270 for Head 56—Coastal Agency—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 57.—INLAND WATERWAYS

*£745,260 for Head 57.—Inland Waterways—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

#### HEAD 58.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEYS

*Question proposed, That £6,050,980 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): Point of order. I think we are having a late Sitting to-night, and I thought we were going to discuss some of these Heads at the late Sitting. Why is it that we are now rushing through the Head of Ministry of Works and Surveys?

**The Chairman**: I think the Chair does fully appreciate the anxieties stated by the hon. Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*), but the hon. Member may also appreciate that the Heads now passed have all been discussed under the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, and the Chair has not made any indications of rushing the House on the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

There are three Members who have tabled Amendments to reduce sub-head 1 by £10. As far as I can see Mr Muojeke is not in his seat, and Mr Ezeani is not in his seat, the only Member in his seat is Dr Okeke. Does Dr Okeke move?

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): In filing this Amendment, I have got some observations to make, not necessarily because the Minister is not doing his work well, but because I want to say something (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order. There are far too many conversations going on. It would be unfortunate if, after exhaustive debate, Members started asking questions about issues that have been debated, because they were not attentive. I do not know if one needs to draw the attention of Members to Standing Order 27, that while debates are going on, Members must keep to their seats.

**Dr Okeke :** As I was saying, our Minister has been doing a very wonderful work and he has earned the praise of everybody in this House and he ought to be complimented on the work he has been doing.

I want to make the following observations : One is about improvement of our trunk roads. I hope that the Minister will fully accept the responsibility for the repair and rebuilding of our trunk roads, because that is truly within his portfolio—Trunk A Roads—and here in this House we have heard time and time again that the Trunk Road from Onitsha, Asaba, to Lagos is in very bad condition ; that there are so many accidents on that road because of blind alleys, because of rugged corners, because of sharp bends, and because of the bad condition of the road, which in many places is in a state of disrepair.

**An hon. Member :** That comes under Police.

**Dr Okeke :** Yes, that comes under the Police Department, and we have passed the Head of Police, so we have to blame everything on the Minister of Works and Surveys, so that we may be able to talk on it.

As I was saying, something must be done about those roads. There are certain portions of it now under repair but even those newly repaired are in a bad condition already. While the concrete is being placed on them, the surface still remains uneven and there are deep holes. Even the newly repaired portion deteriorates quickly and one sees uneven surfaces. I wonder whether the P.W.D. has not got some engineers to do the job, or whether the people doing it are careless with their work.

Now the problem of road signs is one that must be emphasised in connection with our roads. There are no adequate road signs on the Lagos-Asaba Road to warn traffic of sharp

corners, and this must be taken care of because it is causing a lot of havoc to drivers who are not very careful about their driving.

Now the road between Onitsha and Ihiala has been under repair for the past two years. I can appreciate the difficulty in getting the work to progress but I wonder why such a short distance of less than 15 miles will take almost more than two years to repair and now they have gone from Onitsha to Oba in a space of two years. There are dangerous corners there and rugged edges. The road is being widened quite all right, but it is taking a lot of time. Now you can see that the danger to traffic is that concrete is being dumped on one side of the road.

**The Chairman :** Order. Quite frankly while appreciating the importance of what the hon. Member is discussing to all of us here and to traffic that probably comes under sub-head 99 and the others following it come under sub-head 1. I am afraid many hon. Members have put down their names on an Amendment to reduce the Head itself by some amount. When you want to discuss generally you can talk under that, but if you have chosen to move an Amendment on any particular sub-head you must confine yourself to matters relevant to that. I am afraid the line of discussion so far is relevant to the sub-heads contained on page 241—Works Division, which really do not come within sub-head 1.

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** I am not disputing your ruling, but the Minister is in charge of the organisation and administration of the whole project so that I would beg leave of the Chair to make remarks on the general organisation under sub-head 1 because the Minister himself will see that all forces marshalled so that appropriate job will be done. I was saying that this road has been under repair for two years and traffic—

**The Chairman :** Order. Order. I think some of us on the Floor of the House insist on extreme technicalities and if only the hon. Gentleman reverses his manner of approach, he can still say the same thing. If he is inviting the attention of the Minister and calling upon him to see to it that those things are done it might be accommodated, but if he is making a direct appeal to the Works Division, certainly it could not come under sub-head 1.

**Mr V. T. Shisha** (Iharev Masev) : Speaking on the Amendment, I would like to make a few observations. There is every reason to believe

It is very distressing to note that the total length of Trunk 'A' roads maintained by the Federal Government is 5,738 miles that only

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**Dr Okeke** : Thank you Mr Chairman. In conclusion, I would ask the Minister kindly to see that Oposi Bridge is rebuilt immediately and that two more railings are added to the porticos of hon. Members' Flats at Victoria Beach as was promised in answer to some questions.

I beg to move.

**The Chairman** : Order. Order. We have got a series of Amendments and to avoid being caught by technical objections again, I propose that we should deal with these Amendments one after the other and Members can air their views when we come to the general discussion.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr F. U. Ihe** (Okigwi North East) : Under this sub-head 101, I am moving that a reduction of £10 be made. My reasons are that the road from Okigwi to Awgu—a Trunk 'A' Road for that matter—has many bridges and most of them are wooden bridges. About two months ago, there were accidents in two of them. One car fell into one of them and six persons died immediately.

If you take that road yourself you will find that it is difficult to drive through ; so it is very important that the Minister of Works and Surveys should do something to see that the road is completely clear. Although the road itself has been tarred, without good bridges I think no vehicles can move through.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for the road signs at Mile 2 on the Okigwi-Awgu Road. All the same I feel there is a lot to be done. In the valley there, I think it will be proper to plant some trees so that the scenery will be level with the road itself.

Mile 4 on the Okigwi-Afikpo Road is very important and though it is not exactly a Federal road—

**The Chairman** : If it is not a Federal road, then you cannot discuss it.

**Mr Ihe** : What I want to say is that we are not—

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : There is no sub-head 101 under Head 58. There is sub-head 1, Item 101, but there is no sub-head 101.

**Mr Ihe** : Under sub-head 101 you have Assistant Director. I think I am in order. The Director is on the road.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I think if I appreciate hon. Ihe to be winding up, we have gone far enough that we ought to wind up now.

**Mr Ihe** : In winding up I wish to say that on the Asaba-Lagos Road we have so many trees falling across the road so that in the rainy season—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : It is clear that sub-head 101 does not exist. I wonder why we should debate a thing that does not exist.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. I think it is a mistake ; it is a justified mistake because your Order Paper does say sub-head 101", so we cannot start at this belated hour making corrections.

**Mr Ihe** : Thank you Mr Chairman. Members using the Asaba-Lagos Road will bear me witness that when it rains you have very tall trees falling across this road many a time that motorists run over the trees. The road is tarred quite all right, but you have these trees 15 yards from the centre of the road. I think that the Minister of Works and Surveys will have to do something in order to cut down these big trees.

**The Chairman** : Order, order. It is now six o'clock and under the Motion passed this day, sitting is suspended till 9 p.m.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.*

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : In supporting this Head, I would like first of all to congratulate the Minister for the enormous amount of money voted for his Ministry in the Six-Year Development Programme for the building of

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, much as we appreciate that we have got to make allowance for maiden speeches, an hon. Member should not read his speech. We appreciate the fact that the Member for Udi East (*Mr Nnaji*), is making his maiden speech, yet, we must keep to the Standing Order of the House. He has been reading all the time. It is his maiden speech, we can appreciate that.

**Mr Nnaji** : I am reliably informed that the Federal Government labourers work six days in the week ; they close by 3 p.m. on ordinary days and on Saturdays, they close at 12 noon. I was also informed that those labourers working in the Federal Territory receive higher wages than those outside the Lagos Territory. I therefore suggest that this should be sorted out and a uniform scale of salary paid.

I beg to support.

9.25 p.m.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : May I pay tribute to this Ministry for the good work it has done throughout the past twelve months ?

This year, the cost of vehicle licences has almost been doubled and, as such, we will certainly expect improvements in the conditions of our roads. There are certain roads which we would like to press the Federal Government to take over—Trunk 'B' roads—even though there has been some reluctance on the part of the Ministry to take such a step. We would very much appreciate it if certain Trunk 'B' roads are taken over by the Federal Government in order to enable the Regional Governments to improve certain of the existing roads in the Regions and also to construct new ones.

We all know how expensive it is for the Federal Government to take over certain Trunk 'B' roads ; but we cannot help pressing for this because in this country, especially in the North-East corner of Nigeria, there are still districts which are hardly accessible during the rainy season and we would very much appreciate it if the Trunk 'A' road from Jos to Maiduguri could be extended right on to Lake Chad.

The need for improvements to our roads cannot be over-emphasised, because bad roads mean high maintenance costs of lorries which in turn mean high fares for the common man.

The unfortunate common man who cannot afford a vehicle of his own has to travel and, in doing so, he has to pay much higher fares now that the situation is worsened by the increase in the cost of petrol.

I am particularly grateful to the Minister for the statement he made during the course of his speech a couple of days ago that something definite would be done in the way of reconstructing the forty-six mile stretch of road between Beni Sheik and Maiduguri. I hope that the Minister will give this work immediate attention.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** (Oshun South East) : I must give my thanks for being allowed to say a word since this House was convened on the 21st of March.

In contributing to the Debate on this Head, I must remind the Minister that the conditions of Trunk A Roads of the Federal Government—the uneven roads, the blind corners, and some other impediments on the roads—are the cause of accidents on these roads. If the Minister will look into this, or if he will be well advised, he will agree with me that these uneven roads are the cause of so many accidents which we are experiencing now.

The conditions of the roads, too, cause delay to the transport of our foodstuffs and some other amenities which road transport could have afforded Nigeria at the moment. May I remind the Minister again that our so-called Trunk A Roads have overgrown trees on both sides. These trees should be cut down. During the rainy season trees fall on the Ibadan-Ife Road and consequently cause delay to travellers. Accidents are common during this time, also.

The Government should endeavour to absorb as Trunk A Roads, roads like the ones in Aiyedade, Odeomu, Gbongan, and other areas, and they should be properly tarred. We have expressed this desire in this hon. House so many times. I put a question to the Minister sometime ago. His answer then was that these roads were receiving attention.

**An hon. Member** : Which road ?

**Mr Ogunkanmi** : I do not know how long the roads will continue to receive attention. In fact, I am talking through the Chairman



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to the Minister of Works and Surveys and not to the Galadima who is asking me which road.

I must remind the Minister about contracts which are being awarded to expatriates. To encourage African contractors, that is, if he wants them to get on at all, the best thing is to give them enough work to do. It is through this medium that they can grow in business to possess the necessary materials and equipment to make them a worthy competitor of the expatriate contractors. But where we discriminate against African contractors and give all the major contracts to aliens we shall be discouraging African contractors, and they will never rise and measure up to expectations.

**An hon. Member :** Do you want to be awarded a contract ?

**Mr Ogunkanmi :** Yes, I want, if I can be awarded one. There are some other points about our roads. The unfortunate thing is that the Minister of Works and Surveys travels in luxurious cars, and as a result he cannot fully experience what faults are on our roads. I think the Minister will find a way to deal with the bad conditions of our roads. The narrow road at Lafenwa needs the attention of the Minister.

**An hon. Member :** Is it your constituency ?

**Mr Ogunkanmi :** It is not my constituency ; the place is in Nigeria. In 1960 I put the question to the Minister that the narrow road at Lafenwa was causing accidents there. It is so narrow that two cars cannot just pass each other easily without one stopping for the other. The Minister in his answer at that time in 1960 said that in 1962 something would be done about this road, and I do not know whether he has this in his programme for 1962. The same thing goes for the narrow road at Shagamu, and I remember the Minister saying that he would do something about it.

We want these Trunk 'A' Roads on which heavy and giant trucks ply to be improved. I do not know whether the Minister will make a statement that something will be done about the road at Shagamu this year.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West): This Ministry is the most

important one, and before I proceed with my criticisms of this Ministry I would like to congratulate the Minister of Works for his two important functions in Lagos.

During the Nigerian Independence Celebrations the Ministry displayed a masterpiece of work in Lagos, because before that time, when we were under British rule, all the roads in Lagos were narrow and crooked, as a result of which motorists only managed their ways at the lowest speed possible. But due to the good work of this Ministry many of these roads were enlarged and improved, and one found that during the Independence Celebrations and during the Conference of African and Malagasy Heads of State most of Lagos roads have become excellent.

I now come to my criticism. Part of the Northern Region has been neglected. All the roads which link the Federal Capital with Kaduna Territory are very bad. The tarred road starting from Lagos stops at Kontagora near Tegena, and up till now the Minister of Works has not thought it fit to do something about it.

There is another road, between Kano and Zaria, a distance of 105 miles, which has not yet been tarred. The road from Bama to Mubi has not been tarred. Again we have a road from Wukari to Yola which goes down to the Eastern Region and on which two rivers have to be crossed—Katsina Alah and Donga. These rivers have got no bridges. The road from Bauchi to Gombe is completely neglected by the Minister of Works, and it will be better if the road from Gombe to Yola is tarred.

**An hon. Member :** Are they all Federal roads ?

**M. Yerima Balla :** They are all Federal roads. If one travels from here in Lagos and makes one's way to Ibadan one will find that one is going on a narrow road right along to the junction of the road to the Eastern and Northern Regions. We want the Minister of Works to enlarge this road.

Another one is the very important route which starts from that part of Bauchi which is eighty-one miles from Jos. The road was once tarred but the tar has been completely washed away.

I beg to support the Head.

[DR MBADIWE] assumed office, and during the days of the former Minister of Works, Mr Awosika—what a good man does will always live after him; Mr Awosika was a good Minister and he made a great contribution—there have been great developments. I am not talking about the part which the Prime Minister played. Then they took up what we inherited from the colonial people and improved on it. I am sure hon. Members know that the policy during the colonial period was to build roads to the administrative headquarters for the convenience of the expatriates. I do not say that expatriates should not live; on the contrary, I say that they should live, but I just mentioned this point for the sake of history. To-day we find roads going into the hinterland: this has never happened before. Where the responsibility of the Federal Minister of Works comes in is in developing some of the new roads in the various Regions.

I remember, with pride, the Trunk A Road 3 in the Eastern Region, which is a new road from Port Harcourt-Umuahia-Okigwi-Enugu. That road is known as Trunk A Road. There are also other new roads in the Western and Northern Regions. What I would like to tell the Minister is that time waits for no one, and that this is his biggest opportunity. We have now entered the independence era, and Alhaji Inuwa Wada, the Minister of Works, should make his mark felt on another road—Trunk A 4, which should be known as the "Inuwa Wada's Independence Road." This road starts from Onitsha to Nnewi and then to Owerri. It is an existing road and needs to be widened. Then this road can continue from Nnewi to Akokwa to Okigwi to Afikpo to connect Abakaliki and also Iddah and then to Arochuku. Let that be known as the Post-Independence Road. An opportunity which comes once should be utilised to its utmost. Just as the Minister of Defence will put new uniforms on the Army very soon to show that we have passed from the old decadent system of colonial era to a new period, that is how the Minister of Works should make a new Independence Road.

Then in the Western Region, he should develop some roads as post-independence roads and they should pass through the Mid-West and the proper Yoruba areas. Then in the Northern Region, he should construct a road that will connect Yola from Zaria and

widen it to Funtua-Gusau-Sokoto. Then another road should be widened from Jos-Bauchi-Gombe-Potiskum-Maiduguri-Yola. The Minister should connect all these new trunk roads to form a chain of independence speedway. When I say *speedway* I mean *speedway*. More money should be voted for the Minister. As soon as he finishes spending that, let him call for another.

I become worried when visitors come here, because the report on their roads is so excellent that some of their roads are at times double four carriage ways. If we are going to build any road now, let it not be that two by four arrangement of the colonial days. They are so narrow that two cars can hardly pass. That is the cause of accidents. We suffer much loss of life because of these tiny roads. When we compare Congo to Nigeria we find they have more excellent roads than Nigeria. Why should this be?

When we have this speedway and double carriage system it means that cars can travel both ways, taking different lanes without by-passing another car on the road. Let the post-Independence Road be an example. Take it as an assignment. If the Minister finishes that and he reports to this country that he has finished that road, let it be Inuwa Wada's Independence Road." Do this and the money will be voted.

Coming to African contractors, I think that in order to help them we should have to do more than the ordinary. Why should our people be confined to building unattractive houses? I go to my room, I lock it and begin to think why our people cannot build good houses. They have the talent to build. You cannot say that because a person is an African, you can just hand over your house to him to build. You want something attractive.

When it comes to art, it is beyond any racial boundary. An artist is an artist, whether he is black or white. If the whites are really efficient, why can we not be? What one man can do another man can do.

One suggestion has just come to my mind. In co-operation with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Works should set up a Revolving Contractors Loan.

**An hon. Member :** This is unusual !

**Dr Mbadiwe :** It is unusual to do it. I see the Minister of Finance shaking his head, but

I am making a suggestion. It may be out of the ordinary to-day, but tomorrow, it may be within the ordinary. In this wise, if contractors have contracts, instead of going to the bank to get loans at a high cost, a system should be found whereby approved contractors can get loans from this Revolving Contractors Loan with an authority that any payment being made to them can be deducted from their total voucher. That is possible. We must find a way to help our people. Why should we vote nearly £10 million in this country and not more than £1 million will go to our people? It will all go to builders abroad. We must find a solution. If my solution is not the solution, I want the Minister of Works to devise a better solution. There is bound to be a solution to the problem.

I know the Minister is now giving equipment. But when major contracts are signed, he can get equipment up to a certain percentage of the contract. That is a good way of assistance, but there should also be another type of assistance. My plea is that there must be a way of assisting our people to cope with their work.

**An hon. Member :** Apply to be adviser to the Minister.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** That is within the competence of the Minister of Works. He has not paid me to advise him. The problem is for him to solve. It is a problem, let him solve it. (*Interruptions*). I am telling the whole Parliament, but the details go to the Minister. I think that on the whole, I do not want to depart from what I have said before, that whatever the conditions of our roads, they are far better than what we inherited six or seven years ago. There can be no question about it, but we must not dwell on the past. We must work sufficiently hard to provide for the future and also—

**Some hon. Members :** Awo ! Awo ! (*as the Leader of the Opposition came in*).

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Just when I was trying to make a very very serious point the hon. Leader of the Opposition stepped into this House, which means that this point which I will make is like a spiritual union of every side of this House, otherwise it could not have moved the whole House !

The Enugu railway crossing is so bad and so very dangerous that it requires an overhead bridge. I mean the railway crossing which joins Ogui to the main shopping centre. It is very dangerous and it is one of the biggest bottlenecks in Enugu, and the town is developing very fast. Many a time, on going to keep an appointment, one finds a long row of cars and lorries. It is very vital because Enugu is a Regional Capital, it is the show window of the Eastern Region, and therefore—

**An hon. Member :** What about Onitsha ?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I am talking about the railway crossing inside the Enugu township between Ogui and the Coal Camp on the main road to Onitsha. It requires an overhead bridge. I would like the Minister to take special note and I hope that all his officials will also take special note and make a thorough investigation. It is so urgent that it cannot wait. For many years this matter has come up, and I do hope that the Minister will take note. We are moving forward and we cannot move backwards.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : I want to start by thanking hon. Members for the congratulations they have showered on my Ministry. It is not very often for a Minister of Works to be praised because my Ministry is one in which almost everybody is interested. They either want a new road to be constructed or they want an existing one to be improved. I want to assure hon. Members that all the points that they have made have been very well noted by me and will be carefully gone into with a view to implementing those that we can implement now and give careful consideration to those which we cannot immediately implement.

I want to reply generally to points which several Members made during their speeches and then come back to specific instances.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South) : On a point of order, would it not be advisable for the Minister to wait until Members have given their views ?

**The Chairman :** I do hope that Members will appreciate that we have about two hours to go and we have not as yet covered half the day's business. There are still other Heads to be dealt with and I think that they deserve consideration.

**The Minister of Works :** Several Members have spoken on the old question of the Federal Government taking over responsibility for certain Regional roads. When I made my speech earlier, I did explain that the money available for the improvement of roads and reconstruction of roads during the next Six-Year Development Programme is very limited. We should very much like to take on more roads from the Regions and to improve those we have now ; but most unfortunately, my Ministry is not the only Ministry with a claim on the funds available to the Federal Government.

During my speech, I reminded Members that everybody is agreed that during the next Six-Year Development Programme, emphasis should be given to industrial and agricultural projects. Also, the amount of money which the Federal Government is able to raise is dependent upon a number of aspects which were explained by my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance. Thus, much as we want to take over Regional roads, the finances available to me are such that I am afraid I cannot do anything at the present moment. All I shall do is to pray for a windfall when my Colleague will allow me to spend more money.

Several Members spoke of dangerous corners, bridges and uneven surfaces. If they remember or if they care to go through my speech again, they will observe that I mentioned that certain sums of money are going to be made available during the next Programme period to improve existing roads, to reconstruct others, to reconstruct dangerous bridges and as far as we can, to reconstruct those uneven surfaces of the roads which Members have complained about.

**Alhaji Tafida Sokoto (Binji Tangaza)**  
The hon. Minister has made several promises of this kind which have not been fulfilled.

**The Minister of Works :** As far as I know, all the promises I have made to this House have been carried out.

To come to specific cases which have been mentioned, the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*), spoke on quite a number of points, but I think that the most important of them is in regard to road signs. I quite agree with what the hon. Member has said. I, myself, am not satisfied with the road signs of our road system. We are now in the process of putting up new signs where old ones exist

and also putting in road signs where none exists. If any hon. Member has a suggestion to bring forward to us on what and how the signs should be put up we shall be prepared to consider them.

The same hon. Gentleman also made mention of the road between Onitsha and Ihiala. I am sure that he just said it to score points, may be, with his constituency. This is a road I mentioned in my speech which I said that we are going to reconstruct and re-surface.

The Member for Okigwi North East (*Mr Ihe*) and a number of hon. Members spoke of dangerous trees along the sides of our Trunk A roads. If I remember well, these trees were, in the first place, planted to provide shade for pedestrians. But when it came to our notice and after several Members in this House had spoken about the danger of these trees, we made arrangements for any tree which is considered to be dangerous to be felled. If hon. Members will only be fair, they will confirm that, every year, some of these trees are felled and removed from the sides of the roads.

The Member for Sokoto West Central, (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) spoke on projects in the last Development Programme which were not completed. I am not trying to hide the fact that certain projects which we started during the last Programme have not yet been completed. But if the hon. Member goes through his Estimates carefully, especially the Capital Estimates, he will observe what we call 'Continuing Projects'. We do not mean to stop where we left when the last Programme finished, we are going to complete any project which we have started.

The hon. Gentleman also mentioned what, I think, he termed a 'scandalous allegation' or something, about the Federal Government entering into a certain agreement with a certain firm on account of a loan raised from a certain country. He did not want to go into detail but we are not hiding anything. The loan of a certain amount of money was raised by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, from the Government of Israel. By arrangement, part of the loan is to come into Nigeria by way of imports. These imports are to be paid for by the Federal Government.

Therefore, an arrangement has been made in certain cases, not in all cases, that when a contractor is awarded a contract, he is asked to buy certain articles, like cement, paint or whatever it is, from a firm known as Dizengoff. As far as I know, this firm is not widely represented in Nigeria. There are many parts of Nigeria where they have no branches and no contractor is under any obligation to buy from them if they have no representation there, or if the articles they sell cost more than the contractors can get from another place.

The Member for Iharev Masev (*Mr Shisha*) spoke of the system of closing certain roads after rains. I want to remind the hon. Gentleman that there are over 4,000 miles of Trunk Roads "A" in Nigeria and not all these miles of roads have been surfaced. Quite a long stretch of the roads is unsurfaced. They have gravel or laterite surfaces.

In some parts of Nigeria, after rains the roads become loose and slippery. If heavy trucks are allowed to continue using them they will simply churn them up and they may be impassable. So, a system has been devised to close certain sections of the roads for a few hours after rain in the interest of the motorists themselves. This is a necessary evil which we hope to discontinue as soon as we improve the surfaces of the roads. I want to assure the hon. Member that we take no delight in doing this.

I want to thank the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) for words of praise which he showered on me and on my Ministry and I want to assure him that the reconstruction of that section of the Jos-Bornu Road between Benisheikh and Maiduguri will certainly go through.

**Chief A. Enahoro :** On a point of information, if praises are necessary for us to get the Minister's support for our roads may I point out that I consider the Minister a wonderful Minister? Having done that, may I then ask if the Minister will kindly tar the roads from Uromi to Auchi? (*Laughter*).

**The Minister of Works :** I would very much like to, but I am afraid that the road is a regional responsibility.

The Member for Oshun South East (*Mr Ogunkanmi*) and my hon. Friends the Member for Ife (*Mr Omisade*) and the Member for

Orlu North East (*Dr Mbadiwe*) spoke about the award of contracts. I want to say with due humility that the Federal Government should be praised for the way contracts are awarded because in our award of contracts we do not discriminate. We do not award to party supporters and discriminate against Opposition supporters. We award our contracts strictly on merit. There are people on the other side of the House who were awarded contracts—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** On a point of order, I think that the Minister is irrelevant. And while I am still on this point of irrelevancy I want to say that I have discovered that we have got to praise the Minister of Works. May I take this opportunity to remind him that he promised here last year that he was going to take over Udo-Umuahia-Itu Road.

**The Chairman :** Order! Members do take opportunity to make speeches in the guise of points of order. That is out of order. I would have expected that the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) would be concerned mostly with rivers and river transport, and not roads!

**The Minister of Works :** As I was saying, we have a register of contractors and our contractors are classified according to their ability to undertake work and sometimes according to how much capital they have.

Certain categories of contracts are specifically reserved for Nigerians. No expatriate contractor is allowed to these in certain categories of contracts.

**Mr Ekanem :** Up to what value?

**The Minister of Works :** Up to £50,000. Between £50,000 to £100,000 worth of contracts, Nigerian contractors are given preferential treatment. If they compete with expatriate contractors and the difference in the price of tender between the Nigerian contractor and the expatriate contractor does not exceed a certain percentage the contract goes to the Nigerian contractor. The percentage there ranges from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 5 per cent. It is only in the highest categories, that is, categories above £100,000, that we feel we should allow everybody to compete without any preferential treatment.

I do not want to go into too much detail but the Federal Government—I am not trying to deride the Regional Governments—

[MINISTER OF WORKS]  
is the only Government in Nigeria which has not committed itself to certain contractors. The allegation that a particular contractor is getting most Federal contracts and that a certain amount of money is deducted from any contract given, with due respect Mr Chairman, I must say is most irresponsible. I challenge the hon. Member to prove it.

**An hon. Member :** In this House ?

**The Minister of Works :** Any contract, anywhere, I make bold to say. Our contracts are given by way of tenders. Any contractor interested sends in his tender. Our Tenders Board meet and select the best tender. On certain occasions, where award is urgently required, or where the work is of a complicated or technical nature, one or two contractors are nominated and the work is negotiated with them.

It has come to my notice that on several occasions contractors complain that they actually make more profits in contracts for which they compete than in contracts which they get by negotiation.

My officials, I want to assure the Committee, are very much alive to their responsibilities. When they negotiate prices with any contractor they break the contract into the minutest details. Bills of quantities are considered. For how can a Government tell a contractor "Before we award you a contract you must give us some money" ? What does that money which he gives stand for ?

It is the Member for Ife Town (*Mr Omisade*) also who spoke about Trunk 'A' roads passing through centres of towns. He has asked us to construct a by-pass wherever a road passes through a big town. He cited Shagamu. I want to tell the hon. Member that we wanted to construct a by-pass on the Lagos-Ibadan road which passes through Shagamu. The people of Shagamu protested and insisted that the road must pass through the centre of the town and that they were prepared to accept any amount of compensation they were given for their houses. And in the town where he comes from, that is Ife, where we have constructed a by-pass, what is happening there ? Houses are being built along the side of the road and very soon that road will be in the middle of houses.

My hon. Friend, Alhaji Daura spoke of Trunk road 'A' 1 from Tegina to Daura and I told him that work was going to be started from three points. He mentioned that although work had started from these three points yet after a certain period one team of the workers was diverted from one particular place to another. I want to assure him that that was not done on any political grounds but purely on technical and engineering reasons.

*Whereupon Alhaji Bello Dandago rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

£6,050,980 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 59.—AUDIT

£95,940 for Head 59—Audit—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 60.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

£23,510 for Head 60—Electoral Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 61.—JUDICIAL

£166,890 for Head 61—Judicial—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

#### HEAD 62.—PARLIAMENT

*Question proposed, That £713,460 for Head 62—Parliament—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I should like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the Parliament. In doing so I have in mind the difficulties and strains which are brought upon the employees working within the Parliament. If anybody is impressed I am highly impressed in the way they discharge their duties.

I am happy to note in reading through the provisions in the Estimates that the post of a Deputy Clerk of Parliaments has been created. This will give incentive to those working with us. In the past we realised that these men were trained to work within a Ministry, or a Department, but while their counterparts in the Ministries or in Departments within an integrated Ministry were advancing, the workers here, as it were, were not exactly

stagnating but certainly something approximating to it. They were just, shall we say, about to retreat when these Estimates came out.

We must forget a little about the austerity measures. It is difficult because while their counterparts outside there now are enjoying themselves in the parks or refreshing themselves at Bar Beach, they are now with us here, and I think a good servant is worthy of his wages. I only hope too that there is a Section here which has been made self-accounting, and that is the Pay Section. Every encouragement should be given to the workers within the Parliament from the lowest to the highest.

I am trying to show the facts as I see them. Workers within the Parliament deserve more attention than they are given at present. It is difficult for a worker to forego his pleasure in the evening, instead of enjoying the comfort of his children to come and be here with us at this hour—they are not politicians. I only hope that promotions within this Parliament as far as the workers are concerned will be more rapid than they are at present. We want to encourage them in order that they may discharge their duties with efficiency.

With these few remarks I support.

**Mr F. U. Ihe** (Okigwi North East) : On this Head I wish to say that our flats must carry with them the dignity and prestige they deserve. One common eyesore in most of the flats is due to the obstinacy—of the caretakers in removing the dustbins as they are full. Sometimes even when a dustbin has been removed, it is left lying on the ground in front of the corridor so conspicuously exposed that not only the hon. Members but their visitors cannot conveniently accommodate themselves because of the odious smell that leaks out thereby polluting the air. This attitude must stop henceforth.

Another very embarrassing situation in connection with our flats at Bar Beach is the awkward misplacement of Members from one room to another; more so if a Member has comfortably occupied a room for over two years. What on earth would justify such a misplacement when the Member's opinion is not sought? Whatever could be the influence behind this sort of irritating action? We know our Ministers and junior Ministers

must have highly dignified quarters, but all other Members here on the Floor of this House must be given equal attention and treatment.

I should appeal to Members also who occupy the flats at Bar Beach, to maintain a better attitude in respect of the way their radios are loudly tuned in order to avoid disturbing their neighbours.

Members in this hon. House must be made to see the great need for everyone, other than the Ministers, to travel overseas. Both sides of the House are fully convinced of the economic mission overseas led by our Ministers. Even when any one of our Ministers alone travels overseas, there is no doubt such a travel must be to the interest of the nation. Ordinary floor Members travelling overseas must in my own humble opinion be few and rare. We must be very honest with ourselves and with the nation we are serving.

If any one Member wants sight-seeing overseas, for our country's sake, there will be no need to favour such a Member because he happens to be a god-son of X and thereby waste the country's money at this very particular period of our country's mobilisation of economy. Great care must be taken over trivial and unwarranted expenditure.

We are now going austere but there is a reason, however, why attention should be given to the condition of the staff working in the Parliament, both of this House and the Upper House. It is clear that the staff work unceasingly day and night especially at the Budget Session in which we are now. Since they are not paid overtime, I may suggest it here, even at this time of austerity, some sort of compensation must be given to them and I personally believe that they be paid overtime allowance.

I am particularly happy to speak on the Head—Speaker's Robes. This Head is very very important. Our Speaker's Robe in my mind must be considered even long overdue. Further, it is never too late to do what one might have done. Our impartial, able and worthy Speaker of this Parliament Mallam Ibrahim Jalo Waziri deserves in all respect the most elegant and gorgeous robe, fully dignified in colour, in make and in fashion. And as the Speaker himself already is a man of high personality the type of robe for him we envisage should positively project more of that

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

In a Parliament of 312 Members, it is not possible, even if we were to sit here for months, for all Members to be able to speak or to catch the eye of the Speaker. But I think that one would agree that the Speaker has been very fair to all sides of the House. Quite honestly, if hon. Members would stop repeating themselves, and if hon. Members who have the opportunity to speak will realise that there are other people too who would like to contribute to the debate, and stop utilising the whole of their time, especially when a Member, in trying to conclude his speech starts saying, "Finally", then "Lastly", then "In conclusion", then "To wind up"—

**The Chairman :** Point of information, Mr Akwivu.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I think the time of the House would be more effectively saved if Ministers would talk less.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am sure that the Deputy Speaker (*Mr Akwivu*) is part and parcel of the Ministers and if he will show us very good example when he is not presiding but sitting *here* we shall emulate him.

Once again I would like to say that the behaviour of hon. Members here has been very dignified and one that exhibits Nigerian culture. I have had the opportunity like many hon. Members here to watch Parliaments outside Africa and I think that we have every reason to be proud that the decorum and sense of responsibility and the standard of debate in this Parliament in my view is second to none anywhere in the world. (*Hear, hear.*)—

**An hon. Member :** How does the Minister know ?

**The Minister of Finance :** I have gone round the world, so that the hon. Member cannot tell me anything. This is by my own judgment.

I think that the points made by many hon. Members about the comfort of the Members and the way they suffer inconveniences about telephone and about contacting their constituencies, are points that ought to be seriously looked into. I really think that we should look into them because if hon. Members are here, they have a right to be in touch with their constituencies and at the same time their

families, and also they have a right to live in some sort of comfort. Therefore, I will say that that matter will be carefully examined and looked into.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

**Several hon. Members :** No ! No !

*The Chairman withheld his assent and declined to put the Question.*

**Mallam Aminu Kano** (Kano East) : Forgive me if I go contrary to the orders of the Leader of the House, but I would like to drive in some few points about this Parliament. I am glad that the Leader of the House himself laid some emphasis on the African culture in the House, and it is on this that I would like to say a few things.

Last year, I made a suggestion that at least this Parliament should not look too British. The symbol of authority in Nigeria is not to shout out the name of Mr Speaker in person, but the trumpet is a symbol of authority and is the African culture. Therefore, I would like to make a point that a trumpeter should be—

**An hon. Member :** Where does the hon. Gentleman want the trumpeter ?

**Mallam Aminu Kano :** Outside. He should blow his trumpet when the Speaker is coming in.

Secondly, I would like to say something about the Deputy Speaker. In the Regions, the Deputy Speaker is on £1,680 and a Parliamentary Secretary is on £1,500. At the Federal level the Deputy Speaker is on £1,800 and a Parliamentary Secretary is on £2,000. What is the special reason for placing the Deputy Speaker below the Parliamentary Secretaries ? I think it is high time that the Deputy Speaker in the Federal Parliament was placed in such a standard—

**The Minister of Finance :** Point of order. Under the Standing Orders of the House, no Member can speak about increase of wages or salaries unless he can prove to this House that he has got the recommendations of His Excellency the Governor-General.

**The Chairman :** I think the Order says that a Member cannot move an increase in expenditure but can actually talk about increases.



Federal Parliament Debates

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1858

**Mallam Aminu Kano** : I would like something to be done about this inequality.

On the grounds of the Parliament, we are impressed with the statue of Her Majesty the Queen at the front of the Parliament. But these are days of the implementation of our nationalism. At Enugu there is a statue of the now Governor-General of the Federation. In Ibadan I learn that there is a statue of the Leader of the Opposition. If this is the Federal Capital, why should we throw away into the Provinces the statues of those who fought for our freedom? Why can we not have the statue of the Governor-General here, the statue of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, or the Sardauna of Sokoto, and put them right here before the Parliament?

**The Chairman** : This is not within 'Parliament'.

**Mallam Aminu Kano** : I beg to state that it is within the grounds of Parliament—the decoration of our National Hall.

Thirdly, I think there is need to change the name given to our Porters. They are presently called Porters, but I think that they should be called 'Security Guards', because the word 'porter' within the African conception means one who carries loads to the markets and shops, and so on. I feel that we should give them a more dignifying name and call them 'Security Guards.'

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Whereupon Alhaji Bello Dandago rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

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

£713,460 for Head 62—Parliament—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 63.—FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

£97,280 for Head 63.—Federal Public Service Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 64.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

£4,600,000 for Head 64—Contributions to the Development Fund—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 65.—NON-STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS OF REVENUE

£157,000 for Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

*Schedule to the Bill agreed to.*

*Postponed Clauses 1 to 4 ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Third time and passed.*

*And it being after 6 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at 11.13 p.m.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 17th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

The following Papers already distributed to Members are deemed to be laid on the Table :

(a) Trade Agreement between the Federation of Nigeria and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic ;

(b) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1962, by Ordinance ;

(c) Report of the Delegation to Fernando Po and Rio Muni, 1961 ;

(d) Annual Report of the Inland Waterways Department, 1959-60 ;

(e) Fifth Report of the Federal Public Service Commission for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1961 ;

(f) Report of the Accountant-General of the Federation with the financial statement for the year ended 31st March, 1961.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Publicity

**O.272. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Information, if he has plans to give more publicity than at present to the activities of the Federal Government.

**The Minister of Information** (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Yes, Sir. These plans have been explained in my Speech in this House on the 11th of April and I would refer the hon. Member to pages 11-17 of the Official Report of the 12th of April.

In sum, the plans are the reorganisation of the Information Division of the Federal Ministry of Information so as to enable us to improve internal and external publicity and carry out this responsibility more efficiently

and effectively, to replan the Film Unit, to expand Domestic Broadcasting and establish External Broadcasting and the Nigerian Television Service.

**Mr Muojeke** : Why was it that the question asked by Chief Enahoro was relayed and re-echoed over six times without the reply of the Prime Minister being given simultaneously ?

National Press Directors

**O.273. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Information what are the salaries of the Directors of the Nigerian National Press Limited.

**Hon. T. O. S. Benson** : The Council of Ministers decided that the Directors should be paid £600 per annum and the Chairman and Managing Director £3,000 plus £600 allowance, plus free house, electricity, water, and the use of official cars.

However, as a result of the recent announcement by the Prime Minister in the House, the salaries of the Directors and the Managing Director will be reduced by 10 per cent as an austerity measure. Under Clause 71 of the Articles of Association of the Company, the Directors are empowered to determine their own remuneration and at a General Meeting in December 1961, they decided to increase the rate to £1,000 per annum. This was done without prior consultation with me.

At the present moment, consideration is being given to examining the affairs of the Press in all its ramifications.

**Mr Ene** : I would like to know from the Minister of Information whether the post of Managing Director and Chairman is a full-time appointment, and I would also like to know from the Minister whether the figures quoted as to salaries bear any relations to austerity measures.

**Hon. T. O. S. Benson** : The remunerations will be reduced by 10 per cent.

**Chief Anthony Enahoro** : In view of the fact that this paper is not paying its way, and in view of the salaries paid in similar commercial enterprises ; and further, in view of the fact that these salaries were increased without consultation with the Minister, is the

Minister in a position to say whether or not he will insist that these salaries be reverted to the original figures?

**Hon. T. O. S. Benson:** Whatever the Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) may say, Sir, the newspaper is doing very useful work. I made it quite clear at the end of my answer to the Question that at present, I am giving consideration to examining the affairs of the paper in all its ramifications. When that is done we shall be in a position to decide the next step to take.

### National Television

**O.275. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Information if he plans Commercial T.V. for the National Television system and if he will make a statement.

**Hon. T. O. S. Benson:** As I said in my speech in this House on Wednesday the 11th of April, I hope that it will be possible to have one co-ordinated Television system for the whole of Nigeria and I assume that this is what the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has in mind when he asks about the National Television system.

Such a co-ordinated television system would be made up of stations serving both the interests of the Regions and of the Federal Government. In time it can be possible to interconnect all the stations by means of a microwave system that will allow, at certain times of the day and evening, the same programme to be broadcast simultaneously throughout the nation. At other times the individual stations can broadcast programmes designed for their own immediate areas.

Pending the construction of interconnection facilities for simultaneous broadcasting throughout the nation, programme exchanges between those stations not so interconnected will be restricted to films specially made and purchased, and to video tape recordings where recording machines have been acquired. There are long-term economies in such an interconnected network in that one programme and production cost can cover all the stations during those times when there is simultaneous programming. One film purchase for all the stations will be more economical than separate purchases for each station.

Such an integrated television service would probably be operated as a commercial advertising medium. In serving the interests of

advertisers who wish to expand their sales and production the commercial growth of the nation is served. Moreover, the commercial revenue will reduce the cost to the Federal and Regional Governments and it is hoped that in time the television system could be made self-sustaining while still serving the higher purposes of informing and educating the public.

I shall not cease to work to bring about such a unified television service. In the meantime, as far as the Federal Government's television project is concerned, it is the intention that the Nigerian Television Service should contribute to the revenues of the Federal Government and help to pay its way by operating on a commercial advertising basis.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo:** May I know from the Minister if the economy of Nigeria can cope with the network of television establishments in the country?

**The Minister of Information:** It can.

**Dr Okeke:** Do I understand the Minister as saying that he will explore the possibility of getting all the Regional television network now as they are operating to be co-ordinated under one national system to effect more economy measures in these days of austerity so that there will not be much competition but co-ordination and co-operation?

**The Minister of Information:** Yes, that is what I said.

### DEFENCE

#### Commander, Nigerian Military Forces

**O.257. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Defence, what the cost is to the Federal Government of the visit of the Minister of State for Military Affairs to the United Kingdom to recruit an Officer to command the Nigerian Military Forces.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (M. Ibrahim Tako):** The cost of the visit of the Minister of State for the Army to the United Kingdom to interview candidates for the post of General Officer Commanding, Royal Nigerian Army amounted to approximately £350.

#### Women in the Navy

**O.276. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Defence, what arrangements he has made to recruit Nigerian women into the Navy.

**M. Ibrahim Tako :** No consideration has as yet been given to the recruitment of women into the Navy.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** When does the Minister expect to give consideration ?

**M. Ibrahim Tako :** When training facilities are available.

## LABOUR

### Cost of Living

**O.279. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Labour, whether he is aware of the alarming increases in the cost of living and how he plans to arrest the situation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) :** No Sir, the Minister is not aware.

### Fernando Po

**O.281. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Labour, if he will state who are looking after the welfare of Nigerian Labourers in Fernando Po, and whether they are Nigerian nationals.

**Mr Ezonbodor :** There are five Nigerian nationals looking after the welfare of Nigerian labourers in Fernando Po. There are two Labour Officers one of whom acts in addition as the Vice-Consul, one Labour Inspector and two Assistant Labour Inspectors.

**O.282. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Labour, how many labourers have been recruited to the Spanish Island of Fernando Po under the Agreement executed between the Federal Government and the Authorities of the Island.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor :** The maximum number of labourers that can be recruited per annum is 9,600. These numbers have, however, not been achieved in the last few years. For example, for 1959-60, 7,861 were recruited ; in 1960-61, 5,627 were recruited, and for the first three-quarters of the year 1961-62, 6,752 were recruited.

**Mr Ekanem :** How many of those recruited within the period stated have been repatriated ?

**Mr Speaker :** That question requires notice.

**O.541. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Labour, if there is any organised Trade Union in the Spanish Island of Fernando Po.

**Mr Ezonbodor :** No, Sir.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu :** What encouragement has the Ministry given to these people to form Trade Unions in the Island ?

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

## MINES AND POWER

### Royalties

**O.283. Mr M. C. K. Obi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if Government pays royalty to the owners of the land where minerals are being prospected for or are found ; and if so, how much is due to the people of Okpilla where limestone has been found.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika) :** Government does not pay royalty to the owners of the land where minerals are being prospected for, or are found. The Revised Fiscal Arrangements, 1959, show the allocation of royalty as 50 per cent to the Distributable Pool Account and the remainder stays with the Federation

The answer to the second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi :** May I know why the Government does not pay royalty to the people ?

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) :** Government pays royalty to the Region of origin.

### Training for Oil Mining

**O.542. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what efforts his Ministry is making to train Nigerians in oil mining.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika) :** One Inspector of Mines has completed his training in oil matters and is now employed as a Petroleum Engineer. Two Ibadan graduates are at present completing their oil training in Europe and should return to Nigeria by the end of this year as Petroleum Engineers.

Two other Nigerians are doing longer oil courses, one of which is a refinery course, and it is hoped to employ one or two graduates this year to take the oil course starting in September.

**Mr Onwuchekwa :** When does the Ministry hope to get an indigenous adviser in that Ministry ?

**Hon. Maitama Sule :** As soon as one is available we shall not hesitate to employ him.

### Obudu Hills

**O.287. Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether a survey has been made to determine the mineral deposits in Obudu Hills and if he will make a statement.

**Mallam Ahmadu Fatika :** Yes Sir. Geological surveying of the Obudu District is hindered by the lack of aerial photographs ; but a geological map of the Obudu standard sheet No. 291 has recently been completed. No ore deposits were found during the survey.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

10.22 a.m.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I feel compelled to make this statement in order to dispel any impressions which might have been formed as a result of certain statements made in this House in the course of the debates concerning my Ministry. It is unfortunate that during the Committee of Supply my own Head of the Estimates had not been discussed as it came under the guillotine. I did not therefore have the opportunity to reply in detail on certain points made by some hon. Members.

There is one important point which I feel must not be allowed to go unchallenged and that is the unwarranted attack made on the Floor of this House on our senior Nigerian civil servants with particular reference to the person of my own Permanent Secretary.

**An hon. Member :** Who is that ?

**The Minister of Establishments :** The hon. Gentleman need not know.

In the course of my speech, in support of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I declared in this House that we had no reason to feel ashamed of our Nigerianisation policy or to offer any apology for pursuing that policy vigorously. I also stated that, given the

necessary opportunities and facilities, our Nigerian civil servants could, as regards standards, measure up to any of their counterparts anywhere else in the world.

The Nigerians in our Civil Service have taken up their responsibilities with commendable courage and, so far, they have not let us down. It is therefore wrong for anyone to use the Floor of this House to attack them when they have no opportunity of defending themselves.

**An hon. Member :** But the hon. Minister is here to defend them.

**The Minister of Establishments :** That is precisely what I am doing. The House will agree with me that it would not be in the interests of Nigerianisation, nor of Nigeria itself, if, after we have fought and won the battle for Nigerianisation, we should now turn round to discredit our Nigerian civil servants whom we have helped to attain the enviable positions formerly occupied by expatriates ; rather they deserve all the encouragement this House could give them.

I wish therefore to record here and now that our Nigerian Permanent Secretaries, and other Nigerian senior civil servants, enjoy the full confidence of the Federal Government ; especially in the manner they handle both their duties and their staff. It must be appreciated that my Permanent Secretary has a very heavy burden to bear. Indeed as is commonly known to all, the duties of a Permanent Secretary are complex.

However, I must stress that it is the bounden duty of any civil servant, be he a Permanent Secretary or a minor official, to place the public interest first and foremost in his mind and, if in pursuing this course he finds adequate grounds to exercise firmness or to reprimand or to correct his juniors for lack of attention to duty, or for any other cause, and does not do so, then he can be justifiably blamed for disregarding the public interest.

Further, if I may be permitted to say so, I must warn that it is neither in the interests of this country nor that of the Public Service, nor does it confer any dignity to this honourable House that we politicians should use it as a forum for attacking the personal qualities of senior civil servants on the basis of complaints made to us by juniors who happen to be either our relatives or our friends.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## MID-WEST REGION BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Sir, I rise to move that—

A Bill for an Act to establish a fourth Region of the Federation of Nigeria and for purposes connected therewith be read a second time.

There is no need for me to make a long speech in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, the history of which all the hon. Members know, but I would like to make two points.

I was asked to give an undertaking by the Members of the Opposition, what is likely to happen to the remaining Western Region in case a Mid-West Region is created. I said on the Floor of this House that as an individual, as the Prime Minister, I would not subscribe again to the breaking up of the Federation into further bits and I was taken up by one of the papers to say I had no Constitutional right. But of course, I never claimed to have a Constitutional right and, if any portion of the Federation or any Region decides to make trouble and wants to carve out an area out of itself, I have no other alternative but to bow to the wish of that particular area.

It is quite clear from the Bill that if the Mid-West Region is created, the Western Region will remain a separate Region because now we have got three Regions. If a Mid-West Region is created we shall have four Regions, and so it is quite obvious from my Bill that the Western Region will remain a Region as it is after the Mid-West Region is created.

As I said it is not my intention to make a long speech on this. The purpose of the Bill is very clear. It is to put into practice the provisions of the Constitution and I was waiting for the two Regions to pass the necessary Resolution before I move the Second Reading of my Bill. As this Bill is already well-known to the House, I do not think it will have a difficult passage.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Sir, I beg to second.

10.40 a.m.

**Chief O. Awolowo** (Ijebu-Remo): I rise to oppose the Second Reading of this Bill and, on very good grounds. I am astonished that the Government continues to tread the path of stubborn inequity in this matter. I do not wish to repeat the argument which has been constantly urged in this hon. House against the creation of the Mid-West Region unless certain conditions are satisfied. But may I say this, that the Prime Minister himself did say here on a previous occasion, and he has reaffirmed that statement this morning, that after the creation of this State (the Mid-West Region), no other State would be created in the Federation; or to use his own words, he would not tolerate a further break-up of any part of the Federation.

It is generally agreed by all of us—all sensible persons in any case—that our Federation is an unusual one in the sense that it is unbalanced. You have the Federation in which one Region is more than equal to the other two Regions put together, and we have a situation in which that one Region has now succeeded in bending the will of the other Regions to its own. It is, therefore, imperative if the Federation is to continue in peace and harmony, that that monolithic giant Region should be broken up. (*Hear, hear*).

The Prime Minister, as Prime Minister he has no region of origin, but as Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, he comes from Bauchi, and therefore, he belongs to that Region which deserves to be broken up if the Federation is to continue in harmony and peace.

I should have thought that after the Prime Minister had listened to public opinion on this matter, he would desist from treading this path which I described as “stubborn inequity”. It is inequity against the Western Region to insist on creating this State. It is inequity against the Eastern Region to continue to want to create this State; and it is inequity against the whole of the Federation to allow the Northern Region to remain as it is without breaking it up, and more so, to make a declaration to the effect that there can be no question of breaking it up.

The Prime Minister did say that if any Region, of course, makes the request that it wants its area to be broken up, that request

would be acceded to. Our Constitution is very clear on the point. It is not up to a Region under this Constitution to make the request. The initiative should be taken under the Constitution by this Federal Legislature. In this particular case, the initiative has been taken by the Federal Legislature. The oft quoted Motion of 1955 has been thoroughly misconceived and misconstrued. In 1955, the Motion that was moved was very plain and clear; and to this effect, with your permission, I quote from the Official Report of the Western House of Assembly:

*That this House prays Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to make necessary constitutional arrangements at the proposed Conference in 1956 to give effect to the creation of a separate State for Benin and Delta Provinces.*

After that Motion had been moved, I then rose up as Leader of Government business, or as the Premier of the Region, to say as follows:

*In view of the issues involved in this Motion, I want to announce that the Government adopts no official attitude whatsoever toward it. Secondly, Members of the Government and of the Opposition who wish may support it without any restriction whatsoever.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): May I borrow that?

**Chief Awolowo**: You can borrow it.

Sir, in other words, it was not a Government Motion; and secondly, the Government did not give it its blessing. It is therefore incorrect for anyone to interpret that Motion as suggesting that the Western Region Government made a move for the creation of the Mid-West Region at the present time. What is more? As we have pointed out here before, the Willink Commission was appointed at the Conference that was held in 1957 and the recommendation of the Willink Commission was that no State should be created, and Her Majesty's Government insisted that indeed no State would be created before they handed power to the people of Nigeria. So, the present move to create the Mid-West Region is that of the Federal Government, and the Federal Government must own up its own responsibility in that regard.

The other point I wish to make is that with the presentation of this Bill for an Act to create the Mid-West Region in the form that it has been presented by the hon. the Prime Minister, the people of the Mid-West and of what is left of the Western Region are being called upon to buy, so to say, a pig in a poke. Here, we have a Region without any legal identity whatsoever. What is the Constitution of this new Region? How many Members will sit in its House of Assembly? How many Members will sit in its House of Chiefs? What revenue will this new Region be entitled to? And so on and so forth.

It may be easy for the people of the North or the legislators in the North and in the East to support the move that is being made now because they have no stake in the matter; but the Region that is to pay the price of this pig in a poke is entitled to insist on an examination of the pig so as to make sure that the price that is asked for it by the Federal Government is an appropriate one.

Then the hon. the Prime Minister has repeated his assurance here that what is left of the Western Region would constitute a State. It is not enough that a mere oral assurance should be given in this House. It is important that the assurance should be in a statutory form.

It is a matter of plain common sense that when you divide an area of even a Local Government Council into two you have to amend the instruments of the two new Local Government Councils, in other words, you have got to make an instrument for the new one and amend the instrument of the remaining part of the Local Government Council area. In other words what ought to be done on this occasion, before we can give our support at all, is to present to this House a Bill containing the Constitution, or a Bill containing in its Schedule the Constitution of the Mid-West Region and the Constitution of what is left of the Western Region, because legally what is left will not be regarded as a Region unless there is a Constitution.

It has been suggested here that after the passage of this Bill the Constitution of the Mid-West Region will be worked out. If you take the Mid-West Region out of the Western Region what is left is no longer the Western Region, because the Western Region is defined under the Constitution as having a given area, and that area is no longer there.

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

What name do you give to it then? It follows, therefore, that after the passage of this Bill and when the Referendum has been held, —if the Referendum ever succeeds— a new Constitution will have to be fashioned for what is left of the Western Region, and I say that that is the situation that the people of the Western Region as a whole cannot put up with.

May I repeat very briefly that it is not just one condition that has been attached to the creation of the Mid-West Region as a precedent. There are a number of other conditions, but two of them are vital. I have already mentioned one, that there should be a Constitution for the Mid-West Region and Constitution for the rest of the Western Region as Schedules to this Bill. That is one. Secondly, there must be a statutory provision for an interim Government for the new Region. That is absolutely important. It is provided for in the Constitution that the Federal Government can administer the affairs of the new Region for some six months. It is an optional sort of provision not in any way mandatory. But the Federal Government is intending to administer the affairs of the Mid-West Region for six months. May I say that that plan outrages the political instinct of the people of the Mid-West Region and of the people of the Western Region as a whole.

On the ground that the N.P.C., which dominates the Federal Government, has no following in the Mid-West Region—in other words by allowing the Federal Government to administer the affairs of the Mid-West Region, you are in effect imposing upon the people of the Mid-West Region a Party which is not of their own choice—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh): It is not the N.P.C. It is the Federal Government.

**Chief Obafemi Awolowo**: I repeat that unless suitable arrangements are made for an interim Government for the new Mid-West Region, we on this side of the House cannot support the Bill as it stands. I have said it before, and may I repeat it that we have a precedent for the request which we make. When the Southern Cameroons in those days was separated from the Eastern Region, the two Parties which existed at the time formed an

interim Government. The Action Group and the N.C.N.C. exist in the Mid-West Region more or less in equal number, and I think that the two of them should in equal number form an interim Government of that area.

It is my view that if the Leaders of the N.C.N.C. in the Mid-West Region have the interest of the people and the welfare of the people of the Mid-West Region at heart at all they should accede to a proposal for the constitution of an interim Government consisting of the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. in equal number. But if they oppose that then they cannot have a Mid-West Region.

I do not wish to take more of the time of the House on this matter, but may I say, in conclusion, that in principle we support the creation of more States in Nigeria and the creation of the Mid-West State. But in view of the fact that the procedure adopted by the Federal Government in their attempt to create the Mid-West Region is unsatisfactory and in view of the fact that the very easy conditions which we have proposed have not been given effect to by the Federal Government, I consider it my duty to oppose this Bill here in this House. And, as I said before, it will also be my duty, after the Bill shall have been passed and a day is named for a Referendum, to call upon all my supporters in the Mid-West Region to say 'No' to the creation of the Mid-West Region.

**Chief Anthony Enahoro** (Ishan East) *rose*—

**Several hon. Members**: Where do you stand?

**Chief Anthony Enahoro**: I hear hon. Members across the Floor asking where I stand. I stand firmly on the Floor of this House.

I do not think there are many Members in this House more directly affected by this proposal than myself. Notwithstanding that I would not take up the time of the House. I just wish to make three points.

I cannot see this proposal outside of its national context. It seems to me that there are a good number of Mid-Westerners, both inside this House and outside it, to whom I concede their own sincerity if they will concede mine to me as well, who think only of the Mid-West. As long as they have a Mid-West Region it does not matter what else happens in this country. I am afraid



I regard myself as a detribalised Nigerian, and I am not ashamed of it. I am a Nigerian first and a Mid-Westerner second. Therefore, it is only in that context, in the Nigerian context, that I can see this proposal to create a Mid-West Region, and I would welcome the proposal if all other States were created at the same time. The position in this country to-day, whether we like it or not (and I think that I am speaking for all reasonable minority elements in this country) is that this is not a federation but a confederation of three empires. There is an Ibo empire, there is a Yoruba empire and there is a Hausa empire. That is the situation in this country, and it is that situation that we wish to break for, unless and until that situation is broken, I do not believe that we can achieve lasting unity in this country.

I read in the papers during the week-end that one of the reasons why I am opposed to the creation of a Mid-West State is because I am not sure of the position which I would occupy there. In that publication, an appeal was made, I believe to the N.C.N.C., to carve out a place for me.

I have never had any wish to be a big fish in small waters. By the Grace of God, I hope to sit over there (*pointing to the Prime Minister's seat*) one day. (*Hear, hear*) (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order !

**Chief Enahoro** : I hope and I pray that I still have many years ahead of me yet. I am not going to leave *this* House to anybody else. We shall all be here in *this* House together until I either sit there (*pointing to the Prime Minister's seat*) or until I retire from politics.—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : Point of order. Is the hon. Gentleman telling us now that he will one day lead the Action Group ?

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

**Chief Enahoro** : That is a legitimate aspiration. I do aspire to lead the Action Group, some day. I do aspire to lead this country, some day.

I mentioned that in passing only to satisfy my friends and those who are concerned about my future, that my future is not involved in the creation of a Mid-West State and that my

attitude is based solely on what I consider—and it must be my own consideration—to be in the best interests of those people whom I represent.

If we are to face squarely the issues confronting us in this country to-day, we must admit that something will have to be done about our Federation. Ours is not a happy Federation.

May I say that one of the cementing factors (and I say it with all sincerity) has been the person of the Prime Minister. If we had had someone else—one of our friends across the Floor—in that position, it is doubtful whether this Federation would have been one to-day. But this Prime Minister will not be there forever. I do not think that he himself would desire to be there forever. What is going to happen when we have other persons who have not the qualities which this Prime Minister has brought to his office ?

As far as the proposal before us this morning is concerned, certain conditions have been proposed by the Action Group. I said, in the course of the debate on the Motion last week, that efforts were made by the Action Group in the Mid-West to reach agreement on a number of issues with the N.C.N.C. The efforts failed because the N.C.N.C. delegates refused to turn up at the meetings arranged. But as long as we have our Constitution the way it is, the Mid-West State cannot be created except with the consent of both parties involved in the matter in the Mid-West. That is the basic fact, as long as the Constitution remains the way it is.

Is it not, therefore, in the interests of the people of the Mid-West if the two parties get together to discuss the conditions which have been suggested ? I believe that if such an agreement could be reached, and if we would also accord to the minority in the rest of the country their own right to self-determination, we would then be taking the first step in reaching a proper solution in this matter.

I beg to oppose.

**Chief S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo Central) : I rise to support the Bill. It is naturally consequential for this honourable House to accord this Bill a befitting welcome and an easy passage.

Too much cannot be said in favour of the creation of the fourth Region of Nigeria in view

[CHIEF MARIERE]  
of its significance and the fact that it is an issue from which we now know those who are fooling the people of the Mid-West.

It is a wise saying, and a very true one too, that one can fool some of the people some of the time, that one can fool all the people some of the time but that one cannot fool all the people all the time.

The conditions, to which we have been referred, which should be precedent to the creation of the State are, in my view, uncalled for in the sense that the only determining factor is a plebiscite. What does one get when some of the people who have agreed to the conditions which they have all set down turn round to say that they no longer wanted them?

The arguments put forward by the Western Regional Government in rejecting the proposal for the creation of a fourth Region in Nigeria have no substance whatever. From the speech of the Premier of the Western Region one can see that he has allowed power to spoil his temper.

**Mr Speaker** : Members should avoid provocative speeches on this occasion.

**Chief Mariere** : It is an explosive subject and one in which one has to speak with emotions.

Those of us who witnessed the performances of the Premier in the last House of Representatives—

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo)** : On a point of order. The hon. Member looks very much like *Sango*, but *Sango* in the Western Region does not shake like that.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. But the Region itself is shaking!

**Chief Mariere** : I am not surprised that my hon. Friend is scared by my attire and my physique.

When we had the present Premier of the Western Region as an Opposition Member in this House at one time, and as the Minister of Communications at another time, we were often treated to a lot of jokes, some of which, of course, were very expensive. He also had a very rich store of humour and very sharp wits, one would almost conclude that he had a ready answer for everything. But it is a pity that his negative answer to the proposal to create a

fourth Region in Nigeria is a wrong answer. It is a very wrong answer. In this respect, he has made himself very small. I shall proceed to show how—

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East)** : On a point of order. I do not think that he should bring the character of the Premier of the Western Region here to be debated. He is to debate the Mid-West Motion at the moment.

**Mr Speaker** : I do not like Members debating the speech made by the Premier of the Western Region in the Western House of Assembly. All that we are concerned with is this Bill.

**Chief Mariere** : I shall proceed to show what has been done in the speech, because it is related to the Bill which is now before this House. First of all, he referred to the Motion passed by the Western House of Assembly in 1955. What did he say about this Motion?—

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East)** : On a point of order. Our Standing Orders are clear—*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order, Chief Ayo Rosiji is entitled to raise a point of order.

**Chief Rosiji** : Our Standing Orders are clear, that the ruling of the Speaker cannot be challenged. The hon. Member has insisted on continuing on the line which he was speaking and against which the Speaker has ruled.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. I think, if the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) were listening properly, he would have discovered that the hon. Member for Urhobo Central had actually conformed to the Speaker's ruling and left alone the Premier's speech during the debate on the creation of the Mid-West Region in the Western House of Assembly. He has asked to quote an instance in 1955, which, again, I think I have to hear more before I rule him out.

**Chief Mariere** : With your permission, from page 12 I quote the speech made by Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola, the Premier of the Western Nigeria :

*"Assuming that a former Parliament long ago passed a Motion in the light of the cir-*

*circumstances prevailing at the time, must that be necessarily binding on every Parliament which succeeds it, if it can be shown that the circumstances have changed so much as to make the substance of the Motion no longer tenable?"*

This was what he quoted. This was a few days ago. (*Interruptions*). Some hon. Members do not read their papers and, therefore, do not know what is happening in the country.

**Mr Speaker:** I am afraid that I cannot allow further debate on the Premier's speech.

**Chief Mariere:** I am referring to what the Leader of the Opposition has also said on the Motion of 1955. The Motion of 1955, he said, was quite pertinent to his argument. I am saying that if there were circumstances, what were those circumstances? We did not know the circumstances and we were not told what they were when that Motion was passed. It must be understood that a new government is bound to inherit the doings of an old government. The only way by which they probably can throw out what has been done previously is to repeal or to move a motion to rescind the previous Motion passed by a previous Legislative House. That has not been done in this case. Therefore, the argument that the Motion of 1955 does not bind their Government is entirely fallacious.

It is also said that only the minority N.C.N.C. Members in the Mid-West area who had no roots in the Mid-West have supported the Motion. Hon. Members would be surprised now to hear that no less a personality than a very strong Member of the Action Group, in the person of Senator Dahlton O. Asemota, spoke in support of the creation of the Mid-West Region. With your permission, I quote from the *Hansard* of the Senate for Thursday, 22nd of March, 1962, page 5 where he said:

"I am a Mid-Westerner myself and a Mid-Westerner of some standing at that. The desire of the Mid-West people to form themselves into a separate State is based on very substantial grounds. It is not a flimsy one at all. It is not based on the passing whims of politics. History and geography and the forces of cultural and social development have marked us out as a peopled district. As a peopled

district we believe that formed into a separate governmental entity we are in a better position to forge the fortune of our destiny and we believe that given the opportunity to forge our own destiny, we are in a better position to contribute to the greater advancement of all Nigeria, to political and agricultural stability and to the development of the whole country."

It was Senator Dahlton Asemota—an Action Group member—who made this speech in support of the creation of the Fourth Region.

I turn to another one who is also from the Mid-West area. It has been said that only the minority elements of the N.C.N.C. support the creation of the Mid-West. I know thousands of members of the Action Group, top notchers of the Party, who have supported the creation of the Mid-West Region in the Senate. Now, the next one is Senator M. G. Ejaife from Urhobo. The first one whose quotation I put before this House is from Benin Province, and the second one is from Delta Province—

11.20 a.m.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): We on *this* side have always said that we support the creation of this State. There is no question about that. But what we oppose is the creation of the State without the conditions that we specify. The Member's argument has missed the point of debate. He should say whether the conditions that we asked for are justified or not.

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order. I think, Chief Akin-Olugbade has not raised a point of order.

**Chief Mariere:** My hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, is very much worried, and he has to be so because he is from the Yoruba Empire to which my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, has referred.

The next Action Group Senator who supported the creation of the Mid-West Region is Senator M. G. Ejaife. I quote from the *Hansard* of 22nd March 1962—

"Coming from the Mid-West, I am naturally very very proud indeed that this Motion has come up and that at long last, the Mid-West people will be granted a Region of their own. I once more support the creation of the Mid-West state".

[CHIEF MARIERE]

Further on he said :

*"I am very happy indeed that this new region is being created because it is a sign that the Western Government have been selfless".*

Now, I do not know what he will say at this time when there have been opposing remarks being made against the creation.

We all believe in God. If we do, we can cite the Biblical story when the children of Israel were to leave Egypt and sent to Pharaoh and asked him to let them go. His heart was hardened, (*An hon. Member : Like Chief Awolowo*). Finally, the children of Israel had to go. When they were going, they were being pursued, and what happened in the Red Sea? The pursuers were drowned. I suppose that is not going to happen to our friends of the Western Region. We do not want any of them to be drowned in the Red Sea of their own making.

The last point that I want to make in supporting the Bill is about the naming of the Region. Perhaps, because the word 'West' is attached to it, any time the word 'West' is mentioned, any Yoruba man in the West feels that his empire is being disturbed. That looks to me as if there is a real calculated intention to colonise the Mid-West people. Therefore, to keep out the word 'West', I would say this that already we have the Northern Region, we have the Eastern Region, and we have the Western Region. We know that there are four cardinal points. There is one cardinal point that is missing in Nigeria, and that is the South. I will suggest—it is only mine, it is not the decision of Mid-Westerners themselves yet—but I suggest that the word 'West' should be left out and let us have it as the "Southern Region". (*Applause.*)

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : I rise to support this momentous Bill establishing the Fourth Region of the Federation, so ably moved by the Prime Minister.

It will be recalled that the resolution for the creation of the Region was first tabled on the 4th of April, 1961, and was unanimously supported by both sides of the House after an Amendment by the Opposition was defeated.

On the 22nd of March, 1962, the Resolution was again retabled because of a slight technical error. This time the Action Group Opposition

proposed an Amendment which sought among other things to have eleven other states created simultaneously with the Mid-West State. This honourable House debated the Amendment fully and then finally rejected it on account of its being ridiculously unreasonable and practically meaningless. It was the product of a disillusioned thinking.

Since its passage in March, the Resolution has received the overwhelming support of both the Northern and the Eastern Legislatures. The Western Legislature rejected it. This was not unexpected.

It is necessary for me at this stage to remind the House that when the Motion first came up in April 1961, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and his little group supported it (having lost an Amendment), and while the Northern and the Eastern Governments gave the Resolution their blessing, the Western Government remained silent. Since, however, silence in African psychology means consent, it could be rightly concluded that the stand of Chief Awolowo then was the stand of his party.

At that time the only argument that the Action Group had was that the C.O.R. and the Middle Belt States should be created as well. This stand did not surprise anyone because that had always been the puerile approach of the Action Group on the State issue for sometime now.

Shortly after that Motion in the Federal House in 1961, a special secret meeting of top-level Yoruba-born Action Groupers was convened. Even my hon. Friend, Chief Anthony Enahoro, with all his devotion and loyalty to the party was not eligible to be there. Of course, he could not, for he is an unadulterated breed of the Mid-West. At that momentous meeting, Yoruba Action Groupers groaned at what they regarded as an unpardonable blunder for allowing their party to vote in favour of the Motion in the Parliament—

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : It is quite improper for some Members to introduce tribalism to the debate in this House.

**Mr Speaker** : I think we should avoid tribalism.

**Mr Mordi** : The Yoruba Action Groupers groaned at what they regarded as an unpardonable blunder for allowing their party to vote

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in favour of the Motion in the Parliament. While some argued that it would mean a territorial and economic loss, others saw in it a disconsolating detraction from the glory and prestige of the Yoruba people.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): The hon. Gentleman is reading his speech.

**Mr Speaker**: If Mr Mordi will make less reference it will be more convenient.

**Mr Mordi**: After each had blamed the other for being responsible for the trend of events leading to this unfortunate situation, they all resolved to do everything in their power to make the creation of the Mid-West State impossible. Consequently, it was alleged that certain of them were delegated to go and meet all the Yoruba-born Judges who are likely to have a part to play should they decide to take the matter to court.

**Mr M. A. Omisade** (Ife Town): It is wrong to bring in the names of Judges into the debates of this House.

**Mr Speaker**: It is the conduct that we cannot actually discuss.

**Mr Mordi**: The delegates were asked to impress on them that it was the determination of the Northerners and the Easterners to liquidate the Yorubas and that that was the reason why the two Regions were supporting the creation of the new State. They should, therefore, make it clear to the Judges that the destiny of Yorubas was now in their hands.

With this background, it will be easy for Members to understand the ground for that awful revelation of hon. Ikoku, the Leader of the Opposition in the Eastern House and for the concluding statement of the hon. Premier of the Western Region in his speech at Ibadan when he emphatically assured his men that they would gain victory over the Federal Government. What surprises me and many other well-meaning Nigerians is that the Action Group should introduce a tribal flavour into the issue in order to achieve their end. This mean attitude reflects discredit on people from whom many would have expected that by virtue of their training, wide experience and the sacred duty attached to their high office, they would behave above tribe.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): The Standing Order of this House which does not respect any personality in this House, makes it clear that a Member shall not read his speech but can refer to it. The hon. Member is not referring to his speech but is reading from the notes. We are here to respect the Standing Orders.

**Mr Speaker**: I think that hon. Mordi should make lesser reference to his notes.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): I think that the hon. Member should be made to withdraw the statement which he made earlier to the effect that messages were sent to Yoruba Judges. I think that it is a very serious allegation which affects the position of the Judges and no such discussion could be held in this House. I think that it is very wrong.

**Mr Speaker**: It is a pity that I did not hear that section of his speech.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): Mr Speaker has said that he did not hear that section of the speech, but what happens if it appears in the *Hansard* which will go round the whole world? Are we to come back here tomorrow to ask the hon. Member to withdraw his statement? It has gone into record and unless the Speaker can tell us here that it will not appear in the *Hansard*, we will not be satisfied. I heard him and I know that you cannot hear everything.

**Mr Speaker**: I should have explained that probably when he made the remark Members were making a lot of noise and I cannot but help missing that part of the speech in which Members drowned the Member's speech. It is not his fault neither, I think, should it be mine. I think that it is that of the House.

**Mr Briggs** (Degema): May I suggest that the Speaker ask the hon. Member whether he did make that statement or not and if he did not, it would not matter.

**Mr Speaker**: The fact is that we all know, and the whole country knows that our Judges are strictly impartial, and it is not a hidden fact.

**Mr Mordi**: They are only trying to waste my time and I hope that the Speaker will take note of that.

[MR MORDI]

It is for this reason that in the past many of us were wont to regard the gross neglect of the Mid-West Area by the Western Government as being primarily a political discrimination, but now, it is clear from the trend of events that the reason for the discrimination is that the Mid-Westerners are not Yorubas. And so, like the children of Israel, they must be hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Yoruba overlords.

I crave your indulgence to allow me to make a small reference to a remark that was made about our Prime Minister last Friday in the Western Regional Parliament. Despite the very high esteem in which the Prime Minister holds the Western Premier, Chief Akintola determined to besmirch the integrity of this international giant. In his speech, the hon. Gentleman, in usual foxy and subtle manner, referred to the Prime Minister as a tool or implement without will and conscience which is being used by others as they like.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think that it is morally right to quote this particular section of it in this House.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): If it is true that Chief Akintola, the Premier of the Western Region, referred to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in a derogatory manner while speaking on the creation of the Mid-West State in the Western House, it is only right to repudiate him on the Floor of this House and his shameful references to the Prime Minister treated with ignominy. Shame to Chief Akintola !

**Mr Speaker :** All I am saying is this that the mere fact that the hon. Member raised the matter and you raised a point of order on the same subject is merely giving it publicity which it does not deserve.

**Mr Mordi :** By your ruling, I will not elaborate much on this disgraceful episode because I am sure, even the Prime Minister will dish out to him the scorn and defiance he actually deserved. As touching some of the other points raised by the principal spokesmen of the Action Group as being their reason for opposing the creation of the Mid-West State, I will only make very brief and few points.

Firstly, they argue that the Federal Government violates the principle of compromise. It was the Action Group that unanimously, through their Legislature, asked the Queen

to sanction the creation of the Mid-West Region. The Queen graciously noted the request and the Federal Government, now acting for the Queen, is trying to implement the wish of the Western Region. What greater evidence of co-operation can there be on the side of the Federal Government ?

Secondly, they argued that the creation, if effected, would make more absurd the imbalance in the component parts of the Federation where one single state is large enough to overpower all others put together. I humbly submit that this argument is naive and childish because if the status quo is maintained, it is no solution to the imbalance of power.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo) : The hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is not presenting a Motion. His duty is to contribute his quota to the debate. I cannot therefore see why he is busy reading the note that was prepared for him. I think he should be advised to make less reference to his notes.

**Mr Speaker :** I cannot ignore the provisions of the Standing Orders. I must, therefore, ask the hon. Gentleman to put away his reading material and make a speech.

**Mr Mordi :** What I was saying is that if five is greater than two plus two, then certainly five will still be greater than two plus one plus one. On the other hand, according to Chief Enahoro—

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East) : The hon. Member for Asaba East has exhausted his time.

**Mr Speaker :** I am sorry to say that there may be something wrong with your watch.

**Mr Mordi rose—**

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : The hon. Gentleman continues to look at his book in spite of the Speaker's ruling. I think the Speaker should better ask him to resume his seat.

**Mr Mordi :** I was saying that the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) said here last time that the creation of the Mid-West State was going to have a very good effect because it is going to make it possible for the other southern states, which are three in

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number to have representatives in the Senate and thereby act as a sort of check on what people have been calling 'the domination of the Northern Region.' When what he said is examined one can find that the creation of the Mid-West Region is going to be of advantage because it is going to make a double assault on this imbalance that already exists. The other point which he made is that the Federal Government's Motion leaves the people of the proposed State in doubt—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : I rise on a point of order. May I refer the hon. House to the Standing Orders relating to the finality of the Speaker's decision. I have not heard of any Parliament in any part of the world where the Speaker's decision is disregarded in this manner. If the hon. Gentleman cannot abide by the rulings of the Speaker, it is better for him to sit down. The Speaker's rulings are being recorded and the hon. Member for Asaba East must obey them. I cannot see why he continues to read.

**Mr Speaker** : I think I am capable of looking after my rulings.

**Mr Mordi** : I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for protecting me. The hon. Members on the other side are afraid of their position.

It has been said by some hon. Members on the Opposition side that the attitude of the Federal Government is discriminatory to the Western Region. Apart from the fact that they are being given what they asked for years ago, the Federal Government is trying to adhere strictly to the principles enunciated by one of the world's greatest political scientists, Chief Obafemi Awolowo who in his epigrammatic, self-adulating autobiography on page 182 said, Mr Speaker, with your permission, I quote :

*My support in principle for the creation of the Mid-West State had never flagged. By virtue of my position in the government I had access to information which was not hitherto available to me about the finances of the Region, and in due course I was able to satisfy myself that the Mid-West if constituted into a separate state would be viable.*

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order, I would like to tell the hon. Member for

Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) that we still say that the Mid-West State is viable.

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

**Mr Mordi** : He continued :

*"I, therefore, made up my mind finally that the Mid-West should be allowed to go.... In any case such a state would be ruled, at least for some years to come, by the N.C.N.C...."*

From the above it can be seen that the hon. Leader of the Opposition confirms that the Mid-West is financially viable and so advocated that it will be allowed to constitute a state of its own. I, therefore, cannot see how he can now come to blow hot and cold.

Having dismissed some of the points on account of which the Action Group spokesmen opposed the creation of the Mid-West State, I will, now proceed to tell this honourable House why this Bill is most welcome.

It is true that as far back as 1943 Zik advocated several States in his *Political Blue print*. But it was not until after seven years, during the review of the Richard's Constitution, that the first official request for the creation of a state comprising the Benin and Warri Provinces was launched.

*Mr Brown rose—*

**Mr Speaker** : Will the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) please stop reading.

**Mr Mordi** : Finally, as for our brothers in the Action Group, I humbly implore them please not to allow the attractions of momentary vantage to block their vision and make them oblivious of a greater tomorrow that awaits us and our children in the ensuing years. Many of the hon. Members on the other side, some years ago, would have given their necks freely in order to save our people from the unsavoury domination of a people who, no matter how magnanimous they may be, are naturally bound to regard us as *kobokobos*.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, I would like to tell you, Mr Speaker, and this honourable House that everyone in this House, even including the Prime Minister, is bound to obey the rulings of the Speaker. We have made that statement over and over again.

**Mr Speaker :** I am afraid I cannot allow any further reading.

**Mr Mordi :** Finally, I want to say that the Members of the Action Group should realise that the question of the creation of the new State is a matter of life and death for the people of the Mid-West. I want to say that our life is not even too precious for us to surrender, for, "To every man death cometh soon or late, and how can a man die better than facing fearful odds for the ashes of his fathers and the temples of his gods".

I beg to support.

11.50 a.m.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : I am afraid to say that—(Loud interruptions : the hon. Member for Ife Town (Mr M. A. Omisade) left his seat and went to the hon. Member for Asaba East (Mr E. A. Mordi).

**The Prime Minister :** I think we should congratulate ourselves for getting an addition to our numbers : one hon. Member has just crossed over to this side—(Laughter : the hon. Member for Ife Town (Mr Omisade) left the Chamber).

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : I would like to point out that the hon. Gentleman for Ife Town (Mr Omisade) who has just crossed over has got a beard which is a nightmare to the Government side.

**The Prime Minister :** I thought hon. Members contributing to the debate would confine themselves to my Bill, but unfortunately they have gone quite away from the Bill. My intention was not to have a debate on the Mid-West State, or on the creation of new States.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition has always been talking about conditions, conditions, conditions. And the Constitution does not provide for conditions at all. I entirely agree with him that it is for the people of the Mid-West—if it is created, I always say 'if' because as far as I am concerned the State has not been created yet, it is still for the people of the area to decide. But then, the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked "Where is the Constitution of the Region? What are the arrangements for revenue allocation?" Well, these will come. It amounts to the same thing as the people who ask whether it is the hen or the egg which comes first—nobody knows.

First of all we want to go ahead with the exercise. If we know the wishes of the people, if they decide to have a State, then we will have a Constitution for them and the Constitution will be drawn up by the people directly concerned : the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group. It is not at all a question of one side drawing up a constitution for the area. And so my idea is that, whatever we do, we have got the Western Regional Government ; the Western Regional Government now looks after the place, it is part of the Western Region at the present and whatever we do, before we go ahead with this exercise, we have to inform the Western Regional Government. The political parties in the area have also got to be consulted. And all this is very plain. The Constitution, the arrangements for revenue allocation, they have all to be discussed by the people directly concerned.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the question of administering the area, that is, before the Referendum. It is also a matter for consultation after the Referendum. There are political parties there and they have to meet and, as the hon. Member for Ishan East (Chief A. Enahoro) said, if the Mid-West people want the Mid-West Region, it is absolutely necessary for the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group to be working together. I am very sorry to hear him say that efforts together have failed. Still, I hope he will try. If they want to have a State, if of course both parties want a new State, then of course they will come together and decide what to do. And really, every assurance has been given that we in the Federal Government will not do anything without consulting the Western Regional Government or the political parties concerned in the area.

For the first time, my hon. Friend, a very brilliant debater in the House, found himself in difficulties. My hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, was really in difficulties because he could not tell us where he really stands, and I would like to say that Nigeria would be very fortunate if he could be sitting where I am. (Cheers). But that will be a very long time (Loud Cheers).

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Ishan East) : I am willing to wait until the Prime Minister retires.



Federal Parliament Debates

1893

[Mid-West Region Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Mid-West Region Bill]

1894

**The Prime Minister :** I know when we get little excited sometimes we speak as my hon. Friend from Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) has spoken about our tribal groupings. But I think it is wrong at this time when we are trying to build ourselves into one. I think it is wrong to be talking of tribal groupings in this House. I myself belong to a very small group. I am not Hausa—someone has said I am Hausa, I am not. I belong to a very small minority group, but here I am. Therefore, I appeal to hon. Members that even when we get excited we still should try to forget sometimes about these things. Although of course I always say I want each member of a tribe to feel he belongs to his tribe, I would like everybody to feel as Chief Enahoro when he says he is a Nigerian first, which is the right thing.

When we create any new State we do not create it on the basis of tribal groupings at all ; that is not the whole basis. If we are to create states of tribal groupings, God knows how many states we would have in this country perhaps my village will become a state by itself.

I do not think I have got many points to reply to on the debate on the Second Reading of my Bill. All I want is to say that before any of these exercise we are going to take the Western Regional Government and the political parties in the area concerned fully into consultation.

*Whereupon the Minister of Foreign Affairs rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Question put, That the Bill be read a Second time and the House divided.*

Ayes : 147 ; Noes : 43.

AYES

Seat No.	Name of Member
2	Muhammadu Nalado
6	I. S. Onwuchekwa
7	S. Nnaji
8	J. C. Chukwu
14	U. U. Ekot

Seat No.	Name of Member
15	V. A. Nwalieji
16	J. A. Akor
18	F. I. Okoronkwo
19	Muhammed Ningi
20	Muhammadu Kumo
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa
26	Muktar Gajiram
27	Abbas Raha
33	S. A. Abasi
35	S. A. Yerokun
36	F. U. Ihe
37	D. N. Oronsaye
38	S. A. Oyewole
39	E. O. Araka
41	I. O. Chikelu
42	J. U. Udenyi
43	N. Nwangbo
44	N. E. Elenwa
45	F. C. Ogbalu
46	R. A. Atolabi
48	J. B. Eboigbodi
50	D. D. U. Okay
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki
55	Yerima Saleh
56	Sule Abba Biu
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero
59	Umaru Atiku
61	M. Iro Mani
66	U. O. Ekenekot
67	J. K. de-Omomadia
69	J. N. Nwofokoda
71	D. E. K. Aghahowa
72	L. N. Ezeani
73	N. D. Ukah
74	R. N. Muojeke
75	E. A. Mordi
76	Yusha'u A. Mohammed
77	N. N. Onugu
80	U. O. Ayeni
82	B. O. Ikeh
83	Abdulahi Maikano
85	Maina Waziri
94	C. Chiedozie
96	J. U. Odey
98	D. N. Chukwu
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici
102	J. T. Igwe
103	J. O. Ogunbiyi
104	P. O. Eleke
105	O. O. Nweke
108	D. Senu-Oke
109	A. U. D. Mbah

Federal Parliament Debates

1895	[Mid-West Region Bill]	17 APRIL 1962	[Mid-West Region Bill]	1896
<i>Seat No.</i>	<i>Name of Member</i>	<i>Seat No.</i>	<i>Name of Member</i>	
112	Chief S. J. Mariere	283	Peter Ipu	
113	H. O. Chuku	284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim	
117	Albatam Yerima Balla	286	A. G. Jiah	
119	E. C. Akwiwu	289	D. Mapeo	
120	A. Opia	292	Zuferu Liman Katagum	
123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya		Umaru Gela	
124	K. O. Mbadiwe		Prime Minister	
125	M. Aminu Kano		Minister of Finance	
130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi		Minister of Commerce and Industry	
134	S. D. Lar		Minister of Communications	
135	Abubakar Isandu		Minister of Foreign Affairs	
136	Ibrahim Gusau		Minister of Economic Development	
139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto		Minister of Education	
154	E. A. Effiong-Spatts		Minister of Establishments	
158	Shekarau Omar		Minister of Information	
159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar		Minister of Internal Affairs	
161	Muhammadu Gwarzo		Minister of Lagos Affairs	
166	Salihu O. Abdul		Minister of Mines and Power	
167	Alhaji Haruna		Minister of Transport and Aviation	
168	Sarkin Dalhatu		Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande	
170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa		Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju	
176	P. B. Olatunde		Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie	
188	Zanna Isa Monguno		H. M. Adaji	
189	Musa Hindi		Alhaji U. A. Ahmed	
190	P. C. Tokula		Hamza Gombe	
191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma		Ahmadu Fatika	
194	Hamidu A. Bayero		Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna	
196	Abdusalami Olomoda		T. A. Lamuye	
199	D. O. Enefola		S. Lana	
200	J. A. Yacim		Usumanu Maitambari	
201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla		F. U. Mbakogu	
203	Umaru Dan Waziri		S. F. Nwika	
221	Muhammadu Kaoji, No. 1		F. E. Offor	
222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona		R. B. K. Okafor	
225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona		N. A. Ezonbodor	
227	Ahmadu Babandi		Ibrahim Tako	
230	Wada Nas		D. C. Ugwu	
231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura		Aliyu Zungum	
232	Ibrahim Nadabo			
233	M. L. Alhaji Daura			
234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadeija			
235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma			
250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi			
251	Mohammadu Koro Madakin			
252	Baba Shehu Ibrahim			
254	Abdulkadir Dukku			
255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar			
256	M. Ahmadu Ribadu			
257	Ali Makura Kaura			
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara			
260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai			
277	Haikali Maigari			
			<i>Tellers for Ayes</i>	
			Alhaji Bello Dandago	
			Mr D. N. Abii	
			<b>NOES</b>	
		<i>Seat No.</i>	<i>Name of Member</i>	
		140	L. J. Dosunmu	
		141	W. Briggs	
		142	Chief A. Enahoro	

Federal Parliament Debates

1897 [Mid-West Region Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Mid-West Region Bill]

1898

Seat  
No.

Name of Member

143	Chief O. Awolowo
144	Chief A. Rosiji
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
147	Chief A. M. A. Akinloye
150	A. Akomolafe
153	D. D. Dimka
172	Chief Akin-Olugbade
174	Chief E. O. Okunowo
175	S. J. Umoren
177	A. F. Odulana
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
182	A. Adedamola
183	E. O. D. Akinbowale
184	Chief R. A. Orok
205	G. U. Dada
206	Chief A. Akerele
209	J. A. Olaore
210	O. J. Eminue
211	J. M. Damla
212	J. D. Odebunmi
213	S. U. Idiong
215	L. O. Tobun
236	A. A. Ajibola
238	V. T. Shisha
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
241	P. Tarkanda
242	M. C. K. Obi
245	B. A. Ajayi
246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
247	Oba S. A. Oladiran
268	S. A. Oladapo
269	E. J. Ogunkanmi
270	W. J. Falaiye
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
274	S. O. Fajinmi
276	D. K. Aihonsu
278	S. O. Ogundipe
280	V. L. Lajide

Tellers for Noes

Mr M. A. Omisade

Mr I. A. Brown

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

MID-WEST REGION BILL—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ESTABLISHMENT OF FOURTH REGION)

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** The Prime Minister, when he spoke, said that he was not a Hausa nor was he a Fulani and that he came from one of the tiniest groups in this country. I should like to assure the Prime Minister that he is the Prime Minister of this Federation to-day—

**The Chairman:** Order. Is the Member speaking on Clause 1?

**Mr Briggs:** I am speaking on Clause 1. I should like to assure the Prime Minister that he is the Prime Minister of this Federation to-day because of his special qualifications and of his own personality, and I can say that no other person from his village or from his tribal group will ever be Prime Minister of this Federation at all.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida):** The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr W. O. Briggs*) is imputing improper motives. That is very wrong. How can he anticipate the people who are coming in future? How does he know—

**The Chairman:** Order. At any rate, this anticipation is irrelevant.

**Mr Briggs:** The point that I am trying to make is the fundamental thing behind the demand for the creation of States. What we of the minority areas say—

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku):** The hon. Gentleman has no amendment to this Clause. I do not see why he should be speaking on a Clause to which he has no amendment. He can speak to the Bill as a whole but certainly, without an amendment, he cannot speak to the Clause.

**The Chairman:** I think the Minister of Foreign Affairs must have forgotten his Standing Orders.

**Mr Briggs:** As I was saying, the fundamental thing behind the demand for the creation of Regions is that before one can become the Premier of the Northern Region, one has to be either a Fulani or Hausa. To become the Premier of the Western Region, one must be a Yoruba man, and to become the Premier of the Eastern Region—

**The Chairman:** I think the hon. Member should speak on what is relevant to Clause 1 only—the establishment of the fourth Region.

**Mr Briggs :** Clause 1 says that there shall be a new Region. I am giving reasons why the creation of a new Region should either be supported or opposed. As I was saying one cannot be a Premier of the Eastern Region unless one is an Ibo.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. The question is that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

**Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgba) :** I want to confine my bit of contribution to Clause 1 (2) (a)—

“(1) *There shall be four Regions, that is to say, Northern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria.*”

I want to say that one of the conditions which we have proposed from *this* side of the House is that the Federal Government should give a guarantee, a written undertaking, in the Bill for the new Region that what remains of the Western Region shall constitute a Region under the Constitution. As I said before, the inclusion of “Western Nigeria” in this Bill satisfies that part of the conditions which were laid down by *this* side of the House. I think that the Federal Government has started getting nearer to the point. As had previously been stated Members from *this* side would appreciate very much a bigger effort made by the Prime Minister to bring the Parties concerned into the show at this initial stage.

Furthermore, I would like to say that this Clause does not go far enough. We have said before that we wanted not only four Regions in this country but more than four, and I reiterate my demand for the Middle Belt State at this stage.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) :** In Clause 1, it is stated that there shall be a new Region in the Federation and so on. In this issue, I am particularly concerned because my area, which is Western Ijaw, is included in the Mid-West State. Some papers and some people have been trying to create trouble in this country by saying that the Western Ijaws are not going to be included in the Mid-West State. This is not so. The Western Ijaws are part and parcel of the Mid-West people. Speaking for my people, they are peace-loving people and, from the

trend of political events in this country, the Action Group is going to seek trouble in my area.

**The Chairman :** Point of order, Mr Brown.

**Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) :** I think it is very unbecoming for a Parliamentary Secretary to issue threats to Members of this House. What are we going to see in his Area? Are we going to see them throw rotten fish?

**Mr Ezonbodor :** My people, as I said, are peace-loving people. We are thinking of our Rivers State. We believed that we could only get our State by a democratic and constitutional way, and we said it here. A Motion was brought forward in this House that the Rivers State should be created within three years. That is, we the Western Ijaws, are prepared to support the Mid-West State, after which, if it is deemed fit and if it is the wish of the people, we would go all out to form our Rivers State. But at the moment, our people are—

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** For the hon. Member to talk of a Rivers State on this Clause is irrelevant. (*Interruption*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. It is not irrelevant.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** Point of order. I am sure that my hon. Friend Mr Ezonbodor, will note from the remark of the last speaker the attitude of his friends towards his Rivers State.

**Mr Ezonbodor :** I am sorry that the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) made a misstatement, because the Motion that was filed in this House bore the names of Mr Briggs and Mr Ekenokot as among the sponsors, but simply because the Action Group was out to confuse issues, they refused to move that Motion. It was a disgrace to their leaders that that Motion was not moved.

Speaking of this State, we believe that one State leads to another. We believe again that it will be suicidal for the Ijaw people to vote against the Mid-West State. We believe again that we are going all out to vote for the Mid-West State. I would like to sound a note of warning.

**The Chairman :** Order. Point of order.

**An hon. Member:** I want to assure the hon. Member for Western Ijaw that if he—

**The Chairman:** An assurance can hardly constitute part of a point of order.

**Mr Ezonbodor:** The Mid-West Motion has become a Government Motion, and I will try to give a hint to the Prime Minister, that it will be too bad for a Member of the Government Bench to go out from this House and then try to make some of us scape-goats. Once we have supported the creation of the Mid-West State, we should go all out to support it. But I have seen that some of us, when we leave this House, make different statements from those that we have made in this House. I make a specific reference to the Member from the Niger Delta Congress.

**An hon. Member:** What is his name?

**Mr Ezonbodor:** I would not like to mention his name.

I will conclude by telling the Prime Minister that my people are a peace-loving people and that the Action Group should not come into our area to confuse the people. My people are not cowards. If the Action Group feel that our people are not intelligent enough to understand their tricks, we are going to show them that when they come to deceive our people, then they will know where they can go.

**Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town):** Clause 1 (2) of the Bills says:

*Accordingly, section three of the Constitution of the Federation shall have effect subject to the following amendments, that is to say—(a) for subsection (1) there shall be substituted the following subsection—*

*“(1) There shall be four Regions, that is to say, Northern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria.”*

I think it is bad drafting to find in a Bill creating a Region an important Amendment to the Constitution that ought to be found in the Constitution of the Federation as a whole. It is not in this Bill that we should know how many regions the Federation shall have because section 3 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Federation says:

*“There shall be three regions, that is to say, Northern Nigeria, Western Nigeria and Eastern Nigeria.”*

But now, this section (which I think should be clearly regarded as an Amendment to section 3) is now found in a Bill for the creation of a fourth region. I think the Attorney-General should look more properly into this particular aspect because it is not good that this should be an Amendment to the Constitution, as it concerns the establishment of another region. Our Constitution provides for three regions. This Bill provides for four regions. I think that it is conflicting, and unless we read one with the other, the inference might well be that there is no fourth region.

I beg to move.

**Mr A. Opia (Aboh):** I would like to make a point on this subsection (2) (a). I would really suggest to this House that there is already a move by the Western Regional Government to distort the district allocations of some of these towns like Akoko Edo district, Afenmai Division and Delta Province. They have divided these places into various district headquarters in order to stultify this Bill. I am actually appealing to this House that Government machinery should be applied to see that these regions are really defined in various maps of Nigeria so that, while looking at the Nigerian map, we will be able to see the demarkations—that is, after the creation. I appeal to Government to do this in order to avoid any distortion.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo):** On Clause 1, I just want to state that the resolutions of the Northern and the Eastern Legislative Houses are not sufficient to approve this section of the Bill. I think we are all aware—

**The Chairman:** Clause 1 does not talk of resolutions.

*Question, that Clause 1 stand part of the Schedule, put and the House divided.*

Ayes 153                      Noes 43

Seat AYES

Seat No.	Name of Member
1	E. O. Ifezue
2	Muhammadu Nalado
4	B. A. Adeyemo
6	I. S. Onwuchekwa
7	S. Nnaji
8	J. O. Chukwu
14	U. U. Ekot
15	V. A. Nwalieji
16	J. A. Akor
18	F. I. Okoronkwo

Federal Parliament Debates

1903

[Mid-West Region Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Mid-West Region Bill]

1904

Seat No.	Name of Member	AYES	Seat No.	Name of Member
19	Muhammed Ningi		112	Chief S. J. Mariere
20	Muhammadu Kumo		113	H. O. Chuku
21	M. Barko, Naaji Kachalla		116	G. O. D. Eneh
22	Shettima Ali Monguno		117	Albatam Yerima Balla
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa		120	A. Opia
26	Muktar Gajiram		123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya
27	Abbas Raha		124	K. O. Mbadiwe
33	S. A. Abasi		128	Abdul Karim
35	S. A. Yerokun		130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
36	F. U. Ihe		134	S. D. Lar
37	D. N. Oronsaye		135	Abubakar Isandu
38	S. A. Oyewole		136	Ibrahim Gusau
40	E. O. Araka		139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
41	L. O. Chikelu		154	E. A. Effiong-Spatts
42	J. U. Udenyi		158	Shekarau Omar
43	N. Nwangbo		159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
44	N. E. Elenwa		161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
45	F. C. Ogbalu		166	Salihu O. Abdul
48	J. B. Eboigbodi		167	Alhaji Haruna
50	D. D. U. Okay		168	Sarkin Dalhatu
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki		170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa
55	Yerima Saleh		176	P. B. Olatunde
56	Sule Abba Biu		188	Zanna Isa Monguno
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero		189	Musa Hindi
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero		190	P. C. Tokula
59	Umaru Atiku		191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
61	M. Iro Mani		194	Hamidu A. Bayero
66	U. O. Ekenekot		196	Abdusalami Olomoda
67	J. K. de Omomadia		199	D. C. Enefola
69	J. N. Nwofokoda		200	J. A. Yacim
71	D. E. K. Aghahowa		201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
72	L. N. Ezeani		203	Umaru Dan Waziri
73	M. D. Ukah		221	Muhammadu Kaoji, No. 1
74	R. N. Muojeke		222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona
75	E. A. Mordi		223	Balang U. Balami
76	Yusha'u A. Mohammed		225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
77	N. N. Onugu		227	Ahmadu Babandi
80	U. O. Ayeni		230	Wada Nas
82	B. O. Ikeh		231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
83	Abdulahi Maikano		232	Ibrahim Nadabo
85	Maina Waziri		233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
94	C. Chiedozie		234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadejia
96	J. U. Odey		235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
97	R. A. Afolabi		250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
98	D. N. Chukwu		251	Mohammadu Koro Madakin
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici		254	Abdulkadir Dikku
102	J. T. Igwe		255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
103	J. O. Ogunbiyi		256	M. Ahmadu Ribadu
104	P. O. Eleke		258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
105	O. O. Nweke		260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai
108	D. Senu-Oke		277	Haikali Maigari
109	A. U. D. Mbah		283	Peter Ipu

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1905

[Mid-West Region Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Mid-West Region Bill]

1906

AYES	
Seat No.	Name of Member
284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim
286	A. G. Jiah
289	D. Mapeo
292	Zuferu Liman Katagum
294	Umaru Maltumbi
	Umaru Gela
	Prime Minister
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Establishments
	Minister of Information
	Minister of Internal Affairs
	Minister of Lagos Affairs
	Minister of Mines and Power
	Minister of Transport and Aviation
	Minister of Works and Surveys
	Minister of State, Hon. M. T. Mbu
	Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
	Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie
	H. M. Adaji
	Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
	Hamza Gombe
	Ahmadu Fatika
	Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna
	T. A. Lamuye
	S. Lana
	Usumanu Maitambari
	F. U. Mbakogu
	S. F. Nwika
	F. E. Offor
	R. B. K. Okafor
	N. A. Ezonbodor
	Ibrahim Tako
	D. C. Ugwu
	Aliyu Zungum

*Tellers for Ayes*

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
Mr D. N. Abii

NOES

140	L. J. Dosunmu
141	W. Briggs
142	Chief A. Enahoro

Seat No.	Name of Member
143	Chief O. Awolowo
144	Chief A. Rosiji
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
147	Chief A. M. A. Akinloye
150	A. Akomolafe
153	D. D. Dimka
172	Chief Akin-Olugbade
174	Chief E. O. Okunowo
175	S. J. Umoren
177	A. F. Odulana
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
182	A. Adedamola
183	E. O. Akinbowale
201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
205	G. K. Dada
206	Chief A. Akerele
209	J. A. Olaore
210	O. J. Eminue
211	J. M. Damla
212	J. D. Odebunmi
213	S. U. Idiong
215	L. O. Tobun
236	A. A. Ajibola
238	V. T. Shisha
239	Chief M. A. Dame-Oboh
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
241	P. Tarkanda
242	M. C. K. Obi
245	B. A. Ajayi
246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
247	Oba S. A. Oladiran
267	S. A. Oladapo
269	E. J. Ogunkanmi
270	W. J. Falaiye
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
274	S. O. Fajinmi
276	D. K. Aihonsu
278	S. O. Ogundipe
280	V. L. Lajide

*Tellers for Noes*

Mr M. A. Omisade  
Mr I. A. Brown

Clause 1 accordingly ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and the Question proposed, that the Bill be now read the Third time—  
(THE PRIME MINISTER).

Federal Parliament Debates

1907

[Mid-West Region Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Mid-West Region Bill]

1908

The House divided.

Seat

Ayes : 153

Noes : 42

No.

Name of Member

Seat

No.	Name of Member
1	E. O. Ifezue
2	Muhammadu Nalado
4	B. A. Adeyemo
6	I. S. Onwuchekwa
7	S. Nnaji
8	J. O. Chukwu
14	U. U. Ekot
15	V. A. Nwalieji
16	J. A. Akor
18	F. I. Okoronkwo
19	Muhammed Ningi
20	Muhammadu Kumo
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa
26	Muktar Gajiram
27	Abbas Raha
33	S. A. Abasi
34	P. I. Ejukwa
35	S. A. Yerokun
36	F. U. Ihe
37	D. N. Oronsaye
38	S. A. Oyewole
39	E. O. Araka
41	I. O. Chikelu
42	J. U. Udenyi
43	N. Nwangbo
44	N. E. Elenwa
45	F. C. Ogbalu
48	J. B. Eboigbodi
50	D. D. U. Okay
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki
55	Yerima Saleh
56	Sule Abba Biu
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero
59	Umaru Atiku
61	M. Iro Mani
65	D. O. Ahamefula
66	U. O. Ekenekot
67	J. K. de-Omomadia
69	J. N. Nwofokoda
71	D. E. K. Aghahowa
72	L. N. Ezeani
73	M. D. Ukah
74	R. N. Muojeke
75	E. A. Mordi
77	N. N. Onugu
80	U. O. Ayeni
82	B. O. Ikeh

83	Abdulahi Maikano
85	Maina Waziri
94	C. Chiedozie
96	J. U. Odey
97	R. A. Afolabi
98	D. N. Chukwu
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici
102	J. T. Igwe
103	J. O. Ogunbiyi
104	P. O. Eleke
105	O. O. Nweke
107	Dr P. U. Okeke
108	D. Senu-Oke
109	A. U. D. Mbah
112	Chief S. J. Mariere
113	H. O. Chuku
116	G. O. D. Eneh
117	Albatam Yerima Balla
120	A. Opia
123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya
124	K. O. Mbadiwe
128	Abdul Karim
130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
134	S. D. Lar
135	Abubakar Isandu
136	Ibrahim Gusau
139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
154	E. A. Effiong-Spatts
158	Shekarau Omar
159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
166	Salihu O. Abdul
167	Alhaji Haruna
168	Sarkin Dalhatu
170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa
176	P. B. Olatunde
188	Zanna Isa Monguno
189	Musa Hindi
190	P. O. Tokula
191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
194	Hamidu A. Bayero
196	Abdusalami Olomoda
199	D. O. Enefola
200	J. A. Yacim
203	Umaru Dan Waziri
221	Muhammadu Kaoji, No. 1
222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona
223	Balang U. Balami
225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
227	Ahmadu Babandi
230	Wada Nas
231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura



Federal Parliament Debates

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Seat No.	Name of Member
232	Ibrahim Nadabo
233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadeija
235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
251	Mohammadu Koro Madakin
254	Abdulkadir Dikku
255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
256	M. Ahmadu Ribadu
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai
277	Haikali Maigari
283	Peter Ipu
284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim
286	A. G. Jiah
289	D. Mapeo
292	Zuferu Liman Katagum
294	Umaru Maltumbi
	Umaru Gela
	Prime Minister
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Establishments
	Minister of Information
	Minister of Internal Affairs
	Minister of Lagos Affairs
	Minister of Mines and Power
	Minister of Transport and Aviation
	Minister of Works and Surveys
	Minister of State, Hon. M. T. Mbu
	Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
	Minister of State, Hon M. A. O. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie
	H. M. Adaji
	Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
	Hamza Gombe
	Ahmadu Fatika
	Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna
	T. A. Lamuye
	S. Lana
	Usumanu Maitambari
	F. U. Mbakogu
	S. F. Nwika
	F. E. Offor
	R. B. K. Okafor
	N. A. Ezonbodor
	Ibrahim Tako

D. C. Ugwu  
Aliyu Zungum

*Tellers for Ayes*

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
D. N. Abii

NOES

Seat No.	Name of Member
140	L. J. Dosunmu
141	W. Briggs
142	Chief A. Enahoro ..
143	Chief O. Awolowo
144	Chief A. Rosiji
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
147	Chief A. M. A. Akinloye
150	A. Akomolafe
153	D. D. Dimka
172	Chief Akin-Olugbade
174	Chief E. O. Okunowo
175	S. J. Umoren
177	A. F. Odulana
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
182	A. Adedamola
183	E. O. Akinbowale
205	G. K. Dada
206	Chief A. Akerele
209	J. A. Olaore
210	O. J. Eminue
211	J. M. Damla
212	J. D. Odebunmi
213	S. U. Idiong
215	L. O. Tobun
236	A. A. Ajibola
238	V. T. Shisha
239	Chief M. A. Dame-Obob
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
241	P. Tarkanda
242	M. C. K. Obi
245	B. A. Ajayi
246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
247	Oba S. A. Oladiran
267	S. A. Oladapo
269	E. J. Ogunkanmi
270	W. J. Falaiye
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
274	S. O. Fajinmi
276	D. K. Aihonsu

278 S. O. Ogundipe

280 V. L. Lajide

*Tellers for Noes*

M. A. Omisade

I. A. Brown

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

12.32 p.m.

PARLIAMENTARY DISQUALIFICATION  
(NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCILS)  
REMOVAL BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to remove any disqualification from membership of Parliament imposed on any person by paragraph E of subsection (1) of section 40 of the Constitution of the Federation by reason of his membership of a Provincial Council in Northern Nigeria and for purposes connected therewith, be now read a Second time.

Very recently the Federal Government has received a request from the Government of Northern Nigeria asking us to consider introducing a Bill in these terms to make it possible for Northern Members of this House and of the Senate to continue to be Members, even though some of them may also be Councillors of one or the other of the Provincial Councils of the North. Hon. Members will be aware that already the Constitution of the North and of the Federation permit Members to belong to the Native Authorities or the Local Authorities in West and the East, as well as being Members of this House.

So, this is quite a short Bill to make provision for an omission in respect of the Provincial Councils of the North.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to second.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North Central): This is a non-controversial Bill and we on this side of the House give it our fullest support and co-operation.

The purpose of the Bill is quite obvious. During these times when there is insufficiency of material it is only right and prudent that we must make the best use of what we have. I am sure however, that in the very near future when the giant of the North is fully awake and there are materials left and right, probably, this type of Bill may not be necessary.

We support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

PARLIAMENTARY DISQUALIFICATION  
(NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCILS)  
REMOVAL BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

LEGAL EDUCATION BILL.

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to make further provision with respect to the legal profession by establishing a Council of Legal Education, and by restricting to suitably qualified persons the right to practise that profession and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

I think it is necessary to give hon. Members a short background to this Bill.

Those hon. Members who are lawyers will remember that in 1959 the Federal Government appointed a Committee under my predecessor, now Mr Justice Unsworth, which committee consisted of all the Attorneys-General of the Federation, members of the Nigerian Bar Association and a number of individuals. This committee subsequently reported in 1959.

I had hoped that some of the copies of the reports would be available from the Government Printer, but I shall try and make this available to hon. Members when I introduce,

*Federal Parliament Debates*

1913

[*Legal Education Bill*]

17 APRIL 1962

[*Legal Education Bill*]

1914

at the August sitting, another Bill, as a supplementary Bill to this, which is devoted entirely to the regulation of the discipline of the members of the legal profession. I referred to this in my speech the other day as the Legal Practitioners' Bill.

The Bill with which we are now concerned emerged out of the recommendations of the Unsworth Report, followed by another committee recently set up by the Prime Minister, to go into the problem of establishing a Law School for the Federation in Lagos. A little while before that the members of the Bar Association approached me with a draft Bill on Legal Practitioners, containing some of the suggestions in this Bill and others which are embodied in the other Bill which I promised to introduce next August.

I sat with the Bar Association over most of the proposals; we went thoroughly into them and reached certain agreements. These proposals have since been taken up by the said Committee, under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the Federation, which the Prime Minister appointed last November. We have debated this Bill also with the members of the Bar Association sometime last February, and again with all the Chief Justices of the Federation last March, and the Bill represents the sum-total of our thinking on this subject.

The aim of the Bill is to establish two things. The first is the Council of Legal Education, whose duties hon. Members will find clearly defined in the Bill here in section 4. The second point is the establishment of the Federal Law School in Lagos and the composition of those who will run the Law School and the functions that the Law School will perform are also set out in this Bill. I think that what I need say at this stage is to add that it is the consensus of opinion among both the members of the Committee, the members of the Nigerian Bar Association and the Judiciary that the Law School should be commenced on the 1st October, 1962.

Our aim is to make it compulsory for all future lawyers in Nigeria to be properly qualified to undertake the practice of the profession. To that end, we intend that they must all have gone to one or the other of the Faculties of Law in Nigeria or abroad or should have taken a degree in law.

For some years, we shall allow those who have been called to the English Bar, but who have not done any previous degree course at a university, to qualify for the purpose of attending the Federal Law School in Lagos. In no case shall the Council of Legal Education allow any one to walk straight from the university or from the Bar in England into the profession here.

I need not delay the House with instances of young men arriving back from the United Kingdom and going straight before even the highest court in the land—the Federal Supreme Court—within six months of their arrival only to waste the time of the court and cause a good deal of inconvenience and embarrassment both to themselves and to the Bench. It is to prevent this that all the various interested groups got together and agreed that, in future, we shall insist on new arrivals going to the Law School as well.

There is, of course, provision allowing certain exceptions to be granted in very, very rare circumstances, but we cannot spell this out for the time being.

For the moment, we shall require that all those who return to Nigeria between now and the 15th of August, shall be exempted from attendance at this Law School. All those who return here after the 15th of August, and up to the 15th of October, will undergo a three months' course at the Law School—from October to December. Those who return later will undergo a three months course lasting from January to the end of March and another from April to June, 1963.

But, from October, 1963, all lawyers, no matter when they return, will be required to spend a year at the Law School.

The subject to be taught at the Law School are practical subjects that are intended to be of help to the newly arrived lawyers. They will be the Nigerian Legal System, which they would not have had the chance of studying anywhere before, including the Nigerian Constitution, because we feel that it is essential that those who are going to practise our law should have some nodding acquaintance with at least the outline of our complicated Constitution, this would never have formed part of what they would have studied in any part of the world.

## [THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

Secondly, we expect them also to study Criminal Procedure and Civil Procedure, because in many aspects, as practitioners among Members will admit, these are not necessarily the same as those in England, and we feel that it is essential that we should give the newly arrived lawyers that additional knowledge which is essential to a proper practice at the Bar.

The third subject which we will insist on at the moment will be Professional Ethics. I need not stress this very much because I think that even lay Members will also agree that one of the things which they generally use in attacking us lawyers is the fact that oftentimes the standard of practice is not of the best among a few members of the profession and they use the few to attack all lawyers. That is why we feel that Professional Ethics should form an important part of the syllabus of the Law School. This, again, will be a subject which they would not have had a proper chance of studying abroad or even in universities in Nigeria when the law courses begin in October.

We also felt that it might be of assistance to the newly arrived lawyers to have some knowledge of Book-keeping and Accounting, but we do not really want to insist on that during this period of the three months' course. But when the course becomes a yearly event, then Book-keeping and Accounting will be insisted on because we do not really want our lawyers to give the impression to the public that they are in the habit of mixing the monies of their clients with their own. For many a time, when these allegations have been made, it has not always been deliberate; it has been due to the fact that lawyers have not done any book-keeping and accounting before and they sometimes make some mistakes.

These are the aims of this Bill, and some of the conditions which I have explained, in addition to what Members will find in the Bill, will be embodied in the draft regulations which I am empowered to draw up under section 2 (3), which are almost ready and which will be submitted to Parliament as provided for under that section before becoming law. I feel that whatever regulations we make should be subjected to Parliamentary scrutiny and debate before they are finalised because they may turn out to be almost as important as the other substantive provisions of the Bill.

I shall be willing to elaborate on what I have said in relation to this Bill if and when hon. Members seek any additional information. But it is important, I think, to point out before I wind up that we have embodied provisions for the Council of Legal Education to regulate not only the courses but also to prescribe the taking of examinations without success at which the certificate to be enrolled as a practitioner in Nigeria will not be granted.

It is also important to emphasise that the existing members of the profession will not be affected at all by the Bill and that the profession will continue to be a "fused" profession.

Finally, the expenses of setting up the Law School and of running it will be borne by the Federal Government. We may also note that a building has already been acquired for the purposes of the Law School at No. 213 Igbosere Road, which is behind the Law Courts.

**An hon. Member :** That is too far.

**The Attorney-General :** Igbosere Road is just behind the Law Courts.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Education :** I beg to second.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye :** The Legal Education Bill is welcome and we on this side of the House support it.

The Bill will go down in history as one of the very bright works of our hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. (*Hear, hear*). On many occasions we have had reason to disagree with him violently, but on this particular issue we are 100 per cent with him.

The establishment of the Council of Legal Education to regulate the education and training of those who are to practice law in Nigeria is a natural outcome of our becoming a nation, something arising from our national status of independence. The only grouse one can have with the Minister, if any, is that the creation of the Council of Legal Education came rather too late. I would have expected that a few months after independence the first thing to have been introduced into this House would be the establishment of a system of legal education.

Naturally this Bill, as the hon. Minister has said, affects the legal profession and the legal practitioners—they have a stake in it, and in

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[Legal Education Bill]

17 APRIL 1962

[Legal Education Bill]

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my view it is they, to a great extent, who can pass judgment on its adequacy or otherwise. Without dwelling much upon our profession, I think that this is one of the real occasions when the importance of the legal profession should be told to the world. The legal profession is a learned one, and the only honourable profession in the world—the only honourable profession in the world!

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of order, It is immoral for anybody to come and publicise his profession here.

**Mr Speaker**: There appears to me to be some interest somewhere.

**Chief Akinloye**: My hon. Friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, has been publicising his own profession of politics in this House every minute, and nobody complained about that—and he is a Zanna, a District Head!

The ethics and standards and the morals required of the profession are very high, and it is therefore important. We welcome the suggestion which the Minister has made, that one of the subjects which should be taught in this Law School will be the ethics of the profession. The profession is perhaps the most important moving force in our national politics; lawyers are the custodians of our rights, liberties and Constitution, and they cannot be lightly brushed aside or relegated to the background. If we look around us here to-day, we will see that lawyers figure prominently, not only on the Government Bench but also on this Opposition Bench.

My hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance (he is not here) is not himself a lawyer, but what he has lost in the swings he has gained in the roundabouts—he is not going to be out-done—

**Mr Speaker**: This is not in the Bill.

**Chief Akinloye**: But my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, is making a worthy contribution to that profession by training his own daughter, who will come to adorn this profession in a few months' time—that is what I was trying to say.

**Mr Speaker**: And that is very irrelevant too.

**Chief Akinloye**: Now, our law in Nigeria is mainly based on English law and English practice. It is not an unalloyed one because our laws in Nigeria, though based on English laws, are, to a very great extent, modified by our customary laws. Thus the next thing which I think we should do in this country is to establish our own legal schools and also the Council on Legal Education, which this Bill is now doing, and that is the reason why we wholeheartedly support it.

**An hon. Member**: And modified to include the Alkali Court!

**Chief Akinloye**: And also the Alkali Court in the North.

I am very happy to note that the Minister of Justice has consulted the Nigerian Bar Association and taken the Association into his confidence over this Bill. This Bill, as he has said, is the outcome of the consultations between him and the Nigerian Bar Association. We welcome this and this has helped to allay the fears and the rumours which, at one time, were circulating that the hon. Minister of Justice was showing a cold attitude towards the Nigerian Bar Association.

I think the Minister should take pride that he has done his work well, but I do not think he can claim perfection. During the Committee stage of this Bill, we intend to make very useful suggestions and Amendments. The mere fact that even the Minister of Justice himself has filed a series of Amendments shows that he is not claiming perfection, and we hope that when we make our suggestions for Amendments in the Committee Stage, the Minister will not turn a deaf ear to them or just brush them aside saying that they have come from the Opposition.

I support.

3.45 p.m.

**Mr D. E. Y. Agbahowa** (Benin West): I support the Legal Education Bill, but I would first of all like the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to give us an assurance as to whether the Bill is in substitution for the privilege which members of the legal profession particularly the senior members of the legal profession—have advocated for a very long time. If it is not a substitute for privilege,

[MR AGBAHOWA]  
then I can readily know the purpose that the Council is meant to serve, apart from being a Law School.

One knows in fact that the theory of law is quite different from the practice. No matter how efficient the members of the Law School might be, and no matter the amount of theory that might be pumped into their heads, they really would have to face the actual battle in practice.

By English standards, there are what we call the academicians, and in England there are the practitioners. The academicians make all the law books and all these things, but if they come into actual practice they fall. Is this law School going to be an addition to privilege or is it going to be in substitution for privilege? I saw somebody point in my direction—I am not making a general statement, but at least there are occasions when some of our academicians fail when they come into actual practice.

If it is going to be compulsory that new arrivals coming into this country will have to go into this School as from October this year, will they have to pay for the duration of their training? If that is so, what is going to be the amount chargeable? If they are going to pay, it must have to be considered that when a student is in England his parents realise that the full responsibility for his education rests on them. Immediately the student arrives in this country, his parents feel that their duty is *functus officio*, that they have done all that they are required to do and that the new arrival should really stand on his own. We would really like to get this point cleared.

Further, our only hope is that one of the purposes of this Bill is not in fact directly to accede to the request of certain older members who have been in the profession for a very long time. I remember sometime last year we had a meeting of the Council of the Bar where older members of the profession insisted that the course of pupillage must extend over a twelve-month period, but not one of them was prepared to pay a mite to a pupil during the course of his training. I have known some extreme cases where younger members of the Bar have had to travel from places like Lagos to Benin to handle matters on behalf of the senior members of the profession without

even transport fee being provided for them. This is a profession which in England is exclusive and I think that members of the profession are regarded anywhere as broad-minded from the nature of their training as they seek evidence, they seek facts, they argue meticulously.

I think in a case like that where a young practitioner not drawing anything from the Chambers of his senior has to travel some three or four hundred miles without even transport money being given to him is a very hard condition. So if one of the purposes of this Bill is to add to the course of pupillage, I would respectfully ask the Attorney-General to consider whether during the course of such pupillage it might not be necessary to stipulate that pupils in Chambers shall be entitled to so much a month; it need not be fantastic, but at least it must be something that will keep them going.

Further, in associating myself with the last speaker, I would say that every one realises that with independence, it is in the interest of this country, I think it is in consonance with our independence, that all aspects of our social life must be independent,—social, educational or otherwise—so that this Bill is very welcome. I would suggest further that in implementing some of the provisions particularly those which will constitute the Council, the position of the Attorneys-General of the Regions should be seriously considered. Because I know, say, in the Council of Legal Education in England, people who lecture there are either full-time practitioners or in one way connected with institutions of learning, but we know for certain—excepting in the Northern Region—that the Attorney-General of either the East or the West could be said to be in full practice. For sometime when Chief Rotimi Williams was there, he virtually handled all the matters of the Western Region Government, but since he left, I would not say for certain that the Attorneys-General of both the East and West are people in active practice. I do not know if in considering the composition of the Council the Attorney-General might not consider substituting—

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): Point of order. The hon. Member who is speaking is absolutely irrelevant. He went first of all to talk about pupillage which is not in

this Bill ; secondly, he is now talking of the role of the Attorneys-General as practising barristers. This is not in the Bill. That is a matter for the Bar Association.

**Mr Speaker :** I suppose he is talking of the Council for Legal Education of which those Attorneys-General may be members.

**Mr Aghahowa :** Perhaps my learned Friend on the other side of the House did not read the Bill before coming here this afternoon.

I was going to suggest that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice might consider bringing in the Chief Justices of the Regions in substitution for the Attorneys-General of the Regions ; particularly if he considers in the light of my suggestion that it would be in the interest of the Council if people we could say are actively in practice are meant to constitute members of this Council.

Finally, the Attorney-General has spoken about book-keeping and accounts. I do not know how far he will consider any suggestions on this point. For instance a boy has done his studies in England, he has got the necessary qualifications to practise at the Bar in England. If he came down here after October 1963 to be eligible to practise at the Nigerian Bar, he would have to undergo the course of training to get the certificate, in which case he may have to do book-keeping and accounts. Will it still be necessary for him to stay the full twelve months to undergo the training in book-keeping and accounts in order to be eligible to have a certificate to practise at the Nigerian Bar ?

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi (Ilesha Urban) :** I rise to support this Bill which is very timely and very good indeed. It speaks volumes for the industry of the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice that this Bill is out at this time. So much consultation has been necessary to get the co-operation of the members of the Nigerian Bar Association. The fact that he has been able to get the Bill out for this Session shows that he has been working very hard to regularise the position of things as far as Legal Education in this country is concerned.

My comments will be very brief because I see learned members of the House not excluding Mr Briggs are anxious to speak on this issue. While I appreciate that it may be necessary for a lawyer trained in Nigeria, that is for somebody who has gone to University in this country to collect his degree, to have a full year's course in the Law School, I do not think that that will be necessary in the case of somebody who has gone to England to study his Law.

The subjects which the Attorney-General told us would be studied in this Law School are such that it will be a sheer waste of time for anybody after studying in England for some four or five years to come home and spend one full year studying accountancy and criminal procedure of the country ; whereas we have the Criminal Procedure Ordinance in the country and we have the High Court *et cetera* where he can easily get the knowledge which we require of him.

*Whereupon Mr A. F. Odulana 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.*

**Mr Ogunbiyi :** I would suggest for the consideration of the Attorney-General that in some cases maybe a period of six months would be more than adequate for whatever knowledge the students may be expected to gain in addition to their legal knowledge. I appreciate—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** We do not want to-day to be lawyers' day. We all agree that the Bill is necessary and we only have to *okay* it. On this score, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

**Mr Speaker :** In accordance with the Standing Orders, if the Motion on the Question is against the privilege of some Members of this House, then the Speaker does not put the question. So, I am inclined to follow that part of the Standing Orders.

**Mr Ogunbiyi :** As I was saying, I would suggest for the consideration of the Attorney-General that a period of six months would be more than adequate for a lawyer coming from England to get acquainted with the procedure in this country.

[MR OGUNBIYI]

On the other hand, I appreciate the fact that the purpose is to discourage our people from going to England to study but, in the circumstances, I will give an alternative suggestion that the Attorney-General might—(*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker :** Mr D. D. Okay, I think you have been giving us a lot of difficulties.

**Mr Ogunbiyi :** The Attorney-General may put a period of five years within which all the students studying in England would have returned and those who have not qualified by then can come back to Nigeria to complete their studies. It will not be necessary after five years to have our students going to England to study before qualifying as a Lawyer.

Another point I want to speak about is the question of standard. We want the best for this country. As my hon. Friend, Chief Akinloye said earlier, this is one of the noble professions in the world and in Nigeria we have been able so far to maintain a very high standard which is comparable to what obtains in other countries of the world. I would say that whilst we open our own institutions here, we should not in any way lower the standard which is necessary to keep up the reputation of the country. I feel that as it is now, when a student goes to a University for three years and gets his LL.B, he is again asked to come back to study Accountancy, pure procedure and simple procedure in addition to whatever he has studied in the University, to become a full-fledged Lawyer.

In conclusion, I think this is the stage where one would like to pay tribute to the Members of the Council for Legal Education in England and the Inns of Courts for the invaluable service they have rendered to this country in the past by training our Lawyers who have come home to become the pillars of our society.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo) : On a point of explanation. It appears to me that the hon. Member for Ilesha Urban (*Mr Ogunbiyi*) does not know that for one to qualify as a Lawyer in England now one has to spend five years instead of one year and six months; and that previously one has to spend three years to get qualified. I do not think my hon. Friend knows about this.

**Mr Ogunbiyi :** I welcome points of explanation from people who know, not from people who pretend to know what they do not know.

As I was saying, I would like to pay tribute to the Council for Legal Education and the Inns of Courts in England for training our students over the years—people who have come back to help build the destiny of our country.

**An hon. Member :** *Wuruwuru* Lawyers?

**Mr Ogunbiyi :** I seriously object to hon. Members calling hon. Members who are Lawyers '*Wuruwuru* Lawyers'. I think Lawyers are gentlemen and they are the best one can get in the world.

**Mr Omisade :** (Ife Town) : If there is any Bill which is desirable at the moment for this country to have this is No. 1.

As the Opposition Spokesman on Legal Affairs has rightly said, we very much welcome the Bill. I think there are two professions which are very fundamental to human society. The first one is Medicine and the second is the legal profession.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : I would like to correct the hon. Member for Ife Town (*Mr Omisade*) that the teaching profession is one of the professions which are fundamental to human society.

**Mr Omisade :** I accept the correction of the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) that the teaching profession is one of the fundamental professions for human society. I would say the legal profession is the most honourable profession and I put it as No. 1. The medical profession is the most necessary and it has been said that the teaching profession is a noble profession. In this respect, we on this side of this House cannot play politics with this matter and we respectfully agree with the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice that whatever criticisms that would have been made have been explained by him in his opening speech because there are certain matters on which we would have liked the Attorney-General to give some explanation but he has done so in his opening speech.

At the same time, however the explanation is not sufficient because there is a section of the Bill which says the Bill shall come into force on such a date as the Attorney-General of the Federation may by order appoint. But, the



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Attorney-General in his explanation did not give an indication of the time that this Act will come into effect. On the other hand he has told the House that by October 1963—

**Mr Odulana :** I just want to make this observation that whilst every hon. Member in this House welcomes this Bill the hon. Attorney-General sits down there looking not very happy. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Omisade :** The point I am making is that the Minister of Justice has fixed the date on which section 2 (3) may be invoked by granting some exemptions. He says that by October 1963, whoever comes to practise as a lawyer must pass through whatever institution is approved for legal education in this country. I would respectfully suggest to him that the period when this Bill would come into force should be extended to be about two years from the date he appoints that this Act shall come into force. That is, if he says that this Act shall come into force on the 1st of May, 1962, I would respectfully suggest that the exemptions which he intends to grant in certain circumstances should be extended to the 1st of May, 1964.

My reasons are these: many Nigerian students have been to the law schools in Britain in order to get qualified, and they went under the law existing at that time which did not require anybody to be trained in this country before practising in this country. But at the same time, this Bill is necessary, and we must all support it. If we give two years' allowance for the students anybody from now on who wants to take to the legal profession would have had more than sufficient notice that it may not be altogether necessary for him, especially when the law school is established, to have all the training in England which, for all practical purposes, may not be useful in this country. And those who have been there before this Act comes into force will not be placed in any disadvantageous position. I think the Minister of Justice will look into this particular aspect, because many students do spend a lot of money to get qualified in Britain. The minimum period is three years. But under some clauses which grant exemptions to be qualified as a Barrister-at-Law, by keeping ten dinners at ten pounds, the person who passes his Bar Final examination may be

called to the Bar; so that anybody who wants to go for such training will be forewarned. There would be sufficient notice.

I understand that before Ghana established the law school, it gave about two years' notice to the public.

**An hon. Member :** No. Three years.

**Mr Omisade :** Well, the law school in Ghana, I think, started late last year; I think it was inaugurated last year.

**An hon. Member :** This year.

**Mr Omisade :** It was opened this January—four years' notice, since 1958. That has been sufficient notice. I am respectfully suggesting to the Attorney-General that he should give at least two year's notice so that it will not cause any inconvenience to our students, and no unnecessary money will be wasted in Great Britain for the training of our boys.

I beg to support.

4.15 p.m.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** Just a word of appreciation from those of us who are not lawyers, but who, if we understand correctly, will certainly welcome a Bill of this kind—a Bill to improve the status of our lawyers, a Bill also seeking to establish a Council of Legal Education which will be empowered to establish a law school and also approve courses of instruction leading to qualifications for admission to the Bar.

I certainly have friends who are lawyers and who would certainly welcome this sort of Bill, either because they would like to brush themselves up and improve their status, or because they have continuously been losing cases in law courts.

I would also like to appeal to the would-be established Council of Legal Education to discharge their duty in the interests of the nation. If it is not too late, I would also like to appeal to the Attorney-General that when establishing a school of law in Lagos, the Council should think of other places. I think Lagos is getting congested. There is nothing wrong in establishing a national institute for instance in a place like Maiduguri. We all advocate unity amongst us so as to enable our colleagues from the Southern area to become acquainted with the Northern section,

[ALI MONGUNO]

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu North East) : I beg to support the Bill so lucidly put by the Attorney-General. It is required that the Attorney-General, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, informs the House that he has consulted many of the legal luminaries. But I want to say that neither the law man of this House (the Doctor of Laws of this House, there are three of them) I do not think we were consulted before the preparation of this Bill. The Prime Minister, you know, is Doctor of laws, and the Leader of the Opposition. (*Laughter*)

In any way, I want to say that there are very important features which this Bill contains in the interests of this country. Many years ago, people felt that without going to England, one could not qualify as a Barrister. By this law, that psychology will be defeated entirely, because we can now establish a legal institution in our own country. This is a very very important point because when a country is not psychologically alert to its own greatness and future, that country is in a stage of decadence. Henceforth, this Council of Legal Education would determine the standard in our various legal institutions.

Very soon, there will be several universities, not only the University of Lagos, but also that of Ife, the Ahmadu Bello College in the North, and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and I am sure all of them will be having a law faculty. A uniform standard must be achieved in all these universities, and I think that this Bill will make for that uniformity. These are very important features. More important is that, without this Bill, we will continue to have a great exodus of our students going to study law in Europe so that perhaps the law schools established in Nigeria will not have sufficient students because we have them going across the sea. This Bill will remove these features.

Also much money flows from this country with students going to study abroad ; and that is one of the causes of the imbalance of payments. What we pay for the training of our students is invisible export. The sooner we established our own institutions the better for this country.

Then I come to other features which I want the Attorney-General to give his very greatest consideration. We should not penalise anyone who quite obviously decides to study abroad because we have no such institutions in this country. They should not be penalised at all, they should not be placed in any difficulty.

The Attorney-General is a cool and calculating person, as I know him to be, but there are things which I have to remind hon. Members about. I disagree with people who say that only lawyers must take part in this debate, because the people who train lawyers in this country are petty traders and not the lawyers themselves—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : Dr Mbadiwe said that the lawyers in this country are the first generation. Perhaps he should know that the first Nigerian lawyer qualified in 1896.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : The first Nigerian lawyer, Mr C. A. Sapara Williams, qualified in 1879.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : That is why, when I make statements on the Floor of this House I do not make them for the love of making them. When I said that the Attorney-General is cool and calculating he immediately answered. What has occurred now is a confirmation of what I have said, and men of such quality can be found in this country one out of so many thousands. How many lawyers are in this country ? We are just beginning. I am saying that the people who trained them worked very hard. Some of them are farmers, some are petty traders. That is what I am asking the Attorney-General to take into consideration.

We do not want the students who are studying in the United Kingdom to return to this country and be involved in incessant handicaps. To be able to send some students money to study abroad I know some farmers who go aborrowing, and some who have pledged their homes in order to give their children education. Now that we are beginning this period only in October why should we put difficulties in the way of those who are innocent of the whole transaction when, in fact, their wish is to see

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that their country moves forward? That is the only aspect. It is a major aspect, since under sections 2 and 3 the Minister is to prescribe when these things should come into effect. I am putting it to the Attorney-General that, speaking for the people in the hamlets whom I am representing, not the middle class, people who are looking for money to sustain their children in order not to put them in a state of frustration in the United Kingdom, a date should be fixed, and it should be two years from the time that we establish our University.

It is only by accident that Mr Omisade and I agree on the time to be fixed, but already I have in my notes this particular point. After all, what is two years? What will it do?

I now make my suggestions. I come to compromise with the Attorney-General. I am not just dismissing what the Attorney-General has indicated, but I am going to make my suggestions. This does not mean that because we are establishing our own institutions here that the ancient route, contact, and relationship with the United Kingdom, where we have trained most of our lawyers, should be closed immediately. Some of the desires of the Attorney-General can be passed to sole institutions in the United Kingdom. They should be reciprocal. We can agree with these institutions about the laws to be taught our legal students both in our universities and in their universities. Some of them will include in their syllabus some of the things which the Attorney-General suggested here—our constitution, the state of our legal processes, and so on. His suggestions can be incorporated in the training institutions in the United Kingdom so as to facilitate the study of law by our boys. Only by this method can we put this Bill in full process. (*Interruptions*). Lawyers do not depend only on one terminology.

Then again, when they return after that period, there will be no difficulties in their way. The whole principle of this Bill is excellent. It is inevitable for any new nation, as the Attorney-General has rightly done, to produce a Bill with harmonised ideal, with the contents so saturated with knowledge, and by itself to be commendable. Take the Minister of Communications as an example, a legal student, who returned very recently. Supposing we had passed a law in this form before he returned to this country, what right could we have

given him? What right could we have given the Attorney-General himself, a legal scholar, a jurist of no mean order possessing academic paraphernalia not got in Nigeria but in the United Kingdom? He is now using that knowledge to give and establish something in his own country.

I am asking that time should be given to our law students in the United Kingdom to adjust properly the circumstances of our period, the monetary circumstances, the hardship, and the family ties which drain money more than anything. These are so severe that unless we make that adjustment, this beautiful legal innovation so well drawn would have lost its taste to so many. I am sure that the Attorney-General will take steps to remedy this, as the law has given him the power to prescribe the date.

Meanwhile, as I have said before, the Council on Legal Education in Nigeria can be in touch with the Council on Legal Education in the United Kingdom. They can say that the time has come when our students should be taught these things which we desire. Then our universities can take it up with the universities in the United Kingdom to introduce them. They will respect us because of this Bill. They will know that we want certain features to be introduced in their universities which are essential to our own life, and some can do so. It has been done in universities all over these countries, and institutes such as Harvard, Princetown, Yale, Oxford, and Massachusetts. They have for many years worked together on a reciprocal basis. Why can we not do so during the years ahead? That is all what I ask for. If we do so, there will be sufficient adjustment and sufficient time for us to achieve that standard that we are pursuing.

We are now talking about things which do not exist. It has to be tried. The place will have to be founded, the standard set, and legal scholarship put into our own institutions. I think that the future generation and the majority of our boys in the United Kingdom will appreciate what is now being done. But we should give them time to adjust themselves to the new situation. Then those who go abroad after the establishment of the Law School will have to be subjected to whatever clauses the hon. Minister of Justice brings

[DR MBADIWE]

in, and spend two years in the Law School, if the Minister so desires, because they have left our own Nigerian Law School aside for the ones abroad. There can be no elimination without substitution, and it is for these people who had no substitution that I have made this point.

I beg to support the Bill.

4.30 p.m.

**The Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I am grateful to all the hon. Gentlemen who have spoken on this matter. I think that it is important to dispose of a few fallacies. The first is the assumption that what we are trying to do here is peculiar to Nigeria. I think that it cannot be too much emphasised that in no other country can lawyers qualify in so short a time as will be the case in Nigeria.

The two-year period which people are supposed to undergo in Britain is useful but most Nigerians, including some of my hon. and Learned Friends, have always been very surprised to see that most of their English, Indian and Asian colleagues with whom they have been dining and dining over the past ten or twelve terms are in fact graduates. Not less than eighty-three *per cent* of those who are called to the Bar in England have always been graduates from universities. On the other hand, seventy-eight *per cent* of West Africans called to the Bar used to be, until 1960, only those who have studied for the Bar alone without a university background. This has always been a source of reflection upon us, and the recent contact which we had with the Council of Legal Education in England and a Committee set up by the British Government under the chairmanship of Lord Denning, who is now Master of the Rolls, indicated that, in fact, the four Inns of Court have always been admitting many of our boys on special considerations. The standards which they have been accepting from us have always been set in such a way as to take into account what they believed to be lack of educational facilities in colonies, particularly in the West African colonies. They believed that we hardly have more than four or five secondary schools which could produce students with the Cambridge School Certificate.

When all these facts were made known to them in September 1960, a new Committee was set up and now all the four Inns of Court have resolved to tighten the standards of admission because, although it is possible in Britain for someone to go to the Bar, read just for the Bar and get called to the Bar as a Lawyer, one finds that, as a matter of fact, all those who go into the legal profession are usually people who have been to one or other of the British universities.

Secondly, the fact must not be overlooked that in countries like the whole of America, Canada, India, Ceylon and Malaya, no one goes to the Bar who has not taken a university degree in Law. Indeed in America, one is compelled to take a degree in another discipline before one is taken on as a candidate for the LL.B., so that one would have done at least three years doing a degree in another subject which may be Engineering, Classics, Geography or whatever one chooses before one does the LL.B. for a period of three years, depending on one's ability to pass. That makes six years. After this, one goes to do the Bar examination which some of the lawyers in America find very difficult to pass in the first one or two years before they are called to the Local State Bar.

These points ought to be borne in mind if we do not want to encourage mediocrity. I think we really ought to take the bull by the horns, and we simply have to start somewhere. If we keep on postponing the date, when shall we begin? We are all very anxious to preserve our sovereignty and to behave like everyone else. Do hon. Members mean that if we set a slightly lower standard here at the beginning, that we are likely to command the respect of our Asian colleagues or of our colleagues in other African countries like Tanganyika and Uganda where they are setting precisely this sort of example? It must be remembered that in Nigeria to-day we have, in round figures, 1,050 lawyers and about 1,113 are supposed to be doing law in Britain and other parts of the world. Whether all these are registered or not, I would not know, but if one remembers that in the whole of England and Wales there are only 1,919 lawyers and that we in Nigeria have 2,163 lawyers—

**An hon. Member** : Our population is forty million.

**The Minister of Justice :** They are fifty-two million. If solicitors who do conveyancing work and who do some work for landlords and tenants are added to this number, there are not less than about 5,000 of those who supplement in England

When one looks at this figure one discovers, as I have discovered from the number of people who apply for a single advertised post in Nigeria, that this number is a big one. This is not to say, however, that we have had enough lawyers, but to say that the quality of training ought to be enhanced and all these considerations have decided the various Chief Justices of the Federation, the Attorneys-General and the Bar Association in accepting all these things that are embodied in this Bill. They are not at all things which emanated from my own brains.

Someone wanted to know whether the students will now be expected to do pupillage after going to the Law School. That is not compulsory any longer. The Law School attendance is intended to be in substitution for frequently inadequate pupillage facilities available to Nigerians, whether in Nigeria or in the United Kingdom. Very few are the English chambers which are thrown open to coloured people in general and all that Lord Denning and his Committee have been able to do have not been able to convince the lawyers to take on Nigerians into their chambers in as large a number as everybody would wish. It was because of this difficulty that the Bar Council instituted a system of Post-Final Course in Britain, and I think that about eighty *per cent* of the Nigerians who have been qualifying in the last four years have been to that particular course. A fee of £25 is paid for this three months' course.

If one qualifies in Britain and then attends this three months' course before coming to Nigeria, I do not see why such a person cannot come into the Federal Law School here to learn our procedures, our land tenure law which is completely different from that which he studied in Britain, our Constitution and our legal system including the Penal Code of the North. All these are very useful indeed and any newly arrived lawyer ought to study them.

The point which hon. Members have made about extending the period will be referred to

the Council on Legal Education if they will help me to pass this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

LEGAL EDUCATION BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION).*

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : I beg to move—

“Clause 1, page C67, line 11, at end insert—

(a) The Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos and the Chief Justices of the Region.”

The reason for this Amendment is very obvious. The section requires that the Attorneys-General of the Regions will form members of the Council to the exclusion of the Chief Justice of the Regions. Since the Judiciary is not federalised and since we know that the appointments of the Attorneys-General are political appointments and that they rarely go to courts, most of them have not been to the courts, and they do not represent the interest of the Regions from which they come, they do not know what the legal implications should be. It is the Chief Justices of these Regions who administer the law and know the counsel appearing before them and who can say what the material requirements for the people appearing before them are. Therefore, to exclude them from the membership of the Council is not desirable. In the circumstances, I think that the Attorney-General should accept this Amendment.

**The Minister of Justice :** Someone before the last hon. Member who spoke referred to this point. He was really making a point at my Regional Colleagues, but the suggested Amendment is of the same character. I wish to assure him that the composition of this Council was unanimously agreed between the members of the Bench presided over by the Chief Justice of the Federation and the other Chief Justices of the Regions as well as the members of the Bar Association and myself. I think that that point was also taken into consideration when the Unsworth Committee toured the rest of West Africa and went to Europe for consultation.

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

I am sure that the hon. Member has very little knowledge of the work of an Attorney-General's Chambers because, although they have not been going to court, it is not true at all that they are not really fully conversant with what is going on in the courts and in the procedures of the courts. They do a great deal of work in their Chambers, including the advising of the junior members who go to courts to handle some of these cases. In the Council of Legal Education, it is only right that they should be represented in the manner provided in this particular section.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I think that the explanation of the Attorney-General is a very welcome one. Furthermore, I would not personally associate myself with any view suggesting that any of the Attorneys-General is ignorant of the day to day practice of procedures in courts. I would merely like to say that I think it is only right that the Regional Chief Justices should have some place in the Council of Legal Education because, after all, the Council is concerned with approving courses of study not only in the principles of law itself but also in the procedure, which matters very much in the practical administration of justice.

The Attorney-General, in his reply, said that the Chief Justices themselves have decided to exclude themselves, or rather that is the impression one gets out of the statement. But I think, for some practical reasons, if we include the head of each faculty of a university and include the legal practitioner and those who have held or are holding high offices, it is only right that we should include the Chief Justices. If they have decided to exclude themselves, that would be most unfortunate. I suppose it is a matter on which they may either have to congratulate themselves in the future for the wisdom of the decision that they have now taken or perhaps blame themselves and ask that a better arrangement be made.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): I will be very brief. In speaking on the question of the Chief Justices, I would say that if the Chief Justice of the Federation himself is to be entitled to appoint people who have held high judicial offices, it is only necessary that he also should be a member. It is anomalous that he himself is not a member—

**The Minister of Justice:** He is the Chairman.

**Mr Briggs:** Again, with reference to the Regional Chief Justices, I would like to support what my hon. Friend has said: I think the Regional Chief Justices should be members.

Finally, there is a provision for two persons in the legal profession. I only hope that the people who will be appointed will not be members of any political party at all for the Law Revision.

**The Minister of Justice:** It is done by the Chairman of the Bar Association.

**Mr Briggs:** But the rumour has it—I do not know how far it is true—that the Attorney-General has been vetoing the appointments by the Bar Association.

**The Chairman:** The hon. Member can only speak on the Amendment.

**Mr Briggs:** I beg to support.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

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

“Clause 1, page C67, line 13, at the end insert—“(c) two persons appointed by the Prime Minister.”

There will be a consequent re-numbering. The reason for this addition is that the present Minister of Justice in the Northern Region cannot be a member unless provision is made for the Prime Minister to be able to nominate one person who would then make up the list in paragraph (b) and of section 1 (2) (b).

The second person that the Council of Legal Education, that is the protem Council, would like to see on the Council is the man appointed as adviser to the Council of Legal Education, Professor L. C. B. Gower who, until recently, was Dean of Faculty of Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the University of London. This insertion was agreed by all concerned.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): The explanation of the Minister is satisfying but I will suggest to him in order to avoid any doubt whatsoever, that the qualifications of these two members should be stated.

In other words, if you look at the qualifications of every other person there—the Attorney-General of the Federation; Attorneys-General of the Regions; the Chairman of the Bar Association; two persons who hold or have held high Judicial Office; the Principal of any Law School; two persons entitled to practice as legal practitioners in Nigeria, Head of each Faculty of Law—they are all connected with law. If the two person appointed by the Prime Minister, I do not know whether the Minister will accept my suggestion—

**The Minister of Justice :** Obviously, yes.

**Chief Akinloye :** If you accept we agree to your explanation, so that for the avoidance of doubt we want these two people to be connected with law.

**An hon. Member :** They will not be connected with Customary Courts.

**Chief Akinloye :** No, not with Customary Courts. Not with Alkali Courts. We suggest this to the Minister for his consideration.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) :** I may not be a lawyer but I am again affected by the behaviour of lawyers.

**An hon. Member :** You are an intelligent Nigerian.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Exactly.

Secondly, we must appreciate that 'law' does not necessarily mean English law. In the international field, there are laws: the Russians have their law, the Americans have their law, the Indians have theirs, and the Chinese have their laws.

**An hon. Member :** And the Grand Khadi ?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** May I assure you that the Grand Khadi is as learned in law as—

**Chief Akinloye :** On a point of order. I think the hon. Minister is irrelevant. The Grand Khadi is not in this Bill. A few minutes ago, the Chairman ruled that the Grand Khadi is irrelevant.

**The Chairman :** He is not actually irrelevant. You mentioned that qualifications should be insisted upon and I think he is stressing on that.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I really deplore the attitude of people who do not understand. We have got real education and we have got education for at least one thousand years. Some of the hon. Members here have only their education for only one hundred years and under difficult conditions. We do not want to rub this thing in but if you rub it in, we shall rub it in very strongly.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** I do not know where we are drifting to. The point of order is, in discussing anything which we think is for the benefit of the Nigerian nation we should not introduce anything which is tendentious to thinking that some body here feels he is superior to another. Every Nigerian is equal in status, equal in education and equal in everything else.

**The Chairman :** Order. I do not think we should drag this matter any further. I think I better put the question.

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

**Chief Akinloye :** I beg to move the Amendment, Clause 1 page C67 line 19, leave out "entitled to practice" and insert "who have had not less than ten years' experience." That is in relation to 'F'! Two persons entitled to practice as Legal Practitioners in Nigeria to be appointed by the Association. Now, the Nigerian Bar Association is given power to appoint two members.

I am suggesting that this Amendment should be inserted. We will not like to see any body who has not had the adequate ten years' post call experience to be appointed by the Association. Members of this Council and the Minister of Justice will agree with me that in this type of appointment, whether to be a Director of Public Prosecutions or to be a Judge or something like that, it is always insisted upon that not less than ten years' post call experience must be possessed. Therefore, I suggest that this Amendment should find favour with the Minister.

We are the members of the Association who are going to appoint these two members and I think that if he had discussed this matter with the Association, I am sure that he would have agreed with me that this Amendment is appropriate.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** The original draft contained persons with at least ten years' post final experience but when we discussed with the Association only about four weeks ago and also with the Judges of the High Courts of all the Regions and the Federal Chief Justice, it was thought that it will be better for us to modify the thing in this way leaving it open to the Association to be careful whom they put forward to us. We are not going to appoint for them. It is for the Association to make sure that those whom they are going to put forward are people who satisfy the requirements.

The Association, you must remember, is going to draw up its own draft Bill and also the General Council of the Bar which you will find in the second Bill on the legal practitioners Bill that I mentioned earlier on. All these are clearly stated in it and I think it is better to leave it fluid in this way so that the Association could, in its own Charter or Rules of Association, insert this kind of clause instead of tying the hands of the Association.

Once we provide that the Association may nominate any two persons entitled to practice as legal practitioners in Nigeria to be appointed by the Association, I think the Association can help in this way.

**Chief Akinloye :** In view of the explanation of the Minister of Justice and in order not to disturb the agreement which has been reached and particularly in view of the fact that the Bar Association themselves specifically ask for the deletion of this qualification, I ask the leave of the Chairman to withdraw.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** I think the next one is consequential, Mr Chairman. Clause 1 C67 line 27 after paragraph insert (c). That follows logically from the insertion of (c) earlier on in the paragraph so that that is not really a point that requires any debate.

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

**Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban):** Sir, when I filed this notice of Amendment, I very much had in mind my proposed amendment

to Clause 1 page C67 line 11 which was defeated this morning. In any event, I still stand by my notice about my intention to move this amendment that the quorum should be increased to six and not merely limited to four.

If we look at the number of people who should form the Council of Legal Education, we will see that with the addition of two new Members this morning to be appointed by the Minister, we have eighteen. The Chairman—the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Attorneys-General of the three Regions, the Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association, two persons who hold high judicial offices, the Principal of any Law School, two persons entitled to practise as Legal Practitioners, the head of each faculty of Law of a University (and we have in Nigeria four Universities, the Universities of Ibadan, Lagos, Nsukka and Ife). With all these people we have at least nineteen people who should officially be Members of the Council of Legal Education.

In my own view, if the aim of this Bill is to see that the standard of legal practice in this country is kept high, I feel that the Members of the Council of Legal Education must see that they are present, at least, to have one-third of the total membership of the Council of Legal Education present on each occasion. In my view, it is not proper, if it is left only to four members because if there are only four members, we do not know who will be appointed by the Prime Minister. They may not be people who have had legal training. Suppose only those two people are present and with, maybe only two members appointed from the Bar Association, form the *quorum* and go on with important decisions which will affect the whole of the Bar Association in the country and the standard of legal practice in the country? This is a matter which should be seriously considered by the Attorney-General to see that the *quorum* is increased to six and not left at four.

*Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out put and negatived.*

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

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East):** This council is expected to be a very honourable body and I think that in order to make things very conspicuous, it is necessary for some form



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of verbosity to be brought in in some way, so I move in Clause 1, page C68, after "allowances" insert "whatsoever not even by way of transport".

This will have the effect of making things clear to whoever reads the law that these people do these things entirely at their own expense.

*Question that the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and negatived.*

*Clause 1, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(RESTRICTIONS ON ENROLMENT AND PRACTICE WITHOUT SUITABLE QUALIFICATIONS).*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I rise to move, in Clause 2, page C68, line 14, leave out subsection (2).

I think, with your permission, that I would like to deal with the second part of Clause 2 because it is connected with the leaving out of Clause 2 (2).

**The Chairman**: I think that it is more convenient for the Committee to take it one by one.

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

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I beg to move in Clause 2, page C68, line 23, leave out from "that" to "shall" in line 24, and insert "the foregoing subsection".

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

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

*Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 3—(QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES)*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I beg to move in Clause 3, page C68, line 31, after "if" insert "(i)"

*Question that the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted put and agreed to.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I beg to move in Clause 3, page C68, line 32, to leave out "satisfies" and insert "(ii) he has satisfied".

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

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

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I beg to move in

Clause 3, page C68, line 39, at end insert—; and (iii) after satisfying the council as aforesaid, he has successfully completed a course of practical training which lasted for not less than one year and was conducted under arrangements made by the council".

I do not think that I need belabour this because these changes have been brought in as a result of a meeting which was finally held by the Committee on Friday, 13th, at Ibadan.

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

*Clause 3, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 4—(APPROVED COURSES AND EXAMINATIONS, ETC., FOR QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES).*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I beg to move in

Clause 4, page C69, line 10, leave out from "who" to

"and" in line 12 and insert "by virtue of the approval had satisfied the council, or immediately before the withdrawal could have satisfied the council, as mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of the last foregoing section";

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

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

*Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 5 and 6, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported with Amendment.*

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

5.10. p.m.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade :** I know something about the original draft of this Bill and I join those who said that the Bill has not come a day too soon. But on this point, I would like to pay tribute to the British Inns of Court which have done their best to produce most of the eminent lawyers we have in Nigeria to-day.

There are, however, some dangerous clauses in this Bill which has just passed the Committee state and we do hope that politicians who may have to decide as to the finances of the Council of Legal Education which is to be set up will not take steps which will stifle the activities of the Council.

It is common knowledge that in certain countries lawyers are not given full scope to participate in the activities of their government. As a matter of fact, in some other countries certain politicians look with contempt and suspicion on lawyers. But we are lucky here that lawyers have always been in the forefront of the fight against oppression and imperialism.

There is a clause which gives power to the Minister of Finance to determine the terms of any loan or grant that may be given to the Council of Legal Education. I should have thought that that power ought to have been vested in the Council of Ministers. It is my own opinion that, but for the lawyers of this country, we would have gone the way of dictatorship. The lawyers have made it impossible for dictators to rear their heads among us. For there are politicians who believe that there are too many lawyers in the country to-day and those politicians would go to any extent to make it difficult for the Council of Legal Education to produce as many lawyers as the country needs simply because they are prejudiced in one way or the other against the lawyers even though when they are in trouble it is to lawyers that they run.

One further little point I would add is that our friends in the Northern Region, particularly the Government of the Northern Region, because this Council of Legal Education is for the whole country—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed) :** On a point of

order, I see no reason why the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) must mention specially the Northern Government in his speech on this Bill.

**Mr Speaker :** If the hon. Member for Egba South is treading on a matter which I said we should not drag further, I think he should better not raise the point.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** I am not saying anything disparaging as regards the Northern Region at all. I am simply saying that the Council of Legal Education now being set up is for the whole Federation and we should request the Government of the Northern Region to make use of the products of this Council of Legal Education. To-day, it is known that Southerners who have become lawyers and Magistrates are not encouraged to take up the Bench in the North. It is one country that we have and lawyers produced in our Council of Legal Education should be given free opportunities to practise in the North and to sit on the Bench in the Northern Region.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) :** I associate myself with all the tributes paid in respect of this Bill. But I must say that there have been too many Amendments, particularly to Clauses 1 and 2. Quite frankly, many of us cannot say readily what we have passed here this afternoon as we go outside. We certainly will be grateful if by some unusual speed a copy embodying all these Amendments is made available tomorrow or the day after. This is necessary because some of us might be confronted by students, within a short time, on what we have passed to-day. Quite frankly it will be unfortunate if anybody starts expatiating on any of the Clauses that have been left out.

There is a point on the question of representation of practitioners. It is very encouraging to notice that the hon. Attorney-General has been taking very active interest in the affairs of the Bar Association since he took office. I am only going to ask that he ensures that representation of members of the Bar in the Bar Council is not unnecessarily determined by close proximity to Lagos.

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The Bar Association to-day is, to some extent, comparable to what used to be regarded as the Nigerian politics in the days gone by when a gathering of people in the Lagos constituted the entire political party claiming to represent the whole country, with little connection with or regard for those outside Lagos. I think it is important that the Attorney-General takes steps to ensure that the two to be appointed to represent Legal practitioners are not always, or necessarily, only people living or practising in or near Lagos.

Rightly anxiety has been expressed over the fate of those now studying law in England. I would very respectfully plead with the Attorney-General to give this matter some further consideration. We do not want standards to be lowered, but many people have ventured out on the understanding at the time that conditions would not change. Many hardly anticipated that these changes would come. Otherwise, they would have been in a position to choose an alternative. But as it is to-day, many have committed themselves. Some are still going in.

May I suggest that we should make an allowance for the time it will take those who last enrolled before the operation of this law to qualify and so arrange things that after a reasonable period within which they would have qualified. Thus, no other person who qualifies after that time can practice without conforming to the provisions of this Bill.

Finally, I would appeal to the learned Attorney-General to consider the suggestion which has been made, that some approach should be made for some aspects of our own legal work and legal studies here to be accommodated overseas. It will be recalled that Roman Dutch law is one of the subjects taken for the Bar examinations in England. It does not mean that Roman Dutch law is practised in England. Mohammadan Law is one of the subjects which can be taken in the Bar Finals Examination in England. In fact some of us did Mohammadan Law just to make things a bit easier. I think that, at least during the period to be allowed for, the possibility of our boys having this opportunity of studying some aspects of the law which we might consider peculiar to our practice here should be made available to them in the United Kingdom.

There is also the question of expatriate legal practitioners. There again I think it is a matter in which, before they practise, they have to have their names enrolled and perhaps obtain the necessary certificate, unless they are exempted by the Attorney-General. I think that the Attorney-General might well look very closely into such matters and perhaps make sure that, before expatriate lawyers are allowed to practise here, it must be in circumstances in which there can be no alternative from within the country.

Already we have a number of such legal practitioners in Nigeria to-day who prefer to make a lot of practice at the expense of the Nigerians, but who make it a strong policy of theirs never to co-operate or collaborate with any Nigerian practitioner; they are not prepared to have Nigerians as partners; they are not in any way prepared to have the co-operation of Nigerians on equal terms. Yet, the terms and agreements of major Government contracts are prepared by these people at fabulous charges—charges which are never paid to any Nigerian: Nigerians are never given an opportunity. I do not want to belabour the issue, but I think that the Attorney-General, in exercising some of his powers here, should be in a position to have such practitioners struck off the Roll, and that opportunities made available to them should be made available to Nigerian practitioners as well.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): I rise to support this Bill and to make a few remarks particularly with regard to those of us who are laymen and who are going to patronise the lawyers by the time they shall have graduated.

The behaviour of some of our lawyers in court leaves much to be desired, and I would think that the Attorney-General would do something to protect the laymen of the country. Some of these lawyers, having taken the money which they have accepted for the defence, refuse to go to court and will not refund the money. I think that this needs serious consideration by the Attorney-General. The position of our people is that ignorance is so widespread that most people do not know their rights. They have the right in fact to report to the Attorney-General of the Federation, but they do not know that they can do so.

[MR S. LANA]

If the Attorney-General can do something to protect the interests of these people, the better it will be.

The other aspect is that it will be necessary, after this course has been created, for some of our lawyers who are not doing very well—we know those who are not doing very well—to have the opportunity of taking refresher courses. If opportunities are made for some of them to go on a refresher course in this country, I think they will voluntarily go.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe** (Owo North): I will only appeal to the Attorney-General on behalf of over one thousand students who are now studying in England. I think the Nigerian Government has a connection with the London School of Oriental and African Studies. The Government should kindly arrange with the School of Oriental and African Studies to teach those of our students who are now in the U.K. the Nigerian Constitution and probably the procedure in Nigerian courts.

A subject like accountancy should be made compulsory, and conditions in England are more conducive to the study of accountancy than here: they have more Accountants and schools of accountancy in England. I am quite sure that a student would prefer to study in his private time book-keeping and accountancy during the course of his legal training in England rather than come back to Nigeria after having been called to the English Bar, to spend yet another year at the law school. I am appealing to the hon. Attorney-General, whom I knew at one time or the other to be, and—I think he is still, a member of the Board of Governors of the London School of Oriental and African Studies. I am appealing that these one thousand students studying overseas need not come back to Nigeria as from October next year, as the hon. Attorney-General has said, to spend another year studying law. This will be too much.

I know that the intention of the Bill is to make those of us who are Members of the Bar qualified as barristers and solicitors. In the United Kingdom they have barristers and solicitors. Solicitors study accountancy and book-keeping during their course of training, but barristers do not. If we return to Nigeria to practise, we are both barristers and solicitors.

I am appealing to the hon. Attorney-General to kindly take note of that. If there is any difficulty in getting a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the Government of this country should arrange to second or employ a Nigerian who is qualified in these subjects to go to London and stay there for a year or two, and I am quite sure that we would save a lot of money.

Finally, this is a year of austerity measures. We have about one thousand students studying in England and each student spends about £500 per year, so for legal education alone this country is spending about £500,000 per annum in the U.K. When this Bill comes into operation we are not going to repatriate those who are there, but there will be no incentive for prospective law students to go to England again to study law. Those who will be going abroad to study law in future need not go to England, but they can go to America, or they can go to Canada; they can well go for post-graduate courses of study in law in things like comparative law, or international law. Those of us who want to specialise in Moslem Law can go to Pakistan, and those who want to specialise in mercantile law can even go to Russia.

I hope the Attorney-General will take the plight of these one thousand students in England into consideration.

I beg to support.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: There are only two points I think I should say a few words on.

The first is the one you yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker, raised in connection with the representation of the Nigerian Bar Association on the Council. I think you will agree with me that that is a point for the Association rather than for me. I would suggest that when you return you should try to encourage the legal branches in Aba, in Port Harcourt, in Onitsha and Enugu, all of which I met during my tour last year, you would through them be able to suggest to the central organisation that in nominating people to the Council (because they alone have the power to nominate) they should have regard to the Regional distribution of lawyers. I think it is a good point that you have made, but they alone can help because if they nominate only two people, both from Lagos, no one on the Council would have the power to say, "We

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do not want those you have selected, go and select other people". Therefore, I think, as far as this is concerned, that it is for the Association to help.

The second point concerns the issue raised by the last speaker, the hon. Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) and, I think, someone else raised it before him. It is true that I have for some years been on the governing body of that School in London, and as a result of that I was able to persuade them some two years ago to institute a course in African Law at the Bar Examination and, as you know, African Law is now one of the most favourite subjects for the Masters Degree in the University of London. Therefore, what the Bar is doing in that field would be some steps towards this. They have not found it possible to introduce subjects like Procedure—Criminal or Civil Procedure—or Law of Evidence and Nigerian Constitution. Although one studies Nigerian Constitution along with the Constitution of Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gambia as part of one subject for the Masters Degree, again it is not available at the Bar. It is for this reason that we feel that these subjects are best taught locally here because their legal education can acquire a local habitation and a name.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

5.30 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

STUDENTS' HOSTEL FOR NIGERIAN STUDENTS  
IN LONDON

**Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu)**: I beg to move,  
That this House notes with satisfaction Government efforts to cater for the welfare of our students in the United Kingdom, but appeals to it to establish a Students' Hostel in London.

This Motion is a non-controversial one. It appreciates Government's efforts to cater for the welfare of our students in London, but the establishment of a hostel for them in the United Kingdom is one of urgent necessity. With the continued influx of thousands of students from the Commonwealth countries, the problem which has beset Nigerian students there has become multifarious.

I must first of all pay my tribute for the commendable services rendered by the West African Student's Union which, during the primary era tried to alleviate the suffering of our students in the United Kingdom through its hostel which was established mainly through the instrumentality of the late Ladipo Solanke of blessed memory. May his soul rest in peace.

Similarly, I must commend the charitable work of the British Council in the way it assisted in providing accommodation and other welfare amenities to our students in the United Kingdom for very many years past. As well, the Young Men's Christian Association, missionary bodies which had assisted.

To-day, Nigeria, fully independent, has emerged as a distinctive personality in the comity of nations. The conditions of our students in the United Kingdom, their behaviour, their way of life and the other characteristics can, I think, either project that Nigerian personality further or reduce it to a disgraceful level. If our students are not well cared for and looked after, that Nigerian personality will dwindle. If our students roam about the streets of London for lack of accommodation, that Nigerian personality will be a farce. If some of our Nigerian students suffer from mental trouble resulting from frustration, that Nigerian personality will be a mockery. Surely, Nigeria can only be judged by our students there.

London nowadays has become the centre of gravity in the Commonwealth and world affairs. "Your country is what you make it", says an eminent Statesman, and there is no doubt that it is the inhabitants of a country that project that country's personality abroad.

With these remarks at the background, I shall now try to show that the establishment of a students' hostel in London by our Government is now a *desideratum*. In 1957, at the Easter School Seminar in London, our students very seriously requested our Government to establish a students' hostel in London in order to eradicate the undesirable and awful experiences which they encounter whenever students from Nigeria arrive in London. Then our then Nigerian Commissioner in London, Mr M. T. Mbu, who is now the Minister of State in charge

[MR C. CHIEDOZIE]  
of the Navy, told them that our Government was giving the matter active consideration. I learnt from some of these Nigerian students that in point of fact, they were told that the Government would establish a hostel in no distant future time. In 1958, at another Easter School Seminar in London, these students were again told that our Government would establish a hostel very soon. The students were told that the whole project had engaged for some time the active consideration of the Government and that very soon their desire would materialise.

I must seize this opportunity to mention that some of these students, who have returned to Nigeria now, told me frankly that Mr M. T. Mbu gave them a most satisfactory attention and protection. They stated that but for Mr Mbu who was the Commissioner then, some of them would have run mad or died because of lack of care and lack of accommodation. There is no doubt that these students spoke nothing but the truth.

However, the Government's promise to establish a hostel in 1957 was not fulfilled. The one of 1958 was not also fulfilled. Up till now, it has not been fulfilled. There is no doubt, however, that the Government recognises the anomalous and exacting conditions of our students in the United Kingdom. They are doing their very best anyway, but the reason for their inability to establish a students' hostel in London despite its promises has, up till now, beaten my imagination.

I shall now proceed further to show that although our Government is trying to cater for the welfare of our students in the United Kingdom, we still need to establish a students' hotel in London. The problem of accommodation has become acute in the United Kingdom. In fact, this is one of the most important forces that militate against our students in the United Kingdom. Everyone knows that the United Kingdom is comparatively a small country with a very high density of population per square mile. This geographical disability has worsened the problems of accommodation. The following simple statistics will show the magnitude of the problems of scarcity of accommodation :—

The net annual immigration to the United Kingdom from West Indies, Africa, Asia and other Commonwealth countries

rose from 42,000 in 1955 to 136,000 in 1961. During 1960, immigrants into Britain from all countries exceeded emigrants out of Britain by 82,000. In 1961, the excess of immigrants into Britain over emigrants out of Britain was 160,000.

As a result of this excessive inflow to Britain, her population in 1961 had almost increased twice as fast as had been anticipated. At the moment, it is estimated that over 30,000 of this inflow consists of Commonwealth students and trainees to Britain and a large share of this is from Nigeria. In fact 85 per cent of the Commonwealth people to Britain are coloured and they form a great majority of regular immigrants. The main result now is that scarcity of accommodation has reached an alarming pinnacle, and this is in fact one of the principal reasons why Britain is introducing the present controversial Immigration Bill in order to restrict and refuse immigration from Commonwealth countries.

Our Nigerian students in the United Kingdom have in consequence been very adversely affected by this ugly situation of acute scarcity of housing accommodation. In fact, the experiences of some of the first year students from Nigeria to the United Kingdom are, to say it lightly, pitiable. Colour discrimination has accentuated the already difficult situation. Coloured people, particularly black men, find it most difficult to find sleeping accommodation in the United Kingdom.

With your permission, for the purposes of veracity and factual analysis, I shall quote from a typical English Newspaper published in London, in order to substantiate my statement that coloured people are very severely discriminated against and refused housing accommodation because they are coloured. This Newspaper is called the *London Weekly Advertiser* and its main function is to advertise vacant houses, vacant flats and vacant rooms to let. The disgraceful aspect of it all is that in the advertisement some of these English landlords and landladies state emphatically that no coloured person is wanted. I now quote. The first advertisement says :

*"Finsbury Park. Bed-sitters. Ascot. Own Cooker. Electric fire. Linen Supplied. Shared bathrooms. Telephone. Single and Double. 4 minutes from Underground. Tel. S.T.A. 1618. From £3-3s-0d. 35476. Sorry, no coloured."*

Another advertisement for a vacant room says :

"Large double and single bedrooms. Lounge, Dining Room, combined Kitchen. Furnished with Ascot and refrigerator. Crockery and utensils supplied. No linen. Own meters. References required. No Coloured. 7 guineas per week."

Another one says :

"Attractive service single and double rooms. Gas fires. Cooking facilities. From £3-10s-0d per week. No Coloured."

Another one says :—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Standing Order 25 (1) allows Members to read short extracts. I am afraid the hon. Gentleman's extracts are becoming voluminous.

**Mr Chiedozie :** I am just quoting instances, and may I quote one more, Sir? There are many—

**The Deputy Speaker :** I am afraid the essence of any further quotations would be merely to emphasize the expression "No Coloured". We have already had three instances and I think that that point has been made.

**Mr Chiedozie :** This "London Advertiser" is a weekly paper which circulates among 250,000 people in the heart of London. Therefore it is a disgraceful spectacle to see a paper in a cosmopolitan city like London saying, "No Coloured are wanted to occupy our vacant rooms".

These facts are revealing, they are startling and disgraceful but they show that, in the United Kingdom, houses, flats, rooms *et cetera* are let out on a colour discrimination basis. I understand that the position is worse when it comes to a black person. Some landladies shut their doors and lock up their vacant rooms when they discover, ultimately, that their prospective tenants are coloured and if one is a married coloured student, the position is terrible. One will not be considered for any accommodation, even of the worst type.

I am not saying that all English landladies and landlords discriminate owing to the colour of the skin but, from the "London Weekly Advertiser", one will draw the conclu-

sion that the United Kingdom is widely infested with this nefarious disease called colour discrimination and this disease merely militates against our students there.

Surely, in the face of this state of affairs, an incontrovertible case has been made for the establishment of a big hostel for our students in the United Kingdom. Our first year students will stay in this hostel.

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North) :** Mr Deputy Speaker, Standing Order 25 prohibits a Member from reading his speech. The hon. Member is reading his speech.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I am afraid it did appear as if the hon. Gentleman, even though looking up at intervals, was pinning down his argument far too much on written words. I do hope he would try and give us more co-operation.

**Mr Chiedozie :** What I am saying is that when a hostel is established in London those students that are ejected will have to go to this hostel, if established. Nigerian students who have not been to London before will be able to occupy this hostel as a preliminary to acquiring experience, adapting themselves to the climatic conditions and in order to learn the ways of life of the Englishman, their experiences, their other various idiosyncracies and they will first go to this hostel in order to have this sort of experience before they succeed in getting accommodation.

If this hostel is established, it is not that it will harbour students throughout their courses, but it will be their temporary home and such a student in the United Kingdom will feel quite at home.

Another point is that when the students' hostel is established it will serve as a sort of *rendezvous* for all our students in the United Kingdom, Eire and Northern Ireland. I will not go on enumerating the other social problems which confront our students in the United Kingdom as the result of the absence of an up-to-date hostel.

Some of those students who develop mental troubles, simply do so because of frustration, and the load of troubles they encounter in order to settle down there. When some of them return here and become rather melancholic, we may feel that they are a disgrace ;

[MR CHIEDOZIE]  
but it is the conditions in London that make them so. Only the establishment of students' hostel can solve many of these demoralising problems.

I will not forget to commend the present efforts of our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, Alhaji Abdul Maliki, and the way he is tackling the problems. It is not only said that he is alive to his responsibilities but also that he tackles the students' problems with sympathy, cheerfulness and zeal. But we must not leave the whole problem to this gentleman. We must establish a student's hostel which was promised by our Government.

In addition, I will say further that we are blessed with a humanitarian, energetic and enthusiastic hon. Minister of Education.

**The Deputy Speaker :** I am afraid the hon. Gentleman is reverting to the very thing for which he has been called to order.

**Mr Chiedozie :** What I am saying is that we are blessed with a humanitarian, energetic and enthusiastic Minister of Education who, I quite understand, has always been interested in the welfare of students and I want him to take this matter seriously. Although I see an Amendment in his name, I quite agree that Government is entitled to an Amendment. I am simply saying that the problem facing our students in England is an acute one and I feel that this is an occasion for our Government to help. I must thank God that we have got a Government which is interested in the welfare of our students and therefore I feel that action should be taken very soon to establish a students' Hostel in London.

I beg to move.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** In seconding this Motion I feel that one should certainly congratulate our Government on the efforts it is making and on the way it is handling the welfare of our students. The Motion is clear and straightforward and all that we need is an addition to that welfare by the establishment of a hostel in London whereby our less fortunate students can be accommodated.

There is no need to repeat what the Mover has already said. The fact remains that the need for a hostel in the United Kingdom,

provided by this Government, cannot be overlooked entirely. It is quite true that the Government do not realise that the need to have our own hostel is a clear indication that, as far as possible, we should not be dependent on any assistance if we can make it possible ourselves.

If this hostel is established, there are three advantages which we can derive from it. One is that the students themselves will become more and more encouraged. We know that the hostel itself cannot accommodate all the students we have in London, yet it will encourage our students by showing that the Government is very much alive to their welfare. That is one.

The second reason is that the hostel will pay. It does not mean that the students will go there freely when it is built, they will have to pay for their keep and, as the hon. Member has made it quite clear, the way coloured people are treated in the United Kingdom ought to make the Government feel that the time has come when it should establish a hostel to show that if the Government is rich enough it can make every possible assistance available to our students to see that they are as comfortable as possible.

The third point is that if the hostel is established, it will provide somewhere for our students to have a sort of get-together, irrespective of their Regional or tribal origins from Nigeria. I believe there is a number of hostels now in the United Kingdom where Africans are accommodated, but the fact is that one can see even from the provision in the Estimates that the Students Division of the High Commissioner's Office in the United Kingdom has only a sum of £10,000 voted for the Division, whereas an equal sum of money (£10,000) is provided for the Information Division—an equal sum of money to that provided for the welfare of our students in the United Kingdom !

As I said, if this Hostel is established students all over Great Britain will find it more comfortable to come and meet their fellow Nigerians to have a place where they can live more comfortably. I feel that it should be established but the hostel, if established, should not only be made for the Government-sponsored students. We are quite sure that the Government-sponsored students are properly catered for as far as welfare is concerned.



Private students in the United Kingdom should be considered particularly in this respect for they are less-fortunate in this regard.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Education** (The hon. Aja Nwachuku): I beg to move to insert a 'full stop' after the word 'Kingdom' and to delete the words following it. The Motion, as amended, will therefore read as follows:—

"That this House notes with satisfaction Government's efforts to cater for the welfare of our students in the United Kingdom".

Very considerable efforts have been made, as has been disclosed by the mover of this Motion, by the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom and by the Agents General of the Regional Governments in London, and I am pleased to note that this is recognised in the Motion. It is also proper to note on this occasion that some provision has also been made by the British Government, through the activities of the British Council, for the accommodation and welfare of our students in Britain and also for the welfare of Commonwealth students in general.

It will not be disputed that proper accommodation is essential if students are to derive the maximum benefits from their study and stay in the United Kingdom. There is little doubt that the establishment of an hostel for Nigerian students in London would ease considerably some of the problems which face our students. I am pleased to say that the problem of proper accommodation has been fully realised and has been brought to the attention of the Government by the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom.

Concrete proposals have been made for the establishment of such a hostel and the High Commissioner's Office is at present engaged in an effort to find a suitable building for the purpose of a students' hostel in London. A number of premises have been inspected to that end. In October of last year an architect from the Ministry of Works and Surveys and a Land Officer from the Ministry of Lagos Affairs inspected a building which the High Commissioner's Office considered suitable for the purpose. The acquisition of the property is now in hand and final results are being awaited.

From my statement it will be clear to the House that the object of the Motion has been met and that definite steps have been taken already to establish the hostel, which we all consider to be necessary for the welfare of our students, in London.

I think I have been able to reply to the points of substance raised by the mover and the seconder. It is not my wish to say anything about "colour" because that is outside the context of the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, the Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*). I can only say that he has very much exaggerated the situation.

In October last year I had a chance of meeting my opposite number in London, Sir David Eccles, who is Minister of Education there, and we discussed very dispassionately the affairs of our Nigerian students in London. He told me that the United Kingdom Government had embarked on a huge building programme in order to accommodate Commonwealth students, and that if there was any hardship in the way of accommodation it was not peculiar to Nigeria—that all the other students from the Commonwealth had got the same experience, and also that the English students themselves were in a similar situation, and that that was why they had embarked on this huge building programme.

It is not only in the way of a hostel that our students can be helped. I am not an expert in psychiatry, as he has mentioned that it is because of lack of accommodation that our students go mad—I think that is the function which can be competently and very well performed by Dr Lambo—but all I know is that, in helping these students, we have always gone to the length of trying to extricate them when we find that they involve themselves in financial difficulties. I really think that that is more of importance to a student than finding him accommodation where, possibly, he might not be in a position to pay his bills.

We have Area Officers in Northern England, Scotland and Ireland. We have one Mr Grimson who also caters for the welfare of our students. We have always given preference to private students.

I think I have covered enough grounds in showing that the intention of the Motion

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]  
moved by my hon. Friend is already being pursued and that very soon we will make a hostel available to our students.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** : I beg to second.

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

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

*Resolved* : That this House notes with satisfaction Government's efforts to cater for the welfare of our students in the United Kingdom.

*Sitting suspended* : 6 p.m.

*Sitting resumed* : 9 p.m.

(AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE  
FOR BENIN)

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** : I beg to move—

That this House calls on the Government to establish an automatic telephone exchange in Benin as a matter of urgency.

It may seem to hon. Members that this is a selfish Motion because it asks for an exchange for a particular town. It is my intention to show that, apart from asking for it for Benin, it is asking for improvement and economic development of the country as a whole.

The value of a telephone service to a community can never be over-emphasised. It is service which is twice blessed ; that is, it blesses who gives it, that is the Government, and blesses who has it. By granting an automatic exchange to Benin, the Government's financial position will improve. We are all aware of the difficulties that we have with telephone operators. One of the ways to minimise these difficulties is to have automatic telephone exchanges. I used the expression, *minimise*, advisedly.

In Lagos, for instance, once one has one's telephone and one is on the direct line, and as long as one is telephoning somebody in Lagos, one need not come in contact with these telephone operators, unless one is in some difficulties. Thus, if there is a business that has to be transacted, that business will go very fast and very smoothly. But in a place where there is no automatic telephone one has to depend on the operators. One may lift one's

receiver only to find that instead of talking to the person to whom one wants to talk in connection with one's business, one is faced, first of all, with insults from an old telephone operator who has passed the age of usefulness, and as a result, does not give the real service. This is where we come face to face with the need for automatic telephone exchanges.

It is true that this system works by means of a complex electronic equipment, and that this electronic equipment costs quite a lot of money ; but those who know the economics of large-scale enterprise and improvements in machinery will agree that, once this type of equipment is installed—the cost of installing it may be large—the returns to be got afterwards will more than balance the cost of installing it, quite apart from the convenience that one gets from these services.

Therefore, in the Motion, I am asking this hon. House to urge the Government to establish at Benin an automatic telephone exchange as a matter of urgency. It is not just that an automatic telephone exchange should be established in Benin, that is not only what I am asking for. I am asking that it should be established as a matter of urgency. That part must be very well understood.

My purpose is to show the urgency of the matter. It is my belief that Benin in particular, as well as Nigeria in general, has been unfairly treated in this matter. A few days ago, that was on the 9th April, the Minister of Communications came to the Floor of this House and said certain things. With your permission, Sir, I would like to quote. What the hon. Minister said was in fact—I will quote the relevant portion because the Standing Orders preclude me from quoting *in extenso*.

What the hon. Minister did say was—

*"My Ministry's main responsibilities lie in the field of postal and telecommunication services. As hon. Members will recall, our postal and telecommunication Development Policy for 1955 to 1962"*

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** : Mr Speaker, I indicated in the morning that the school master who wants his pupils to be punctual should be punctual himself. Referring to the order of the House summoning Members to a night sitting tonight I said that we did not want the Ministers to be absent. Behold there is none of them here. In fact there is hardly anybody—

**Mr Speaker :** As long as there is a quorum I think we can continue business.

**Mr Oronsaye :** I do not know whether the hon. Member was referring to me, but may I say that I was the first to be in this House.

As I was saying, the hon. the Minister of Communications said :

*"Our postal and telecommunication Development Policy for 1955 to 1962 was detailed in Sessional Papers Nos. 4 and 8 of 1957. These papers ushered in a period of development without precedent in the history of the P & T. Division, development which costs a huge sum of approximately £14,000,000."*

That is what the Minister came to say in this House on the 9th of this month. Now, the Sessional Papers Nos. 4 and 8 are in my possession here. They did say which towns were going to be the main and first installation targets. I will repeat that, Sir. These Sessional Papers did say which towns were going to be the first and main lines—the first and main lines—of installation targets for V.H.F. equipment which forms the background for this type of service. For trunk dialing, of course, we need V.H.F. equipment which is also part of this system and the report from 1956-57, which was signed by the Minister at the time, that is, Chief S. L. Akintola, says and, with our permission, Sir, I quote :

*"The planning of the Cameroons and Central Plateau V.H.F. scheme to connect this area with Nigeria's telephone and telegraph section is well on the way to completion and orders for the necessary equipment will shortly be placed. A technical survey of the proposed Lagos-Ibadan ultra high frequency link has been in progress for the past six months and the Crown Agents have now been asked to invite all manufacturers of this equipment to tender for a system specified to carry up to 600 telephone circuits. It is expected that the main V.H.F. system at present under construction in Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Enugu, Lokoja, Kaduna, Ilorin and Ibadan . . . ."*

That list is the cardinal point of my debate for to-night. The main line was expected, according to this report, to be from Lagos to Ibadan, Ibadan to Benin, Benin to Enugu, Enugu to Lokoja, Lokoja to Kaduna, Kaduna to Ilorin, and Ilorin to Ibadan,

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) :** Mr Speaker, your Ruling was that we should not quote the speech of any Minister ; perhaps, the Minister of Communications is the only member of the Government in this House who is an exception ! I suggest that, if anybody would like to say anything about communications, he would do well to make his own speech himself instead of referring to something that did not materialise in the past.

**Mr Speaker :** It depends on the motive. If a Member quotes someone in good faith, I think we can allow that ; on the other hand, if an improper motive is intended, then certainly I will rule him out of order.

**Mr Oronsaye :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was quoting the Annual Report of the Post and Telegraphs for the year 1956-57. The reason for that quotation is that that was the beginning of the Programme—the Economic Programme—for 1956-62. That is the programme that we are talking about.

According to that Programme, Benin was to be one of those places that should be on the main V.H.F. line which, as I have said here, is the back-bone of the automatic telephone exchange project. Benin was one of the places, for, as you can see, Sir, the line starts from Lagos and, everyone here will see, the V.H.F. line structures start from Lagos to Ibadan and from there to Benin. We see these V.H.F. structures all along the way.

Some of the people responsible for these structures are members of the Marconi Company. One of them is a good friend of mine and he told me that they are the people responsible and, according to the report, they are responsible. It is there in the report. *(Several hon. Members : Wind up, please.)*

Since Members seem to be anxious that I should curtail my speech, I am prepared to curtail it but, in curtailing it, I will not miss the essential point. Benin is one of the nodal points, being on the main trunk line and if one wishes to have any proper telephone exchange, unless it is based on the V.H.F. system, that telephone system will be regarded as antiquated. It is here that we come face to face with what has happened to prevent the one in Benin being installed as an automatic telephone. The reason for that is not very hard to seek, but I do not want to say it here.

We all know, that this V.H.F. system, which has already passed through Benin to

[MR ORONSAYE]

these other places, has failed to take account of the proper economy of the system because at Benin the channels are disturbed. From Lagos there are several channels which radiate to Ibadan; these channels radiate from Ibadan to Benin and then they radiate from Benin to Enugu, but at Benin there is a disturbance because there is no automatic telephone exchange. Instead of establishing an automatic telephone exchange at Benin, which is regarded as part of the main line, those regarded as branch lines were developed.

Now, I will make an analogy. We have what we call the Trunk 'A' roads and then we also have what we call the Trunk A.1 roads. The meanings of these roads are best known to the Minister in charge of public works.

**Mr Speaker** : The Motion is simply on an automatic telephone exchange for Benin.

**Mr Oronsaye** : I agree, Sir. Indeed this Motion deals with a matter that is very, very technical, and it is not easy for me to discuss it without going into the technicalities which the Minister himself will understand. In any case, I have made my point. (*Interruptions*). I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to protect me from these disturbances. They are getting too much.

Now, when the Minister came to the Floor of this House a few days ago, what he told us here was that development in the trunk telephone system had increased tremendously by as much as 520 per cent. My submission is that that increase is an increase which has led Nigeria into unnecessary expense; unnecessary expense because instead of developing the main trunk line, they left the main trunk line and started developing the side lines. A few days ago, when I asked how many subscribers there were in the Oshogbo exchange, the reply was that they had about 133 and the reply about Akure was that there were about 124 subscribers or so. It may be of interest to note that at Benin there are about 600 subscribers.

The Minister in charge has already said it here, that it is the aim of his Ministry that every post office in Nigeria should have an automatic telephone exchange. I agree with that policy, but my point is that if we are going to have exchanges at the side-lines and we have none on the main trunk lines, we are wasting Government funds because quite a lot of money will

be wasted on excessive current which is used for nothing. These are all technical points, but I am sure the Minister understands me.

Serious difficulties are being encountered at the moment, and hon. Members from the East will know that, even when the operator is really desirous of connecting them, to connect Lagos with the East is a herculean task. Now, the reason for this is that the trunk lines are disturbed at Benin—the channels are disturbed at Benin. The only way of connecting is by using the manual devices, and it is going to be impossible to use the trunk dialling system between the East and the West until an automatic telephone exchange is established at Benin.

The Minister had said on the Floor of this House a few days ago that the U.H.F. system (V.H.F. means Very High Frequency and U.H.F. means Ultra High Frequency) is going to be used to replace the present V.H.F. system. This is a very good idea, but my submission (and my submission is backed by technical knowledge) is that the U.H.F. system will be useless for the purposes for which it is intended. The U.H.F. system is intended for the trunk dialling system, and it is on account of the U.H.F. system existing between Lagos and Ibadan, that any subscriber can dial direct from Lagos to Ibadan without connecting the exchange people, who will waste thirty or forty minutes before making the connection. The U.H.F. system does not exist yet between Ibadan and Benin, and it is the Minister's intention to instal it in these places. What then will be the use of this system if the trunk dialling system is not going to be possible, since there is going to be a break in the transmission in Benin?

I have very many technical points—I have already prepared very thoroughly for this debate—but because hon. Members are very anxious to go, I intend to curtail this debate, and beg to move.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West) : In seconding this Motion, I merely wish to say that the aim of the Motion is to get a word from the Minister as to the priority of Benin in the installation of an automatic telephone exchange, and I do not think that I have anything further to contribute to the debate. I beg to second.

**The Minister of Communications** (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I really do think that we

could do with the services of the mover of this Motion in the Ministry of Communications—he seems to know far more about our technical details than we ourselves have prepared so far!

It is a fact that in 1957, or in the Programme of 1955-62, a provision was made to give Benin an automatic exchange. That Programme has turned out to be fairly hurriedly drawn up because, had it not been so, it would have been found that only in 1956 Benin got an extended manual exchange which gave it about 800 telephone lines, and up to date it is just about half that have been used. I do wish to say that the Motion is accepted and that an automatic exchange will be provided for Benin in the very near future.

**Mr Speaker:** Mr Udenyi—(*Several hon. Members: Aye, aye*). I do not like these shouts of “aye” before the Question is put. It shows how eager hon. Members are for the Question to be put, but I do not think it is the proper way to do so. Anyhow, the Question is as in the terms of the Motion on the Order Paper.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House calls on the Government to establish an Automatic Telephone exchange in Benin as a matter of urgency.

#### ALGERIA

9.45 p.m.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe:** This Motion which is now on the Order paper has been overtaken by events. The hon. Prime Minister speaking for this country, both the people and the Government of which this Parliament is a part, has already conferred on our behalf to the people of Algeria congratulations for their noble effort, and this will be in the—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West):** For your information, Mr Speaker, I was just hurrying down in order that I might be able to contribute to the debate on the Motion for the establishment of an automatic telephone exchange in Benin, but since we have been in this House I have not had any chance to air my views on any specific Motion like this one, where we can fight for our constituencies. I must make this known to the Speaker.

**Mr Speaker:** Thank you for letting me know.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** You will agree, Mr Speaker,

that before this Motion was filed, the Prime Minister had not indicated his intention, but that has become known to the world, and any repetition of the same congratulation would amount to tautology or duplication.

*The hon. Gentleman did not move.*

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE GENERAL ORDERS

**Mr D. Senu-Oke:** I beg to move—

“That this House urges the Government to set up a Special Committee to revise the General Orders of the Government of the Federation.”

It is far from my intention to waste the time of the House in going into the fullest details of the General Orders of the Civil Service of the Federation of Nigeria.

The simple reason for this is that the Motion is perfectly non-contentious, straightforward and simple and if accepted, will help to remove so many barriers that are standing in the way of the progress of our brothers and sisters in the Civil Service of this new and progressive nation.

Mr Speaker, I bring this Motion because the present position, condition and provisions of the General Orders are overdue for a change for the following reasons:

- (1) It is very unprogressive in the march in accordance with our present stand in the way of Nigerianisation; for example the comparison of senior service expatriate with the African senior service;
- (2) Some of the heads of the present General Orders are old, completely out of form and obsolete; for example leave conditions;
- (3) Some portions or heads of chapters of the General Orders are very unsympathetic and portray no greater future to favour Nigerian Civil Servants in the new nation; for example transport provision in the General Order;
- (4) The present position in our General Orders does not suggest to the outside world that Nigeria is independent because it is framed to suit the purpose and demands of the colonial regime; for example many references were made to the credit of Colonial Regulations in the present General Orders.

[MR D. SENU-OKE]

I am not ungrateful to the British Government on whose instruction the present General Orders were prepared, drawn up and handed over to us. The whole country has been very grateful to them and we have been demonstrating our love to them in many ways.

The only motive behind this Motion is to set up a machinery which will work for the immediate progress of our country. Right from the start I made a promise that I will not waste the time of the House in going to the fullest details of this Motion. I would say that this Motion is a prestige Motion for many Members of this House because it is very interesting and timely. It is the provisions in the General Orders that determine and decide the destiny of so many workers especially the Civil Servants in the whole of the Federation. These provisions are too old and almost ninety per cent British in outlook.

I wish therefore to call upon our Government to set up a Special Committee charged with the major and direct assignment of revising the General Orders. I bring out the following for appropriate examination: (1) the disciplinary procedure—I refer to G.O. No. 04101; (2) absent from duty as provided for in General Orders.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): The hon. Mover appears to be wanting to waste the time of this House because he is completely out of date. As far back as last year, I told this House that we were revising the General Orders and the General Orders have been revised. It is only publication that remains and he should not waste the time of the House.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Point of order Mr Speaker. I think it is not the hon. Mover of the Motion that is going to do the job; it is rather the hon. Minister of Establishments. He should have filed a Motion—

**Mr D. Senu-Oke**: When I filed this Motion I found on the Order Paper that there was no Amendment. I am referring to the provisions in G.O. in respect of absent from duty; acting allowances; acting appointments; appointments to the junior service; appointments to the senior service; bicycle allowance; Civil Servants' children allowances; con-

firmation of appointments; contract appointments; leave for junior service; passage privileges of the Service; political activities of Civil Servants; private property of Civil Servants; rent allowances; retiring officers; letting of government quarters; termination and suspension of appointments; testimonial and training appointments—

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): We find it difficult to follow the Mover; we do not know where we are.

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

**Mr S. J. Umoren** (Uyo North): In view of the explanation made by the Minister on the Floor of this House, is it not necessary for the hon. Gentleman to withdraw this Motion?

**Mr Speaker**: I think it is entirely for him to withdraw or not.

**Mr Senu-Oke**: Thank you Mr Speaker. A special committee should go into the details of the above items and revise the General Orders to meet the present needs of the Civil Servants in this new independent Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): It is true the Minister has given his explanation but since the Motion has appeared on the Order Paper—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): The Motion has not been seconded.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, I do not know how many authorities there are on the Standing Orders of this House.

**Mr Ogbalu**: I was saying that since we have not seen the revised General Orders our remarks should be taken into consideration and should not be viewed as a *post mortem* examination.

As the hon. Mover of the Motion said, the General Orders are completely outmoded and it seems that the Civil Service is being run on convention. It is true that there have been circulars from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Establishments which have tried to keep the workings of the civil service up to date but there are several references to the colonial days in the General Orders. Up to the present moment, the revised version of the General Orders has not been made public. In the General Orders there are many references to Colonial Regulations. For example, the

Civil Service Commission which does not exist at present. The General Orders also fail to recognise that Nigeria is a Federation and not a country with a unitary form of Government. References in the General Orders to Lieutenant-Governors, Residents, *et cetera*, are completely out-moded. I shall leave this aspect of our demand that the General Orders should be revised in view of the Minister's explanation.

I will then direct my attention more fully to the part of the General Orders that concerns civil servants. During the past few months, we have seen evidence of civil servants trying to take part in politics. In this proposed revised General Orders we are asking that participation by civil servants either directly or indirectly in national politics should be completely prohibited.

**An hon. Member :** And local politics.

**Mr Ogbalu :** It is an open secret that during elections some civil servants who go on leave or who perhaps live near some constituencies tend to go home to influence the voters. Such practices should be prohibited and should be stated clearly in our Constitution.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): The hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*), really has no knowledge of the General Orders. There is already a provision in the General Orders that civil servants should not participate in politics. The hon. Member is trying to impute improper motives.

**Mr Speaker :** I think the activities of civil servants are a little bit far away from the substance of the Motion which is just to set up a Committee to revise the General Orders.

**Mr Ogbalu :** The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) knows very little about the General Orders. I know more than he knows, there is no doubt about that.

The point I am making is that the General Orders when revised should contain the aspirations of the people of this country. In view of the Ministers explanation that is all I have to say.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): The mover and the seconder of this Motion, if I may say so, have

confused the issue because their Motion as tabled on the Order Paper called for a special committee to revise the General Orders of the Government of the Federation. But when they spoke, they said nothing at all about the special committee; they went on to tell us that the General Orders need revision and this is how it should be revised. As I have said before, the General Orders have already been revised and the revision, of course, has to take some time because we have to consult—

**Mr Ogbalu :** On a point of order. The point the hon. Minister made was that when the Motion was put on the Order Paper it should have been withdrawn and not presented to this House. The Members have already prepared their speeches and they should be allowed to speak. That is the point we are making.

**Mr Speaker :** This is a point of explanation and not a point of order.

**The Minister of Establishments :** Well, if it is a question of withdrawal, I think it is only right for the Mover to withdraw the Motion and not for the Government.

As I said before, the General Orders have been under the course of revision for over a year now and during this revision we had to consult those who are concerned, that is the civil servants, and there have been many changes since Independence and as these changes come in, we have to put them into the new General Orders. For example, the new leave conditions which have just been announced have to be in the General Orders, and many other things. The General Orders are now almost revised and this revision will be examined by a Committee which is going to be set up by the Council of Ministers and not by an independent body as suggested by the Mover of the Motion. I think an independent body which has no connection with the civil service will not know the aspirations of the civil servants and what they would want. For this reason, it is the civil servants who should contribute their ideas on how the General Orders should be revised. That has been done already and what remains is for the Council of Ministers to set up a Committee of Ministers to look into the revised General Orders before they are published. When

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]  
they are published, they will be available to all the Members of this hon. House.

For these reasons, I beg to oppose the Motion.

**Mr Senu-Oke :** When this Motion was filed and, during the course of my research, I discovered that the latest revision to the General Orders was in 1952. If the Minister in the light of his explanation is giving us the assurance that the revision is going on and that it will be revised up to date, that is, up to 1962, I beg to withdraw.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

10.10 p.m.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I rise to move—That this House calls upon the Government to form forthwith a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs.

This Committee should consist of Members on the Government Bench and one or two Members of the minority Opposition. I therefore suggest that this Committee should be generally formed to examine matters connected with Foreign Affairs, and also any matter that may be referred to it by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Prime Minister of Nigeria.

You may ask, why do I want the Committee to be formed forthwith? One of my reasons is this: the world of to-day is too scientific, and our lives are as fast as the science is moving. Events in the world to-day seem to move too fast too; therefore, Foreign Affairs matters must be taken seriously and should not be left to one man to decide. It is a matter for all the people to consider and weigh, and then make recommendations.

Another reason why I want this Committee to be formed is that in all democratic modern parliaments to-day the work of parliament is based on the committee system; and I think Nigeria young as it is, should start to run its Parliament in the proper form—by the committee system. I feel that in the question of Foreign Affairs, a nation should speak with one voice. Nigeria is one. At least, the people of this country have got certain characteristics, one of which is that every Nigerian wants peace. We do not want to be scattered.

**An hon. Member :** The Action Group does not want peace themselves.

**Mr Abii :** I agree, from the actions of their Members. But if you go to them individually they want peace, unless they want trouble.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West): A point of order. The hon. Gentleman is now on something else. He has left the real Motion, and is now inviting the Action Group to speak to him. He is inviting trouble, and we shall do so. (*Laughter.*)

**Mr Abii :** I am not by answering certain questions implying that I want to draw the Action Group into a quarrel. I said that Government should form this Committee in order to help—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour** (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor): Sir, somebody is going to the bar.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Will you go there and see him?

**Mr Abii :** As I was saying in Foreign Affairs matters, this nation should speak with one voice. We do not want, as happened sometime ago, after discussing a matter, one or two people of this country to go out and give a wrong interpretation of what has happened, especially the Opposition. If this Committee is formed, one or two of them will be there. A proper interpretation of Nigerian Foreign Policy should be our aim. There should be no more misinterpretation of our Foreign Policy.

But if there is no Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Government would be giving chance to certain Members of the Opposition to go out and give a wrong interpretation of what this country wants to do. I therefore, humbly ask the Government to forget any other excuse and accept this Motion to form a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, in which the Opposition will take part in discussing matters.

I feel that there is no need to reject the Motion because later on, Government will find the necessity to do it. What is worth doing is worth doing well. I want the Government to form the Committee now so that every side of this House will take part in



discussing Foreign Affairs matters. As I said before, nobody claims to know everything. We can learn from small boys as well as from old people. A good Government can learn very much from the Opposition and from Members of the Government. I therefore feel that there is no necessity to delay forming a Parliamentary Committee which will take the responsibility of advising the Minister and the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs matters. This is not the first place where it is being done. Other Parliaments have Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs.

**An hon. Member :** No one. Where ?

**Mr Abii :** They have some in America, in Australia, in India, and in New Zealand. Almost all the Commonwealth Nations have them, even in Britain, I think it is the Committee on National Security that takes proper care of Foreign Affairs. There is no Government that has not got a Committee to take proper care of Foreign Affairs. It is not a matter for one man, so that if there is any mistake, you cannot accuse one Minister.

Our Foreign Policy is that of non-alignment. It may appear very simple, but I think that policy is very comprehensive and complicated. It is not a simple matter because certain events may happen somewhere in the world to-day, and the Government will sit down and begin to say, What are we going to do ? Are we going this way or that way ? Let me take the example of the two blocs to-day—the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc. If there is any matter to-day between the two, it will be necessary for Nigeria to sit down and say “what are we going to do ?” Why wait till that time comes ? Why not act now to consult ourselves and get the minutes of this Committee put by as a reservoir from which the Government will draw ?

I feel that the Government of other countries that have this kind of Committee use it in interviewing visitors, the foreign visitors know how they act in their place towards certain matters concerning the world. In our own country, we get a lot of visitors to-day. And our Prime Minister has too many things to do. I do not think he has the time to listen to all the intricacies of people coming from Russia, from Canada, all of them coming everyday. If there is a Committee on Foreign Affairs, it will be

their duty to entertain certain visitors and keep the record for the Government to refer to from time to time. I feel that the Committee should not only undertake the duty of examining any matter referred to it by the Government, it will also summon meetings. The Chairman and the Secretary will know when to summon meetings to examine any matter that concerns Foreign Affairs.

You will see that this Motion, as it stands, is very simple. There is not much complication in it. What it means is that I am calling upon the Government to consider forming a Parliamentary Committee consisting of both Sides of the House to examine Foreign matters, and keep the minutes for the use of the Government and the Minister.

I beg to move.

**M. Aminu Kano (Kano East) :** I beg to second the Motion.

It may be that my idea of the formation of a Foreign Affairs Committee is different from that of the Mover, but I support the idea in principle. May I say that there is no need for us to say that in America this is being done, or in Britain this is being done as well as in Australia and many other countries. There is no need for this, because Nigeria is a country of originality. We want to originate the idea. Let us evolve our own democracy so that we shall have no need to borrow from America or from England. We are experimenting and initiating the idea in Africa, so I think it is going to be purely an advisory committee.

In fact, it would be only one of many other committees, such as Committees on Finance, Economic Development, and other things. It would also train Parliamentarians. You will find that at the moment, up till to-day, we have not yet been able to employ a system whereby spokesmen on various matters have been known in this House. With this Committee, we may be able to get spokesmen on Economic matters, on Foreign Affairs, on Communications, on Establishments, and so on. Without it you will find that we are wasting a lot of time debating a matter which is irrelevant.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Alhaji A. A. Koguna) :** To-day the two Whips, instead of directing, are misdirecting the House. One Whip said that he wanted a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs whilst the other

[ALHAJI A. A. KOGUNA] said that he wanted Advisory Committees on Establishments, Economic Development, Mines and Power, and so on. Which one are we to take ?

**M. Aminu Kano :** If the hon. Member wants to speak on this Motion he is at liberty to do so, because I know him very well.

I would like to say that the House should accept the idea in principle, so that many of us here interested in Foreign Affairs will find a platform whereby we may study the interesting problems of world affairs, and I am sure that the Minister will find people to select. There will be no need for him to take unnecessary advice. The Committee will be very useful to the Minister or to the Ministry. By accepting this Motion, I am certain that the Government of Nigeria, or the Prime Minister of Nigeria, would be evolving something new, something that we can claim to have originated from the Nigerian people. If in the end, or if in the process of the working of the Committee we find that it is not the kind of democracy that we want, we can leave it. But let us not be afraid. Let us venture and start something, maybe a model of democracy in Africa.

I beg to second.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : I regret to say that the Motion is not acceptable to the Government. I do appreciate the very good intentions of the hon. Mover, the Seconder, and the would-be supporters of the Motion, but it is impossible to accept. Particularly, the wording of the Motion itself makes it impossible, that is, "That this House calls upon the Government to form forthwith (now, now) a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs". In the first place, it is not possible to form it now, tonight. Therefore, since we cannot accept that, the Motion would fail on that ground, because we cannot form it now, forthwith.

This Motion means, in effect, that the conduct of foreign policy should be taken over from the Cabinet—the Government of the country—and transferred to this House, and not only leaving it in the hands of this House to discuss, but that the House should divorce itself of its authority to look into the conduct of Ministers and the Government and transfer it to a small

group of people, an exclusive elite, who will form six walls around themselves, and who will tell this House tomorrow that they are experts on foreign affairs, and if the Opposition wants to discuss a thing these people will say, "Oh, no. They cannot do that"; then the hon. Members who might have some ideas which could be useful to the Government would be deprived from contributing usefully. We have freedom of expression here. Let us hear what they have to contribute. This committee will definitely say, "Oh, no. That is entirely for this committee." In other words the hon. Member is asking this House to set up a group of people who will usurp the rights of this House. That is one aspect of it. Usually it starts like that, and gradually it develops into something else. That is a fact. Once a committee begins to acquire certain powers, it will not like to release the powers, and then Members will find it impossible to re-claim it once more.

Therefore, in the interest of the Members of this House, the conduct of foreign policy must remain where it is now, because if we do not do that, what is the value of the Opposition ? If we withdraw this, the Government will be deprived of useful contributions, useful criticisms, that may come from the Opposition. The Government has never at any time claimed to be the repository of all knowledge and of wisdom. This must be left open, otherwise there will be no work for the Opposition to do. Besides, no Government would like to transfer the conduct of foreign policy which involves very delicate matters of State to another body.

There are about 104 various States in the United Nations to-day, each one with its own peculiar problem. Sometimes there are certain things which may come from there and which may be so delicate that, in fact, even the whole Cabinet may not examine it. It may be a matter for the Prime Minister alone, and once it is transmitted to him, and we are told, from what the Mover says here, if this Committee is set up, I suppose the chairman and the secretary of the committee will summon a meeting to which the Minister or perhaps the Prime Minister will be called to tell them what to do. I do not think that any country in the world would like to work with such a body if they do not even know the whims and caprices of the members of the committee. Any country would like to work with a Cabinet

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whose Ministers in charge or Prime Minister they know, because they can judge the character and the tendencies of the particular individuals. When there is a heterogeneous composition of various individuals, it is not easy to discover the real nature and conduct of their policy.

The hon. Mover of the Motion said "forthwith". We have agreed on the general policy of non-alignment. As the hon. Mover rightly said, it is a difficult policy when there are power blocs. There comes a time when a certain situation arises and a decision has to be taken. Is it easier to take a decision when there is just a small body like the Cabinet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Prime Minister who is the ultimate authority in that respect, or when one has to come to the House and have the committee summoned? In this case, some members of the committee would come down in their cars and begin to decide whether it would be convenient for A or B to attend. There is also the case of a *quorum* because, until the committee could have a *quorum*, no decision could be taken. What do we find? We find that if the committee fails to have a *quorum*, a decision cannot be taken and the whole thing becomes impossible to decide upon.

The hon. Seconder of the Motion said that he would like to see spokesmen developed in this House. We are a working Parliamentary Government that is based on party system. All I know of other parts of the world is that each party sets up its respective committee in which they have spokesmen on particular aspects, because a party may be in the Opposition one day and be in the Government the day after. It is, therefore, necessary to have such people who would spend their money, time, and leisure studying these problems so that they could be versed in the conduct of the Government's foreign policy, on its external affairs, on its international relations and be able, therefore, to comment on them effectively, constructively, and didactically.

**An hon. Member :** And gigantically !

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** I did not say "and gigantically". I said "and didactically".

The hon. Member is assuming that to form a committee of the House is indirectly to form

a national government by the backdoor. This Government is not prepared to do that.

It has been suggested that such a committee exists in other Parliaments of the world. This is not so as far as I know. The only place where the foreign affairs of a government is controlled by a committee of one of the Houses is the United States, and the reason is this : their Cabinet is not responsible for any legislature and the Senate is the more durable of the two Houses. For instance, the Members of their House of Representatives only hold office for two years, whereas the Members of the Senate hold office for six years. Their Members of the Senate are elected, not nominated as our own Members of Senate. Their Constitution makes a provision for the President to be elected too and he is elected by the whole populace. After being elected, the President selects his Cabinet from anywhere. If he likes, he can select anybody in whom he has faith and whom he feels can do the work. Nobody would object. But Congress has, therefore, set up a committee on foreign affairs, to keep check on what they are doing, and the way in which they control them is by giving the Congress evidence on what they are doing and by also controlling it financially.

It is not exactly the same thing here. We have election every five years. The Members of the Cabinet are elected from the elected Members of the House and each Minister reports directly to an elected House. He answers questions on his Ministry, and when he is criticised, he hits back too. But that would not be the case with the committee. One can see a businessman who is a director of such and such a company tomorrow. If the president of that company thinks that somebody can do his work well, he just asks such a person to come on his cabinet. But this cannot be done here. If the Prime Minister wants to reshuffle his Cabinet, he must still look around even if his party is in complete control or is in coalition with another party, because the Members of the Cabinet must be Members elected into the House, otherwise he cannot form a Cabinet. However capable the person may be, unless he is elected into this House or brought into the other House, he cannot be co-opted into the Cabinet. But that is not the case in the United States.

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Hon. Members can, therefore, see that it is quite different. The fact that the Cabinet is not responsible to the legislature in the same way as is our Cabinet makes all the difference.

**Mr Speaker :** I hope that the Minister is not criticising the policy of another country.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** I am trying to show why in the United States the Senate has a say in the conduct of the foreign policy of that country and why it is not so in this country.

As was done at the last August session, and as it is done from time to time, apart from the general debates during the time for the Appropriation Bill, Parliament is afforded an opportunity to debate a particular foreign affair. Even the Opposition also has this opportunity. There is a time when the Opposition may seek to debate some aspect of a foreign affair if it feels that the matter is going the way which it does not like. The Opposition would, in such a case, ask the Government to provide a time to debate the particular aspect of foreign affairs. That is done. But if we have this committee, that opportunity would not be available.

Without spending any more time of the House, I think I have made the position quite clear. The conduct of foreign policies is one of the strongest weapons any Cabinet has and this Government is not prepared to relinquish it.

In conclusion, I say that at this formative period of our foreign policy, it will be not only dangerous but disastrous to transfer the conduct of foreign policy to a body whose composition is unknown. This will make it impossible for the Government to have a co-ordinated policy that can be easily discerned.

I beg to oppose.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu North East) :** When a Minister on the Government Bench has spoken, it is quite clear that he was speaking for the Government and cannot, therefore, be opposing the Government.

I want to make certain observations. The Minister has been labouring under one conception—control. I want to tell him that these committees can succeed if the Ministers want them to succeed. But the time will come when

they themselves will want them. I said that this country has been labouring under the colonial system for a very long time. It is the committees which the colonial administrators left here that we have been using—the Accounts Committee, for example. This does not mean that the Accounts Committee should control this Legislature. This is the highest Legislature of the country. There is the Business Committee which will advise the House but not control it. When popular Motions are filed in this House the Business Committee will go and bring power, natural power. I will never subscribe to the idea that any committee of the House should usurp the powers of the Ministers. The Ministers are created by the Ordinance and Constitution and any other thing not within the competence of the Constitution—(Interruptions.)

Supposing something happens and the Parliament is not meeting? But whenever Parliament is meeting, Parliament becomes supreme, whether there are committees or sub-committees. The Minister himself may want to use these committees to advantage. There are times when the civil servants may want to impair the policies and the decisions of the supreme Parliament, and the Minister can always direct the civil servants to place themselves before the Foreign Affairs Committee. I am thinking of a thing which aids the Minister in his administration, not a thing which impairs him. There may be a subject on which the Minister and his committee can appeal to this House, for example (like the question of Dahomey) and say, 'Please this matter is delicate; do not touch it when you are making your speeches'. This is an appeal because there is already a committee over which the Minister himself is presiding. It is not a committee in which the Minister will not be present. Who will bring the agenda for discussion? The committee alone cannot originate the agenda.

There are times, for the sake of the security of this country, when it becomes necessary to make an appeal even to the Parliament to defer discussion on certain items. Because the appeal is not unilateral but it is bilateral, it becomes easier to appeal to the people.

I would not want to have a situation in which the Minister of Defence, for example, although he has constitutional powers, will

just say, 'Do not discuss the Air Force'. If the Minister says to the Parliament, "My committee and I appeal to you to defer discussion on this subject in Parliament until we have explored it further", the Parliament will agree immediately. That is the type of committee that I am envisaging, not a controlling committee or a national Government by the back-door.

As we advance with our independence and before we complete spending the £670,000,000, many problems will develop. In fact, there are times when a Minister, before recommending things to the Cabinet, has to make sure that he has the backing of the whole House so when he goes to the Cabinet meeting, he can say to his Colleagues, 'My committee and I have agreed'. They use committees when they can use them to get more votes. A Minister who uses this method is more likely to get an approval more readily than a Minister who just presents to this House papers from his Permanent Secretary.

I am saying all this because I want to clear one notion that has emerged from the Minister's speech—control or back-door arrangement. I will never be a party to any idea that any committee whatsoever should usurp, even the smallest bit, the constitutional authority vested upon the Minister. The Minister in his own discretion can utilise a committee to strengthen his position; he can utilise it to make more orderly those things which could have gone out of hand. That is my idea of a committee, not only a Foreign Affairs Committee, but also other committees like the Development Committee which I mentioned before. When officials, experts or technicians know that there are some watch-dogs to whom the Minister can refer, they will avoid sabotage because the Minister can say, "This matter is not for me alone. You will have to appear before so-and-so committee". If he summons the committee to examine the situation, sabotage will disappear immediately.

At the moment, the Government is still contemplating on what to do. I am sure that what does not exist to-day may exist tomorrow. There is more harm in giving the thing a forced maturity. Let us leave it alone to incubate by itself.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi** (Egba North): If it is not yet time to form parliamentary committees on other Ministries, it is time to form one on Foreign Affairs because the Ministry is one that entails very gigantic international issues, issues that will determine the future of this great nation. It is necessary to form one straight-away to be able to advise our present Minister of Foreign Affairs—

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order. It is silly to form any committee with these people because they will go and sue on any matter that is difficult for them.

**Mr Odebunmi**: I think that advice should first be given to the Member for Owerri East (*Mr Abia*), the Mover of the Motion.

It was a single mistake made by the Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time that Egypt was bombarded due specifically to lack of advice from some people who knew better than himself. This committee, if formed, will serve very useful purpose, as I said—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order. The hon. Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) is not properly dressed.

**Mr Speaker**: I suppose that is the chief-taincy dress.

**Mr Odebunmi**: As I said, our present Minister of Foreign Affairs needs incessant advice. I do not know whether people were right in accusing him of being arrogant, but he, of course, disagreed that he was arrogant but said that he was proud.

I do not know what he attaches to the philosophy of great wise people who claim that pride goes before destruction.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. It is out of order to discuss the conduct of the Minister.

**Mr Odebunmi**: The Minister's interpretation of the word 'forthwith' is different from what the Mover of the Motion has in mind. It may not mean straightaway, tonight, but as soon as possible, so that the Parliamentary Committee ought to be set up as soon as possible.

It is not usurping the powers of the Minister of Foreign Affairs but it is necessary in order to be able to help him. It is usually said that

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two heads are better than one. The Committee should comprise mostly men of legal experience; (*Several hon. Members: Why?*). People who have a knowledge of political science could forecast what would be the consequence of any step that is taken on foreign affairs and should be able to think of possible repercussions. The formation of this Committee is absolutely necessary and should be made as soon as possible.

**Prince D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I was extremely surprised to hear the reasons given by the Minister for rejecting this Motion. When he reads the *Hansard* tomorrow he will find that in my statement I never meant that this Committee should control the Minister, but his arguments in rejecting it are that it will control the Minister.

Since his arguments have gone so far away from my own argument and as a Government Whip, I humbly withdraw the Motion.

**Mr Speaker**: Is it the wish of the House that the Motion be withdrawn? (*Several hon. Members: No*). The debate continues.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): This is not the first time that a popular Motion has been brought to this House and after winning the support of the Opposition side the progressive nationalists in the N.C.N.C. suddenly develop cold feet and withdraw.

I was happy that a Government Whip was moving this Motion because I thought that he had the backing of the members of his party and the Government. We intended to support the Motion primarily because we felt that the advantages of a Parliamentary Committee on foreign affairs are very obvious and important and on the Floor of this House, our spokesmen on foreign affairs have urged the formation of a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs.

People who know, I say people who know, who argued that a Parliamentary Committee should be formed did not intend to take away the powers and the prestige of our Minister of Foreign Affairs. All we intend was to present a united front on matters of major policy.

You will remember that immediately after self-government on the 1st of October, 1960, the Opposition Members were invited to accompany the Rt. hon. Prime Minister on a

delegation to the United Nations. We made a statement that we were not in a position to accept that invitation because we did not know what message the Government was carrying to that great arena of the United Nations. We declined the invitation and we discovered later that our judgment was correct. The Rt. hon. Prime Minister at that time was handling foreign affairs but there were aspirants on the Government side who were struggling to be appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. Members of the Government were speaking with different voices and they were being reported from Southern Rhodesia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other places.

We are supporting the Motion not because we are interested in serving on the Committee. We have our own Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. (*An hon. Member: A shadow one*). A shadow one, yes. There we discuss matters of importance and fashion the method which we would employ in meeting any situation which would arise in the field of foreign affairs. We are supporting the Motion because we feel that if really we want Nigeria to be great, the voice of Nigeria on foreign affairs must be one.

Any student of foreign affairs in the world to-day will know that apart from individual countries like the United States, the NATO powers to-day speak with one voice on foreign affairs.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): I am referring to Order 23 (1). "A Motion or an amendment may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, by leave of the House or Committee, after the question thereon has been proposed but before it has been fully put, provided that there is no dissentient voice. A motion or an amendment so withdrawn may be made again but in the case of a motion, notice is required."

I am saying that the mover of the Motion had withdrawn and it was put to the House and the House agreed that the Motion should be withdrawn.

**Mr Speaker**: I think that probably the hon. Member, Mr Eboigbodi, has forgotten the proviso which says that "provided there is no dissentient voice". When the question was put there were dissentient voices.

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**Mr J. O. Odeunmi** (Egba North) : Probably the Speaker did not observe that at that particular point the hon. Member was sleeping.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I was saying that students of Foreign and International affairs who read newspapers and listen to radio broadcasts will know that all the NATO powers to-day speak with one voice on major foreign policy. The same thing applies to the individual countries that constitute the Eastern Bloc to-day and that is why our Minister of Foreign Affairs always finds it tough in the United Nations Organisation to know which side to support and which side to oppose because all these countries speak with one voice on major foreign affairs.

There have been instances where Nigeria has been presented to the world in different colours, particularly on African affairs. The Federal Government is trying to muddle through but is finding things difficult because its foreign policy is practised in the most hypocritical manner. We cannot afford to trifle with the greatness of this country and the greatness of this country will be measured, not by individuals alone but by our attitude to burning questions which may come up any day in the world.

Recently there was a meeting in Belgrade where all the people whether practising non-alignment or not, were invited. Nigeria was given an opportunity to go into that Assembly and tell them where we stand and where we think that the other countries go wrong. Our going there would not necessarily mean that we were going to accept hook, line and sinker any ideas that might be propounded by India or Pakistan or Yugoslavia or Ghana. We have our own identity. We should go into the world assembly and project Nigeria in a way that people will feel that we have really arrived. It is no use for a Government of this kind not to have a Foreign Affairs Committee because what transpires to-day indicated that there is no Foreign Affairs Committee of the N.P.C. or the N.C.N.C. or the Government itself. The Minister of Foreign Affairs got up and said that when any matter comes up he consults the Prime Minister who is the final authority and one other person. It is then that a decision can be taken. These are the traces of dictatorship

against which we on this Side of the House are fighting and we shall continue to fight against all these traces until the Government is completely civilised.

Last year when the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was handling foreign affairs in this country we pressed him to open embassies in different parts of the world and he complained that there were not enough men to man our embassies. This year also, I was not present in the House on that day but I heard it on the radio.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : The opening of Embassies has nothing to do with the forming of a Foreign Affairs Committee.

**Mr Speaker** : I quite agree that the hon. Gentleman has wandered a little bit too far but he is not totally irrelevant.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I refer to the complaint by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister, only this week, that there were not enough men to man our embassies. This deals with Foreign Affairs. How could he expect intelligent people, if he wanted to appoint people to man our Embassies, to come forward. He will appoint brilliant chaps in the country, we have many of them in this country to-day who are as brilliant as he himself and who are interested in Foreign Affairs as himself but they would not like to go into an uncharted path. They would not like to go to a country to represent Nigeria when they did not know where Nigeria stood on important issues. Why do you complain? If I were a practising man and I am invited to take part in executing the policy of this Government, I would like to have a charted plan.

The intention of the mover of this Motion is to get a body together to advise the Minister or the Government through the Minister of Foreign Affairs as to what is the temper and attitude or the reaction of the country on any national or international issue. That is how we take it. It is not an attempt to control him or to help him to run the administrative set-up of the Ministry. I think that in a matter of this nature, we should try to forget our personal prestige, we should try to put the interest of the country first. We on our side are not anxious to serve on that Committee, I must repeat. If the House likes, set up one for the Government to advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

transmission. Facilities for transmitting telegrams direct from Omoku will be considered for inclusion in the 1962-68 Telecommunications Development Programme.

#### Abaja and Ngwo

**O.292. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Communications how soon will the telephone service in Abaja and Ngwo County of Udi be extended so as to connect Abaja and Ngwo County offices at "9 Mile Corner".

**Mr Nwika :** Both the Abaja and Ngwo County Offices are located at "9 Mile Corner" and this place is being considered for telephone services during the 1962-68 Telecommunications Development Programme.

#### Ivianokpodi Postal Agency

**O.294. Mr M.C.K. Obi** asked the Minister of Communications if he is aware that the assistant Postal Comptroller, Western Region, has given approval to an individual to run a postal agency in Ivianokpodi in Afenmai Division in preference to one to be run by the Ivianokpodi Community sponsored by Etsako District Council after the Community had bought a safe and met other requirements stipulated by the same Assistant Comptroller; and if he will intervene in the matter to avert a possible crisis.

**Mr Nwika :** An application to open a postal agency on behalf of the Ivianokpodi Community was received in July 1959, whereupon a questionnaire was sent to the applicant seeking information on the proposed postal agency building and on other matters. Despite a number of reminders no reply was received and no action was taken to open the agency because none could be taken in the absence of the information which was required in order to process the application.

In September 1961, an application was received from another person and since nothing had been heard from the original applicant in over two years, and because this person gave the required information, the new application was approved. The new applicant is a most suitable person to conduct a postal agency. He has satisfactory premises of his own to accommodate it.

At the time the approval was given the original applicant did not have any premises for the postal agency and it was not known

when the building he hoped to use would be ready for occupation. It was considered that it would not be in the interest of the Community to delay the opening of the postal agency any longer.

**Mr Obi :** If I tender documents which the Assistant Postal Comptroller presented to the Community concerned approving the said agency, what would be the Minister's attitude after he saw it was approved before the individual's own?

#### Uzairue Postal Agency

**O.295. Mr M. C. K. Obi** asked the Minister of Communications how soon he will convert the Uzairue postal agency into a sub-post office in view of the volume of business transacted there.

**Mr Nwika :** The units of business at Uzairue postal agency have now reached 25,177 a year which qualifies it for conversion to a sub-post office. The necessary steps to effect this have already been put in hand.

**Mr Oronsaye :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary explain to this House whether it is necessary for a rural postal agency to have as much as 25,000 units before it can be converted into a sub-post office in view of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957?

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

#### Automatic Telephone Facilities : Owerri

**O.296. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Communications when he proposes to extend automatic telephone facilities to Owerri.

**Mr Nwika :** The policy of the Ministry is to extend automatic telephone facilities to all exchanges in Nigeria ultimately. During the 1955-62 Development Programme many manual exchanges were converted to automatic working and more will be converted during the 1962-68 Programme. It is not possible at this stage to give any indication when the exchange at Owerri will be converted to an automatic exchange.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us why it is not possible to do anything now?



industry will be located at Bacita in Ilorin Province. The site selected is an area of "Fadama" swamp some ten miles downstream from Jebba on the South bank of the Niger, and is bounded on the West by the Oshun

£30,000 Federal Government.  
The Bacita project is therefore truly a national project and one whose development is a matter of concern to us all.

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**Mr Nwika :** It is not possible to indicate precisely now when Owerri will be given an automatic exchange because the 1962-68 Development Programme is still being formulated ; it is not completed yet.

#### Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957

**O.515. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications whether in view of the increasing development of trade and industry in Nigeria, he would not modify the conditions laid down in his Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 so that postal facilities can be more widely enjoyed in the country.

**Mr Nwika :** While Government is anxious to extend and improve postal facilities throughout Nigeria it is necessary to lay down certain minimum standards which must be satisfied before new services are provided, so that uneconomic projects can be avoided. The present standards will be re-examined when the Ministry's detailed plans for the new Development Programme are being framed.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue :** Is the Minister aware that, in view of the importance attached to postal services in this country, he can be given more money if only he asks for it ?

#### Ubulu-Uku

**O.516. Mr E. A. Mordi** asked the Minister of Communications when telephone services will be extended to Ubulu-Uku in Asaba Division in view of the communication needs of the many secondary schools and Government establishments there.

**Mr Nwika :** This question was asked during the November 1961 Sitting when the following reply was given :—

*"No provision was made in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, for the establishment of telephone services at Ubulu-Uku, and it is therefore not possible to provide services at present.*

*Consideration will be given to the communication requirements of this town when plans for the next Development Programme are drawn up."*

I have nothing further to add to that reply.

#### Gusau Call Box

**O.517. Mr Abubakar Tsofo Mafara** asked the Minister of Communications when the

public telephone box in Gusau will be changed so that the new coins can be used as old ones are now becoming scarce.

**Mr Nwika :** The coin-collecting mechanism at the public call office in Gusau will be changed to a type capable of accepting the new coinage before the end of this month.

#### Sokoto Town

**O.518. Mr Abubakar Tsofo Mafara** asked the Minister of Communications when he will provide an automatic telephone exchange in Sokoto town.

**Mr Nwika :** The manual exchange at present serving Sokoto has not yet reached the end of its economic life and will still provide adequate service for a number of years.

Many manual exchanges will be converted to automatic working during the 1962-68 Telecommunications Development Programme, but it is not possible at this stage to give any indication as to when the exchange at Sokoto will be converted.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye :** Is the Minister aware that most of these areas where people are asking for the extension of telephone facilities, are far removed and very small ?

#### Talata Mafara Postal Agency

**O.519. Mr Abubakar Tsofo Mafara** asked the Minister of Communications when he will consider changing Talata Mafara postal agency to a post office providing an all-day trunk call service in view of its commercial importance.

**Mr Nwika :** Unfortunately, the commercial importance of Talata Mafara is not yet reflected in the postal business transacted in the postal agency there. From the figures available, there has been in fact a decline in business in 1961, as the following figures will show :—

1959—6,285 units

1960—7,161 units

1961—5,942 units

As the units of work are still far below the minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, the Agency is not yet due for upgrading to a sub-post office. The hours of service in the rural call office conform with the hours of work in the postal agency, which are 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. There is no justification at present for altering these hours.

## [MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

In order that activities at Bacita may proceed while the permanent capital is being raised, the Government also agreed to provide a guarantee of up to £250,000 to enable the company to obtain overdraft facilities from a commercial bank. Since this guarantee was given, steps have been taken to invite applications from the principal sponsors, and this purely temporary guarantee will lapse as soon as the shares are allotted.

In reaching these decisions, my Cabinet colleagues and I were, of course, motivated by the national importance of the project, and by the need to get it into operation as quickly as possible. We were also influenced by the realisation that, had the Federal Government appeared reluctant to give such assistance, it might have cast doubts on the attitude of the Government to this project, and therefore prejudiced the chances of success of the whole financial operation.

The original feasibility report envisaged that sugar production would start before the end of 1963. To achieve this target production date, it was necessary that a major part of the three civil engineering contracts at Bacita should be completed by the end of the present dry season, and that the prospectus, which is a legal requirement to enable the company to invite offers of capital from the public, should be published by the end of March this year. Unfortunately, it has proved impossible to *adhere* to this programme. Owing to an unfortunate delay outside the control of the company, the contractors claimed that the time available to them to tender competitively and to execute the work was inadequate. In the event, only one contractor tendered, and that at exorbitant rates. The company has had no option, therefore, but to go out to tender again, thereby accepting the inevitable delay of one crop year.

Apart from these difficulties on the ground, the issue of the prospectus has also been delayed though in the interim certain important concessions, such as the issue of a pioneer certificate, have been secured. Of the matters still outstanding, the most important is the provision of fall-back finance, or additional financial cover which the company would only need should an unpredictable disaster such as

unprecedented floods, fire or agricultural disease prevent it from getting into production, or force it temporarily to cease production in the early years before it had accumulated sufficient reserves to carry it through such a crisis. The company's legal and financial advisers now recommend 31st July, 1962, as a more realistic date for the issue of the prospectus.

In the circumstances, the Board of Directors has decided that the production date must be postponed by one year to November 1964. Although the postponement is likely to entail some increase in the capital cost of the project, owing to the necessity to finance an extra year's overhead expenditure at Bacita, it may well prove possible to offset these expenses by economies in the civil engineering costs. The easier time-table will enable the major constructional contract to be put out to competitive tender, and should not only permit lower contract quotations, but will give the company an opportunity to carry out a larger share of the work itself by direct labour.

I realise how disappointing the postponement of production date is to us all, but the Bacita project must not, under any circumstance, be allowed to start on a wrong foot. We desire and deserve a sugar mill of which the nation can justly be proud. We must therefore accept the inevitable delay as an insurance for a first class mill, right from the word Go.

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa (Minjibir):** I would like to add one thing to what the Minister has either declined to say or has left out. The Investment Company of Nigeria, of which I am a nominal Director, is much concerned with this Bacita project and has done commendable work in getting the money, although it has been most difficult. On the London market, money is certainly very difficult to obtain and they will not put their money in any projects that will not bring immediate profit. The members of this Board of Directors are really shrewd and mature businessmen but they found it very difficult unless they came to the Government to guarantee this project.

But this is something that concerns the whole nation and as the public is not aware of what is happening and there is not much more money available in this country, I think the Government needs a provision to do something like I.C.O.N. Perhaps I should not say this, but

I.C.O.N. has done very useful work in getting the money to finance this project. But the Government must be prepared to tell the people of this country what it does as the economy of this country is in the hands of a few people who are here to suppress and to make things difficult for everybody concerned. The Banks are well-known in the whole of this country. They will never do anything to help this country, no matter what you are, no matter how stable are the motives. They always try to strangle you and strangle you and kill you.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : As the Minister responsible for banking, I would ask my hon. Friend to please be lenient to the Banks because they are not here to defend themselves. (*Interruption*)

**Mr Speaker** : Order.

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** : We are twins, the hon. Minister and myself. I will certainly obey his instructions. What I am asking Government to do is to do something similar to this Investment Company of Nigeria and the Government ought to do banking, commercial banking, for its own people. We who are in the produce business, who buy the produce of the country, know the difficulties everybody is getting from the Banks. I am not here to tell the Minister of Finance but he may not be aware of what the Banks are doing. The Minister is my friend. I will certainly be lenient and not proceed with the criticisms of the Banks when they are not here to defend themselves, but all we want is the Government to come to the rescue of the public and the people who are in business and in normal life. Even the civil servants are going to the Banks for overdrafts. Everybody knows that. People are living on credit. We must do something for the country. We must try to save our reputation. In this respect, I would only ask that this House record its approbation of the activities of the Investment Company of Nigeria for financing this project.

#### Personal Explanation

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** (Katagum West) : I rise on a very important issue, which not only affects myself as an individual Member, but also affects the whole House and our basic Parliamentary traditions. This matter is even more serious, considering that it comes

from no less a personality than a Minister of State.

Hon. Members may recall my speech on the 9th April in which I exercised my right and performed my duties as an elected Member of this House by calling on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to account for the way and manner public funds entrusted to his care were disposed of. I made it clear that I wanted to know how the two black *Cadillac* cars in the Ministry were bought.

The speech which I made on that day was without malice. My sole motive was to know how he expended public funds in connection with these two cars ; and I think I had every right to ask him for an explanation. The Minister had his opportunity to reply on the 14th April when he spoke on the vote for his Ministry but, as can be seen from *Hansard*, he made no reference to what I had said on the 9th April.

Hon. Members will be alarmed to hear that the Minister has, however, written to me an undated letter in the following terms. I quote :

*"Hon. Muhammadu Sagir,*

*I wish to call your attention to the statements you made about me in Parliament on Monday 9th April, 1962, during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. For reasons best known to you, due to no provocation from me and indeed in my absence, you launched a series of personal attacks on me.*

*2. You made a series of allegations which are untrue and absolutely false and for no justification whatsoever. In particular, you are reported as having said, 'Before I take my seat, I wanted to ask a question. I wanted to know which of the two black Cadillac cars belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Is it LG 222 or the other one? We know how these cars are bought, and therefore I call upon the Prime Minister to use his strong hand to put things right, if necessary by a reshufflement of the Cabinet.*

*3. Several Honourable Members and many others who heard this your statement have interpreted them to mean that I have used public funds to buy cars for my own use.*

*4. Indeed on Saturday April 14th, 1962, the "Daily Express" quoting you has presented me in the same light to the general public of Nigeria.*

[M. MUHAMMADU SAGIR UMAR]

5. *You know the damage you have done to my name and reputation, and you know I have not misused my position, authority or appropriated public funds to my own use.*

6. *You also know how such unfounded insinuation could be very damaging to an Honourable Member like myself, a Minister of State and a professional man of 17 years standing. While I have no objection whatsoever to any criticisms about my work as a Minister by any Honourable Member, I resent any attempt by you or any other Honourable Member to drag my good name in the mud. Therefore, the least I shall expect from you as Honourable Gentleman, is to apologize to me, for having attempted to do so much damage to my name and character, without any justification whatsoever."*

That is the end of the letter written by a Minister who claims to be a professional man of 17 years standing. I wonder what he would write if he were a layman! I regard this letter, Mr Speaker, as a great threat to my freedom of speech, and as an insult to me. The Minister has a right to defend himself on the Floor of this House and I think it is the wish of hon. Members that no Member of this House will at a future date resort, in similar circumstances, to the course of action which the Minister has taken in this case.

Perhaps the Prime Minister will consider making a statement to clarify the situation before Parliament rises.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

##### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

10.42 a.m.

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

"That at this day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m."

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (M. Maitama Sule): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That at this day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing

Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

##### APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY): CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*Whole House in Committee.*

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

##### HEAD 621—PRIMARY PRODUCTION

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Six Hundred and Seven Thousand and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 621—Primary Production, be approved.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South): I would like to refer to sub-head 261 of this Head and the latter part of that Head. It was said that a sum of money has been set aside and I would like to say that in the Economic Development Programme, we have set aside only £169,000 for survey of mineral resources. This, in my opinion, is not sufficient to explore mineral resources. It is important to exploit the mineral resources when they are discovered. I would like to say that it is very disappointing that after the discovery of large deposits of lead-zinc in certain parts of Nigeria, these deposits have not been exploited and I quite remember what the Minister of Mines and Power said in 1956. In that year, the Minister promised that the Federal Government would invest a sum of £350,000 for the exploitation of these mineral deposits, but to my greatest surprise nothing has been done since 1957 when the Minister promised us. Then we voted a sum of £135,000 for further exploration of mineral resources but nothing has been done about the one that has been discovered in commercial quantities and which experts have confirmed will pay and no amount of money has been set aside in the Development Project for the exploitation of these mineral resources.

I would also like to refer to what the Minister of Mines and Power said in 1960 in connection with these deposits; that was in the 1960 Budget. He said: "Last but not the least, I am able to say that the finance of the Abakaliki Lead-Zinc Mines has now reached its

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final stage ; approximately £500,000 is being required to place the Mines on a productive basis. To this end, the authorised capital of the Nigerian Lead-Zinc Mining Company, Limited, has been increased to £600,000. An issue of 300,000 in Nigeria will shortly be offered in Nigeria for subscription by Nigerians in accordance with the Ordinance. The balance of funds is being obtained by way of loans and credit from European sources.

In 1960, the Minister of Mines and Power spoke of this exploitation of the mineral resources ; why is it, in the present Economic Programme, 1962-68, there is no provision whatsoever for the exploitation of these mineral resources ? What is the need of our voting every year further sums of money for survey of mineral resources when nothing has been done about the one we have discovered and which experts say will pay in commercial quantities ?

Therefore, I am appealing to the Federal Government and the Minister of Economic Development to think very seriously about this, so that between now and 1968 there will be substantial amount of money set aside to exploit these mineral deposits—that is the lead-zinc at Abakaliki. We are thinking of ammunition factories and I know very well that the lead would be a very good material for producing bullets for our ammunition. So, it is very, very important that this matter should be carefully examined and something done to exploit the lead-zinc deposits at Abakaliki.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : This Head, if I may venture to say, is the most important of all the Heads that we are going to deal with to-day because primary production form the back-bone of the economy of this country and if the development programme is going to be a success, it depends on this Head. That is why I want to be a bit critical about some of the sub-heads of this Head.

I would formally move that the Head be reduced by £100. My reasons are quite many but, for the sake of brevity, I would only point out a few. In sub-head 261, a total of £4 million will be loaned to the Regional Governments. The purpose for which the money will be spent is not stated here and I

sincerely hope that the Minister in charge of this Head will see to it that unless this loan is to be given for a paying concern, it should not be given.

What we are after is the development of the country and if we spend £10 and get £4 in return, that is not economy at all. This money should not be paid from the tax-payers' pockets but it should be paid from the proceeds of the investments.

Sir, another is sub-head 263. I am not sure if I know what special or economic research the institute conducts for £50,000. I am not sure. These researches are going to be very useful I hope, but, in the interest of the tax-payers, it will be very, very useful if we have a sort of insight into the types of researches, what experts are going to conduct them and who the advisers are going to be, and so on and so forth. This point, is just being given in order to avoid social waste.

Another item here is Moor Plantation. I have seen that quite a huge sum of money is going to be spent on the Moor Plantation. I have been hearing of Moor Plantation ever since I was a child but up till the present moment, I have not heard of any self-paying experiment that has been produced by this Plantation. I remember in the past when we were in school, especially when we were in the primary school, agricultural officers who are supposed to have been trained in this Moor Plantation usually came to our school.

**The Chairman** : I think you moved to reduce the Head. Is it sub-head 261 or which ?

**Mr Oronsaye** : I am dealing with Head 621, Sir. I am dealing with the whole Head and everything under it, so I am free to wade up and down the place.

Now, Sir, Moor Plantation, as I was saying, usually sent out agricultural officers who were said to have been trained there and who were supposed to know much about agriculture. But these officers when they visited schools told the teachers in the schools that there was no necessity for the school garden or the school farm to be a paying thing and that what they should do was to encourage the children in agriculture. I do not think that that is a good thing to do. It is my belief, Sir, that unless right from school the children know that

[MR ORO NSAYE ]

agriculture is going to pay the whole of the experiments being performed in Moor Plantation is a huge waste.

Furthermore, Sir, there is no evidence, at least known to me, that Moor Plantation has developed any useful mechanised farming. Charity must begin at home. If the Government spends any sum of money on the place, then there should be a model farm which must show an account; the farm must show an account. It is not just enough having a farm with quite heavy over-head expenses. There is somebody who may be called the Farm Superintendent receiving a salary of £3,000 *per annum*; there may be somebody else who may be called the Supervisor and who may be paid £150 a month, but at the end of the year the farm may show, perhaps, an expenditure of nearly £10,000 and the proceeds from sales or say the amount realised from sales may be only £56. This type of thing is what happens in all these places which we have here under primary production.

On the Floor of this House, the Minister of Economic Development has himself said that agriculture is going to be the back-bone of this country's economy. Right from the beginning everyone knows that if this country is to be self-sufficient, agriculture must be very greatly encouraged. That is why I am very, very critical about all this expenditure on Moor Plantation. It will be necessary, for the Minister to visit that plantation himself and tell them to show him the accounts books of the different farms and let him see that all these farms—everyone of them—are running at a huge loss.

This is no encouragement to the people of this country and that is why, up till now, the type of farming that is being carried on in the country continues to be on the shifting cultivation basis. We all know what harm this shifting cultivation does to the soil and what harm it does to the forest. The harm it does to the forest is so much that the Government has to go into the trouble of having what are called forest reserves.

Even the forest reserves are being encroached upon by the villagers one way or the other because they shift from one place to the other, and in every village shifting cultivation has

destroyed every known forest in the place. So there is at the moment, except the reserves, no primary forest in the country.

Sir, the expenditure on this Head is quite a large amount of money and I would be very happy to support it if we would only have the assurance that the money will be spent wisely on things that will pay.

Just one point more, Sir. I see that we have here something about fisheries. It is a pity that while expenditures for Fisheries, Inland Waterways and so on were being passed under the current Estimates I did not have the opportunity of saying something, but it seems to me that the arrangement for fisheries in this country requires to be looked into seriously. For instance, when one looks at the Estimates, one finds that things like advances and allowances for cars, bicycles and so on are being given to people who are supposed to be living at the waterside. Do they ride their bicycles and drive their cars on top of the water? I can understand giving advances for things like canoes and so on, but certainly not for cars or bicycles.

In any case, in all these monies that are being voted for fisheries and all the other things which make up for primary production, I am having only one feeling and this feeling is that each item here must pay. If any of the items here does not pay its way whoever is in charge must know that he is helping people to waste public funds.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Six Hundred and Seven Thousand, and Eighty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 621—Primary Production, be approved.

#### HEAD 622—TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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

“That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, One Hundred and Sixty Thousand, and Ten Pounds for the

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purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Hon. Ibrahim Waziri) : I beg to second.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu North East) : On a point of order, there are so many millions and millions of pounds throughout the Paper. The Minister of Finance must assure us that it is the right thing that we are doing.

**The Minister of Finance** : I assure my hon. Friend that we are doing the right thing.

**M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar** (Katagum West) : Under this Head, I want to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to consider setting up a textile industry in Gombe. This town is becoming more and more an industrial centre and this area produces cotton more than any other area in Northern Nigeria. All the conditions for setting up such an industry will be found there. First of all, the cotton is plentiful and of good quality, and it will be enough for any textile industry, however big it may be. Secondly, there is easy transport—both road and rail transport. Thirdly, there is enough electrical power ; and fourthly, there is cheap labour. Therefore, I hope that the Minister will do all he can to set up this kind of industry in that area.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central) : Under subsection 261, a sum of £10,000 is proposed to be given to the Nigerian Coal Corporation as grants for research into new industries to use the Nigerian coal. In this particular section there is a grave concern both on my own part and on the part of other Members who realise the fate of miners of the Coal Corporation who have been laid off. This sum is so little that I am getting afraid of what the Government has in mind. I do remember that a little time ago the Government appointed—

**The Minister of Finance** : Point of order. I think that my hon. Friend is not speaking to the Motion. He is speaking about coal, which refers to the Motion previously approved.

**The Chairman** : I am sure he is not speaking on the Amendment that he proposes to move, and which he has not yet moved. So far, I have been listening whether he will be out of order.

**Mr Chikelu** : I was saying that the Federal Government appointed the Kaine Commission into the mines at Enugu, with a view to finding alternative industries for the miners who were laid off, but so far the recommendations of the Commission have not been implemented. I know a few of them, like the glass industry which, for certain political considerations, has been taken away from Enugu. I do not know if I should accuse the Federal Government and the Regional Government of conspiracy. The materials recommended by the Commission for setting up new industries are there—there is water (water falls), good land, cheap labour, good site, big areas of land, and other things that may be required. If the Government does not think of the welfare of those people who have served it, I can only bring to the Government's attention the picture of a servant of King Louis of France who, after serving the King, was thrown out and he went away saying, "If I had served my God half as much as I have served thee, Oh King, He would not have given me over in my grey hairs".

I would like the Minister of Mines and Power, who is directly in charge of the mines at Enugu, to do something about the miners who served the Government for so many years but who are now languishing in desperate conditions. Most of them have children in secondary schools ; most of them have children in primary schools ; most of them served for so long that they have lost the art of cultivating the land with the hoe ; they have no other thing to do. They are waiting for the Government to come to their rescue, and I think that the Government should do something. If something is done, we shall all be happy. If nothing is done, we shall continue to cry out until the Government does something. It is necessary that something must be done. But whether the Government will do something or not, I do not know.

11.05 a.m.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Hon. Maitama Sule) : I would like to say that as far back as last year, I made a statement to this honourable House on the condition of the coal mines. I also told the House how much concerned we were, and still are, about the retrenched miners. It is for this reason that we are asking the Government this year to

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make available this amount of money. As you know, coal is in a very deplorable condition and crisis is facing coal not only in Nigeria but also in other parts of the world where coal is mined. What we have to do is to try to find other uses for coal. In this respect, we have succeeded in carrying out examinations to the Nigerian coal to find out whether it can coke or not, and we have succeeded in that. We are also looking for market for our Nigerian coal. We are hoping that other countries will come forward to ask Nigeria to supply them with coal.

Now, there is also another aspect of it. As far back as last year, we said that we would try to encourage people to set up industries in the Region in order that the retrenched miners might be absorbed. A refinery is going to be set up somewhere in the Eastern Region and some of them will certainly be employed. Other things are springing up there.

**An hon. Member :** Iron and steel industry ?

**The Minister of Mines and Power :**

Well, I am not going to commit myself about iron and steel industry.

Investigations are now being carried out and it is not for me to say now where the industry is going to be sited. But I can assure the hon. Member that we are as much concerned as he is about the plight of the miners, and we are doing everything possible. It is for this reason, therefore, that this amount of money has been made available in order to relieve some of the difficulties that the miners have been suffering in that area.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** In saying a word or two on this Head, I would like to say that if we are to promote the economy of this country, much depends on the efforts that the Minister of Mines and Power and the Minister of Commerce and Industry can make to bring about the realisation of our dreams as shown in our Six-Year Economic Development Plan.

I would like to say that the Government should do something very quickly to make sure that work really starts on the iron and steel industry, which is expected to be opened soon at either Onitsha or Lokoja. It does not matter where the industry is established ; what matters is of what use it will be to the country.

As was said a while ago by the Minister of Mines and Power, it would give jobs to those people who have already been thrown out of their jobs as a result of the fall in the value of coal.

Also, I think that this industry will go a long way in helping the country to have things made in Nigeria. For example, I would like to say something in relation to cars and bicycles. Now, we have no cars manufactured in this country, and no bicycles. I think that when this iron and steel industry is established, we should be able to have our own cars manufactured here. It would be easy for the Federal Government to pay any car manufacturing company abroad to come to this country, transfer its own factories, so that we could have as many cars as we like ; we could have our own national car—a Nigerian car—whether it is a Mercedes or a Vauxhall. That is the practice in other places like India. Nigerians could study any aspect of that factory so that in four or five years it would be possible for us to manufacture cars or bicycles here.

There is the question of car manufacturing companies who change models of cars each year. This change makes it difficult to obtain spare parts, and for people to be able to keep their cars for a period of about five or six years. One finds always that the car users have difficulty in getting parts to maintain their cars. If we could have our own national cars, and if it would be possible to manufacture them in this country, it would be easy to have the mass production of spare parts, and for people to get them at low prices, thus enabling car-owners to keep their cars, even for a period of about ten years, and this would be very economical.

I would also like to say that the question of this trade is something that we have got to consider very seriously. I feel that it would be in the best interests of the country if we could break trade relations with France, because of recent, some people—

**Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu-Central) :** Point of order. The hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*), in referring to trade relations with France, does not seem to know the item being discussed.



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**The Chairman :** I am sorry, you are not a Frenchman.

**Mr Obi :** In one of the papers recently I read that France is threatening again to carry out another atomic test in the Sahara. If France continues to persist in this type of attitude, I think it would be in the best interests of this country to cut our trade relations with her.

Also, I feel that there is no point in our going into investigations as to how best we can come into better trade relations with Japan. Since we have discovered that our trade with Japan is a loss to the country, the best thing for us is to negotiate arrangements with other countries instead of finding out things about Japan.

Reference is made to the Nigerian Trade Fair, which comes up in October this year. It is a very nice idea and I think that Nigeria being at present an agricultural country, things like the products which our farmers produce should be exhibited there. Such things as rubber, yams, *gari*, *et cetera*, should be on show, so that when the fair is on there might be ways in which the country could be helped by those countries who are coming to the Fair to have an idea of what we have in this country, and what the natural resources of Nigeria are. It might be possible to get people who are interested in our rubber, in our cocoa, and even in our yams; they may help us by way of preserving some of our farm products. Arrangements should be made whereby it would be possible to award prizes to farmers—whom I would call the “Farmers of the Year”—who have very good farm products for the exhibition.

These are the few points I would like to raise under this Head.

I beg to support.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) :** I have only a few observations to make here. The first one is on the Federal Loans Board, which has for this year £100,000. I shall be very critical about this Loans Board. It is called the Federal Loans Board, but I do not think that its activities do, in fact reflect its federal nature. I think that they are, more or less, very particular about Lagos, and

leave the other Regions out. In that sphere, I am suggesting that it should be called the “Lagos Loans Board” instead of the “Federal Loans Board” because some of our farmers and industrialists all over the entire country get nothing from this Loans Board. If such is the case, it should either be scrapped or the name should be changed, or something should be done to ensure that some of these loans are made available to people who apply from the Regions.

The second point is about the Nigerian Mint and Security Printing Works. We congratulate our Government on its foresight, and I am of the opinion that efforts should be made to see that our pound, when produced, should not be devalued as is the case now—when our pound is taken to the U.S., something like 13s is obtained for it, and thus our students in that country suffer so much when they take our pound with them and, on arrival, find that it has been devalued. Efforts should be made to see that our money, when minted, will have the same value everywhere in the world.

With this, I beg to support.

**L. Albaji Daura (Maska) :** I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. In doing so, I should like to point out with emphasis the pressing need for the establishment of a textile factory somewhere in Katsina. Katsina is very well known for her cotton growing, and it was the first place in the North where cotton growing was practised. To support this—

**An hon. Member :** I think it was Zaria.

**Alhaji Daura :** No, it was Katsina. Even, there has been established in Katsina a settlement of the Cotton Growing Association, which I believe is being financed by this Government. There is not at the moment a single industry established in Katsina. It is a pity that Katsina, being very well-known for the large quantities of cotton that she grows, should be left without any industry in connection with cotton.

**An hon. Member :** It has a ginnery.

**Alhaji Daura :** The ginnery was established I think more than 40 years ago, so it may be that this Government does not know anything

[ALHAJI DAURA]  
about it. Another important thing is that the Federal Government should make available funds to the local people so that they can establish cotton industries.

**The Chairman :** The Minister of Economic Development has just said that the Government should supply Gombe first. The point is that Katsina too is to be considered.

**The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) :** For the information of the hon. Member, I think Gombe area does really produce more cotton than the Katsina area, and for this reason, first priority will be given to the Gombe area when we come to the question of establishing cotton industry.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I protest on behalf of my Colleague, the Minister of Lagos Affairs !

**Alhaji Daura :** When such is the case, I hope that the next place to be considered after Gombe will be Katsina.

Another point is that Katsina is a great producer of groundnut and it is a pity also that no industry in connection with groundnut has been established anywhere in Katsina.

Finally, I see that an amount of money has been earmarked for minting our currency in this country. I would give a warning to the Government to take every precaution to see that the new coins or the notes made are beyond counterfeiting. I hope also that when this is done here, some of the coins that we now have can be improved. The three-penny piece should be made of the same colour as the shilling and should not be made of corners just like an ear-ring. The six-penny piece also should be made a bit bigger; it should be bigger than the three-penny piece so that it occupies a position in size just between the shilling and the three-penny piece.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) :** I would like to support the appropriation of five million, one hundred and sixty thousand and ten pounds for the development work of this country. In doing so, I cannot help saying that I am not very happy that I do not find anything in respect of my constituency. I would like to ask the Minister of Commerce and

Industry on whose shoulder rests this responsibility to ensure that something is provided for my constituency in the future. We all know very well that he is a very hard working man.

I would like to refer particularly to the Federal Loans Board. Although the Minister is a very energetic person still he is a human being and may not know what is going on in that Board at times. I am here this morning to remind him to be more vigilant. The Minister is preaching one Nigeria and the members of that Board must try to attain his preaching of one Nigeria by giving loans out without discrimination. They should not discriminate against any applicant because he belongs to the Action Group, or because he belongs to N.C.N.C. or because he belongs to the N.P.C. Instances prove that some time ago a thing like that actually happened. The Minister, if he so desires, may, when he gets back to his Ministry, check this up and I can give him all the information leading to that. I do not think that that is the spirit for which this money has been provided. The Minister should ensure that nobody brings politics into the Federal Loans Board.

Secondly, coming to this question of mint, I think that, as an act of appreciation, when our monies are going to be minted, it will be advisable that they are embossed with the photograph of the Prime Minister. The currency should also carry the portrait of—

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** I think it should bear the inscription of the Head of State.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) :** Point of information. I have just returned from Paris and the head embossed on their coin is not that of the Head of State at all, so there is no precedent about this sort of thing. It is a question of convention.

**Chief Okunowo :** Coming to the question of iron and steel, the attitude of the Government in this case is highly commendable. Only this morning I had some industrialists coming from Europe, but due to the fact that we have not got an iron and steel factory in this country, they were unable to do anything.

I would like to advise the Minister of Commerce and Industry that he should not confine himself to Lagos. He must make extensive

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tour of the whole country because from whom much is given shall much be demanded. The Government has entrusted him with so many millions of pounds. We hope that he will be able to spend them judiciously, but he should not confine his activities only to Lagos. He is the *Federal* Minister of Commerce and Industry. I would even have liked to see that he is given more money to enable him to tour the country extensively.

**An hon. Member :** To Paris !

**Chief Okunowo :** Well, as for Paris, I do not want to join my colleague who was making the reference. I think that the greatest friends of Nigeria are the French.

**An hon. Member :** Our greatest enemy.

**Chief Okunowo :** The question of atomic bomb is a thing that has been done by mistake, and I think that people should try to forget about it.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** Point of order. I believe the hon. Gentleman has been influenced by France because he speaks of France every time in this Parliament.

**Several hon. Members :** He is a director of a French firm.

**The Chairman :** I have already told you that I am sure he is not a French man !

**Chief Okunowo :** Coming to the question of industrial research, I do not think that much can ever be done about this. I would like the Minister to ensure that he proceeds vigorously with the research into our products so that we know exactly where we are.

As I said a few days ago, I would like the Minister to think about the production of *gari* because it is food that we commonly eat in this country. Anything that is done along that direction will be very welcome. Therefore, I would like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see that the development of *gari* is proceeded with immediately. In the East, in the West, in the North—there is not a Region in Nigeria that does not live on *gari*. I am appealing seriously to the Minister so that when we come here next year, he should be able to submit to this House something concrete about the production of *gari*.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

11.30 a.m.

**Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) :** The only thing that I want to say under this Head is to remind the Minister of Commerce and Industry that while we appreciate the move to expand industrial projects in this country, we are actually alarmed at the rate of the influx of foreign concerns. I think that it will be a very sad thing if at the end of the Development Programme we find that expatriate interests have got such a grip on our economy as will not make conditions better for our sons.

I actually do not want to mince words at all whenever I speak in this House on matters concerning commerce and industry. I would say that we shall not have made any progress for ourselves if we should continue to leave the major commercial undertaking in the hands of expatriates.

I am not against Europeans or expatriates who come here to trade but I want to say that if they hold the major part of our commercial activities, they will also hold the major part of the funds available in our country and we shall continue to be under them in our own country because it does not need any stretch of the imagination to realise that he who controls the finances controls the people. Also the men who provide the jobs and pay the people, and the men who control the major part of the trade are the people who actually control the country. Men are known more by their purse strings than by political power. I want to say that during the next six years we are going to spend millions of pounds and this is going to mean the importation of so many millions of pounds worth of goods and that means that more and more companies will be coming into this country.

I do not mind about those who come in to manufacture some of the things we used to import from abroad because they help us with our balance of payment position. Those I do not like are those who come here and do nothing but sign indents to import goods from their own countries, do the calculation of costs in their own way and put so many *per cent* profit. By merely exchanging and making the distribution they are getting heavy sums of money from our people. They import motor vehicles and add as much as 100 *per cent* to the cost of these motor vehicles

[MR UKEGBU]

from the factory. With this monopoly, they are able to add as I said about 100 per cent of the cost, sell it to our people and get their money in an easy way. The shameful thing about it is that most of these firms make no actual capital investment at all because they import these goods on four months overdraft and by the time they are called upon to pay they should have actually sold these goods and taken the money from our people. They keep this money in their pockets and later export it out of the country.

The point I am trying to make is that as the Minister of Commerce and Industry, as I said the other day is a very stern man when he realises that something is in the interest of his country, if it is possible at all for him to make use of import licences and import quotas to ensure that more and more Nigerians are given the opportunity of importing these things from overseas and selling them to our people he should do it because if a Nigerian has the money, the money remains here. I do not mind whether it is a man or a woman, or whether the person comes from the West, the East or from the North. The Minister of Commerce and Industry should see to it that the distributive trade in this country is in the hands of our people and the money is in their hands. But if the result of this Development Plan is going to be that John Holt is going to import so many million tons of iron to make so many millions of pounds and U.A.C. is going to do the same and sell to our people and take away all the money then we have not helped ourselves.

There was a man in history known as Cato, Cato was a Roman, and Rome and Carthage were rivals—

**The Chairman :** This philosophy should not come in under this Head.

**Mr Ukegbu :** I just want to say that every time Cato made a speech in the Senate he ended by saying *Carthago est delenda* which means "Carthage must be destroyed".

Anytime I have the opportunity of making a speech in this House concerning the trade of this country, I shall end by saying that the distributive trade in Nigeria should be taken from the hands of expatriates and concentrated in the hands of Nigerians.

**Mr W. Briggs (Degema) :** I wish to associate myself with what has been said by previous speakers in connection with the Federal Loans Board. I feel that if the Federal Loans Board is to earn its name properly, it should also have a federal character. Federal both in its representation and in its operation. The representatives must come from all parts of Nigeria and not concentrated either in Lagos or in any one Region.

I heard an hon. Member say sometime ago that it should be called the Lagos Loans Board. I agree with him completely with the representation as it is to-day. In the Regions, loans are granted according to political consideration and it will be a sad day, it will be unfortunate, if those people who have very good schemes, very good ideas are prevented by political considerations from pursuing whatever trade or industry which eventually probably would be beneficial to the country. There are very enterprising people in the Regions but they cannot get loans in their respective Regions because they happen to belong to a particular political party which is not favourable to the Regional Government. So, I am suggesting for the consideration of the Minister that the representation should have a Nigerian outlook so that the loans also will be equitably distributed among all sections of Nigeria, all the Regions all over the country.

I now come to minting and security printing works. A lot has been said about this and it would be superfluous for me to say much more. One thing I want to remind this honourable House about is that sometime ago, I think during his Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance promised us that the West African Currency notes would be withdrawn as from July or so and the coins later on. I would like the Minister to specify, a long time in advance, when particularly these coins would be out of circulation or would be useless; because it would be unfortunate if the ordinary market woman has to go to the market one morning to find that the few shillings she has in her pocket are of no use any more. I think real country-wide publicity should be given to this fact well in advance, so that everybody will know that the store of value which he is holding in his hand is actually worthless.

I beg to support.

**M. Abdu Kirim** (Muri East): When I delivered my speech in this House, you simply took me as a Member from the Sardauna Province. Actually, I am not; I am from Adamawa Province. When I mention boundary, it does not mean that only the Sardauna Province has a boundary with the Cameroun Republic. Adamawa Province has the same.

Under the Head of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, I would say that Geological Service staff used to visit my Division. It is now about ten years that they have been visiting my Division. They made a survey of various districts in Jalingo Muri in Adamawa Province, such as Manang in Kwajji District, Zina, Pantisawa, Old Muri, Dakka and Wurkum Districts—all in Jalingo Muri Division. But we have not seen any report of their surveys.

I think the Minister is aware that members of this Geological Service are always visiting this Division, but the people are very worried and are also anxious because they have not got any report of these surveys. In that Division, there are big hills which everybody in the area thinks should contain mineral products. I should like the Minister to pay attention to that Division.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I merely wish to make a few points on this Head.

First of all, we would like a categorical statement on the reasons for the delay in the final selection of the place for the projected iron and steel industry. Is it a fact that political considerations and expert technical advice on the question of choice are at cross purposes, and if so, we know which way the mind of the Minister is working.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry made categorical statements on the Floor of this House sometime last year, expressing his regrets for some of the shortcomings of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. Assuming that the Minister will continue to be in a better position to influence the activities of the Produce Marketing Company, I think one of the current problems could be solved through some judicious use of the resources of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. In that particular regard, I would refer to the question of importation of goods. Already, the indigenous importers of manufactured goods from overseas are in great difficulties with regard to the buying arrangements.

The expatriate importers have large organisations of their own, handling so much more volume of business, as a result of which the cost per unit of goods imported by them is very very small as against the Nigerian importers who, each time they place orders for goods, have got to pay 5 *per cent* commission to the agencies through whom they buy overseas. As against that, an expatriate large buying concern would have its own buying agency catering for a very large quantity of goods and dealing in millions, with the result that they are in a better position to have some rebates of their buying commission; and in any event, they would be responsible for their costings.

I think it will help the economy of this country a great deal if a buying agency is established by the Federal Government, financed from the resources of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. Instead of buying tied up otherwise, the Produce Marketing Company could sort of have sub-organisations of its own, handling imports just as it is handling exports. The working of it could be this: Nigerians who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity could place their indents through that organisation and that organisation would be in a better position to negotiate for favourable conditions, and they would also be in a better position to give more favourable rebates to Nigerian importers. I think that would be a very profitable way of encouraging indigenous Nigerians who engage in the importation and the distribution of manufactured goods.

On the issue of Development Bank, the Government White Paper said expressly that the Development Bank in other countries is a matter not for the Government but for the private sector. I think that it is very possible to raise some capital for this from private sources. It has been observed that this year, produce prices in the Regions have been reduced beyond what one may consider to be determined by current market conditions. I suggest that some money could be raised for this purpose from the licensed buying agents or the various marketing boards—I think they could be persuaded to do that. My suggestion is this: assuming that the suggestion of the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget is adopted, that is, that produce prices are

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fixed in consultation between the Central Bank, the Development Bank and the various marketing boards, instead of deflating the price of, say, a ton of palm oil from £57 to £55 or £54, you could still sell them at the usual price, but deduct some money, £1,000 or so before payment to the licensed buying agents.

The amount deducted could be channelled to the financing of this Development Bank, and the money deducted could be set against the compulsory subscription towards the financing of the Development Bank, or to the Licensed Buying Agents. In exchange for money deducted appropriate share certificates may be issued. I think if that idea is explored it may be discovered that if we can operate a system like that we would raise about three quarters of a million pounds or a million pounds in one year, and over a period of four years we would be able to raise a sum of four million pounds from the Licensed Buying Agents without detriment to the producers and at no cost to the Federal Government.

I think if we adopt that it will certainly be a great help. I am quite prepared to discuss the ideas with the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he is interested. I have further to say that what we experienced this year in the Regions with regard to our export produce should not be allowed to continue. We find that in some cases the prices gazetted for export produce are at variance between one Region and the other, and the result is that there is a sort of shifting of produce unnecessarily from one section to the other causing a lot of headache.

I know that in the Eastern Region to-day a lot of produce is having to go across the border. In many cases, it is because producers do not feel that they are going to get what it cost them to prepare their produce, producers are leaving their palm nuts to rotten away on top of trees. I do not think that it is a situation which we need to encourage, so I think that matter should be very well looked into.

I welcome the question of Nigerian Mint and security Printing Works, knowing the resourcefulness of our people I would not be surprised if proper care is not taken, if an apprentice or a journeyman working in this Press after about one or two years decides

to establish his own press. This would be terribly chaotic. I suggest that very stringent and serious punitive measures should be provided for against people who would abuse their special knowledge or opportunity in our Nigerian Mint and Security Printing Works.

Finally, on the question of oil refinery, it is gratifying to note that Nigeria would participate to a very large extent in the proposed oil refinery, but I would hasten to suggest that we should also start thinking in terms of forming a Nigerian Oil Distributing Company. So far all the oil distribution in this country is done by expatriates. I think we have an increasing number of Nigerians being trained in this special field, and I think it would be a very serious omission if we do not think also in terms of setting up an indigenous oil marketing company to take part in that aspect of the trade.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry**

(Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Before I say anything I should be grateful if the following clerical error would be rectified. My Ministry is Commerce and Industry and not Trade and Industry.

I am grateful for the observations made by hon. Members. If hon. Members could remember my Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Economic Development did talk about helping our own indigenous people to be on their own. This is a policy which we intend to carry out very vigorously, and I shall try and see to it that wherever possible in industries which can be financed and run by our own people our people should be given all encouragement to do the work. From small sources they can gradually graduate.

Mention has been made about the siting of the Iron and Steel Industry. May I assure you that there is no question of politics in this matter. The only politics involved is to make Nigeria independent in her iron and steel requirements. We do not intend to import if it is possible. We want to make them in our country. But we do not want to be saddled by a white elephant who eats a lot of food but cannot be ridden, because, according to Indian superstition, one can ride any kind of elephant except the white. The white is only for show. We cannot afford to have such a huge giant as a show piece.

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So, we asked experts in their fields and consultants to look into all the economies involved so that the right thing should be done in respect of the Iron and Steel Industry, and so that Nigerians may not, therefore, suffer. We want Nigerians to be happy. Therefore, it should be an industry which should make us very prosperous and give employment to our own people, and, by its very Federal nature, it should be an industry which would employ all Nigerians irrespective of place of origin or tribal groupings. We do not care a damn about their tribal groupings. What we care about is that the people must be Nigerians.

The question of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company has been raised. Some two or three years ago I raised this question with them myself whether it would be possible to utilise their selling agencies abroad to buy things in Nigeria to be distributed among Nigerian small businessmen so that Nigeria may be protected against severe competition from big businesses. But this is a private company. I have no control over it, and so you should not trouble me for something over which I have no control or say. But I hope if they are wise, after all they too are Nigerians, they have heard your comments, they have heard my own, they have heard what this House is feeling about it, it is up to them to rectify their ways and try to follow the suggestions given by hon. Members.

Now, on the question of the Federal Loans Board, I must say that I am really disappointed at the way Members are talking. The Federal Loans Board is composed of Members drawn from all the different parts of Nigeria—East, West, North and Lagos.

Secondly, it is a Board of which one can justly be proud—because I have given specific instructions that the question of loans should be judged completely and strictly on the economic merit, and that all Nigerians irrespective of their political groupings, should be respected and encouraged. After all Government cannot function without the financial contribution of every Nigerian, and what am I that I should discriminate against people because of their political leanings and preferences? We do not even discriminate on the basis of Regional affiliation. Why should we discriminate because of somebody's political leaning? The

merrier everyone of us in Nigeria the better. So, as far as I am concerned, we are strictly adhering to this aspect.

The aim of the Federal Government is twofold. Firstly, to encourage the economic development of the community as a whole. Secondly, to help fuse the various components of the country into a united contented and prosperous nation. We cannot do that by victimisation, preferential treatment, and so on and so forth. We feel that we of this Federal Government should give a lead to the Regional Governments, and by example and action we should help cement our hard won independence and freedom. There is one thing which I want hon. Members to consider and ponder over and to make suggestions on. At the moment—

**An hon. Member :** He is talking like a social democrat !

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I am not a socialist, anyway.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** The hon. Minister is a feudalist !

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The hon. Member for Degema should appreciate that there is no feudalism in Nigeria. The fact that he is there sitting on the Front Bench shows that there is no feudalism in Nigeria. If there is, he would be in Brazil. Is that not so? (*Laughter*).

I appeal to hon. Members to encourage Nigerians to come together into partnerships. At the moment there is this tendency of mistrust and lack of confidence in their ability to run their own businesses.

**An hon. Member :** They have no money.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** If they have no money, they should come together and start from small beginnings by contributing, say, £10 each. If 10,000 people drawn from various parts of the country contribute £10 each, they would have a working capital of £100,000 with which they could start a reasonable industry.

May I assure this honourable House that if this is done, as the hon. Minister of Finance has said, the Government will give such an enterprise all the encouragement and protection it could.

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

I appeal to the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) and the rest to utilise the talents which God has given them to help in bringing about economic development instead of taking people to court and bringing confusion and misunderstanding. If they do that, I think the country will be quite happy.

I agree that a country of the size of Nigeria with forty million people which grows raw materials in the form of cotton and other fibres, should have enough textile industries so that they could clothe themselves and even export manufactured clothing instead of raw cotton. I quite agree with that. But it is one thing to wish and it is quite another thing to accomplish that wish. Let our businessmen have the confidence and trust in themselves. Such trust and confidence is necessary in order to amalgamate our enterprises to start such industries forthwith. This cannot be done on Government level. Government may propose things, but unless the people are willing to share the burden and contribute effectively, there can be no progress. We should remember that we can make our country great or small according to our own individual acts.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. S. Okotie-Eboh): I just want to correct an impression. I want hon. Members to realise that the heading given to a Head of Estimate does not mean the Ministry. The expression "TRADE AND INDUSTRY" under Head 622 does not mean that that is the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It only means that the matters which are to be debated there are related to questions of trade and industry in the country. Hon. Members will see "LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM" under Head 624, but they know that there is no Land Transport System Ministry.

**An hon. Member** : Then why not avoid all the confusion ?

**The Minister of Finance** : I am telling hon. Members that this is just a statement of fact ; I do not know why hon. Members are worried about it. I explain further. The heading of the Estimate does not mean the Ministry. Although the matter may concern the Ministry, the heading does not mean....

**Some hon. Members** : We already know that.

**The Minister of Finance** : Well, some hon. Members raised it.

**Mr H. O. Chuku** (Bende Central) : Much as I appreciate the statement made by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry that small businessmen should get their resources together in order to raise a big capital with which to establish their own industry, I think that there is much to be done by the Government in order to avoid unnecessary competition between our indigenous businessmen and the foreign industrialists.

I am of the opinion that the Government should try to earmark the industries that should be left aside for only the indigenous people. There are so many industries already existing in this country which should have been left purely for the indigenous people, but now most of them are in the hands of the foreign industrialists. Take, for instance, the transport trade. There is the Armels Transport. They distribute Mercedes Benz and sell these vehicles to our own transport owners. They also sell spare parts to them. Nevertheless, the Armels Transport at the same time have their own vehicles on the road to compete with our own transport owners. This is not at all fair to our transport owners. I think, therefore, that the Government should give our indigenous transport owners and industrialists the protection that they deserve.

My next point is about the suggestion of the small businessmen getting together. I remember that round about 1958 when Dr K. O. Mbadiwe was in that Ministry, he endeavoured to set up a committee to investigate how the Government could assist small businessmen. Some Members were got together to investigate and they travelled abroad to find out how small businessmen could be assisted. But, up till now, no report from that committee has been given to this honourable House. It would be of interest to us to know what that body has done and how much the small businessmen have been benefited by their recommendations.

Furthermore, talking about assistance to the small businessmen, my hon. Friend the Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) has rightly said that this Loans Board should be called "Lagos Loans Board". I was going



through the list of loans given to small businessmen (and that list must have been drawn up from the reports of that Loans Board) and I noticed that only two people from the Eastern Region were given loans since that Loans Board started. I would like the hon. Minister to do what he can conveniently do—I am not saying that he should force the Board to do what it should not do—to make the Board consider everybody who applies for a loan. The hon. Minister should not wait until the small businessmen get together before they are given loans. If an individual sets up an industry which the Board thinks is capable of making use of the loan, such an individual should be considered.

*Whereupon the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put, but the Chairman withheld his assent and declined then to put the Question.*

12.10 p.m.

**Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** (Opobo North): Under this Head, I have very few remarks to make. I would first of all say something about investment in industry. One of our greatest problems in industry and economic development in this country is capital. I think that the capital is rare and we find it very difficult to mobilise enough to industrialise the country. In that event, we should make the best use of whatever we have. Although we need to industrialise greatly in order to produce many things, I think that we should not embark on producing everything imaginable at the same time. When one industry is started it is my view that it should be developed to the full.

This reminds me of what the Federal Government did in my division, Opobo, where they established a boat industry which did not improve the situation in the area. It is so small that it is of no use to the people in that area. It does not in any way help to relieve the unemployment in that Division.

Under this Economic Development Plan for 1962-68, I would very much suggest to the Government that the boat-building industry in Opobo should be properly developed, otherwise what has already been done there will be quite useless because at the moment

it does not produce many boats in a year and does not employ many people. That Division is in a very peculiar position. It was once a great seaport and many people were employed as a result of that facility. For many years now, the port has been closed and the place is almost dying out, whereas it is a very historic place where visitors will like to go to for their holidays. If we develop the boat-building industry there, it will do a great deal to improve the area.

I would warn the Government against trying to produce everything imaginable in this country at the same time. When one industry is started, I think that we should put into it all our resources in order to develop it into a full scale industry.

Another point that I would like to mention is about this National Development Bank. It is a very welcome plan. Since last year the Minister of Finance entrusted to hon. Members the responsibility to do everything they could in their constituencies to help the people to save their money for the development of this country. I tried to do so but found that the people in my Division had no means of saving their money.

I would like to tell the Government that if the campaign for the mobilisation of capital for development work is concentrated only in the towns, the Government must take in to consideration the fact that the people in the towns pay heavy rents, and rates, and have a very high standard of living, whereas the farmers and the teachers in the rural areas who can save much more money have no commercial banks. Our postal agencies are not provided with savings bank facilities. If the Government, and the Minister of Finance in particular, want every citizen of this country to play his or her part in trying to save for the development of this country, they should see to it that this National Development Bank is extended to every nook and corner of this country, and where that is not possible they should consult the Minister of Communications to make sure that savings bank facilities are provided in postal agencies every where in the country. If that is done, it will help the people to save money for the rainy days; it will also help to mobilise capital for the development of this country.

[MR UDO-INYANG]

At this present stage of our development, one still finds that in the rural areas farmers, most of whom are peasants, still bury money in the ground. Every student of economics will know the disadvantage of that. Some of these currency notes are even eaten up by white ants when they are buried in the ground. There are no banking facilities in the postal agencies. If it is done on a wide scale in the rural areas, it will bring about artificial scarcity of money, and this causes deflation and brings hardship and may even bring our economic life to a stand still.

The next thing that I would like to mention is this Federal Loans Board. A lot has been said about it and I am very happy to hear from the Minister of Commerce and Industry that the Federal Government will try to set an example to those in the Regions. I think that in setting this example, the Government should start with the Federal Government Loans Board. It is meant for development and the money available should not only be paid to big businessmen ; traders and farmers in the rural areas should be helped too. I think that the best way of helping them is for the Federal Government to find ways of determining how much producers produce in a year. If somebody has helped this country by producing a good amount of palm oil or palm kernel, the Government should give such a person some help. In that way, our farmers who are doing their best to contribute to the development of this country will be encouraged. When once the activity of the Loans Board is centred in Lagos, even though some of the people here deserve the loans, some of them will not use them properly. The Government should see to it that these loan facilities are extended to the people in the rural areas.

I am very happy to hear that politics will be kept out of this loan facility. That is very welcome because there are lots of those traders and farmers in the Regions who can do a great deal to help themselves and the Regions during the rainy days but who are being handicapped because no loans are given to them. In some instances, when a man for some reasons changes his party from 'X' party to 'Y' party, buying licences are withdrawn from him. That sort of thing will not help the country in any way.

The next point is about the International Trade Fair. I am glad to note that the Government has invited many countries to take part in this Fair, but I would like to add that the countries invited should not only be the big industrial countries like the United States of America, Britain, France, *et cetera*, but also the small countries like Ireland. The fact is that in these small countries there are great demands for many things, and they have a lot of primary products to buy from this country. At the same time, they have a lot of things to display at the Fair. Therefore, big and small countries should be invited to take part in this International Trade Fair.

I have observed in the Estimates that a good amount of money has been allotted for industrial research. I would suggest that our industrial research should not be carried out like our agricultural research, where everything is confined to the laboratory. The result of this research should be brought to the notice of our local industrialists. There is no need building big offices and paying salaries to clerks and scientists to work there when the result of their research is never made use of by the industrialists in the country.

In the case of agricultural research, I am sure that much has been done so far, and yet the bulk of our farmers do not know that such a thing exists, and they are not helped in any way. What has been done has never been brought to their notice at all. In the case of this industrial research, the Government will do well to circulate any result to the people who engage in these industries.

I beg to support.

12.19 p.m.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : I wish to begin by laying emphasis on the trade in palm produce. In the past, palm produce was called the pride of Nigeria, but to-day it appears that very little attention is given to it and the price of palm produce is declining very rapidly.

It is nice to note that the Government has already made arrangements for a Cocoa Producers' Alliance. On the other hand, it is regrettable that no arrangement whatever has been made about a Palm Producers' Alliance. I want to emphasise this and to

tell the Minister that palm produce is the greatest source of wealth of the Eastern Region, most parts of the Western Region and some part of the Northern Region.

When we neglect the trade in palm produce, we are actually depriving the Nigerian farmers of their chief source of income. I want the Minister to give very great attention to this and to direct researches on the improvement of palm produce to what will yield us the greatest benefit to-day.

I know that this can be done through a trade fair. Sometimes it is often argued that it needs one or two nations to make good arrangements to raise the price of produce. Therefore, our Government will always succeed if we try to bring in nations that have not been buying our oil and kernel to attend our trade fair. By coming to our trade fair to see samples of our produce, we shall be opening new avenues of trade, and I am sure that this will raise the price and our people will be really happy.

The next point that I want to touch on is the question of the expatriate companies trying to run down our indigenous retail traders. At Port Harcourt there was, and there still is, a firm that undertakes trade even in stockfish. When the Nigerian retail traders buy stockfish, the big companies also buy large quantities and sometimes undersell until the indigenous traders have suffered serious losses and then abruptly they raise the price.

It must be realised that it is the duty of the Government to protect its citizens. If we allow this competition to go on, it is just like allowing a lion and a cat to have a competition. Every one knows that the lion will tear the cat into pieces. In this case the cat is represented by our own people, and the lion by the expatriate companies.

I therefore call on the Minister concerned to use his good offices to see that our people do not suffer like this in their own land. Our first responsibility is to feed Nigerian citizens, then the next responsibility will be to accord welcome and hospitality to any other group of people that may come into Nigeria, but not at the expense of our own people.

Coming to insurance, it is common experience that the insurance company nearly always gains. (*Several hon Members : Always*). I just say nearly always, and the customers nearly always lose. (*Several hon. Members :*

*Always*). From our experience, I think I am right even if I remove "nearly" and say that they always lose. (*Several hon. Members : Yes*).

We know the amount of money that we pay every year towards insurance. And when a car gets any accident and the owner goes to an insurance company to claim something, they keep wasting time and keep arguing until at last he does not get any benefit from the whole transaction. If these large amounts which we spend every year go into the national coffers, I would be happy to continue spending.

**The Chairman :** Just to remind hon. Members that apart from the present Motion, we have still got 18 more to deal with, and that this is Committee Stage. I am appealing to Members to be brief and very much to the point I may say that in one whole morning we have only done two Motions, so we will be very strict now.

**Mr Ukah :** I just want to say how important it is to have insurance actually Nigerianised so that when we do spend, the money will be flowing into our own country.

The matter of location of industry needs an entirely new outlook. The Government often argues that location should be almost invariably in favour of big townships, and when a small or progressive rural area applies—

**The Chairman :** Order. We have sub-head 102—Investment in Industry Generally. If you are going to talk about investment in industry you can go ahead, but certainly not on location.

**Mr Ukah :** Investment goes with location. However, following your ruling, I will now speak on investment. In order to invest, there has to be capital. The Government will do well to encourage capital through supporting Co-operative Societies and on the question of individual savings. The difficulty with regard to investment is that money cannot be easily saved where there are no savings banks.

We pray the Government to supply safes for savings bank facilities. That is the handicap. Therefore, the Government should help.

With these few remarks and with the hope that the Government will look into our com-

[MR UKAH]

mercial and industrial affairs and have greater regard for the rural areas, I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): I would like to speak on sub-head 102—Investment on Industry Generally. I would like to draw the attention of this Government to the fact that we are wasting a lot of money on something that we can easily produce here in Nigeria.

Last time, when the Minister of Economic Development gave an answer to a Question asked by an hon. Member here in regard to the importation of Irish potatoes, we were all surprised at the amount that the Federal Government always spend on imported potatoes. I am sure that Nigeria has no need to import food or anything of that sort. We can help the farmers in the Plateau—Plateau has a very nice climate for growing this kind of potatoes—to develop by means of loans. If we do this, we shall have plenty of potatoes and there will be no need to import potatoes from elsewhere.

I am, therefore, advising the Minister of Economic Development, who is sitting here at present, that the Government should do something to encourage the growing of potatoes in the Plateau so that we may not waste money importing them.

I would like to speak again on sub-head 105—Federal Loans Board. I think that the present position is very very difficult in that the minimum amount of loan, if I am correct, must not be less than £50,000 or so. I think that is too much. How can we expect a common farmer to apply for such a large sum of money? I think that the Government should do something so that the loans could be given to the farmers, say, in terms of about £100 or £1,000 but not to be all that much.

The Federal Government has not made any effort to see that the loans are also given to the rural areas. As I said last time, we passed a Bill to this effect during the last Session of the House and up till now, no effort has been made whatsoever to help the people in the rural areas to get these loans. The loan is always restricted to Lagos alone. I think that the Minister of Commerce and Industry should do something about that now so that by May, people from all the Regions will be able to get loans from the Board.

I will contribute, again, to sub-head 111, *Nigerian Mint and Security Printing Works*. I think that the time has come that our currency should bear the image of a Nigerian. We have so many good leaders, people like our Governor-General, the Prime Minister and so many others. Why should we not use their images on our money? I think that it is time that we should stop using the image of the Queen and that the Government should do something, so that, by July, any money or any currency we print, should have the image of a Nigerian.

I will now turn to the condition of the miners on the Plateau. At present, the miners suffer tremendously. In fact, if one here goes to the Plateau and visits the paddocks, that is the mining areas, one will see the position of the people there. The conditions of the miners and of the labourers should be improved.

**The Chairman**: That is obviously irrelevant on this Head.

**Mr Lar**: I do not want to say anything against the Ruling of the Chairman but, if I am allowed to say so, it is because I see that the Minister of Mines and Power is here, that is why I want to speak on this.

**The Chairman**: Much as you may contest the Ruling of the Chair through the back door, you will find nevertheless that nothing herein has to do with labourers in the minesfields.

*Whereupon Mr P. E. Ekanem 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 Five Million, One Hundred and Sixty Thousand, and Ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

#### HEAD 623—ELECTRICITY

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

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

#### HEAD 624.—LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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

“That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-five Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved”.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I beg to second.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North) : Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to make just one point under sub-head 143, Shagamu-Benin Road. I very much want the Minister of Works to expedite the buildings of this road because those of us who come from the East know what inconvenience it causes to go all the way across the River Niger to Benin. I hope that the Minister of Works would do all in his power to see that the work on this Shagamu-Benin Road is completed very soon.

Another thing is that he should also see to it that the Bridge across the River Niger is finished as soon as possible so as to help all the Members coming to Lagos from the Eastern Region and other places. He should also make provision for a railway track to pass across the bridge on the River Niger.

12.40 p.m.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I want to speak on two sub-heads. The first deals with the Port Harcourt-Aba Trunk ‘A’ road and the second deals with the Western Avenue, Lagos, Trunk ‘A’ road. The first one is on sub-head 148.

I wish to bring it to your notice, Mr Chairman, and to that of this honourable House, that the Port Harcourt road is one of the best roads in this country. And I should have thought that the Government would have been wise

enough to have a good sum of money voted for the maintenance of already good roads like the Port Harcourt road.

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** On a point of clarification, there are two Port Harcourt roads. One can go to Port Harcourt through Aba and one can go to Port Harcourt through the other way. Which of these roads is the hon. Member for Enyong South referring to ?

**Mr Ekanem :** If the road leading from Aba to Port Harcourt is the one that the Government has in mind, then I oppose it ; but if it is the one from Owerri to Port Harcourt, I will have to say what I can and no pressure will be brought on me in order to prevent me from saying my mind.

These huge sums of money spent on Port Harcourt area only are what we who come from places where there are quack and extremely bad roads which are not motorable—and bridges there are nothing but death traps—are against. Why not use this money to improve the Aba-Oron road which is very narrow ? Why not use this money, for goodness sake, to widen and straighten the Uya Oron bridge ? Why not use this money to widen and straighten the bridge between miles 10 and 11 along Aba-Ikot Ekpene road ? Everything is being done to further improve the already improved bridges. That is why I oppose.

I said that a part of this huge sum of money of £200,000 should be used to improve the Aba-Oron road which is a very important commercial road. Also, a part of this money should be used to widen and straighten the only two bridges along that road—the Ndiakata bridge and the Uya Oron bridge—which are very narrow. This road is one of the most important roads in the Eastern Region. It should be given priority consideration. That is the point I am making.

I am now going down to sub-head 157. I do not usually speak for a long time, but I will only touch the vital points. It is not the length of time which a man uses that matters.

**The Chairman :** I think we have all heard the Member for Enyong South often enough to have our own views on the philosophy of his speech-making. He might as well go to the point which he wants to make.

**Mr Ekanem :** Everybody here—the Ministers, Members of the House and the general public—have motored along the Western Avenue. In an answer to a Question put by me last year in this House, the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys in his reply said *inter alia* that he was going to make that road a double carriage way. But up till now the Western Avenue is still very narrow.

I want the Government, and the Minister of Works and Surveys in particular, to remember that it is along that road that we have the National Stadium. There is no doubt, therefore, that not only commercial vehicles use it. On any national sports day one can only imagine the degree of congestion there. The Minister of Works and Surveys should do what he is asked and, for goodness sake, have this road improved by making it a double carriage way.

Not only that. In some countries like Egypt there are roads which are used by motor vehicles only and roads which are used by pedestrians only. But along the Western Avenue it is not so. The result is that there is no single day that accidents do not occur along that road.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Yacim :** (Igala North West) : I rise to contribute to the debate on this Head by appealing to the Minister concerned. Having gone through the Estimates, particularly from sub-heads 142 to 162 where proposals were made, I found that the Trunk 'A' road from Shintaku to the Eastern boundary, which is only 113 miles long, is omitted. I do not know how to plead before this House against the act of omitting this road. We have, several times, put this matter forward to the House by both Oral and Written Questions and by debates. Yet, no consideration of this request has been taken.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister concerned, through you, Mr Chairman, to see to it that something is done during this six-year Development Programme. Since he has omitted this road in the present Estimates, I hope that he will put it in for consideration in the next Supplementary Estimates which may come before this House in July or later this year. It is only a 113-mile road and when

improved a great help would have been rendered to the inhabitants of the area from Shintaku to the Eastern boundary *via* Awka.

I want to tell you the importance of this road. It is through this road that we carry palm produce from Ola, Ayangba and Aliade. It is also through this road that people convey yams and other foodstuffs to Lokoja and then to the Eastern Region. Through that road too we travel to Otuorkpo where we have our nearest railway station. When most of us come down from Kaduna we stop at Otuorkpo and we find it very impossible to get transport home. Why? The commercial lorries do not want to go through that road.

The cost of maintenance of lorries which ever venture to ply that road is more than the cost price of a new one. Last time, on the Floor of this House, I said that since that road had been handed over to the Federal Government things had become worse. I am, therefore, appealing for the inclusion of this road in the next estimates.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Izi South) : I want to speak mainly on sub-head 161—*Road Rehabilitation : General*.

Some time ago, last year to be precise, a very important Motion pertaining to road transport was moved here and the Minister of Works promised that the Trunk road 'A' between Yahe and Ikom would be tarred immediately. Because of its importance, that road has long ceased to be an inter-regional road and has become an international road. It is the road which links Nigeria with the Southern Cameroons. That road also leads to South Africa. Through this road one can travel to the Congo.

We anticipated then that in view of the possibility of some border troubles the Federal Government would do something to improve it so that we could get a quick movement of our Police and our Armed Forces there if there was any trouble along the Cameroon border. The Minister of Works promised that he would do something to improve that road. But up till now he has not included it in the Estimates.

I feel that under this sub-head, the amount of money voted for road rehabilitation should be increased so that this road will be accommodated and improved as soon as possible.

I beg to support.

12.50 p.m.

**Mr A. Opia (Aboh)** : I would like to say a few words on the present ferries which we have at Asaba, between Asaba and Onitsha ; that is Sub-head 162—

**An hon. Member** : It is land transport that we are talking about.

**Mr Opia** : Well, under sub-head 161 I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of our bridges and, in fact, to some of our roads which are so winding and very sharp. Those who travel long distances, from the East to Lagos, or from Asaba to Lagos, will agree with me that by the time one gets here, one's tyres have all worn away and the cost of maintenance is so high now that it is very necessary that the roads should be looked into very seriously, especially the roads which have very rough surfaces.

If the Minister would do as much as he can to recondition the roads, especially the stretch of road between Asaba and Ilesha, where he will find that the roads have very rough surfaces, I think he would help to improve the conditions of the roads.

I should also like to mention Sub-head 142, which is the Niger Bridge. I would not like to belabour this point, but I think that, those of us who come from the Mid-West, and the whole of the country for that matter, will really find that this bridge will be a very great asset to the development of trade between the Eastern Region and the Western Region. If work on this bridge is accelerated to keep to the timetable already set—for as the Minister has put it, it will be finished at a precise time—I think this will help to improve the economy of the country.

I have also to say a few words on the Port Harcourt-Aba Road. Incidentally, I come from the Mid-West but, as a matter of routine, we have to travel all over the country, and I have lived at Port Harcourt. I feel that the Port Harcourt-Aba Road should be improved. I have in mind in particular the road between Aba and Owerri where there are some very sharp turning points and corners which often cause serious accidents. I feel that if a re-survey of such roads is taken into consideration it may help a great deal to avert most of the dangers we are now experiencing on such roads.

I would like to reserve some other comments, especially on that which affects me, that is the ferries, until we reach the next Head.

**L. Alhaji Daura (Maska)** : I support the expenditure under this Head and I would like to refer in particular to sub-head 161—*Road Rehabilitation : General*. I would like to ask the Minister to consider reinstating the road from Kano to Katsina, a Trunk A road which has been degenerating for a very long time. I think the Minister should use as much of this money as he can to reinstate the road where it has sunk. This road is a very important road as it links Kano and the Niger Republic.

Another question which I should like to ask the Minister, and which I should like him to consider, is that, in view of the many accidents that regularly occur on our roads, it is now time that the Government did something to prohibit the use of open lorries, which are meant for the transporting of goods, being used to carry passengers. The wealth and the status of this country rightly merit the exclusive use of buses and taxis for the transport of passengers.

**The Chairman** : I cannot see anything under this Head dealing with the transportation of passengers—not by road anyway.

**Alhaji Daura** : I am talking of transport in general, Sir.

**The Chairman** : We are in Committee and you are bound to confine yourself to what is in the Estimates.

**Alhaji Daura** : Well, I will confine my observations to what is in the Estimates. The construction of the Funtua-Chafe Road, which has been mentioned here sometime ago by the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) should be given priority. The completion is long overdue and we should be very grateful if the Minister would give this very urgent consideration to bring about the completion of the road within a very short time.

I also happened to go from my home town, Daura, to Kano and I was surprised, as another hon. Member has mentioned here, to see that the work on that road had virtually ceased. I would ask the Minister to look into all these items I have mentioned.

Whereupon Prince T. A. Lamuye 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 Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousands, Three Hundred and Sixty Pounds, for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

Sitting Suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

#### HEAD 625.—WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand and Seventy Pounds, for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63—under Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

**Mr S. J. Umoren** (Uyo North) : I support this Head of expenditure. Speaking on sub-head 2, the National Line, Loans towards the purchase of additional ships, may I suggest to the Minister of Transport that it is high time now that the National Line considered the advisability of running passenger transport.

When we buy these additional ships, it is envisaged that more revenue will accrue to the National Line and we understand that some experts have advised that it would not be an economic project for the National Line to run passengers traffic.

From experience, however, and from what other shipping firms have done, we know that if the National Line runs passenger services between Nigeria and other foreign countries, the National Line will stand to gain instead of losing.

We have been suggesting on the Floor of this House on several occasions that the Elder Dempster Lines are making tons of profit from the passenger service between Oron and Calabar. It would be a very, very paying concern if the Government were to engage in

the services between Oron and Calabar. Now the rate of passenger fares between Oron and Calabar has been increased. We who cross our cars between these two places pay as much as £3-15s a trip, that is both ways £7-10s and on many occasions all the boats are booked in advance and it takes time before one can get one's car booked to cross.

I feel that, particularly towards the Christmas and the dry seasons, there is quite a lot that the Government can do between these two places, Oron and Calabar. There is no reason why we should allow the Elder Dempster Lines to monopolise this Transport Service between Oron and Calabar or Calabar-Itu and Calabar-Eket.

It is high time now that we should invest our money in this Inland Waterway Transport system.

Turning to sub-heads 109 and 402 which, of course, are almost the same thing, an hon. Member here mentioned this morning the purpose for which the Opobo Boat Yard was built. The Federal Government has in fact put a lot of money into this project and it would be absolutely useless for the Federal Government to put money in a project which the Federal Government is not prepared to patronise. If we want to buy launches for touring, certainly the only place we can turn to is the Opobo Boat Yard or some other places like that set up by the Federal Government for the building of river craft.

We cannot expect the public to patronise these places if we who contribute the money used in running these institutions go abroad to buy launches. Again, we would suggest to the Minister that whenever we are buying either launches or ships for use in this country, it is high time that we turned away from Britain. After all the British Government goes to the continental countries to buy their ships. Why should we not go there to buy our ships? Why should we not go there to buy our ships instead of always going to Britain and passing through the Crown Agents paying huge sums of money by way of commissions and all the rest of it?

If we must buy these things, let us go to the makers—those who make these things—and buy from them, instead of going to buy from somebody who goes there to buy and re-sell to us, and sometimes we go to buy second-hand ships.



A short while ago, the National Line bought a tanker from Britain which was supposed to be doing 12 knots an hour, but when it was brought here on testing it was discovered that it could only do 8 knots an hour and it was returned. Such would not be very good for the National Shipping Line.

With regard to our ferry terminal (351), I notice that some provision has been made. Where possible, permanent bridges should be constructed across these rivers; for quite a lot of time is wasted in crossing and a lot of inconvenience caused. Also many lives have been lost at the terminals at Onitsha, Asaba, Sapele (at both ends) and at such other places. I think that the best thing to do is for us to find money to build permanent bridges across these rivers instead of having to repair and repair and repair the ferry terminals, particularly a place like Sapele.

Many vehicles cross the river at Sapele every day and I think it is time, now, that we should find money to build a permanent bridge across that river instead of our having to spend money building and repairing ferry terminals which do not pay.

**An hon. Member :** It is a regional matter.

**Mr Umoren :** Well, we have voted money here for it. I support the Resolution.

**Mr A. Opia :** I would like to say a few words under this Head. Most of us who use the ferry across the River Niger between Asaba and Onitsha will agree with me that one of the two ferries there is in a very old condition and it takes almost one hour for the ferry to cross, that is, when the tide is in its favour, and sometimes one and a half hours when the tide is against it.

I feel that time is money, especially when, under deplorable conditions, people have to stand under the heat of the sun. For somebody to spend one and a half hours only to cross his car or lorry it is indeed a very serious matter. I would appeal to the Minister of Transport to look into this issue with every seriousness. In fact, the general public are really dissatisfied with the condition of that ferry. The name of this ferry is *Sapo*, if I remember rightly, and often this ferry is out of service, either due to engine breakdown or for some other reason. The ferry is in such a condition that it cannot ply itself, it is always being towed by another

launch and I would like the Minister to make a statement as to when he thinks he will be able to replace this particular ferry.

I have also in mind the rail over which our vehicles have to cross while disembarking to the shore either at Onitsha or at Asaba. In most cases one either loses or perhaps gets a vehicle damaged due to the uneven condition of the surface. When the tide is low one finds it difficult to get across the rail to the shore and, in most cases it leads to one's car being damaged. I would like the Minister of Transport to look into these anomalies.

Sometimes when one is on the ferry the crew who pilot the vehicle drivers on and off the ferry do not do this job well. By their carelessness they run vehicles into the river or perhaps when a car is coming off it is tipped over and thereby damaged. That responsibility is not usually chargeable to the insurance companies; it is always at the owner's risk, so that good arrangements should be made for the receiving and bringing out of vehicles from the ferry.

The ferry is in such a very old condition, as I have said, that it does not, in fact, ply by itself and people have to wait for hours for one crossing. In fact, the time put on the signboard for cars to be ferried across is not adhered to and you have to keep on waiting for the ferry in order to go across, even though perhaps you have come in good time, according to the published times.

Another point to which I would like to draw the Minister's attention is the Warri Port. Warri Port and Sapele Port are the two major ports we have in the Mid-West and particularly in the Western Region, and if these two ports are really developed I think it will help to build a better economy in this particular area. The Mid-West is already a growing Region now, as we all know, so that in the scheme of things, even though the matter has gone to court, that has nothing to do with it. I really feel that it is a growing place and as it is a Region which we all know now, it is—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** Will the Member for Aboh wait until after the Plebiscite?

**Mr A. Opia :** What sort of Plebiscite does the hon. Gentleman want? They have already gone to court, and so they do not need a Plebiscite.

**Mr Dosunmu :** Why, then, is the hon. Member talking about it ?

**Mr A. Opia :** Because it is before the House, and because I happen to be talking about Warri Port.

As I said, I would invite the attention of the Minister to improving the Warri and Sapele Ports, especially where it has to do with the economy of the people of the Mid-West.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the Port Harcourt Wharf, and to take this opportunity of praise the Minister of Transport for his very good work in this connection. We who have visited this port know the amount of work which has so far been done to the Port Harcourt Wharf. In fact, if it is not the biggest port in Nigeria, but it is certainly the second so far and I think it is helping a great deal in the improvement of the economy of that Region and the country as a whole.

I therefore feel that the Minister should be praised for such a very good scheme which he has on hand. Moreover, there are extensions going on and we would like him to speed the job up as quickly as possible.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to what I feel is not quite fair to the people of my area, that is, Aboh Division. There is no water transport system in this particular area and in fact, these people are living by the river side and we all know how very delicate the River Niger could be when it is in full tide.

Many times, these people have to ply on the river with poor outboard engines and in most cases people meet with gruesome accidents, accidents which make other people feel that the country is not yet developed. People get drowned every day because they have to travel as passengers from one station to the end of another station. I am therefore asking the Minister of Transport if he could help to provide these people either a weekly running launch which will certainly help to avert the many dangers which occur on this river from time to time.

I remember having brought this matter up several times but it looks as if the Minister is still adamant over providing a launch for the people there. Investigations have so far

shown that over a hundred people die annually because of drowning and lack of river launches in this particular area and I would like to appeal to the Minister of Transport if he could make a weekly ferry or a weekly launch possible for the people in that part of the country.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the improvements which he has so far brought to the Lagos wharf and the Port Harcourt Wharf.

**M. Ahmadu Ribadu :** Although I support this Head, yet I find it a little bit disturbing to me because no provision has been made for the accepted result of the survey of the River Benue which was undertaken by the Netherlands Engineering Consultants about two years ago. We thought it would have provided possibilities for navigation along the River Benue for twelve months of the year, and navigation might have been possible up to Garua in the Cameroun Republic.

This is extremely important because it means that we could have achieved an extensive internal water way improvements which would not only assist in carrying the increase of our produce output but also provide easy communication between Nigeria and the Cameroun Republic. I hope the Minister will bear this point in mind and do something about it.

My second point is on sub-head 402. I hope that this large amount of money earmarked under this sub-head will give the Government an opportunity to improve the ferry at Yola and Numan, which are in a very bad condition. I think that some of the Members and even the Minister of Transport should tour the area in order to bear me out, and if possible the Government should do something to provide some facilities which will enable this ferry to operate throughout the twenty-four hours of the day.

I beg to support.

3.57 p.m.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) :** In contributing to this debate, I will take this opportunity to ask the Minister of Transport what arrangement he is making in order to combat the many accidents which often occur in Okitipupa River from Okitipupa to Sapele. In the Benin River, the Escravos Bar Project is

going on. Last year, I brought a complaint to the Minister that the boat used in transporting stones from the delta to the Escravos Bar Project has not got an inboard engine; it has an outboard and, once the engine stops, the control of this outboard engine is lost resulting in many lives being lost often. I appeal to the Minister to do something to combat this loss of lives in that area because we cannot develop one area and destroy the other.

Secondly, the wharf being used at Olu Agbo is in a very deplorable condition, and I would like to appeal to the Government, humbly, to develop this port for the Yoruba speaking people in Ondo province after the Escravos Bar Project has been completed. An annual cutting of sods, and a periodic clearing of waterways are going on there. In this respect, I have requested the Minister to make the widening of that route imperative because too many corners always cause accidents especially in that particular area. I am appealing to the Minister therefore to inform the engineer in charge of that creek to widen the route as soon as possible.

Furthermore, last year I spoke on the Floor of this House that the jetty at Gbekebo is very bad. The Minister promised that he was going to look after it, whether it was a Regional subject or not. But to my greatest surprise the jetty was only partially repaired which means that it belonged to the Federal Government. The plank used is not good. We want a concrete jetty because that area is looked upon as a rural area and if anyone goes to that area one finds the wharf being used regularly by marine ferry.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister to see that the Okitipupa-Benin River is developed.

I beg to support.

4. p.m.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I would like to answer to some of the points which have been raised during this debate.

Mr Umoren spoke about passenger ships. Already I made a statement during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill that the Nigerian National Line is already studying the position and considering the

advisability of entering the passenger liner trade. We started with the cargo trade because we were sure of that trade and the Line is making a lot of profit. It is a little more expensive to engage in passenger service. In the first instance, passenger ships are much more expensive than cargo ships and I am informed that ships like those that the Elder Dempster Agencies operate here cost in the region of £3 million each. So, we have to think of the capital outlay first but we still hope that in the very near future the National Line will enter the passenger traffic trade.

The question of ferry service between Oron and Calabar has been raised from time to time. I would like the hon. Member for Uyo North (*Mr Umoren*) to realise that the Ports Authority deals with ports and the Inland Waterways deals with the development of Inland Waterways, especially with the navigation of Inland Waterways; that is to say, to keep away the snags, to clear sods from the rivers and make them navigable. The Inland Waterways is not really supposed to run launch services and so on. We would like to give as much scope as we can to private enterprise and I hope that Nigerians will be able one day to start a passenger service on that route.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, I would like the hon. Minister to tell this House where in the world an alien runs transport service as the Elder Dempster is doing in this country.

**The Chairman** : That is not a point of order.

**The Minister of Transport** : Thank you very much Mr Chairman. All I can say to that is that the way is open for Nigerian businessmen also to engage in that service, between Oron and Calabar.

**Mr Ekanem** : Give us the money.

**The Minister of Transport** : Well, if the hon. Member has no capital of his own, he can apply for a loan and he will be considered.

**Mr Ekanem** : I have applied but the Government do not want to give it to me.

**The Minister of Transport** : Well, as regards the purchase of ships and launches, I would like to assure the hon. Member for Uyo North (*Mr Umoren*) that the National

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Line does not concentrate on the United Kingdom. As a matter of fact, when the last two ships were about to be ordered, international tenders were invited so that ship builders in Germany, in Holland, in Greece, in Britain and in many other places were equally welcomed to tender, but the best tenders were obtained from Scotland.

Mr Umoren also spoke about tugs. I am not aware of that. I do not think it is true to say that the National Line ever bought any tugs. They do not deal with tugs. It may be he was talking about the Ports Authority. The National Line deals with cargo ships and that type of ships.

Mr Opia has referred to the ferry crossing between Asaba and Onitsha. I am sorry to hear that there is some difficulty. Last year we provided a new ferry with a very large capacity for carrying vehicles and the service became very good as I was told and as I saw it when I passed that way once or twice. That ship I think is the *Salamanda*. At the moment there are three ferries operating between Asaba and Onitsha. One is the *Salamanda* which is the new one. That is quite good. The other is the *Sapo* which is a fairly good one and which unfortunately is at the moment refitting at Warri. So, it is out of service.

When Mr Opia mentioned the *Sapo*, I think he meant the *Saloma*. *Saloma* is the one that is not in very good condition. She had to be towed because the engine is bad. A new engine is now on order, that is a new engine for the *Saloma*. The *Sapo* will soon again be ready and when it is ready, it will be returned to Onitsha to operate between Onitsha and Asaba.

At Sapele we have the *Safari* which is a new ferry with a large capacity for vehicles and we have two others which are not in very good condition. Two new ferries have been ordered and these are larger than the ones now operating at Sapele. When they arrive they will be sent to Sapele and the new one now operating at Sapele will be returned to Onitsha.

The idea really is to have two new large ferries, that is two-ended vehicular ferries—the ones where you can drive your car in one way and drive it out the other instead of going backwards. That is the idea.

Now, we have one at Onitsha and one at Sapele. They will both be operating at Onitsha—between Onitsha and Asaba this year when the two new ones which are a little smaller and which have been ordered specially for the Sapele crossing return. So, the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) should be quite hopeful about this. We are doing our best.

Now, the question of the ramp, that is the sloping ground leading into the river, is really a matter for the Ministry of Works and Surveys. The trouble there, of course, is that the river rises and falls. When the river's surface gets very low it becomes a little more difficult. When the river rises, it is easy for the ferries to let out vehicles. We will do our best to improve the position.

Already there is provision in the new Economic Development Programme for the development of both Sapele and Warri ports and the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*), of course, did not worry about that. We have made provision for that.

About Government operating launch services on the Niger to serve the people of Aboh and the other people in that area I am afraid we have no such proposal. As I said, the Inland Waterways is not really meant to operate launch services all over the country. Their main job is to keep the rivers free of snags, free of sod and all the impediments you have on the rivers; to remove these and make them easily accessible to launches, out-board engines and canoes.

I do not think I can ask the Inland Waterways to leave their main job and start a new company to operate a launch service to Aboh. There again the field is wide open to private enterprise and I see no reason why people cannot buy launches and operate them in that area. I am sorry that I cannot help my hon. Friend the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) on this issue. There is, however, one or two companies operating ferry services between Asaba and Onitsha and who had loans from the Eastern Regional Government.

The hon. Member for Adamawa East (*M. Ahmadu Ribadu*) made mention about provision for improving navigation on the Benue. I am sure he is aware that already we are very keen on improving navigation on the Benue and, as he knows, hydrological consultants have already

carried out a survey and very soon a new experiment is going to be started on the confluence of the Niger and Benue at Lokoja to find out the best way of dealing with the problem of navigation of the two rivers. So, we are going to carry out some experiments and we are going to continue improving navigation on the Benue.

The idea is to improve the flow of the water and increase the depth of the water so that the rivers will be open for many months of the year. At the moment, at certain times of the year especially during the dry season, the river is only navigable for three or four months, mostly certain parts of it. We want to be able to improve that period.

I then want to say one or two things about what my Friend, Oba Oladiran said. The difficulty in trying to please everybody in keeping the waterways free for navigation is that not every waterway in Nigeria is a Federal waterway. Some of the waterways are Regional waterways and these Regional waterways are no responsibility of the Minister of Transport or of the Federal Government. They are the responsibility of the Regional Governments.

**An hon. Member :** What about the water ?

**The Minister of Transport :** The water is regionalised, just as some parts of the country have been regionalised.

But we will do our best whenever the waterway proves to be a Federal responsibility, we will do our best to improve the waterway and to keep it open to river traffic. The widening of the roads leading to some of these minor river ports is not the responsibility, unfortunately or fortunately, of the Minister of Transport.

**An hon. Member :** You say that every year !

**The Minister of Transport :** Well, that is a matter you will have to raise with the Regional Government.

I think also that the question which the Oba refers to also is not a Federal responsibility. In any case, if he is in doubt he can always have it discussed with me in my office and I will try and find out exactly whose responsibility it is. So far, the Inland Waterways Department is doing its best to improve the rivers and one can only hope that the extent of the

responsibility of the waterways will be appreciated, so that we may not be blamed for what really is not our responsibility.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand, and Seventy Pounds, for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

#### HEAD 626.—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

4.12 p.m.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move,

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

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

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I just want to express my views under this Head, with particular reference to sub-head 126 and sub-head 142—especially sub-head 126. I told the House when we were dealing with the Appropriation Bill, about my impression of Calabar Airport. I want to repeat it, that we of that area very much appreciate the effort of the Minister of Transport and Aviation. We only ask that he should exert more effort to see that Calabar Airport is well-maintained. It may in the end, in one way or the other, become one of the international airports—

**The Minister of Finance :** It is international now.

**Mr Ekanem :** If the Minister of Finance will allow me to speak, which I have the right to, I am saying that it is very important for it is the port where the Minister of Finance is contemplating to put the helicopter to protect him against smuggling. Therefore I hope that he will not interfere when I am asking the Minister to pay more attention to Calabar Airport in order that he may be able to check smugglers.

[MR EKANEM]

Sir, under sub-head 142—Onitsha and other new Airfields—I wish to say that it is only a distance of 64 miles from Onitsha to Enugu and we have a big airport at Enugu. If that distance can warrant an airfield being built new in Onitsha, a longer distance within that Region should also be considered. It is a distance of over 300 miles from Enugu to Uyo; a longer distance of about 88 miles from Port Harcourt to Uyo. You cannot go to Calabar, the nearest airfield, with ease; you have got to halt first at Oron. In case you want to go on an urgent call, say, you are wanted immediately in Lagos, or if you want to go anywhere in the country, or you want to go to Fernando Po to see about your business there—

**The Minister of Finance:** What kind of business have you got there?

**Mr Ekanem:** I will tell you. It is to take labourers there.

Sir, you have got to halt at Oron and sometimes you wait for two and a half hours. Therefore, the opening or construction of a new airport in Uyo becomes not only imperative but very desirable. You will realise, Sir, if I may digress a bit with your permission, that all major developments in the Eastern Region, it seems, are being concentrated in Port Harcourt, in Onitsha or Enugu.

**The Chairman:** You can only speak on Air transport.

*Whereupon Mr S. D. Lar rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

### HEAD 627.—COMMUNICATIONS

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

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Three Hundred

and Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

4.20 p.m.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): Sir, I am sincerely grateful to be given this opportunity to speak on communications. The demand for postal and telecommunications services increases from day to day, especially in rapidly developing areas like my Constituency, Owerri North East. This calls for great expansion of the national trunk network and I should like to express my deep appreciation of the cool and determined manner in which the hon. Minister of Communications is handling this grave and hydra-headed problem. Communication is so dear to us and so essential to commercial and social progress that everyone of us has to speak so briefly, so as to give others the chance to express their own wishes.

The demand is great, but one guiding principle for the Minister to adopt is effective demand—that is, demand backed up by ability to pay. In my constituency I am happy to say that my people have expressed effective demand for telephone facilities. They have put in large sums of money in connection with their sub-post office and we are just mid-way between Owerri and Umuahia, so we do not get service from either of these two stations. Again we are between Orlu and Aba. We are in the centre of these four big towns, but unfortunately in matters of communication we seem to be cut out entirely. Now, I sincerely and most humbly request the Minister of Communications to extend telephone facilities to Nkwogwu sub-post office in Owerri Division. It is on an important trunk road and is a large business centre on a very big junction.

Another request I would like to make is that the Minister should consider lowering the matter of units of work which he has made the criterion of conversion of postal agencies into sub-post offices. The units, it seems, are unattainable—24,000 units of business. Those

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who have tried to get such conversion will appreciate the difficulty. If it were lowered to 20,000, we would be grateful.

Another point which I would like him to consider is that he should give an indication of the time when he would get the postal agency at Okwuator supplied with equipment and opened.

As I said before one has to consider where there is need and where the people are making due efforts, and I think, as I have made these points very clear, the Minister will definitely come to our aid, because we have been requesting and requesting this installation of telephones, and we shall ask him also to give us attention with regard to postal services. In order to allow other Members to speak and in order to ensure that the Minister does not forget what I have told him, I now support.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja)**: I rise to support the reduction, and at the same time I want to take this opportunity to remind the Minister of Communications as usual of our vital needs of post offices and telecommunications in certain towns, and postal agencies and telephone communications in the Bwari, Kuje and Kwali districts so as to connect Abuja and Koton Karifi. Also we want telephone services from Lapai to join Muye on the River Niger and to join Gulu, Pako and Yerawa, so as to ease the transport on the River Niger and to make it fruitful to the people in the area.

With the development of education for both male and female, by the Northern Government, our post offices and postal agencies are becoming daily a necessity in the community and for the development of the Northern Region as a whole.

With this, I support.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East)**: I should like to make a brief point on the large amount of money which the Government intends to spend on this Ministry—

**Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central)**: I would like to draw attention to Standing Order, 63, Appropriation Bill, subsections (9) and (10). Subsection (9) reads :

*"Any Member may move an amendment to reduce by . . . pounds . . ."*

I need not read the remainder of it. In subsection (10) it says :

*"When several such amendments are proposed to the same Head of Expenditure they shall be called in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper and each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called, and debate on each amendment shall be confined to the sub-head or item which is sought to be reduced."*

I think the Heads required to be reduced should be disposed of, and then in the general debate Mr Chairman may call on anybody who catches his eye.

**The Chairman** : The Order there refers to Appropriation Bill but this is Capital Expenditure, and after all the relevant section refers to head of expenditure and in this case it is Motions that are being debated before we pick up the Amendments.

**The Minister of Finance** : The hon. Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) is merely trying to help you, Mr Chairman, lest, if you pass it and it is not in accordance with Standing Orders, the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) may file an action tomorrow in Court.

**Chief Rosiji** : I see the Ministers are afraid of the Courts.

I was saying earlier that a large sum of money is being asked for here by the Minister of Communications. This amount of money forms a portion of the money intended to be spent in the Six-Year Development Programme, and that amount of money is as large as £30 million. I would like to say that if we are going to spend all that money, we must break away from the old custom which, it has been argued, makes us spend money unnecessarily. I am referring particularly here to the colonial system by which the Crown Agents buy equipment for us. I would like to suggest that the Minister should shop around the whole world and buy the equipment where it is best for Nigeria. We are no longer a colony, and we should be able to make these purchases ourselves without passing through any agency for the Colonial Office.

Secondly, I would like to say that this amount of money is so large that by spending all that money on importation of equipment we are

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

taking a very bad risk of putting ourselves on the bad side of our balance of trade, and that I would like the Minister to encourage the manufacturer of a large number of these items here in Nigeria—these items which he has to order from abroad. If he goes to the job quickly, we may be able to manufacture a number of these things which are proposed to be bought within the Six-Year Development Programme.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): I move to reduce sub-heads 18 and 19—

**The Chairman** : One at a time.

**Mr Chikelu** : Well, I move sub-head 18 which comes before 19. Under this sub-head, I want to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member who spoke earlier, that the provisions of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 should now be revised. He gave several reasons and I do not need to repeat them.

I think that the next important thing to be considered is that populations are moving into townships on account of concentration of industries in the townships, so that if the rural areas are required to make up 24,000 units, they will hardly do that in a century. If the Minister thinks over this again, he might reduce the number of units required before raising a postal agency into a sub-post office or into a full post office. It should also be remembered that most of us represent rural constituencies and within the five-year life time of the House, our constituents will require to know what we have achieved.

I am aware of two important things which the Federal Government can do for the people. One is to give them Trunk A roads. In the Eastern Region, I know of only one Trunk A road running from Onitsha to the ninth mile where it breaks up into two, one to the Northern Region and the other to Ogoja; no more. The second thing is post offices. So far, from the answer given to a Question asked here in the first week of this Session, we knew the number of post offices in the Eastern Region and the areas where they are; other areas have none. These post offices are concentrated in the townships. Some townships have two; some have three; some have four.

I suggest to the Minister that one way of solving this problem is that in every township where there is a post office, the counter should be made long enough to be able to take about forty clerks. Such a large staff in one post office should be able to serve the needs of the whole township, so that the money that would have been used in building other post offices in the same township could be used to build post offices in the rural areas that qualify for them. If this is not done, I am afraid some of us will have nothing to say when, at the end of the life of the House, we are required to give account of our stewardship. I am not asking the Government to construct a Trunk A road in an area where it is most uneconomical to do so, but it should be remembered that this is a reciprocal business. When a road is opened, the Government is paid back by the people enjoying the amenities; eventually, the population there will grow and will attract a post office.

The Government should not always expect to gain at the initial stage. The Government should build post offices and eventually when population is attracted, the Government will get back the money spent. In the early times we were told that the factors that favoured the growth of population were water, mineral deposits, good government and trade. But where those things did not exist, people would not come nowadays. It is the business of the Government to provide those things so that people can come to settle. If the Government does not provide them, people will run to those places where those things are provided and the rural areas will be left bare.

The same arguments also apply to sub-head 19. Under that sub-head, I will bring to the notice of the Federal Government the fact that my people—the whole District Council area of Ezeagu in Udi Division—have been crying for a post office, and I have been saying it several times in this House. Indeed the situation is that throughout Udi Division, minus Enugu township, there is only a single post office and very few postal agencies. When we raise the matter here, the Minister replies that postal units are seven thousand; three thousand, two thousand and less, and that he will not consider any of the requests on account of the provision of the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.



I am not criticising the Ministers, and I hope that they will not rush over this sub-head.

**An hon. Member :** Are you afraid of them ?

**Mr Chikelu :** I am not afraid of them, but I want them to take note of the points I am making; they are very vital. Eventually, it will bring goodwill and the people will not be saying that the Government has not done this or that.

With the points that I have made, and with the hope that the Minister of Communications will look into the needs of the people of Ezeagu, I do not move.

**M. Mohamradu Koro, Madakin Pategi (Lafaji Pategi) :** I am glad to have the chance of saying something on this Head. Before making my observations, I would like to praise the Minister of Communications for the progress he has made in that Ministry.

I would like to say that it is now high time that many postal agencies should be converted into sub-post offices, especially in the Northern Region.

**Several hon. Members :** All over the Federation.

**M. Mohamradu Koro :** All over the Federation. In saying this, I have to mention some postal agencies in my constituency as a good example—Lafaji Postal Agency and Pategi Postal Agency. I had once said on the Floor of this House that these two postal agencies ought to be converted into sub-post offices and I was told from a reliable source, that a certain number of units was required before converting a postal agency into sub-post office. When I checked this during my last visit to those postal agencies, I found that the units were far more than the number required.

We shall be grateful if these postal agencies are converted into sub-post offices. This will give us a chance to progress economically, and enable us to open postal agencies at Pada, at Shonga, so as to give more enlightenment and economic development to our area.

I support.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. Olu. Akinfosile) :** I want to say one or two things in reply to the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) and a few other hon. Members.

I wish to say that the Crown Agents have been very very useful indeed in the years of their association with our work in the P. and T. Division, in particular, and that there are quite a few independent governments now and governments who claim to be far more alive to changes perhaps than is being suggested here, who still use the services of the Crown Agents if they consider that it is in their best interests. Therefore, we will be doing exactly the same thing if we find that it is in our best interests to use the services of the Crown Agents. They have a wealth of experience in the sort of activities which we are involved in. We will do so, making sure that the resultant effect will be in the very best interests of the country.

Secondly, I wish to say that one of the conditions which we are likely to be stipulating in the consideration of supply sources for the equipments of the P. and T. in the next six years will certainly be how much of the elementary parts of equipments which we need for our maintenance and work in the country we will be prepared to manufacture in our country. It will be one of the conditions.

I want to bring to the knowledge of hon. Members the fact that we are anxious to supply our service, because the more there are of telephones, the sooner we can reduce the price, the more money we can make. But, I want also to let hon. Members know that there are quite a number of places now where we sink several hundred thousands of pounds and are running at a dead loss. There is a case of an exchange somewhere in the country which has cost the Government something like £25,000 and where we are able to provide as many as 150 telephone lines, but only four have been taken over a period of one year.

**An hon. Member :** Mention the place.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Whatever place it is, it is in Nigeria and that is all that matters.

The same thing goes for post offices. I have listened to hon. Members time and time again in this House ask for sub-post offices. We are running a number of sub-post offices where units of business are still lower than we get from postal agencies. It is our intention in the very near future to review conditions for

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION] the setting up of postal agencies with a view, as far as possible to liberalising them. I am sure that we will not easily consider raising postal agencies to full post offices or sub-post offices if they are going to be running at a loss. After all, the country needs money in other directions.

**Several hon. Members :** 94, 95 ; 94, 95.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I have heard complaints about 91, 94, 95 and so on. What I am going to say is this. I am going to ask certain people not to over-burden the telephone services. That is what I am going to say. I will say as well that it is because certain people do not want to get the right priorities by giving the money at the right time for more channels to be provided in this country that 95 is always congested and difficult to obtain. I am not saying that there are no human faults—in other words, that my men do not tend to be rude sometimes, but I do want to say that it is a difficult task which they are doing. I want to plead for more understanding in this House than we have received so far. Thank you, Sir.

*The Minister of Finance rose on a point of order.*

**Several hon. Members :** Ayes, Ayes.

**The Chairman :** May I just remind the House that throughout our discussions to-day, we have only covered six of these Resolutions, and we have to cover nineteen in one hour. If the House prefers to guillotine at the end, I am prepared to do that.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I am very grateful. All I want to say is that this question of Communications is so important that I will ask you to please give the Members more time to speak on it. Particularly, I am sure, from what I have heard from hon. Members, that they would like to reply to the point made by my Colleague about 94, and 95.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** On a point of order, it was the Minister of Finance who moved this Motion, and cannot now get up and encourage opposition to his own Motion. The Minister of Finance cannot do that.

**The Chairman :** He has indicated that he is raising a point of order.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : Although you ruled a few minutes ago that this is a Motion, all the same whoever files an Amendment on a Motion has priority. My name comes first. When any Member takes the trouble to file an Amendment, it means that he has very specially prepared for that particular subject and he should not be treated in exactly the same way as those who slept at 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock whilst others prepared. I am claiming priority because my name comes first.

**The Chairman :** The hon. Member is referring to that section of the orders of the House which relates to the Appropriation Bill. We are not discussing the Appropriation Bill.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : Despite the Minister of Finance appealing to the Chairman on behalf of hon. Members who are very willing to speak on this Motion, some hon. Members will not let those who want to speak to do so. It is the statement made by the Minister of Communications that we want to reply to.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana) : Before I move that the Question be put—

**Several hon. Members :** Sit down, sit down.

**Mr Lana :** I want to appeal to the Minister to consider the possibility of establishing call offices in the new District Council Headquarters established in Ibadan recently. Particularly, I would request the Minister to consider—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, Mr Lana is irrelevant. What we want to do is to reply the Minister back and no other thing.

*Some hon. Members rose—*

**The Chairman :** I think I have to deal specially with those Members who waste our time by raising unnecessary points of order which are not actually points of order.

**Mr Lana :** After the request which I have now made for call offices, I will appeal to the Minister to consider secondary schools in rural areas to establish postal agencies of their own.

During the time that some of the Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries used to be on tour, there used to be complaints that they have

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difficulties in getting their mails in time. During the next Development Plan, I hope that the Minister will consider the possibility of allowing secondary schools in rural areas to have postal agencies of their own.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North) : I am very grateful to the Minister of Communications for increasing the office hours for the telephone service in Orlu.

Under this sub-head 18, a large sum of money has been earmarked for post offices and ancillary buildings. I just want to know how much of this money will be spent in respect of the post office at Orlu.

Sometime ago, the Posts and Telegraphs sent a team of surveyors to survey the post office at Orlu. Up till now, nothing has been done and nothing has been said about it. Nothing is forthcoming from the Minister, and the people are wondering why this should be the case. Even if we judge statistics, we find that the volume of work done in Owerri post office is just equal to the volume of work done in Orlu, and I just wonder why one should be lifted and the other should not be.

At the moment, the post office at Orlu is still Type 'E', and I wonder whether the Minister is doing anything to improve it. The fact is that it is very congested, and the congestion is due to the fact that the building there is inadequate. I have to ask the Minister to please come to our aid.

I should like the Minister to note that formerly Orlu had been having one central County Council and that now, they have four County Councils. I hope that the Minister will put that into consideration in his next plan so that he will build at least one sub-post office in every County Council headquarters in the new Orlu County Councils.

One thing is that I am always surprised that Orlu should be left behind always. It is the home of prominent Nigerian celebrities.

**An hon. Member** : Really !

**Mr Ifezue** : Yes. People like Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, Mr E. C. Akwivu, Dr Nzeribe, the late Mbonu Ojike, and so on and so forth. I do not see the reason why he should leave them behind. It should be remembered that Orlu—

**An hon. Member** : Dr Ifezue.

**Mr Ifezue** : I am not a doctor ; I am a teacher.

I just like to appeal to the Minister of Communications to do something about the Orlu post office. If possible, let him come there and see the things himself. If he consults his Permanent Secretary, he will actually tell him that the post office is terribly congested.

I do not move.

**Mr J. O. Taiwo** (Oyo North West) : I wish to appeal to the Minister of Communications to please give us telephone extension in Shaki. In the whole of Oyo area, the only place where we have one is Isehin at present. From Shaki to Isehin is 54 miles, and from there to Igbeti is 90 miles, and then from Shaki to Okeho is about 55 miles. We have rest-houses in these places that I have mentioned, and it is very important that we should have telephone system. You can think of it. You can travel about 200 miles at a stretch in that place and will not meet anybody. It is very essential because it is very near the border between Dahomey and Nigeria. For instance, my people tell me that they do not know that a Federal Government exists. What other amenities do we have from this Government ?

**An hon. Member** : What about your road ?

**Mr Taiwo** : Our road is not a trunk 'A' road, and it was tarred by the Regional Government. I am therefore asking for telephone which is about all that we can ask from this Government. We should be pitied. If they consider us, there are other things we can do. For instance, if there is any trouble, we do not have Police. I have been asking for Police Posts in that area since we started here. There is none, and there is no telephone, and it is very near the border-line. In case there is any trouble, we do not know how to make contact, and not many people have transport. Therefore, it is very essential that the Minister should consider us this time. I am referring to Shaki, Igbeti and Okeho.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Yacim** (Igalala North West) : I am appealing, through you again, to the

[Mr J. A. YACIM]

Minister of Communications to recall the speech that I made on the Floor of this House last year.

Last year during the Budget Session I appealed here to the Minister and set out the difficulty that we encounter all the time when a traveller from the far North or East arrives at Sintaku embankment. If he is unfortunate to miss the ferry, he goes to sleep there without having easy means of connecting himself to Lokoja or to report himself to the Area Engineer or any other person to discuss his own difficulties with. I would remind the hon. Minister that the road serves both the Easterners, the Northerners and the Westerners. There is evidence from both sides of this House that those who have been to that part can tell you that it is a very important road because the River Niger and the River Benue meet there. It is the only river that we cross to communicate with our Resident. Lokoja is the headquarters of Kabba Province. Last time I asked the Minister if he could help us with postal agency and also telephone communication, so that passengers who become stranded on the other side of the river can call for help through the telephone.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : What I really want the Minister of Communications to note is that, a few days ago, when I asked a question in this House about the Aba Automatic Telephone Exchange which was destroyed by fire in 1960, I was told that arrangement is being made to resume the work on it.

Secondly, in the Estimates nothing is seen regarding Aba. I would like the Minister of Communications to explain why there is no provision in the Estimates for that, because in the Estimates I have noted that provision is made to improve telecommunications at Port Harcourt and other towns, but Aba is excluded. This service is one of the most important social services which people demand from the Federal Government.

The Aba Post Office is really congested, and I am sure the Minister of Communications is aware of it. We have in Aba about five Postal Agencies, and, at least, three of them have covered more than twenty-four thousand units. Really, what I would like the Minister to do is to expand the existing Post Office in

order to ease the congestion. We want the Aba Post Office to be expanded, because Aba is one of the most important trading centres in the Eastern Region to-day, and the system of communications ought to be improved.

There are other towns in the Eastern Region that have been able to put up post offices by communal labour which are not being equipped. I would like the Minister of Communications to note this and also to take immediate steps to equip them. There are many hon. Members of the House who have been requesting the Government to build post offices for them, but those who have been able to use their own money by communal effort to put up post offices are not encouraged by the Government. What prevents the Government from taking these post offices over? I think if the Federal Government takes them over that will be the best thing. I have seen about six or seven towns in the Eastern Region where people have put up post offices with their own money and sweat, but the Federal Government has not done anything to encourage them. I think the more this community labour is encouraged the more people in this country will put more zeal into communal efforts. So, I ask the Federal Government to take over all the post offices which are built by communal labour and are still not equipped at the moment.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Alhaji Ahmadu Babandi** (Gumel East) : I rise to support the expenditure under this Head, and I appeal to the Minister of Communications to arrange for the provision of communications in my town.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo) : I think one good turn deserves another. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Communications for providing us with a sub-post office at Ejigbo, and it is my pleasure to announce that that Post Office will be opened tomorrow. We are expecting the Minister of Communications tomorrow to open this Post Office.

I want to say further that in my area there are other District Council areas which need such sub-post offices, for instance, the Egbedore District Council, the Aiyedade District Council, the Iferejodun District Council, and the Irepodun District Council. All these

Councils are independent District Councils, and they need sub-post offices for the effective performance of their duties.

Besides, I also want to appeal to the Minister of Communications for the introduction of telephone service in Ejigbo. We have at least 47 applicants, and I think that will do for a small town like that. So, it will be gratifying to see that a telephone service is started in addition to the enjoyment of the Post Office which we are going to open tomorrow. The earlier the Minister of Communications attends to this our request the better it will be for our comfort and happiness.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji A. A. Koguna): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head, and in supporting the Head I would like to make some points. Really the Head is a special Head, and it is very popular, because everybody really wants to say something about it.

I first congratulate the young and good Minister of Communications and his staff because they have done quite a lot in Nigeria, although I know communications form an important need of the country. Almost everybody, businessmen, and Government officials want telephones. It is a difficult thing to satisfy a country like Nigeria, but the Minister and his staff have done very well, except in some cases where they are wasting time, as has been said on the Floor of this House.

But my point is that I would like the Minister and his officials who are here to take note that the communication system in the Northern Region in general is very poor. We can find an example very easily. Whenever an election takes place in Nigeria the results of the election from the Northern Region are behind because of lack of communication. Somebody from Ilorin Province has just raised a point which is very worthy of taking note of. The demand there is greater than the request, and yet no effort has been made to convert the Postal Agency there into a Post Office, and I think the Minister will take note of such a thing.

Another point which I would like to raise is the question of telephone service in Adamawa Province. One travels 36 miles to deliver a

telegram to the Divisional Headquarters at Lar. How many hours will that take? Supposing it is an urgent matter or a case of emergency, how long will it take somebody on donkey, or on horse, or on bicycle to reach the Headquarters? This place is thirty-six miles to the nearest telecommunications office. I wish the Minister will take note of this and take that line right along to the Divisional Headquarters to connect them with the Provincial Headquarters.

The same thing goes for Sokoto Province. Yauri was formerly connected to Sokoto because it was being administered under the same Province, but now that it has been disconnected from Sokoto before you get to Yauri you have to pass through Zaria, Kaduna, Zungeru, and so on and so forth.

Let us take another example, I do not want to mention Kano, because I come from Kano, but it is compulsory to mention Kano. Kano is the largest city in the Northern Region and one of the largest cities in Nigeria. It is also one of the biggest commercial centres in Nigeria. I would like the Minister of Communications to please take note that if one has a letter in the Post Office or any Postal Agencies at Kano this letter will be lying there for fourteen to twenty-one days without being delivered.

Kano, a city of 200,000 people has only one Post Office. I want the hon. Minister to take note of this; we want at least four Post Offices in the city of Kano. Each ward of Kano should have its own Post Office. The Western ward, the eastern ward, the southern ward and the northern ward should all have their own Post Offices. We also want delivery of letters to be done in time. We are asking the hon. Minister that there should be telephone connections between Kano and Hadejia, between Kano and Gumel, and between Kano and Kazaure so that all these divisions could be connected by telephone to their provincial headquarters. We want a telephone service from Katsina to Daura and right up to Kwan-gwalu on the boundary of Nigeria and the Niger Republic in case of emergency. This service should also go through to Danbatta; I am saying this on behalf of my Friend Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.

[THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

I am asking the hon. Minister of Communications, the dependable and youngest Minister, to build a Post Office in Jahun District which is my own constituency. There is no Postal Agency or Post Office in Jahun District and that is why I appeal to the hon. Minister to try and build a Post Office in Jahun. I also want Postal Agencies or Post Offices in the following places:—Danbatta, Gwarzo, Babura, Bechi, *et cetera*.

The question of telecommunications in the Northern Region should be reviewed. At present, it is not bad, but it is very poor. I would like the hon. Minister to take note of this; he should review the telecommunication system in the Northern Region because it is very poor. (*Loud interruption*).

The hon. Members who are shouting now have got the service and they are better off. The ex-Minister of Health (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) would listen to this. Large sums of money were voted for his Ministry when he was the Minister of Health but he did nothing for the country with the money. This Minister of Communications, though young, is doing very well. The ex-Minister of Health has a telephone at his house at Apapa and in his village while the people in the North have not. He is now asking the hon. Minister of Communications to buy equipment here, locally. He is only saying this because he is an agent of the manufacturers here in Nigeria. He is just fighting for commission. The hon. Minister of Communications should buy equipment from the best makers—the makers from whom he used to buy before. They may be the Crown Agents or any one else. All we are after is that he should get good equipment for the country.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East): I have repeatedly asked for telephone facilities at Etiti County Council offices in Okigwi Division for many years now. As Etiti is only twelve miles from Umuahia Post Office a telephone line could easily be connected from this Post Office to Etiti. I pray the hon. Minister to have this done now. If it has not been included in the 1962-68 Development Programme, he should kindly include it now.

We also want one big Post Office in Etiti. We have many Postal Agencies there but they do not serve the main purpose for which we want a departmental Post Office. There is, for in-

stance, no Money Order transaction; there is no telephone service; there is no telegraph service and there is no Post Office Savings to help the people to save their small amounts. I beg the hon. Minister to come to our aid.

Secondly, as we are going to print our own currency notes now, is it not possible for us to print our own Postal Orders and Stamps too? I think it is worth doing.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. J. Umoren** (Uyo North): I had a word of praise for the hon. Minister of Communications this morning but I am so sorry that he has got up to defend the indefensible.

We will not mind it if it is possible to change the people operating Exchange lines 95 and 94 because these people are not only naughty and saucy they are also abusive. When one picks a telephone and asks to be connected to a number, one is told that there would be a delay of two hours. One would then have to sit down waiting for the call to come through. If at the expiration of two hours one reminds them of the call, one is told that the call is being considered but that consideration will take another three hours.

I have sat down in my flat for five hours waiting for a call that should have come through in one hour but the call never came through. This is also the experience of many other hon. Members.

I want to say that Uyo Post Office is now getting very highly congested and I think the hon. Minister should take into consideration the rebuilding and remodernising of that Post Office. If the present site is not convenient or big enough, he could always get another site on which to build a modern Post Office for that town.

**An hon. Member**: That was an austerity Post Office!

**Mr Umoren**: I agree with you; it was an austerity Post Office. I suggested the building of a Sub-Post Office at Ituk Mbang between Uyo and Oron in order that it may serve the Teacher Training Centres and the hospitals there.

**An hon. Member**: Teacher Training Centres?

**Mr Umoren**: Yes, there are many Teacher Training Centres around there. That is why a Post Office or Sub-Post Office is essential.

May I suggest that in this Development Plan, efforts should be made to introduce a house to house delivery of mail in big towns.

**An hon. Member :** And villages.

**Mr Umoren :** Not villages, only big towns. Now that many big towns are being modernised and having electricity supply, it is very possible for these postmen to do their jobs in the night and in the day time easily.

May I also point out to the hon. Minister that sub-head 323, STAFF QUARTERS should be given consideration. I am happy to note that the sum of £27,300 has been voted for it. I hope that the hon. Minister will go round to inspect these places because one finds that senior postmen who are posted to work in big Post Offices often have inadequate accommodation. Some of these men have about twenty to thirty children and about three or four wives. Therefore, a room and a parlour cannot adequately accommodate them. Such outdated and outmoded quarters cannot be used by such big families. It is most inconvenient.

I support.

**M Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) :** I rise to contribute to the debate on this Head. In doing so, I have only two points to raise. The first is the rampant discrimination in the Post Offices in the Northern Region. The second is the nature of our postage stamps.

A few days ago, the Premier of the Northern Region commented on this and it was rather disgraceful that some people from the Southern parts retaliated. One should have some respect for our leaders.

I think we should have some respect for our leaders. I know that post offices are always full of people and in some cases we too suffer some inconveniences. I am one of the victims of discrimination. Southerners discriminate against Northerners and when the Northern Premier said something about it some people replied him. I am sure the Northern Premier was not trying to contribute to the bad situation but rather he was trying to improve it because we know that he and his colleagues do not normally go to the post offices either to post letters or claim parcels. I think if we have more post offices the situation will be better.

Secondly, the postage stamps we have in this country are too many. I have been counting them since we had our independence and I have counted more than thirty different stamps. Sometimes when I pick up a letter, I do not know which stamp is a Nigerian stamp. It is high time that we started to print our stamps using the best picture of one of our leaders.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of order, I think hon. Members have deviated very greatly from this Head and the hon. Gentleman now speaking I think, is completely out because I do not see any place where there is the manufacture of stamps in any of the sub-heads.

**The Chairman :** We do allow minor digression sometimes.

**M. Isandu :** I was speaking on the postage stamps. I am suggesting that we start printing our own postage stamps using the pictures of our leaders, either the Governor-General or the Prime Minister or even anybody else we think fit.

5.23 p.m.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) :** One first amendment here should be 122 and 0.464 as written in the Order Paper. I have in mind here conversion of postal agencies into sub-post offices. At Agua in the Division where I come from—Ahoada Division—we have a postal agency. That postal agency, according to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications the other day, has 16,000 units. With these 16,000 units, I think a sub-post office should be provided for the people in that area. The Sessional Paper was done pre-independence and now we are an independent country and we need these things very badly.

We have a post office at Ahoada and time and again in this House I have been harping on the services in that post office and the Minister knows that. The rural telephone service we have at Ahoada is next to nothing. One cannot speak to someone in Lagos, Enugu, Port Harcourt or anywhere else in the country. So, there is no need putting such a telephone in a rural call office where one pays one's money and do not get a result for the money paid. Therefore, I would crave the indulgence of the Minister to see that a telephone extension is installed at Ahoada.

[MR ELENWA]

Another point I would like to emphasise—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, everybody has been pleading for telephone services, postal agencies and things like that for his town or village but I have not heard the name of Gombe mentioned. I want to appeal to the Minister of Communications to extend the services in Gombe.

**The Chairman** : The Minister has given me an assurance that he is putting up telecommunications in Gombe this year.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : I regret that this Debate is taking this turn. There are several other Motions which are of great importance. If all those Resolutions should be gullotined I think it will be a great pity. I hope that the Chairman will kindly use his authority—I know there are many provocations but in spite of the provocation of the Minister of Finance—he will let us discuss the other Motions.

**The Chairman** : Although I quite agree with the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) that we should be going ahead by now unless the Member moves the closure—

*Whereupon Chief Ayo Rosiji rose in his place to claim that the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Three Hundred and Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 627—Communications be approved.

#### HEAD 628.—WATER SUPPLIES

*Four Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 628—Water Supplies, approved.*

#### HEAD 629.—EDUCATION

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

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the

Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 629—Education, be approved.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

5.29 p.m.

**M. Albatan Yerima Balla** (Adamawa North West) : In supporting this Motion I would like to remind the Minister of Education that last year he gave us an assurance about the establishment of the inter-Regional secondary schools. If these schools are established they will be of great help to the Federation of Nigeria because they will increase the unity of the Federation.

Another point is about the Federal Emergency Science School. Speaking on this, I would like to call on the Minister of Education to establish branches of this school in all the Regions.

Another point that I want to mention is the West African Examinations Council. The services of this Council should be made to cover the whole of the Federation.

There is also the question of scholarship. The Scholarship Board should consult all secondary schools in the country and distribute these scholarships equally among the various Regions.

I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South) : The Minister of Education, during the course of his reply to the speeches of Members during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, left out one important thing. The question that was raised on the occasion was about the conditions of service of teachers. I would like to read out from the Report of the Commission on Post Secondary Schools and Higher Education in Nigeria by Sir Eric Ashby. On page 17 of that Report it says this about—

**An hon. Member** : On a point of order, are we dealing with salaries of teachers or capital works on education ? Which are we discussing ?

**The Chairman** : We are dealing with capital expenditure, and moreover, no more questions.

**Mr Ajasin** : There the report says,

*“Over and over again we were told about the constant migration of teachers away from teaching so that there is a continual turnover*



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*of staff. This is so serious that Rapson, in order to solve the manpower needs, suggests that teaching may come to be looked upon as a sort of preparation for positions in order sectors of employment. This is a deplorable reputation for a service upon which Nigeria's economy and cultural future depends".*

This is what the Report says, and then it goes on to say—

"To train teachers well, to pay them well, to give them standing in the eyes of the public—this is a proper charge against the national income."

The Government has made sufficient provision for building of new schools. Provisions have been made for the training of more teachers, and preparations have been made also for the supply of equipment in schools, but nothing has been said about the question of the conditions of service or the raising of the salaries of teachers which this Report emphasises in this place. That is the point which I would like the Minister to reply to. Before we can get the public to respect teachers, we must raise their status by paying them well. If teachers are not properly paid they will still be looked down upon by the public.

I would like to appeal to the Minister of Education who has done so much in the interest of education in the Federal Territory of Lagos and in Nigeria as a whole, that he should work in conjunction with his counterparts in the Regions in the Consultative Committee on Education and in the National Council of Establishment, and see that something is done about the improvement in the conditions of service of teachers.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West) : I want to comment on very few items under this head. One is the West African Examinations Council. I understand that at present there is a scheme to train some teachers to be examiners for the West African Examinations. I think this is a very wise step in the right direction, but I have one objection.

I do not think that it is proper for Principals or Headmasters of schools that at present send their boys for the West African School Certificate examinations to be examiners. I would have thought that Education Officers from the various Regions and retired Principals or other experienced people should be examiners

instead of the Principals examining their own boys. I hope the Minister will help us to look into that.

The other point is about the development of Sixth Form education in the Regions. In the Western Region a lot has been done, I must say quite frankly, in the encouragement of Sixth Form education. But if we are going to develop it under this scheme and we are going to give about £10,000 to the Regions, I would like to ask that attention should be paid particularly to the principle of natural sciences.

In the rural areas, particularly in the school from where I come, we find it extremely difficult to teach science because of lack of water, and particularly lack of electricity. That is why I am always surprised in this House when the Minister gets up to talk of electricity for industry. I think that we need them, particularly in the laboratory. We use Nidogas and in the middle of the lesson the thing fails and we begin to look at the children. If we are given a grant for Sixth Form, we should be specific that it should be spent on, say, water supply or electricity installation.

The point is about the Federal Emergency Science School. It has done good work. I do not know what the Ministry has in mind, but I think that at this stage it should be merged completely with the University of Lagos instead of leaving it where it is at present. Otherwise, there will be a great deal of duplicity. Those of us who send teachers there for training know how much those students themselves gain, but if they have the opportunity to go into university straight away from there, or if we merge it at present with the University of Lagos, it will greatly accelerate the work in secondary schools.

The other point is about the Grade II and Grade III Teacher Training Colleges. I am surprised that the Lagos Territory still wants to have a Grade III Teacher Training College. In the Western Region we are all clamouring for its abolition because, not for spite, their standard is not very good. Their own standard of work is not very good, and we find it extremely difficult to staff secondary grammar schools in the West because of the very strict measures adopted by the Ministry of Education.

If we will continue to have the Grade III here in the Federal Territory whereas in the

[MR AYENI]

East and in the West attention is now paid on Grade II, Lagos will be moving behind.

Besides, I do not know whether the Ministry has prepared any syllabus for the advanced Teacher Training College, if it has not, I would like the Minister to note that what will actually help the teachers is that those who are training in this college should come out with Grade I certificate in particular subjects. If the man is going to do subjects like Geography and Mathematics, he should specialise in those two instead of coming along with about nine or twelve subjects without specialising in any. You may not understand it, but the problem of staffing Grammar Schools is a headache to us particularly at the beginning of each year and in October. Unless we pursue a very vigorous training scheme, we are not likely to do very well about it.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I least expected that this Head will evoke any debate. Regarding the assurance asked for on the Floor of this House about the Inter-Regional Secondary Schools, I told Members that the question of the establishment of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools has raised some constitutional problems and that I am in touch with my Colleagues to see that we resolve this difference, and no sooner that is done than the institutions will find places for establishment.

About the condition of teachers, it is a little bit unfortunate that this question is brought up now that austerity is the watchword. Our teachers here on the Federal level have been well treated. They have their salaries increased any time the salaries of civil servants are increased. As for the Ashby Report, if I may refer you to that useful document, the Federal Government has promised to look into the conditions of teachers. They will be well trained, they will be well paid and they will have the austerity well enforced. Also, they will stand well in the eyes of the public, as has been suggested. I am all for that.

About the National Council on Establishment, as has been mentioned, and also the regular meetings of Ministers of Education, the question of conditions of teachers so that they might command respect in the eyes

of the public are all going to receive consideration. We will not even stop there. The post-graduate courses which you might have seen advertised in our scholarship award are meant for those who will like to make teaching their career or those who really have aptitude for teaching. We are intending to make their conditions more attractive than the positions of the average civil servants, so that we might attract the best brains into the teaching profession. We do not want mediocres because, like the tree, like the fruit. If we are able to produce the right type of people, then we will produce the right type of students to man our civil service and for our man-power.

The reason for the establishment of the Emergency Science School which was mentioned, is to produce those who will like to do Science. After doing two years' course for Higher School Certificate, they will have direct entry into universities, because we have always laid emphasis on Science, and there is no institution that will satisfy that condition. That was why the Emergency Science School was built. It was not the intention of the Government whatsoever to have it merged with the University of Lagos. The Ashby Commission which recommended the assimilation of all the Regional Branches of the College of Technology into the Regional Universities never mentioned anything about the Science School because the members of the Commission knew very well that the Science School has a different function to perform.

About the Advanced Teacher Training College, the hon. Member has just taken the wind out of the sails of the Government. What he suggested is exactly what we are going to do. We are going to produce the right type of people from those already teaching and holding the Grade I Teachers' Certificate or the West African School Certificate either in Grade I or II. The question of continuing Grade III teacher training is just a matter of interim measure and you will agree with me that out of these Grade III teachers, there are people who will still wish to continue to do Grade II Teacher's Certificate Course. They do not stop there. We cannot, now that we have got insufficient number of trained teachers, do away with the production of Grade III teachers.

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*And it being 5.45 p.m., the Chairman proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the Motions in the Committee of Supply, pursuant to Standing Order 4—Sittings of the House and the Order of the House.*

HEAD 629.—EDUCATION

*Four Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 629—Education, approved.*

HEAD 630.—HEALTH

*One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Pounds, for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 630—Health, approved.*

HEAD 631.—TOWN PLANNING

*Two Million, One Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 631—Town Planning, approved.*

HEAD 632.—CO-OPERATIVE

*One Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 632—Co-operatives, approved.*

HEAD 633.—MISCELLANEOUS

*Six Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 633—Miscellaneous, approved.*

HEAD 634.—INFORMATION

*One Million, Three Hundred and Seven Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 634—Information, approved.*

HEAD 635.—JUDICIAL

*Five Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 635—Judicial, approved.*

HEAD 636.—POLICE

*Two Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 636—Police, approved.*

HEAD 637.—GENERAL

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from the Governor-General to signify His Excellency's recommendation to this increase, and I beg to move to insert the following new item under Head 637—General :

Sub-head 81 : Special Assistance to Friendly countries—£25,000.

I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the statement made by the Prime Minister last Thursday that the Federal Government is to send 350 tons of groundnuts to two friendly countries—Dahomey and Togoland—to help them to overcome their present food shortage. The amount which appears under Head 637 of the Draft Capital Estimate which Members already have, does not take account of this new commitment and the additional sum of £25,000 which I am now asking the House to approve is designed to meet the cost of this assistance.

I beg to move.

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

*Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-six Thousand, One Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 637—General, as amended, be approved.*

HEAD 638.—DEFENCE

*Seven Million, Five Hundred and Forty Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 638—Defence, approved.*

HEAD 639.—FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

*One Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 639—Financial Obligations, approved.*

HEAD 640.—LOANS ON-LENT AND  
EXTERNAL GRANTS TO REGIONS

**The Minister of Finance** : I rise on a point of information. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I want to clarify this point because

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

this is the type of thing that people like Chike Obi always misconstrue outside. In the same manner, my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji—  
(*Mr Ekanem rose*—)

**The Minister of Finance :** (*Addressing Mr Ekanem*). Sit down. What is wrong with you. I am serious.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** On a point of order, Dr Chike Obi is not here in this House. Therefore, the Minister of Finance is out of order to mention him here where he cannot defend himself.

**The Minister of Finance :** What I was saying is this. The £11 million that you have just proposed is Loans on-lent and external grants to Regions. I have made this clear because some people might have been thinking that the Federal Government is going to make use of that sum for some other purpose.

*Eleven Million and Sixty-Five Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 640—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions, approved.*

**The Minister of Finance :** I just want to draw the attention of the House to page 123 of the Order Paper, under Head 637—General. The sub-head is 81, not 64. I wonder if it could be so corrected.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

*Bill reported, with an Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

RESERVE FUND/CONSOLIDATED REVENUE  
FUND

**The Minister of Finance :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That this House approves the transfer as at the 31st March, 1962 of the whole balance in the Reserve Fund to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The Reserve Fund was set up some years ago and in 1959 it stood at a balance of £10 million when it was reduced to £5 million. The reserve fund represents the Government's last line of reserve that is held against any economic or financial emergency. However, by the working arrangements which have been made with the Central Bank of Nigeria, there is no need for a special fund for this purpose to be maintained. It is, therefore, proposed

that this fund should no longer exist, that the whole balance in it as at 31st March should be transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Wachuku) : I beg to second.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : I have no quarrel with what the hon. Minister has moved. But I would like to know what arrangements have been made with the Central Bank so that the House may be kept informed of the reason why this is being done and we can know the finances of the country are being well taken care of.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House approves the transfer as at the 31st March, 1962 of the whole balance in the Reserve Fund to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

PERSONAL ADVANCES FUND  
CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

**The Minister of Finance :** I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That this House approves the transfer as at the 31st March, 1962 of the sum of Five Hundred Thousand pounds from the Personal Advances Fund to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

In 1958, the Personal Advances Fund was created to provide for advances lawfully made to Members of the House of Representatives and to members of the Public Service with an amount of £1 million. As Members are aware, the Government no longer makes car advances direct and the existing advances are gradually being repaid. It is, therefore, proposed that this fund should be reduced by £500,000 and transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Education :** I beg to second.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** I can see that the Minister is maintaining close lips on these very important matters. But there is one question that I would like to ask on this particular one and that is, as we know that civil servants and parliamentarians are no longer being given

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money for advances, why are we leaving any money in that fund at all? Why do we not transfer the whole money?

**The Minister of Finance** : I am sorry that my hon. Friend is so ignorant about this little thing. He should realise that whatever money is there has to be repaid by instalments by hon. Members and by civil servants. Until those instalments are collected, naturally he does not want us to transfer anything there into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** : On a point of order, I regret to hear the Minister of Finance use the word "ignorant" in this context. I think that this is out of order and I would ask the Minister to apologise because the answer which he gave after his irresponsible statement just goes to show that he owes this House an explanation on the matter.

**Mr Speaker** : I should not take this matter so seriously. We know it is beyond 6 o'clock and we are tired and so on, but still little provocations should not be taken so seriously.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House approves the transfer as at the 31st March, 1962 of the sum of five hundred thousand pounds from the Personal Advances Fund to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.*

DEVELOPMENT FUND

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

"That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of five hundred thousand pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1962".

Each year it has been Government's policy to transfer to the Development Fund the surpluses on the recurrent Budget which are shown when the accounts of each financial year are closed. As Members are aware all normal Government revenue is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and all expenditure is made from this Fund by an annual Appropriation Act unless Parliament has already passed an Act which gives me powers to meet

certain liabilities without further reference to Parliament. At the end of each financial year, through prudent management, there is an excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure and the purpose of this Motion is to authorise the transfer of this surplus to the Development Fund for financing our Economic Development Programme.

The balance in this Fund is normally held at Five hundred thousand pounds which we estimate is sufficient as working capital. Any sums of money in excess of this Five hundred thousand pounds can therefore be safely transferred to the Development Fund.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of Five hundred thousand pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1962.

STAMP DUTIES

**The Minister of Finance** : I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move,

"That, pursuant to section one hundred and fourteen of the Stamp Duties Act, stamp duty on bills of exchange in all cases be fixed at 2d; that the exemption at present accorded the British Red Cross Society in respect of receipts for money given or subscribed be deleted and replaced by a similar exemption in favour of the Nigerian Red Cross Society; that the Schedule to the Stamp Duties Act (as replaced by the Resolution of this House of 30th March, 1961, and published as Legal Notice No. 49 in the Supplement to *Official Gazette Extraordinary* No. 21 of 1st April, 1961) be respectively diminished and varied as the case may be".

This Motion has two objects in view. It seeks first to reduce the rate of stamp duties on bills of exchange to a fixed duty of 2d and secondly to transfer to the Nigerian Red Cross Society the exemption from the payment of stamp duties which the British Red Cross Society used to enjoy.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

In my Budget Speech I referred to the Nigerianisation of our credit base, that is to say of the supply of short-term credit for the needs of our growing industry and commerce, and particularly for the very large requirements of the Marketing Boards to finance crop purchases. As I said then, it is not a function of the Central Bank to provide such short-term credit direct to the borrower. This is the responsibility of the commercial banking system. The Central Bank will stand behind the commercial banking system and, by re-discounting bills of exchange will itself provide the seasonal expansion of credit which at present is met mainly by an inflow of short-term funds from overseas.

An essential feature of this policy must be a great growth in the use of Bills of Exchange, to provide the necessary tangible security upon which alone the Central Bank can make credit available to the economy. In order to encourage the necessary swift development of bill finance, I therefore propose a change in the basis of stamp duty on such documents from the present *ad valorem* rate to a fixed duty of two pence.

In recommending this amendment to the House I am mindful that I have received representations from many quarters,—from Regional Governments, Marketing Boards, the Central Bank and commercial banks. This is a small measure but it is necessary if Nigeria is to become self-sufficient in the supply of short-term credit.

The proposal in regard to the Nigerian Red Cross Society is very simple. The present schedule of stamp duties exempts from duty receipts for the payment of money to the British Red Cross Society. This Society has now been taken over by the Nigerian Red Cross Society, and the intention is that Nigerian Society should enjoy the exemption which the British Society, no longer operating in Nigeria, used to enjoy.

Except to those who cannot see what is good and right, this is a non-controversial Motion and I commend it to the House and ask that it be passed.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That, pursuant to section one hundred and fourteen of the Stamp Duties Act, stamp duty on bills of exchange in all cases be fixed at 2d; that the exemption at present accorded the British Red Cross Society in respect of receipts for money given or subscribed be deleted and replaced by a similar exemption in favour of the Nigerian Red Cross Society; that the Schedule to the Stamp Duties Act (as replaced by the Resolution of this House of 30th March, 1961, and published as Legal Notice No. 49 in the Supplement to *Official Gazette Extraordinary* No. 21 of 1st April, 1961) be respectively diminished and varied as the case may be.

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

**The Minister of Finance** : I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move,

“That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before the House on 14th April, be confirmed.”

This is a long and detailed Order by which many changes in the rates of import duties have been made. I have no doubt that hon. Members have studied it with close attention and I do not therefore propose to recite every change of duty which it effects. I am sure the House would find such a catalogue wearisome, and to any Member who is in doubt as to the effect of the Order I commend a study of the explanatory note which accompanies it.

The Order has been made with a number of objectives in view, as I explained in the Budget Speech three weeks ago. First, the tariff changes were made with the Federal Government's declared aim of social justice very much in mind. The increase in duty are selective, and I am satisfied that they should have little or no effect on the poorest classes in the community, except as a result of deliberate profiteering; and this, as has been made very clear on numerous occasions recently, we are determined to prevent.

The major increases in duty have been placed on luxury and semi-luxury goods so as to place the major burden of taxation on those who are better able to bear it, and at the

same time in order to cure that ostentatious expenditure among the wealthier classes which is a justifiable cause for criticism and comment in a country where the standard of living of the masses is undeniably low.

The second aim of this Order is to contain the pressure on our overall balance of payments position by discouraging demand for non-essential and luxury imports, and in some instances duties have quite deliberately been raised to rates which are admittedly penal and should result in a very sharp reduction in imports of the goods in question. I have in mind particularly the largest cars, which now incur a duty of seventy-five *per cent* of their value, and spirits.

The third objective is to provide that those who benefit from services provided by Government should increasingly contribute to their cost, and this applies especially to what I would call economic services as distinct from social services. It is largely with this in view that the duties which affect road transport have been increased. I am very conscious of the keen criticism which these measures have aroused. I have already replied to this criticism in the House and I do not therefore intend to dwell at length on it now. But there are two points I do wish to stress.

Firstly, I am convinced of the correctness of our policy that road users should be required to pay for the roads (and in this context I mean of course the users of motor road transport). Secondly, I am fully satisfied that the increased duties and taxes on road transport are not so great that they need have any significant effect on the cost of living. In relation to a five-ton lorry the increases, including the new vehicle licence fees, add less than one half-penny per ton-mile to operating costs. There can be no cause here for any noticeable increase in the price of indigenous foodstuffs in our markets.

The fourth objective of the Order is to provide a measure of protection or assistance for Nigerian industry. Whilst a number of industries may benefit incidentally from the greater protection afforded by higher duties, the Order contains specific measures to assist the manufacture of radio receivers, or asbestos cement pipes and of cement from cement clinker, and it increases the duty on matches in order to protect the Nigerian match industry which is expected to begin production by the end of the year.

The fifth and last objective is not the least. These new duties are intended to produce substantial additional revenue.

As hon. Members will realise, some of the objectives which I have referred to are conflicting. On the one hand we seek to reduce imports and so ease the pressure on our balance of payments, whilst on the other hand we seek to increase the revenue. As I said in the Budget Speech, we obviously cannot have it both ways, and until a few months practical experience is gained it is scarcely possible to estimate whether we shall be more successful in curbing expenditure on unnecessary imports or in raising additional revenue.

However, I think it reasonable to assume that these tariff changes will produce additional revenue of about twelve million pounds, and that, of this, some seven and a half million would be retained by the Federal Government, whilst the North would receive well over one and a half million, the West about one and a half million, and the East rather less than one and a half million.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 25 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 14th April, be confirmed.

#### EXCISE DUTIES (AMENDMENT)

**The Minister of Finance :** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move,

“That the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 26 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 14th of April, be confirmed”.

This Order is the companion to the Customs Tariff Order which the House has just confirmed. It increases the excise duty on beer by one shilling and two pence per gallon. This is but half the increase applied to the duty which imported brewed beer previously enjoyed.

I have heard it suggested that the excise duty on beer should not have been increased at all, but my hon. Friend, the Minister, does not think that there is a tenable case for this.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Whatever some members may think, it cannot seriously be maintained that beer is an essential commodity or a staple article of the poor man's diet. Beer is an indulgence, a little luxury which most of us enjoy, but none, I hope, find essential to the maintenance of health and strength. So it is right that it should make its modest contribution to our resources.

The Order also provides for an excise duty on matches. This is in anticipation of the production of matches in Nigeria, which is expected to begin by the end of the year. The duty of six shillings and nine pence per gross boxes is approximately one-third of the new rate of import duty on this commodity, and will give Nigerian-made matches protection of about one penny per box. The request for tariff protection for matches was most carefully examined by my Friend the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and myself, and we are satisfied that this margin of protection is necessary and will enable the manufacture of matches in Nigeria to be soundly established.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 26 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 14th April, be confirmed.

9.32 p.m.

#### TREASURY BILLS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to increase the limit on the sums which may be borrowed on the security of Treasury Bills be read a Second time.

Hon. Members will recall that at the last Budget Session, an Act amending section 3 of the Treasury Bills Ordinance was passed into law. The object of that Bill was to increase the limit of the principal sums represented by Treasury Bills outstanding at any time from ten to twenty *per cent* of the estimated revenue of the Federal Government for the then current year.

Two reasons were given for presenting the Bill. Firstly, the Federal Government deliberately set a low level at the early stages of the Treasury Bills market to ensure that they were carefully and properly managed; the confidence which the investing public enjoyed in the field was such that it was considered desirable to regulate the volume of short-term borrowing to suit the cash requirements of Government.

Secondly, there was a possibility that the Federal Government might on-lend part of the proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills as short-term loans to Regional Governments who might wish to take advantage of this short-term borrowing, in anticipation of the collection of their revenues.

I am proud to inform the House that we have now established a solid market for Treasury Bills and that we have earned and maintained the full confidence of the investing public to such an extent that gives my hon. Friend sufficient courage to ask this House to further increase the limit on the issues of Treasury Bills from twenty *per cent* to forty *per cent* of the estimated revenue of the Federal Government.

Treasury Bills represent means whereby Government can borrow temporarily from holders of surplus funds in anticipation of the collection of revenue. The gross revenue of the Federal Government for the fiscal year which ended in March 1962 was estimated at £105 million, and the maximum amount that could be realised by way of Treasury Bills under the present law is £21 million. At the present time, the amount of Treasury Bills outstanding is £17 million; of this amount, £5½ million has been on-lent to Regional Governments as short term loans, and are repayable after ninety-one days, from the date of issue.

For the fiscal year 1962-63, the gross revenue of the Federal Government has been estimated at £112 million and the maximum amount that can be issued by way of Treasury Bills under the present law will be £22 million. This, obviously cannot meet the future cash needs of the Federal and the Regional Governments; and besides, there is every indication that the market can bear more than the present maximum.

It is in the best interests of our country to mobilise all internal resources for financing the Development Plan. In this respect, all the



Governments of the Federation will require both short-term and long-term loanable funds, for their services and projects. Proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills will be required to even-out fluctuations in our recurrent estimates pending the collection of revenues.

The regular issues of Treasury Bills will enable the Governments of the Federation to devote a part of their resources, which otherwise would not have been available, towards capital purposes.

In the past, when no machinery for the investment of surplus funds was available in Nigeria, it was inevitable that institutions and others should invest their surplus funds overseas. In practice this meant in the *United Kingdom*, in order to earn income. To-day, this is no longer the case. Federal Treasury Bills for the investment of temporarily surplus funds are now available. In addition to the cash requirements of the Governments of the Federation during the next planning period, the capital at present tied up in investments outside Nigeria must be released for use in Nigeria. A substantial amount of this would be relatively short-term and probably suitable only for investment in Treasury Bills.

It is of the utmost importance that adequate arrangements should be made to absorb any amounts that may be forthcoming from this source.

A few years ago, the concept of a money market in Nigeria was an imaginary one but to-day, we have now established as part of our financial framework, an active and effective money market. My hon. Friend hopes that this market will continue to grow and will regulate more effectively the supply of credit.

Apart from meeting the cash requirements of the Federal Government the proposed Amendment will enable the Regional Governments to derive more benefit from the proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills. As I stated earlier, the Regional Governments have now received proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills and we have all regarded the issue of Treasury Bills as part of our financial arrangements.

I am sure that all Members of this House will welcome this Bill, as it helps to strengthen the financial resources of the Governments of the Federation.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Hon. Mallam Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : We have said during the present meeting of this House, from this side of the House as well as from the other side of the House, that it is very necessary for us, as a nation, to tighten our belts in order that we will be able to carry out the development changes so necessary in the country.

The tightening of our belts does not mean that Rosiji, Okotie-Eboh, and Dipcharima and only just those of us here, personally, should tighten our belts. It means that individuals, institutions, commercial houses, establishments—everybody must tighten their belts in the interests of the progress of the nation.

Now the Bill which has just been presented to the House gives me plenty of encouragement. I am pleased to know that the Government has enough confidence to go ahead with this type of Bill to increase the money which can be raised to forty per cent of our national income. I would like to say, further, that the Government should watch out for a further increase in the future.

I think that the Government should tell the insurance companies and the banks and all the people who are best able to buy our bills, definitely that they must buy these goods and that they must conserve their capital for use within Nigeria. I think that the Minister (I said this earlier) should increase the percentage of the funds of the insurance companies to be invested in Nigeria to seventy-five per cent. He should also give specific directions to the banks. All the expatriate banks in this country make very substantial investments overseas. Those investments should be made here in Nigeria.

I think that all nationalists will welcome this Bill, from all sides of this House, and we commend it and we hope that the Government will come back with a further increase of the percentage.

**The Minister of Finance** : Mr Speaker, I tighten my belt ! (*Laughter*)

**Mr H. O. Chuku** (Bende Central) : In supporting this Bill, I have just a few observations to make. There is nobody in this House who will not welcome a Bill of this nature and, in supporting this Bill, I have to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact that we took over—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : May I know who is speaking, because he was never called? He simply rose and started to—

**Mr Speaker** : When there is a number of people wishing to speak one must naturally select one speaker. Surely since the hon. Gentleman is the only one standing, he is entitled to speak.

**Mr Chuku** : I was talking of Treasury Bills, and I said that it is not all the people in all rural areas who realise the meaning of the Stock Exchange and Treasury Bills. I think that lots of people in Lagos—

**An hon. Member** : Not everyone of them either.

**Mr Chuku** : They *should* know what it is, if you want everybody to patronise—

**An hon. Member** : All of us?

**Mr Chuku** : Yes all—and in my opinion, I do not think that every effort has been made to make it possible for the people in the rural areas, particularly the businessmen in the rural areas, to know this (possibly through the Commercial Banks). If this is explained to them and they understand the meaning of Treasury Bills and the Stock Exchange I am quite sure that the patronage these people are going to give will be tremendous.

I believe that this is a national sacrifice and, as somebody said earlier on, we should tighten up our belts. If we have to do that it should not come from only the people in the Federal Territory. I do feel that this Bill should be explained to the people so that the people will know how it operates, how they are going to benefit by it, what it is all about and how they are going to help, even in building up this country economically.

I trust in the ability of the Minister of Finance, and I hope that he will do all that is possible and all that lies in his power, to make sure that the meaning of Treasury Bills and the Stock Exchange is made known to the people in the rural areas so that they will give him the necessary support and patronage.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** : I am supporting this Bill but I do not know which factors guided the Minister of Finance to limit the percentage to forty. We know the gigantic nature of the Development Plan which we

have in view for the next six years and it is a well-known fact that most of the inhabitants of this country have not got capital, we have not got enough money to invest. It is most of the expatriate companies that are operating in this country which are able to make profits.

I should have thought that, in view of the magnitude of the development projects we have in view, the percentage should be in the neighbourhood of fifty—sixty because I remember reading in a book some time ago that even in the United States the percentage was as high as sixty-five.

**An hon. Member** : Are we in the United States?

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** : I know we are not in the United States but we need capital for development. As a former Treasury Officer, I remember how our money was being drained away, how our surpluses were transferred to New Zealand, to Australia, to South Africa, to develop those countries on stocks and shares which will mature in 1977, 1985, 1999 and so forth. This is an opportunity for us to make use of the money that is available in this country and I ask the Minister of Finance to reconsider the basis of the assessment and increase the percentage to at least fifty.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** : I quite appreciate the feelings of the Members and the comments they have made on this Bill. I want to assure the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) that the Government is quite willing to improve on this type of market in Nigeria, but we must realise that the money market is a new thing in the country and it depends on the investing public. It is the use they make of this advantage that will encourage the Government to increase the *percentage* to whatever we think will be of benefit to the country. We cannot compare this country with the United States in this type of economic development because the United States is one of the leading countries in the world in the money market and it will be some years before we can run side by side with the United States. So, I would appeal to hon. Members to appreciate the effort of the Government in raising this *percentage* to 40 per cent at this stage of our development.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

TREASURY BILLS BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

*Clause 1 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE AND EXTENT).*

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : The point I would like to touch on is the rate of interest being allowed by the Central Bank on the Treasury Bill. Considering the fact that most of the money we get on loan is part of the profit being made in this country, I think the Minister of Finance, as a good and prudent businessman, should see to it that the rate of interest is not very high.

*Clause 2 (SHORT TITLE AND EXTENT)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

INTERNAL LOANS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to move, That the Bill for an Act to authorise the raising of Development Loans in Nigeria and for connected purposes, be read a second time.

The raising of internal loans is governed by two distinct categories of legislation. The first category defines the method by which loans may be raised. These methods are by public issues of Federation of Nigeria Development Stock issued in accordance with the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Act, or by the issue of Promissory Notes in accordance with the Government's Promissory Notes Act. Both these Acts serve to change upon the revenues and assets of the Federal Government the interest and principal of loans raised. We do not intend to make any change in this procedural legislation.

The second category of legislation sets a limit to the amount which the Federal Government may borrow internally, and defines the purposes for which the loans may be used. This is the purpose of the present Bill.

As I indicated in my Budget Speech, I estimate that it should be possible during the period of the National Development Plan to raise a total of about £67 million by the issue of Federation of Nigeria Development Stocks. This figure takes into account potential subscriptions by the general public, by savings and other institutions, the Central Bank and also the proceeds of the repatriation of foreign investments which are likely to be available for long-term investments in Nigeria.

This Bill on the other hand seeks to set a limit of £100 million to the Federal Government's borrowing powers. I have thought it wise to allow this margin of £33 million, partly because it might prove possible in the event to raise more in this way than I at present estimate. If it should prove possible to raise more than £67 million, we should certainly want to do so, for this would be fully in accord with our policy of mobilising domestic resources to the utmost. Furthermore, it may well be that we shall enter into deferred payment agreements in one form or another. To the extent that these arrangements are expressed in Nigerian currency, they would rank as internal borrowing and so fall to be contained within this limit of £100 million.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides that the proceeds of any loans shall be applied only to financing the Federal Government Development Programme 1962-68, or shall be on-lent to a Regional Government to assist in the financing of its own Development Programme.

These provisions are similar to those contained in the present authority for internal borrowing which was related to the Economic Programme which has just ended. Of a total of rather more than £19 million raised by public issues of Development Loan Stock during the past three years, the Federal Government has on-lent to the Regions rather more than £10½ million. As I indicated in my Budget Speech, it is impossible at this stage to say what proportion of the loans to be raised in the next six years will be on-lent to the Regions, for this depends upon a variety of factors including particularly, the needs of the various Governments and their ability to attract external finance. This is one of the fields where there will continue to be the closest consultation and co-ordination between all the Governments.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): 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 BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**10 p.m.**

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to move.

"That the Bill for an Act to authorise the raising of Development Loans abroad and for connected purposes be now read a second time."

I would like to emphasise right at the beginning of my speech that if the aims and objectives of this Bill are clearly stated and represented without bias, this is basically a non-controversial measure.

The Federal and Regional Governments have each drawn up bold and ambitious Capital Development Programmes for strengthening the basic structures and for promoting the rapid growth of the national economy. In the financing of the capital expenditures of well over six hundred million pounds already approved by this House and Regional Legislatures, the principal policy objective of the Federal Government as demonstrated in the "Mobilisation Budget" will be to harness all the domestic resources available through voluntary private savings efforts and public savings arising from economies in judicious public expenditure and taxation. Given Nigeria's generally low level of incomes, however, the total amount of savings which can be raised from these domestic sources is clearly limited.

The Federal Government has, therefore, accepted that not more than fifty per cent of Nigeria's capital requirements in this period may be met by way of external financial assistance. The Regional Governments have also accepted this principle. We are, therefore, asking for legislative powers to borrow up to three hundred million pounds or nearly one-half of the total estimated capital expenditure of six hundred and seventy-six million pounds over the six-year period.

I should explain that the figure of three hundred million pounds is a clearly defined "ceiling". Some of the anticipated external aid will be in the form of outright grants and besides, there is nothing to stop the Federal and Regional Governments and their Statutory Corporations from raising more than one-half of the planned total capital expenditure through increased domestic savings and "self-financing".

A borrowing programme based on a "ceiling" figure of three hundred million pounds may, on the face of it, appear alarming but one has only to consider that it covers a period of six years and that the proceeds are for the use of four Governments and their Statutory Corporations, to allay one's anxieties. Thus, on an annual arithmetical average this works out at a maximum of fifty million pounds per year and, in my view, fifty million pounds loan raised by the Federal Government to meet its own capital requirements and those of its giant Statutory Corporations like the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria and the Nigerian Railway Corporation, is not unrealistic especially when the same fifty million pounds is also meant for satisfying the annual loan requirements of the three Regional Governments and their own Statutory Corporations. I am not suggesting that fifty million pounds will, as a matter of course, be raised each year because in the first and second years of the six year programme, the amount of loans required will most probably be considerably less than fifty million pounds each year. I am only trying to show that the figure of three hundred million pounds in six years is not alarmingly high.

The Federal Government, in conjunction with the Regional Governments, will set up an inter-Governmental Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee for considering projects to be put forward for external financing. No project will be put forward for external financing unless it is very high in the national scale of priorities. Besides, the economic and technical justification for such projects will be thoroughly examined to ensure that no loan commitments are based on unsound propositions.

Most of the projects, will, of course, be economically viable and revenue-producing and the terms of the loans related to such projects will be negotiated in such ways that

the incomes generated by investing the proceeds in the projects will more than suffice for servicing the loans and repaying the principal. Where projects, such as roads, are economically and technically justifiable but are not directly revenue-producing, they may be financed with the proceeds of loans raised under this Bill. The supporting argument in such cases is that the indirect benefits which the economy as a whole will derive from such projects will lead to increased production, the generation of greater incomes and the collection of more revenues through higher taxable capacities for repaying the loan concerned.

I have tried to show that the obligations to repay these loans and pay the interest charges on them will be in the minds of those who will raise them. I do not think there are any grounds for anxiety because each viable project will normally repay itself directly or indirectly. We shall also be concerned with the effects of the debt servicing obligations on Nigeria's Balance of Payments. I am fully convinced that these can be fully met given the past performances and the future potentials of the Nigerian economy and her trading position.

In order to ease any possible strains on Nigeria's Balance of Payments arising from servicing the loans raised under this Bill, we shall primarily be interested in offers of long-term loans of about twenty years maturity and over, especially those generally referred to these days as "soft" loans bearing nominal interest at less than one *per cent* repayable in forty to fifty years. The longer the period of repayment, the lower the rate of interest, the better for Nigeria's Balance of Payments. Short-term loans, however attractive the terms, usually have adverse effects on the borrower's Balance of Payments because the foreign exchange required for servicing such loans will not be fully earned or saved before the repayments fall due.

Two of the basic criteria usually used for determining the upper limits of the total external public debts a country can reasonably assume are firstly, that the economy of the recipient country should have the capacity to absorb the loan and secondly, that its total annual debt servicing obligations in foreign currency should not exceed about ten per cent of its total annual export earnings. I am fully convinced that these two criteria will be fully met within the proposed maximum limit of three hundred million pounds.

We hope to see a machinery set up soon for co-ordinating the activities of the major countries interested in providing financial assistance to Nigeria. The Federal Government has invited the World Bank to set up a Consultative Group of such countries along the lines of the Consortium which the Bank set up for India and Pakistan for financing their own Development Programmes on a Co-ordinated and planned basis. There is every indication that most of the major industrialised countries of the Western World will be in the Group. Information on the projects in the National Development Programme will be fed to the members of the Group who would give an indication of the total size of their aid to Nigeria and some of the projects they are interested in financing. These long-term commitments will facilitate the implementation of the National Development Programme.

Similar arrangements have worked very successfully for India and Pakistan. The Sino-Soviet bloc countries: Russia, China, Czechoslovakia, Poland and others will, of course, not be in the Consultative Group as they are not members of the World Bank, but in accordance with the declared and well-established non-alignment policy of the Federal Government any financial assistance from them or any other country on reasonable terms will be welcome and will be covered by the provisions of this Bill. (*Loud Applause*).

**Several hon. Members :** Able Minister.

**The Minister of Finance :** Where is the hon. Member for *Aba South (Mr Ememe)*? Is he not present to-night?

Now, Sir, the provisions of the Bill are simple and straightforward. The Bill will empower me as the Federal Minister of Finance to borrow up to three hundred million pounds for financing projects in the Approved Development Programme set out in Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1962, and any new projects subsequently approved by Parliament in future amendments to the Development Programme. The Bill also provides that part of the proceeds of the loans may be on-lent on agreed terms to the Regional Governments for financing projects in their own approved Development Programmes since our Constitution debars them from raising loans abroad.

In inviting the House to approve this Bill, we are not asking for a blank cheque at all. We are only asking for the means to the end

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which the House has willed by endorsing the National Development Programme 1962-68. The Federal Government was given similar external borrowing powers under the Loan Ordinance (No. 7 of 1960) which empowered me as Federal Minister of Finance to raise up to forty million pounds for financing the last Development Programme and for on-lendings to the Regional Governments. In the event, we raised less than thirty million pounds for use of the Federal and Regional Governments under the 1960 Loan Ordinance which became inoperative after the 31st March, 1962, the official date of the completion of the last Development Programme. This Bill seeks similar legislative authority for the 1962-68 Plan period and I commend it for the full support of the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : This is a very welcome Bill. We are not ashamed to go into the world to ask people who have money to lend us so as to be able to carry out our Six-Year Development Programme : but we shall ask the hon. Minister of Finance to realise that as individuals and as a Nation, we have some self-respect. In this connection, I would ask him not to continue to allow himself to be photographed when signing loan documents with the lending country (*Laughter*). Practically every country in the world goes out a borrowing on some occasions but we do not see their photographs in the newspapers signing a cheque for £10 million loan from this country or the other.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : So that we may deny most of this money ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : My intention is not to deny the loan, it is just in order that we may not be exposed to the ridicule of the outside world. The point mentioned by the Minister that aid in any form will be acceptable and accepted from countries outside the Western bloc, is very good. We, as a unit under the colonial status, had done our little bit to contribute to the wealth of the whole world and had done our little bit in our little simple ways to help in financing development pro-

grammes in other parts of the world, particularly in the Commonwealth of Nations. Now, it is our turn to develop our country and I think the countries which we have been able to help in the past would not hesitate to come to our aid in executing our own Development Programme.

The hon. Minister of Finance has power under this Act to determine the terms on which the loans will be made to the Governments of the various Regions. I would expect that the hon. Minister would be very fair to all the Governments of the Regions in determining the terms on which the loans will be made to them for their own development programmes. The powers given to him under the Act are very, very wide and we would request him to give loans to all these Regional Governments on uniform terms : not to discriminate and give loans to the Mid-West State at 2 per cent, while giving to the East Regional Government at 5 per cent, and to the North Regional Government at 11½ per cent (*Laughter*).

I support the Bill whole-heartedly.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I think that on this occasion one ought to take this opportunity to thank those nations abroad who have indicated their willingness to come to our aid in our Development Programme. I think that even in our individual capacities we all know what it means for one to part with one's own money for the welfare of another. Even our local money lenders—we know how difficult they can be. Even with commercial banks—we see that with some of them instead of refusing, they apply a system of monthly compound interest rates which makes it impossible for the debtors ever to liquidate their debts. But, knowing our own experiences individually and what happens in our midst, I think at least we should be able to express our appreciation and our gratitude to those sovereign countries who have felt it necessary to place at our disposal their hard-earned savings.

Sir, having said that, I think that one thing we would have liked to know from the Minister of Finance is this: it has become very fashionable for delegations of Regional Governments to go abroad and come back to tell us what amount of external aids they have negotiated. Now, the Bill we are passing seems to talk so much in the future. Is this Bill to regularise

the importation of the financial assistances negotiated with foreign Governments or is it creating a new situation or a new set of circumstances whereby negotiations can be entered into by the Regional Governments through the Federal Government for fresh financial assistance from abroad?

I think that it would help us a lot to understand where exactly we stand. Whichever way it goes, I think I would like to say that from some reports coming into this country the competitive efforts by the various Governments of the country to raise external aid have not created quite the impression one would like to see of Nigeria abroad (*Hear, hear*). We have an economic delegation of the Federation, in which the Federal Government is represented, each of the Regional Governments is represented, touring several places, and at the same time either just before or just after or while they are there, we have competitive Regional delegations again. Honestly, how sincerely can we expect people to take us? The Federal Government, with the full knowledge and the co-operation and collaboration of the Regional Governments, is out on an international fund-raising drive, while it is there, or just before, or just after, the various Regional Governments represented in the delegation are also going about the same business! I do not think that it augurs well for the prestige of this country (*Hear, hear*).

It is my humble view that whatever may have happened in the past, at least this Bill, to one's understanding, is out to create at least one thing and that is that the question of external loans must ultimately be channelled through the Federal Government. And so the Regional Governments should please reconcile themselves to this situation. There is no doubt that the Federal Government has shown itself as a willing and obedient agent of the various Regional Governments. Let us no longer have these contradictory, conflicting, inconsistent and rival regional delegations.

Appreciating the feelings of the House, and realising that a bear is in the mood for ire to-night, I might end by saying that it is well-known that the Minister of Finance is a man whose mind is as magnanimous as his stature is big. And I will also say, in conclusion—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Orlu

South East (*Mr Akwivu*) is guilty of irrelevancy. I would like to say that he is being irrelevant in that he has failed in his theme of debate to indicate the fact that whenever we sit at night the Minister of Finance has a special uniform to wear, and we want to ask him why.

**Mr Akwivu**: May I say, finally, that I thought that my hon. Friend from Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) was referring to me as "G.I.", but I found in the end that he was stammering.

May I then end my speech by saying that the Bill is a very welcome one. It is a bold assertion of the authority and position of the Federal Government as the only accredited external representative and spokesman of the Federation, and we will certainly hope and pray all and sundry in the Regions to please recognise this situation and to please respect it.

**The Minister of Finance**: I would like to reply to just two points, but before doing so I would like to tell my hon. Friend from Uyo (*Mr Ekanem*) that I am not wearing any uniform.

**Mr Ekanem**: I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to understand, so that he will know very well from to-day onwards, that I am not from Uyo—I am from Enyong.

**The Minister of Finance**: Thank you very much, but this is a distinction without a difference. All I want to say is that what I am wearing is the costume worn by dignitaries in our respected North!

Now, there are only two points that have arisen in this debate. The first point is the one made by my hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, that whenever we go out to sign loan agreements we should sign them in darkness! We in this Government have no reason to stop publicising Nigeria abroad, and the fact that we allow camera-men to be present when we sign our loan agreements is to show first of all that we are credit-worthy, otherwise no-one will give us any loan. The second reason is that the propaganda that would be carried out on our behalf unsolicited by the press of the world will enable others who have money to give it to us.

**An hon. Member**: Beggar!

**The Minister of Finance**: I am not a beggar! And I want to say this, that when we go out we do not invite camera-men, but Nigeria

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is so well-known and so popular and significant a country in Africa that whenever our Ministers go out of Nigeria to the outside world, people want to see us, people want to meet us, and if they come and show us their courtesy, it is only right and proper that we should reciprocate and accept such courtesies.

My hon. Friend who is master of "lastly" and "to end" and "to finalise", *et cetera*, the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwiwu*), made a point which in some respects may be looked upon as trying to ask for the unity of this country. But I want to say that no-one can stop any Regional Government from going abroad. Afterwards they have their own Development Plan and they, and only they, can understand their plan better, so if they go out, all that they go to do is to find sources of financial supply, have discussions with them, if possible come to terms with them, and then when they return home all that they have to do, especially in our new spirit of co-operation, is to inform me and on their behalf I shall conclude such negotiations and perhaps obtain the money. But—

**Mr Akwiwu** : On a point of order, the fact that they have the right to go abroad does not mean that some should go in through the front-door and others through the back-door.

**The Minister of Finance** : Door is door, whether it is back-door or front-door !

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East) : On a point of order, I want to say that the hon. Minister of Finance does not distinguish between back-door and front-door or between back money and front money, and it is disgraceful. I think that we should make a distinction.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am sure that my hon. Friend, Chief Rosiji, is an adept in back-door business, so he can tell us ; I do not know about it ; he can lecture us !

Quite frankly, to be serious, I can assure the hon. Member concerned that all our Regional Governments are manned by people of integrity, and they are not the type of people who would like to borrow money by the back-door.

Another aspect of it which I may tell my hon. Friend is that even where a Region can initiate discussions, and even where a Regional

Government can negotiate for loans, whenever the loan is obtained, the money may be too much for the particular Region and so a Loans Board, a Loans Council, on which all the Ministers of Finance of the country serve, will have to put the loan in what I may call a distributable pool. This distributable pool will be looked into, with a view to looking at the immediate requirements of priorities of other Regional Governments as well as the Federal Government and will be allocated accordingly.

When a Regional Government is able to initiate such a discussion and negotiation, it does not mean that that Government is doing it for itself alone. It may well be that in the final analysis, half of the money will go to the other Regions as well. That is the position. In any case, I think that the more people go out in good spirit and a spirit of co-operation publicising one Nigeria—although we have component sections of the country—I think the better for us.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

10.30 p.m.

EXTERNAL LOANS BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE AND EXTENT)*

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : I have only one point for the Minister of Finance and that is that no loan should be paid to any Regional Government—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, clause 2 reads—

*"This Act may be cited as the External Loans Act, 1962, and shall apply throughout the Federation."*

The hon. Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) is completely irrelevant.

**The Chairman** : I do not think that the hon. Member wishes to raise any point to the effect that it should apply to the Federation.

*Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*



Federal Parliament Debates

2109

[External Loans

18 APRIL 1962

Bill : Committee]

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*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—*(The Minister of Finance)

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

**An hon. Member** : Smuggler !

**Mr Speaker** : I think it is a breach of privilege to call an hon. Member a smuggler.

**Mr Brown** : I have been accused the other day of smuggling Government time to hit the Government. I did not know probably that that was a type of smuggling !

There is one thing that I would like to make known to hon. Members at this stage of the Third Reading. I do not like the way the people of this country go out a-borrowing. In recent years, it appears that our Ministers go out a-borrowing in a very expensive way. Now that we are heading towards the Six-Year Development Plan, I must say that my experience last year in London during—

**An hon. Member** : On parliamentary scholarship !

**Mr Brown** : I was studying law ! (*Laughter*).

During my stay in London last year, I could remember that within the 30 days of my stay, I came across about seventeen Ministers from Nigeria going out on international tour for borrowing. I noticed that none of these Ministers agreed to use any car driven by the Nigerians attached to the Nigeria High Commission in London. Everyone of them wanted to go with a car privately hired out of the revenue that they went to borrow—

**Mr Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*) is irrelevant ; most irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker** : The Question is that the Bill be read the Third time.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : When the Minister moved to get the authority of this House to sanction the borrowing of three hundred million pounds, I had some fears. I wonder if anyone has ever tried to calculate what one million pounds means, but because of the fact that the projects for which the loans are sought are economically viable and directly revenue-producing, and because of Nigeria's ability to service the loan with not

more than 10 per cent of the value of our annual exports, I think that is why we have the courage to approve the passage of this Bill. I must say in all seriousness that a loan always goes with any amount of strings, directly or indirectly. Our Ministers, therefore, should be very cautious about external loans.

I would suggest that the Government should adopt the following order of priorities with regard to external loans :—

(1) Mobilisation of all available domestic resources ;

(2) Outright grants, that is from overseas or anywhere, once they are outright grants, they do not commit us and for this I thank the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom for their outright grants which they gave us ;

(3) Sub-loans which require an interest of less than one per cent, and then lastly, as a last resort, external loans.

If they follow this order of priority, I think that we shall not be faced with the ugly situation of feeling a little bit inferior by rushing ourselves excessively into external loans.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Shettima Ali Monguno** (Kaga Marghi) : I would just like to welcome this Bill and also to suggest to the Government that they should be vigilant on people who are deliberately against external loans and who always try to persuade our Government against external loans and who also ward off other Governments who are genuinely interested in developing our country. Borrowing is now-a-days the fashion, and we would not mind any credit with dignity ; our dignity should be maintained.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana) : The only point that I want to make is that the Federal Government is now responsible for external loans. The Federal Government should take time in seeing that profitable projects are sponsored on behalf of Regional Governments, because experience has shown that when some Regional Governments take loans, particularly when elections are coming, they give these loans to farmers in order to win elections. He who pays the piper must dictate the tune.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : The hon. Member has not read his copy of

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

the Bill. He is just talking out of prejudice. Clause 1 (3) reads :

*"No loan shall be made to the Government of a Region by virtue of the last foregoing subsection unless there is in force a Law made by the Legislature of the Region authorising that Government to raise loans from the Government of the Federation and providing that the loan shall not be used otherwise".* (That is the point.) Then

*"For the purposes of a Development Plan approved by the Region".*

**Mr Speaker :** I think that hon. Lana is making the same point, although he should have pursued it at the Second Reading stage. Nevertheless, I think I will allow him to say a little bit more.

**Mr Lana :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point that I was trying to make is that before loans are given, the Federal Government must ensure that these loans will not be used for political purposes because there are some Regional Governments (I am saying this from experience) which, after taking huge sums of money as loan, use them to finance the party's election campaigns. I will urge the Minister of Finance to make sure that such things do not happen. Any loan that we get from overseas should be for the development of industries.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) :** This Bill, I am sure, will receive the approval of this House. But that is not the answer. I would like the able Minister of Finance to give us an assurance that this money will be properly used. To get money is easy but to make proper use of it is difficult. There is rumour that the Federal Government is going to build a new Parliament—

**Dr P. U. Okeke :** On a point of order, this is the Third Reading of this Bill, but Members are speaking on it as if it is the Second Reading.

**Mr Speaker :** It is not proper to make speeches which are for the Second Reading at the Third Reading stage. So far, all the speeches that I have heard should have been made during the Second Reading.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

#### TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

10.55 p.m.

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

*"That a Bill for an Act to enlarge the investment powers of Trustees be read a Second time."*

The object of this Bill is to amend the Government and other Securities (Local Trustees' Powers) Act by widening so as to include, within certain defined limits, securities in the form of shares or debenture stock issued by public companies incorporated and registered in Nigeria. The paid-up capital of such a company must be at least £500,000; the securities in question must have received a quotation on the Lagos Stock Exchange, and in the case of ordinary shares, the company must have a reasonable dividend record over the previous three years.

The Bill also provides that not more than one-third of the total of a trust fund may be so invested, nor more than ten per cent may be invested in securities of any one company and not more than five per cent in the ordinary shares of any one company. This Bill does not compel Trustees to invest in trustee securities. It merely provides that if the Trust Deed itself does not specify how money is to be invested, trustees may invest it in trustee securities without risk of civil action for so doing.

At present, if a trustee wishes to invest in other ways than Federal Government securities, he can only safely do so by investing in securities which enjoy trustee status in the United Kingdom. However, the aim of the Federal Government is that Nigerian trust monies should be invested in Nigeria, and this Bill will facilitate this.

The present Act provides that trust funds may, by law, be invested only in securities which enjoy "trustee status" unless the instrument establishing a trust provides otherwise. This is a precaution which has a two-fold purpose, namely, to ensure the safety of such funds and to protect the beneficiaries, and provided the trustees have invested the funds in

accordance with the law, they will be protected against malicious civil action by the beneficiaries of the trust.

Trustee status in Nigeria is at present confined to securities listed in the present Act as follows :

- (i) Securities of the Federal Government ;
- (ii) Securities of a Regional Government or of the former Southern Cameroon ;
- (iii) Securities of the Nigerian Coal Corporation, Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, Nigerian Ports Authority and the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

In practice, only the Federal Government has issued securities.

Since the enactment of the present law, substantial amounts which Trustees of various pension, provident and other trust funds would otherwise have been obliged to invest overseas, have been invested in Federal Government securities. The intention was, of course, to stimulate investment in Nigeria, but the present Act is now proving unduly restrictive for our present stage of development. The National Development Plan envisages considerable development in both the public and private sectors of the economy. To finance this development, every effort must be made to channel savings into productive investment.

It is not the intention of the Federal Government to pre-empt all savings for investment in its own securities. We believe that the private sector has a very important part to play in the mobilisation of domestic savings and channelling them into productive investment. I regard it as my duty to foster the development of the private sector of the economy. Since trust funds in one form or another will provide the bulk of available savings for some time to come, I feel that, given adequate safeguards, trustee status should now be conferred upon a wider range of securities than is the case at present.

This is not a controversial Bill, and I ask for full support from all sides of the House. This Bill has the effect of conferring trustee status upon the ordinary and preference stocks and shares, loan stock and debentures of companies incorporated and registered in Nigeria subject to the safeguards in paragraph 1 (2) of this Bill.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Hon. Musa Yar'Adua) : I beg to second.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I just want to make one point, and that is that the £500,000 required for a public company before it can come into the scope of this Bill is too much. This amount rules out many companies of African origin. This amount of money comes only within the scope of expatriate firms. For years to come no African public company can qualify to take advantage of the measures provided by this Bill, and I want to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to this point.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North) : I just want to support the last speaker. This is evident enough. This is a welcomed Bill. But what the Minister should do is to encourage the African business men all over the country to combine and be able to take advantage of this Bill and be able to be useful to the country. I think that most of our business men are individuals. They do not combine. I think this House should urge the Minister of Finance to try by any means to bring all our business men together to be useful to the country, especially in view of our Six-Year Development Plan. That is the only observation I have and it is a very welcomed Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

#### COMPANIES INCOME TAX (APPEAL COMMISSIONERS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : I beg to move—

“That the Bill entitled an Act to increase the number of persons who may be appointed Appeal Commissioners in pursuance of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961, be read a Second time.”

The Act establishing the body of Appeal Commissioners empowers my hon. Friend as the Minister responsible for income-tax matters to establish one such body for the whole Federation as a Court of Primary Appeal by the subscribed tax-payers in order not to clog the Courts of Justice with income-tax cases.

[THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

This appeal body has been in existence for three years now and has proved a very useful institution in the machinery for settling tax disputes. The present constitution of the Body is six members, but experience has shown that this number is a little too small to make for an equitable representation of all shades of tax-payers as well as provide fully for the refund of income-tax, experience which is so vital to the fair and expeditious disposal of appeals in this rather specialised field.

It is the considered opinion of my hon. Friend that an enlargement of the membership of this body of Appeal Commissioners from six to eight will facilitate the work of Appeal Commissioners and ensure a fair and speedy disposal of income-tax appeals at its primary level.

I beg to move.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): I beg to second.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): This is a very vague background to this Bill. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance said that the Appeal Committee which is operating at this time is working very efficiently and satisfactorily. What then is the necessity for increasing the number from six to eight? Obviously, there might have been representation from vested interests, people who like to dodge the Inland Revenue of this country, and the Minister of Finance finds himself unable to resist their pressure; and that is why he is attempting to increase the number now from six to eight. Otherwise, why not give us the true background?

The Parliamentary Secretary has told this House that the body which is now operating is working well and efficiently. But he has brought a Bill to increase the number from six to eight. He has not told us why. He said experience has shown—what sort of experience? If he had told this House what pressure has been brought to bear by some vested interest or that some salt had to be thrown to some political adherents we would understand. This background is very very vague. We want to know why it is necessary to increase the number from six to eight.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh): Sir, honestly, when somebody is determined to make mischief, he has to find some excuse for doing so. We are not used to finding jobs for boys as the hon. Gentlemen do on the other side. But I want to say that the reason is quite clear.

In my Budget Speech, I projected that we have so organised our tax collection system, and the companies have multiplied in Nigeria to the extent that we expect to collect more revenue; and with the multiplicity of companies coming into the country now, naturally, the appeal that will be expected from taxes raised on companies that hitherto do not render proper accounts will increase. And if such appeals were to increase, it is only fair that the Appeal Commissioners should be increased so that, if possible, we may have two panels.

So, my hon. Friend being a professional and a legal man knows what it is to have congestion in the Court of Law, and that is why we have several judges to enable him to earn a living. So, the reasons that I have given, I am sure, will be acceptable to my hon. Friend.

*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 Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance).*

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: I am grateful to the hon. the Minister of Finance for giving a fuller explanation. I hope he will be more vigilant in the future when bringing his Bills here to give us a fuller background of his Bills, and he will be less abusive.

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East): I just wish to draw the attention of the House to one important thing. In this coalition Government we and our comrades do not use tax committees for discriminatory purposes; and so, when appointing the two people to raise the number from six to eight, they should make sure that they are not going to appoint such type of people as our friends on the other side of the House who will use their authority to further the aims of their party.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: The hon. Member should read the title of the Bill. This is an Appeal Commissioner for income-tax, not

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assessment. We are not here for assessment. That is what they do in the Eastern Region.

**Mr L. N. Ezeani** (Onitsha North): What I want to say on this matter is that the two people to be included should be people with sympathy for business people who will be able to listen when an appeal is lodged with them and not necessarily people who feel that all is well with businessmen.

In some cases there are certain companies which are operating at a loss. What I am trying to say is that the people must be such people who would always listen to complaints when an appeal is brought to them and not necessarily people who would hold the impression at any time that any company for that matter is operating at profit and not at a loss. There are certain times when some companies operate at a loss. They do not operate at profit always.

Therefore, they should be people who have knowledge of business and accounts, because in some cases when accounts are brought to them, may be they have advisers who are, in many cases, clerks (these office clerks do not know anything about the general running of a trading company), the situation is never made clear. The inclusion of these two people must be well viewed, and, therefore, they must be people who have experience of income tax matters and who are prepared to consider cases brought before them.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*And it being after 6 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House with out Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at three minutes past eleven o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Thursday, 19th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

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

Third Supplementary Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1961-62, together with Appendices :—

A.—Additional Statement of Development Fund Supplementary Warrants for the Financial Year, 1961-62.

B.—Additional Statement of Development Fund Virement Warrants for the Financial Year, 1961-62.

C.—Additional Statement of Development Fund Supplementary Warrants for the Financial Year, 1960-61.

D.—Additional Statement of Development Fund Virement Warrants for the Financial Year, 1960-61. [By Act].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

THE NIGERIA POLICE

Police Post at Umuagwo

**O.298. Mr D. D. U. Okay** asked the Prime Minister, whether arrangements have been made to build the Police Post proposed for Umuagwo in Owerri Division, and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of State for Police (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju)**: It is not proposed to build a Police Post at Umuagwo which is adequately covered by the Nigeria Police at Owerri and Ahoadia.

Police Superannuation Scheme

**O.300. Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Prime Minister, if he will alter the present pension policy of the Police Department to enable constables who retire after fifteen years service with exemplary conduct to be awarded pension and gratuity.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: No, Sir. A constable who is discharged after ten or more years

continuous service, subject to his having reached the age of forty-five years, is entitled to both gratuity and pension.

Officers of the ranks of Lance-Corporal and above become pensionable under the provision of the Pensions Act if promoted or reappointed to such pensionable ranks after the expiration of their initial pension period of enlistment.

**Mr Chiedozie**: Will the hon. Minister consider whether it is not discouraging in the Force if a man who had rendered fifteen years' continuous service is deprived of his right to a pension because he is not up to forty-five years of age?

Nigerians serving in the Congo

**O.301. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians are serving in the Congo with the military and Police Forces.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: There are 1,379 Nigerians serving in the Royal Nigerian Army contingent in the Congo and 372 Nigerians in the Police contingent.

Withdrawal of Armed Forces from Congo

**O.302. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider at this stage the withdrawal of the Nigerian Army and Police from the Congo.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: No, Sir. The Army and the Police are in the Congo at the request of the United Nations Organisation and they will be there for as long as their services are needed.

**Mr Chukwu**: May I know if the Minister is aware that these people have stayed over eighteen months now in the Congo and that most of the other Nations have withdrawn their people?

Allowances

**O.303. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, the rate of allowances paid to Nigerian Policemen and Soldiers serving in the Congo; and how this compares with the allowances paid to Soldiers and Policemen of other countries serving there.

**Hon. Olarewaju**: The allowances paid by the United Nations Organisation in the Congo

are the same for all soldiers and the Nigeria Police Force. They are as follows :—

(a) Full rations or the equivalent of £2-10s-0d a day.

(b) An additional allowance of 12s-0d per day for toilet requirements.

The Nigeria Police are the only civilian police working for the United Nations Organisation in the Congo.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### Deportees from Ghana

O.268. Mr A. A. Odurinde asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether Nigerians have been deported from Ghana since the last visit to Nigeria of the President of that country and what steps have been taken to rehabilitate those deported.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo): According to information received, Nigerians have continued to be deported from Ghana for various reasons since the last visit to Nigeria of the President of Ghana.

The question of rehabilitating those deported, however, is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Labour and in the case of those who are not natives of the Federal Territory that of the Regional Governments concerned.

### EDUCATION

#### Co-ordination

O.546. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Education, what efforts have so far been made for the co-ordination of the Educational system of this Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Very considerable efforts have been made, and are continuing to be made, in achieving co-ordination between the different authorities responsible for education throughout the country.

First of all, regular meetings are held between Ministers of Education and between Permanent Secretaries at the policy level to discuss outstanding problems and to attempt to reach an understanding on matters of common interest.

Secondly, there is a very considerable amount of correspondence and personal contact between officials of the Federal and Regional Ministries on all kinds of subjects to ensure that policy decisions are carried out to our mutual advantage.

Thirdly, there are a number of organisations whose duty it is to establish co-ordination between Regions and the Federal Government on a variety of matters. These organisations include the Co-ordinating Committee on External Aid, the Joint Consultative Committee and its reference Sub-Committee, which deals with professional matters, the National Council on Establishments with teachers salaries and co-ordination of courses, and the West African Examinations Council which ensures uniform standards at certain key parts of the system.

Fourthly, there is the Federal Advisory Service which inspect schools and many colleges on request throughout the Federation, and the Education Advisers of the voluntary Agencies whose work is of a co-ordinating nature.

I do not think I have exhausted the methods and organisations which assist to co-ordinate our efforts and which help to ensure reasonable uniformity throughout the country. I can assure the hon. Member that the Minister is very conscious of this need and that his views are shared by his Regional Colleagues.

#### Scholarship Awards

O.547. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Education, what percentage of the current Federal Government scholarship proposals is allocated specifically for each of the following courses: Education, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Arts and Science, and what countries the Government intends that prospective students should study.

Mr Ugwu: It is difficult to say what percentage is allocated specifically for Education, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Arts and Science. All we know is that the Government awards scholarships to satisfy the needs of the Civil Service and of the country, and scholarships are given to people to study in all parts of the world where the needs of the Government can be satisfied.

### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr speaker reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (21st March) as follows:

"I have received with great satisfaction, the expression of your thanks for the speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): Unfortunately, I was not here yesterday when an hon. Member made certain statements by way of personal statement and during that statement a letter which I wrote to the Member was read to this House. In that letter the Member stated that whatever he said before he said without malice.

I am quite prepared to accept that, but there is also another point which he made. He said that the letter I wrote to him tended to deprive him, or was an attempt to deprive him of his right, his freedom of speech, in other words, to gag him. On the contrary, it was not but rather, in that letter, the intention was to make the hon. Member realise that as hon. Members we are supposed to be very honourable and any statement which we make in this House must be such that we can vouch for.

I have become the Minister of Foreign Affairs after being an hon. Member. One does not become a Minister unless one is a Member. Therefore, each—(Interruptions).

You become a Member of this House whether you are appointed or not. I did not say until you win election, I did not say that, but until you become a Member of this House, that is what I said.

My point is this. Every hon. Member of this House has access to every Minister and whenever information is obtained by them, they are always free to verify them. My quarrel was that the hon. Member never approached me, he never verified any information and having obtained it from some source, came to this House in my absence, made such a statement that could be very damaging to my character and I have a right to ask for protection.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Sagir Umar** (Katagun West): When the Minister was saying that if I wished to verify some allegations I should go along and ask him, did he intend to tell the House that that is the way hon. Members get their information as a rule?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs**: It is not for me to teach the hon. Member how to get information. Surely if an hon. Member

obtains certain information that has to deal with a particular individual, it is for that hon. Member to approach—

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh**: The Minister said that all the Ministers are accessible to hon. Members. This is false; we all know that they are not accessible.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs**: Mr Speaker, I protest on behalf of my colleagues. I am always accessible to all Members and I know that the other Ministers are equally accessible. What I am saying is this. The purpose of the Standing Order and the privilege which Members have to make a statement here is to ensure that any honest, sincere, frank, truthful statement they have to make they make the statement without fear or favour. But that is not intended to protect a person from making a statement which he has not verified, which he knows later may be proved to be false.

After all I have, under the Constitution, my fundamental human rights to be able to safeguard my own name, and the whole purpose of the letter is to point out to the hon. Member that my name has been besmirched by the statement, that the allegation was false and not true, and that he had even gone further to enable the newspapers to insinuate things that are not true and therefore, Sir, the allegation—

**An hon. Member**: Punish him, then.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs**: There is no question of punishing anybody. But I stated that he will have the decency to set that aside.

I spoke in the House within thirty minutes to deal with so many aspects which Members spent the whole day in dealing. If I skipped the other one, it is not deliberate. But certainly, my concern is that Members should not come to the House to make statements without verification.

I take this opportunity to re-assert what I said in the letter that the allegation which he has made is not true, and has no foundation whatsoever.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Mr M. O. Okilo): I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 15 to make some points of explanation to this honourable House.



The hon. Member for Western Ijaw Division, speaking on the 17th of this month made certain allegations against me, allegations which were unfounded, ill-conceived and almost malicious in character. The allegations were (1) that I have tried to make some of my colleagues here scapegoats in connection with the creation of the Mid-West State; (2) that I, as a member for Niger Delta Congress, as he stated—as every body knows I am the only Member from that small political party and I have no cause for regret in this House—I made certain statements in connection with the Mid-West State Region and later changed those statements outside Parliament; and (3) that I am trying as much as possible and that I do not want the Western Ijaws to be included in the Mid-West Region.

My explanation is that (1) I have never tried, nor am I trying, to make any of my colleagues scapegoats on the question of the Mid-West; (2) I have never made any statement whatsoever in connection with the creation of the Mid-West State in this House and hon. Members will bear me out, and (3) the question of whether or not the Western Ijaws should be included in the Mid-West Region is a matter entirely for the hon. Member. He is the only Member representing that Division in this House and he is the only best qualified representative to speak for the Division.

Brass Division which I represent is not part of the Mid-West Region. I have no stake in the matter and whether the Mid-West Region is to be created or not is not my business.

**An hon. Member :** It is your business.

**The Parliamentary Secretary :** Western Ijaw is not my Division. It is improper for any Member to get up and impute motives. I have never made a statement in this House on the subject. It is quite improper and hon. Members can see that the allegations are really without foundation, absolutely untrue, ill-conceived and most misleading indeed.

**Mr Speaker :** I think we have heard enough of explanations.

## MOTIONS

### ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—  
“That this House, at its rising This Day, do adjourn *sine die*”.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** I beg to second.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** I am very happy that I am allowed to speak. I want to repeat what I said here sometime last week. I would like to appeal to the Cabinet through *Omimi Ejo* that—

**An hon. Member :** Who is that ?

**The Minister of Finance :** I am the one, if the hon. Gentleman does not know I have many names.

**Mr Ekanem :** During the Budget Session we should deal only with those Bills which are money Bills; and so next time when we come back, we shall have time for supplementary Bills. Other Government Bills should have their proper time. We do not want to get mixed up. When we come here for the Budget Meeting we can deal with money matters and money matters only.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### EXCHANGE CONTROL BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

10.30 a.m.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh) :** I rise to move—

“That the Bill for an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Exchange Control by conferring powers and imposing duties and restrictions in relation to gold, currency, payments, securities, debts and the import, export, transfer and settlement of property and for other purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.”

This is an extremely important Bill which the Federal Government is happy to introduce at this stage of our financial development. If this Bill is wrongly handled, it could give rise to a disastrous flight of money from Nigeria and I am most anxious that this should not be so.

Exchange Control was originally introduced into Nigeria as a war measure under the Defence (Finance) Regulations 1939. These were replaced in turn by the Defence (Finance)

## [MINISTER OF FINANCE]

(No. 2) Regulations 1939, and a series of other Regulations. Our present Exchange Control Ordinance came into operation on the 10th of December, 1950, thereby placing Exchange Control on a more permanent basis. Regulations have been issued from time to time since then to meet the changing conditions which have occurred. This Bill seeks to replace the 1950 Ordinance by simplifying, as far as is practicable, the existing law and practices as to the Control of transactions affecting gold, foreign exchange and securities.

The draft Bill is all embracing in that it prohibits all payments into and out of Nigeria including dealings in securities, whether on capital or current account unless authorised by the Minister of Finance. It empowers the Minister of Finance to exempt any transactions from the provisions of the Act by Order made in his discretion and to grant permission for transactions, whether general or individual. It also empowers the Minister of Finance to delegate to any person or body, subject to such restrictions and conditions as he may think fit, any or all of his powers under the Act except the power to make an Order or to initiate a search warrant. The Bill provides a means of ensuring that payment for exports from Nigeria is actually received by Nigeria and it applies equally to Government and to the private sector.

This Bill thus fully reflects the sovereign and independent status of Nigeria in particular by providing that all currencies other than the Nigerian pound are regarded as foreign currencies, whereas, under the present legislation, sterling and sterling area currencies are not so treated. If this Bill is passed into law, all transactions will be prohibited unless specifically authorised by the Minister of Finance, and all persons resident outside Nigeria will be regarded as non-residents whereas at present only persons resident outside the sterling area are so regarded. In addition, the Bill provides for greatly simplified but more effective practices and procedures in the light of experience gained over the past twenty years, not only in Nigeria but also in other countries, particularly the United Kingdom and Australia.

This Bill will bring up to date the provisions of our Exchange Control law not only in accordance with Nigeria's independent status but also in recognition of her membership of the International Monetary Fund, the World

Bank, the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the Sterling Area and the Commonwealth. As soon as the Bill becomes law, it will be for the Minister of Finance to permit relaxations from the absolute prohibition it imposes, in the case of exemptions by orders, in the case of authorisations by notice which could, of course, define conditions and limitations in minute detail and also in individual cases not already covered. The orders and notices will, of course, reflect the policy ruling at the time but may clearly be amended or revoked at will should circumstances warrant. This complete flexibility is a further advantage of the draft Bill and will enable Nigeria to meet any contingency which may arise.

Nigeria's reputation is such that we are expected to show economic and financial wisdom in the execution of the Development Plan and many countries—including several creditor countries—believe that Nigeria could manage without Exchange Control. Of far greater importance than the form or even the substance of the legislation is the Federal Government's attitude towards the question of Exchange Controls. A cardinal feature of the financial and economic policy of the Federal Government is to maintain both internally and overseas, that confidence in the Nigerian currency which has already been built up—I should, therefore, like to make it abundantly clear to all that the Federal Government does not, now or in the future, intend to apply restrictive measures, and other things being equal, it is our hope that fundamental and other disequilibria will be prevented by general monetary and financial policy.

Apart from the major aspect of political stability, the one factor which has contributed most to the standing of Nigeria with overseas investors, has been the liberal exchange control policies we have deliberately pursued. If there were any suspicions that we were about to change those policies materially, there would be an immediate flight of capital from Nigeria to get out of the country before exchange controls came in, and this would apply just as much to capital owned by Nigerians as that invested from overseas.

I should like to state quite categorically that with the introduction of this new Act, there may be changes in procedures but the Federal Government does not intend to make any material changes in existing exchange control

policy. The law will be administered as generously as possible, so as to facilitate trading and business relations with all countries of the world. The fact is, as I stated earlier, the Federal Government intends to use flexible general fiscal and monetary measures to avoid having to use restrictive foreign exchange control.

The Federal Government wishes to have the legal powers and the trained administrators ready to take over, should the situation get out of hand. It is our hope that such a situation will not arise. Our record of permitting freely the repatriation of profits and of approved investments—further features of our liberal policy—is of paramount importance. I am certain that confidence in our economy will be further strengthened when it is known that we intend to continue to follow our present liberal policy.

In order to mitigate the negative effects of Exchange Control, it is essential that also at the administrative level Nigeria conforms to the best modern practice. Thus, the general public should be ensured the minimum delay in the handling of the administrative side of Exchange Control, delays which are otherwise as irksome, if not more so, than the control itself. Hitherto, my Ministry has been responsible for the day to day administration of Exchange Control. The commercial banks appointed as authorised dealers have powers clearly defined in a series of exchange control memoranda to approve applications to make payment overseas in what could be described as straightforward cases.

As soon as this Bill is passed into law, I intend to appoint the Central Bank as the principal administrative agent responsible for the day to day administration of Exchange Control. However, responsibility for all aspects of exchange control policy will remain in my Ministry. I do not intend to delegate my powers under the Act in respect of certain major functions which directly affect Government economic and financial policies. Specifically, these powers relate to the issue of shares and the grant of approved status to non-resident companies; both internal and external borrowings; the repatriation of capital including of profits to any country outside Nigeria; and dealings in securities. These are matters which have direct influence on Nigeria's

external financial position, and I am most anxious to keep these matters under direct ministerial supervision.

As soon as the Bill is passed into law, we will be in a better position to have a very close watch on our balance of payments position. It has been a major objective of the Federal Government to improve that position and this Bill is designed to that end. I am sure, therefore, that all Members of this House will welcome the Bill and give it full support in the interests of inspiring confidence in our economy.

Sir, I beg to move.

10.40 a.m.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

EXCHANGE CONTROL BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1 to 17, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 18—(PAYMENT FOR EXPORTS).*

**The Minister of Finance** : I rise to move the following Amendment—

Clause 18, page C81, line 32, leave out "Comptroller" and insert "Board".

*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.*

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to move the following Amendment—

Clause 18, page C81, line 47, leave out "Comptroller" and insert "Board".

*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 18, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 19 to 40, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*First to the Fifth Schedules, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with Amendments.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Finance).*

10.45 a.m.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South)**: I wish to congratulate the Government on this Bill for two things. The first one is on the convertibility of the Nigerian pound. Everyone is, of course, interested in seeing that the Nigerian pound is really convertible to other currencies of the world and not just limited to the pound sterling, and particularly to the Exchange in London. The second one is on the repatriation of the profits of companies in this country. This is very important to this country. Repatriation of company profits should definitely be controlled by the Government. If we do not control the profits that are repatriated from this country, we will eventually discover that we will be defeating the purpose of the development of this country. This is important particularly now that we are trying to promote private enterprise. So, I want to suggest to the Government to take a stern view about this Bill otherwise all the money that is made here will not be invested in this country but rather exported in one way or the other for the development of other countries. The step taken by Nazi Germany, I am sorry to give that as an example, should be copied in this respect.

I wish also to point out that Bills of this nature which involve financial commitments should not be brought up at the tail end of the sitting of this House because some Members might have left and would not therefore make their own comments.

**The Minister of Finance**: I want to ask the hon. Member for Aba South to withdraw his last statement because sufficient notice of this Bill has been given to the House. He was not here then just in the manner in which he vamosed last night.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance**: I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act (1958) be read a second time. It is appropriate at this time when all

the Governments in the Federation have formulated a national plan to cover economic development over the next six years, to review the existing financial and monetary arrangements and the part which the Central Bank plays in them.

In my Budget Speech I spoke at length on the achievements of the first two years of the Central Bank's operations and I am glad that all hon. Members agree that the Central Bank has lived up to our expectations and indeed, has set a very high standard of efficiency, integrity and probity in the conduct of its affairs. With the experience gained during the past three years, the Central Bank can now look into the future with confidence and can go ahead with its programme of expansion and consolidation. In this respect, it has now become necessary to bring into line with Nigeria's current status, the general powers of the Central Bank and also to clarify ambiguities which have come to light over the past three years.

The main provisions of this Bill are:—

(i) to give a new definition for the parity of the Nigerian pound relating it to gold instead of sterling as at present. As I explained in my Budget Speech, this is of course in keeping with Nigeria's independent status and will enable Nigeria herself to decide what adjustments, if any, should be made in the official exchange rate between Nigeria and all other currencies;

(ii) to widen the composition of the external reserves which the Central Bank may hold (at present this is effectively limited to sterling and gold) and a change in the minimum level of external reserves which the bank must hold. Under existing legislation, the minimum level is equal to 60 per cent of the Bank's currency liabilities; plus 35 per cent of other demand liabilities. This would be the case until June 1964 after which the minimum level would be 40 per cent of the Bank's total demand liabilities. The object of this section of the Bill is to bring about this position a little earlier to permit greater flexibility in making credit available internally whilst ensuring that a sufficiency of external reserves is maintained at all times so as to sustain confidence both internally and externally;

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(iii) a change in the Control Bank's redemption arrangements to enable the Bank to redeem Nigerian currency at its discretion against currencies other than sterling?

(iv) an increase in the proportion of long-term Federal Government securities which the Bank may hold, thereby increasing the funds which could, subject to consideration of inflationary circumstances at the time, be made available for development purposes; and

(v) to prescribe the minimum amount of specified liquid assets which each bank operating in Nigeria under the Banking Act 1958 is required to hold, and to specify the demand liabilities of each such bank together with a percentage of the time liabilities of each such bank arising out of time and savings deposits.

As I have indicated earlier, these amendments are in keeping with Nigeria's independent status and I am sure this Bill will commend itself to this House. It is not a controversial Bill and I hope that it will have the full support of both sides of this House.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Hon. J. C. Obande): I beg to second.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Bill, but I have a point to make under Clause 4. I do not know whether it will not be possible, with the present arrangement. I think if we reduce the reserve from 60 to 40 there is a case for reducing the Bank rate or rate of interest.

**The Minister of Finance**: The hon. Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) had better wait for the next Bill. He is too anxious.

**Mr Ayeni**: Perhaps I am anticipating.

**The Minister of Finance**: Yes, why should you?

**Mr Ayeni**: So I wait for the next Bill.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): When the Government does something that is creditable it should be congratulated. In this case, the Government has done exactly what the nationalists of this country expect, that is by

converting our reserves from sterling to gold. It is a very effective instrument for making the currency of this country worth the name of independence. Some of us may not really understand what this is all about but it means removing our ties with Britain as such and making us really independent financially and therefore I definitely congratulate the Government on that.

Secondly, the increase in the amount of long-term securities as proposed in this Bill may cripple the volume of the repayment through heavy interest and the actual loan itself, and I wish to point out to the Government that this should be done with caution because if you have to increase long-term securities in a volume that may involve large payments it will not be in the best interests of economy itself. So definite precautions should be taken in this respect.

**Mr C. Chiedozie** (Enugu): One thing I wish to add to this is the idea or the measure to be taken by the Central Bank to control the currency and credit facilities. We do not want this inflation which has been militating against some other countries. We are happy that the Minister is taking a very serious view of this, and we want the Central Bank to exert pressure to see that credit facilities are so controlled that production in the country will be equated with the amount of money in circulation, so that we do not have inflation. The idea is that the working class will very much suffer if the Central Bank gives laxity to commercial banks just to give credit without relating them to the productive nature of the country. In view of the amount of money which will be needed for our Programme between 1962 and 1968, I am appealing to the hon. Minister to see that the Central Bank keeps a very critical eye over the operations of the commercial banks.

On the question of balance of payments, the Central Bank has a very great responsibility to bear, and I am appealing to the Minister to see that he uses the weapons of the Central Bank to see that the problems of balance of payments are somehow ameliorated.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi** (Egba North): This is a welcome Bill, and in view of our increasing monetary transactions with other parts of the

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]  
 world, I think the earlier we change to decimalisation the better. The Minister gave us an assurance sometime ago that Nigeria is thinking of the possibility of changing her currency to decimalisation. All over the world, a greater percentage of countries now adopt the decimal system. We could not do otherwise during the Colonial days but to fall in line with what entails in Great Britain. Now apart from countries in the Commonwealth of Nations, all over the world other countries adopt decimalisation, even among the members of the Commonwealth the following countries are now negotiating to change to decimalisation system: India, Ceylon, South Africa, Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Even Cyprus is also contemplating to adopt the decimal system. The earlier we too change to decimalisation the better.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time, immediately considered in Committee; read a Third time and passed.*

#### BANKING AMENDMENT BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

10.57 a.m.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Banking Act, 1958, be read a second time.

In my Budget Speech I referred to the rapid growth and development which has been the history of our banking system in recent years; not only has the number of banks increased, also the level of deposits held by the banks has risen by just under 70 per cent in the past five years. What is more, the demand for credit has been growing at an even faster rate, a rate which will most certainly accelerate further with the establishment of more enterprises, some, if not all, of which will undoubtedly require credit at some stage of their operations.

The prime responsibility of the commercial banking system should be to provide the finance needed to meet the short-term needs of Nigeria's growing industry and commerce, and to ensure that the financing of the country's trade proceeds smoothly. It is of the utmost importance to this nation that the banking system should be so organised and regulated as to continue to be able to discharge this responsibility efficiently, and within the limits of Government financial and economic policy.

It is sought to ensure this principally by bringing about an increase in the already over-stretched resources available to the banking system, and by strengthening the position of the Central Bank in such a way that it can increasingly stand behind the commercial banking system and itself provide the continued expansion of credit.

The broad object of this Bill, therefore, is to bring the Banking Act, 1958, into line with the current needs of, and developments in, Nigeria's banking system, and to make some existing provisions clearer. I will dwell later on some of the details of the proposed amendments. For the moment I wish, for the benefit of hon. Members, to summarise the principal amendments. These are as follows:—

**FIRST:** an increase from £12,500 to £250,000 in the minimum capital requirements for new banks, and over a period of seven years for existing banks; and in the case of banks whose Head Offices are not situated in Nigeria, an undertaking to provide and retain in Nigeria, funds equal to the minimum capital required.

**SECOND:** a provision that the commercial banks shall link their interest rates to the Central Bank re-discount rate; and that their interest rate structure should be approved by the Central Bank.

**THIRD:** clarification of the requirements of the liquidity ratio, and empowering the Central Bank to lay down to what extent, if at all, external assets shall be included in the calculation of the liquidity ratio.

**FOURTH:** a widening of the assets which the banking system may hold, in order to take account of the entry into the system of banks from other than Sterling Area countries.

The reason for the first principal amendment is not far to seek. The experience of the past has made it quite clear to us that unless banks have a reasonable minimum capital they will inevitably find themselves in difficulties and perhaps not be able to meet their obligations to customers. In so far as this proposed amendment affects new banks, there will be those who may consider that it will discourage the establishment of any new indigenous banks. Our fervent hope is rather that only such new indigenous banks will be established

as can, through their capital, organisation and efficiency, uphold the already high standards of our banking system.

In ordinary circumstances, it would be essential for the Central Bank to be able to influence the movement of the interest rate structure so that it reflects the financial and economic policy of Government. In the face of our National Development Plan, it becomes imperative that the Central Bank should exercise this influence and, in addition, be empowered to use the liquidity ratio as and when necessary, in containing inflationary tendencies within the economy.

It has been considered necessary to widen the assets which banks may hold as part of their specified liquid assets, partly because of the wide variety of banks which now make up our banking system. Moreover, in order to strengthen the Central Bank in its important function of exercising some control over the movement of funds to and from Nigeria, it is necessary for the Bank to have authority to prescribe to what extent funds held outside Nigeria should qualify as liquid assets. In addition, it is desirable to put external assets held in convertible currencies on the same basis as sterling assets.

Of the remaining proposed amendments, perhaps the most important are those contained in section 7 which places various restrictions on the activities of banks. The existing provisions of section 7 (1) (a) under which the 25 per cent restriction is applicable to the loans, advances or other facilities to any other person or Company, have not proved sufficiently wide, and it is now proposed that, in the case of a Company, the 25 per cent restriction should be applicable to the aggregation of all loans, advances and other facilities extended to any subsidiaries, of what kind soever. It is also proposed to enlarge the existing section 7 (1) (c) to include public companies in which the bank or its directors have a controlling interest.

Some banks have found difficulty in complying with the provisions of section 7 (1) (g) which preclude the purchase or acquisition of real estate except in closely prescribed circumstances. Provision is now sought for exception in such cases where, for example, the town planning authorities require the erection of multi-storey properties and where the amount of the investment involved seems reasonable in relation to the bank's assets.

Most of the other and more detailed amendments proposed are self-explanatory and are either by way of making existing provisions clearer, or of an administrative nature designed to ensure the smooth and efficient working of the banking system and the necessary control which the Central Bank must exercise on the system.

I commend this Bill to this honourable House. The amendments are intended to strengthen the position of our banking system, to enable it to play its proper role in a developing economy like ours, and to inspire public confidence in the banking system.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu North East): I said during the debate on the Appropriation Bill that some of the measures which the Minister of Finance and his Colleagues have brought before this House are measures which are compatible with the independence of a sovereign state, and this Bill is one of those measures. We welcome this Bill wholeheartedly. There are no *ifs* and *buts* about it. What is good is good and what is not good is not good. This Bill is very good. At times I give certain Bills 80 per cent, at times 90 per cent; but this is 100 per cent.

The minimum requirement for opening a bank is £12,500. You know, Mr Speaker, that one borrower will draw a cheque to borrow this £12,500. That will amount to the end of the bank, so that it means that some Members of this House, like the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), will set up several banks. Therefore, to change the minimum requirement is welcome. As we develop further, we shall bring the minimum to an amount higher than £250,000, but for the present time, £250,000 is a very welcome minimum; not for the townships or for municipal areas like Lagos or Port Harcourt; this is meant solely for the rural areas. There will be rural banks, there will be banks in the smaller cities. This capital of £250,000 for village and town banks and co-operatives will be adequate, but when any one talks about big cities like Lagos and so on, one sees that they will out-grow, minima of this nature.

[DR MBADIWE]

Another very important feature is the making, for the first time, of a regulation or a law in this country which will control both foreign and indigenous banks. Before, there was too much individuality among the banks. Oh, yes! They could operate anyhow. The passage of this law does not mean that tomorrow we shall control all banks. No. It is psychological. It does not mean that tomorrow we shall meddle with their sound economic policy, if they are pursuing one. The liquidity ratio is a very welcome feature. The Central Bank may decide to increase the liquidity ratio. It may, at its own discretion, reduce it in accordance with the need of the country in its great programme, and there is this question of reserve.

One of the features is that we must have control over the movement of our money in this country. We must know what is being done with our own money, and also, as a money market, we must know when to add the interest and also when to reduce it, as is done in the case of the Bank of England.

Prior to this Bill, you will agree that the interest rate in our bank was even dictated abroad, and this Bill, for the first time gives authority for our own country to make regulations to determine the interest rate that any bank charges in this country. I think this is a very welcome feature and a great progress in our own financial institution.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. D. Udenyi** (Enyong North): I must first of all thank the Minister of Finance for introducing this Bill. This assures us that the Minister of Finance is a man with a voluminous international calibre. He is a man who does his work with sincerity of purpose. He is a charitable worker. We on the Government side regard him as the ever-sure and ever-faithful Minister of Finance. He knows that money is the live wire of any undertaking. Without money, no undertaking can succeed. He knows the importance of money, that is why he wants to check irregularities in banking in this country.

Without waxing eloquence unnecessarily, I support.

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

BANKING AMENDMENT BILL—  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 4—(CERTAIN LICENCES SAVED FROM REQUIREMENTS AS TO MINIMUM PAID UP CAPITAL.)*

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): The period given for the older banks to come within the provisions of section 3 (a) and (b) is seven years. I think it is too long. That is the only point that I would like to make. It should be less, say, five years or four years, as the case may be. The period of seven years is too long.

*Clauses 4 and 5 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 6—(SECTION 7 OF PRINCIPAL ACT AMENDED.)*

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

That Clause 6, page C104, line 14, leave out "or associates".

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

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

*Clause 6, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 7-13 ordered to stand part of the Bill. Bill reported, with an Amendment.*

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

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I wish to point out one important aspect of this Bill, and that is that even though we welcome the Government's participation in the indirect regulation of our financial policies through the banks, we on *this* part of the House would welcome the Government actually having a direct control of our financial policies by building more banks that are State-owned. These will eliminate a lot of indirect control, as this Bill tends to portray.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

SAVINGS BONDS AND CERTIFICATES BILL  
*Order for Second Reading read.*



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**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency to move. That a Bill for an Act to authorise the raising of loans in Nigeria by the issue of certain securities through the post office; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid, be read a Second time.

This is a straight forward and non-controversial Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to enable the Federal Government to provide additional outlets for small savings, the aims of which would be to inculcate the savings habit as widely as possible throughout the community as being both socially desirable and an essential pre-requisite to self sustained growth of the economy, mobilising the maximum amount possible to finance development.

I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that it is more important to lay a solid foundation of thrift and build for the future, rather than to seek to raise the maximum over the next two or three years. This scheme has been held up for a long time by the absence of anybody with the specialised knowledge necessary for setting it up. I am happy to inform the House that under the United Kingdom Technical Assistance Agreement with Nigeria, we have now obtained the services of an officer, who has recently arrived in Nigeria, and has familiarised himself with many of the problems of savings in Nigerian circumstances and has already visited all the Regional capitals. I hope, with his help, to make possible issues both of ordinary Savings Certificates and of Premium Bonds.

Savings Certificates are to be sold at 10s a unit, in both single unit certificates, and a wide range of multiple-unit certificates. The interest will be 5 per cent if the securities are held to a five-year maturity—10s becomes 12s-6d after five years—but the rate of interest will be less if repayment is taken at any time before maturity. I can assure the House that this is the best rate one can get in Nigeria for this type of savings, and it is tax free. Savings Certificates offer a very high degree of security to the holder because they are fully registered documents.

Premium Bonds will be on a 'bearer' basis. This will cost £1 per unit and will also be sold in single units and multiple bonds. No

normal interest will be paid on Premium Bonds but an amount equal to say, five per cent interest would be distributed quarterly in prize draws. Unlike a lottery, however, where if you are not the holder of a winning number you lose your stake and the interest, with premium bonds the £1 stake will always be safe.

Both interest on Savings Certificates and Prizes on Premium Bonds will be free of income tax.

Because it is realised that even 10s will be beyond the reach of some people, particularly children, these securities will be supported by saving cards for postage stamps of 3d, 1s or 2s-6d. When the necessary amount has been saved in stamps, the card will be exchanged for a certificate or accepted as a deposit in a Post Office Savings Bank Account.

As soon as the Bill becomes law, there will then be facilities for virtually all classes of savers in Nigeria. This bill will provide ample opportunities for small savers to participate in the future development of their country. I need hardly emphasise the huge task ahead of us in mounting a national savings scheme that will have a nation-wide appeal.

The success of this scheme will depend upon the co-operation and assistance of Regional Governments. I am happy to announce that my Colleagues in the Regions have indicated their full support to the scheme and have assured me of their co-operation. This is a task which must not be left entirely in the hands of the Federal Government. We would require assistance at Regional levels. Hon. Members can take the message back to their constituencies, and I do not underrate the important contributions which you will all be rendering in making the scheme a great success.

At the moment, there is so much desire among the younger generation for quick money. A lot of interest has been developed in football pools, mainly for the purpose of keeping money in this country, but a nation cannot build its future generation on a gambling habit. It is important to reverse this trend, and this bill seeks to achieve that objective. Capital is no more than the accumulation of savings. Capital provides wealth, and I am sure hon. Members will join me when I say that we must increase the wealth of our nation.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE].

The proceeds of these new forms of savings represent another form of internal borrowing and a statutory charge on the revenues and assets of the Federal Government, their allocation would be considered along with the allocation of the proceeds of other internal borrowings.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

SAVINGS BONDS AND CERTIFICATES BILLS  
—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

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

**Mr F. U. Ibe** (Okigwi North East): I support this Bill whole-heartedly because I see in it the implementation of the policy of the mobilisation of our country's economy. It is nothing short of the realisation of the old maxim: little drops of water make the mighty ocean. When the Minister of Finance made this arrangement in order to help the small men as well as the school boys to save their money, it is gratifying to note that nowadays we have really come to the realisation that people in the rural areas, where there is nothing like the Central Bank, will be able to help in their savings.

There is one thing that I want to suggest. In the Budget Speech the Minister of Finance made it clear that there will be no undue formalities for the savers to reach their savings in times of need. This should be emphasised, because there is much undue formalities to-day in our Post Offices.

If we compare the increase in the savings in the Post Office for the past ten years with that of the Central Bank, the difference (which is eighteen and three quarter million pounds with the Central Bank as against £100,000 in the Post Office) is not necessarily because the Post Office is for the small man or the school boy while the Central Bank is for the "big guns", co-operative societies and other wealthy people, but the fact is that the people

in the rural areas have regarded the Post Office as a place where they can put their money very easily, but where it is very difficult to get it out.

At this juncture, I would ask that the Minister of Finance should look into the possibility of amending the regulations in the Post Office with special reference to Regulation No. 9. When this is done, I think it will give the people the idea that the implementation of this Bill will not be a handicap to the small man in reaching his saving in times of need. I believe that when that is done, there is no reason why people in the rural areas will not welcome this Bill. For example, I see no reason why people in my Division who have no banks will not welcome it.

With this, I support.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Maska): I rise to support this most welcome Bill. This Bill intends to promote savings in the country, which is of great importance. It is to make people or the "small men", as the Minister of Finance calls them, to be able to save.

I must point out that there is one deficiency in this plan, and that is that it has not received a great publicity throughout the rural areas. People in the rural areas who have no post offices or postal agencies cannot know much about this savings bond. I, therefore, ask the Minister of Finance to work in co-operation with the Minister of Communications so as to establish more postal agencies in the rural areas.

Publicity is very important. Unless great publicity is given so as to attract the public to take an interest in the scheme, there will be very little that can be realised from this plan. I want, therefore, to emphasise the need for the establishment of more postal agencies in the rural areas whereby the people in the rural areas can make use of this scheme.

I beg to support.

11.30 a.m.

**Mr J. O. Odeunmi** (Egba North): In supporting this Bill I have the following observations to make. I do hope that sufficient propaganda machinery will be set up in propagating this Bill to reach all the nooks and corners of Nigeria. I hope that amongst the propaganda machinery that will be set up will be the Press and Radio and even the T.V. Some plays and programmes shown on the T.V.

will serve, too, as propaganda machinery. The Post Office, as somebody said could play a very important role and I would suggest that the Council of Ministers should please put their heads together and reduce the conditions that are necessary before postal agencies are established, because postal agencies will be of tremendous help.

There are certain things we have to look carefully into. We should beware of the fakes and crooks who would probably be out to do some copying of this thing and sell to the farmers and other people who are not well aware of the real form of this certificate. The introduction of this scheme would do a lot to help the country. One of the advantages is that it will encourage less drinking. Somebody will think that instead of getting two bottles of beer he would save the money towards the purchase of a certificate. If this drinking is discouraged, definitely extravagance will be gradually wiped out from the face of this country and it will build up a very strong home which will ultimately build up a very strong, able nation.

**The Minister of Information** (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : On a point of order, Mr Briggs is sleeping.

**Mr Speaker** : He is not sleeping, otherwise I would have asked Chief Rosiji to shake him up. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Odeunmi** : Apart from the Minister of Finance's statement that it would help to mobilise a very great deal of finance which will help to finance our development, it would also lessen our borrowing from abroad, because if we have plenty of money from that source we can definitely do less borrowing.

Sir, I beg to support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : I just want to reply to some points made by hon. Members on this Bill. A Member spoke on the restrictions on Post Office savings. I think this is not the business of my Ministry. We all know what people suffer on Post Office savings before they can withdraw their money, but I think the appropriate Ministry, which is the Ministry of Communications, will look into that and I think they will do something to relax these restrictions.

Secondly, a Member spoke about publicity. The Ministry of Finance is making a gigantic arrangement for big publicity of this new saving and I think this publicity will go to every corner of the country—

**An hon. Member** : Even in Iwo ?

**Prince Lamuye** : Yes, even in Iwo, and Ijebu Ode.

Thirdly, a Member said something of the possibility of forging the certificate. I think this cannot be possible, because the security printers will print the certificate, but on the other hand nothing is impossible for the Ijebus. They can do anything.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of order. I would like the hon. Member to withdraw that statement. We Ijebus are capable of doing good things for people in this country to follow, not by forgery. For one thing, we know how to do good things but Iwo people do the bad things in this country. If he does not withdraw those words, we Ijebus will go back as in the olden days to buy Iwo people and sell them to the Portuguese. (*Laughter*).

**Prince Lamuye** : I want to assure the hon. Member that Government will take every possible precaution to see that these certificates are not forged. Those are the points I wish to reply to.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I just want to say that if Ijebu people buy people from Iwo they certainly do not buy a Prince from Iwo like my Parliamentary Secretary.

11.38 a.m.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu North East) : All I want to contribute to this very fine Bill is that the right of any nation will depend fully on how much that nation finances its own greatness. I think that this Bill is a very welcome one because it will make us not to depend upon foreign investment all the time, but contribute what we ourselves can do towards financing our own greatness. There are four principles connected with savings which I should like hon. Members to take back home. These principles are—we seek to have capital, we have capital to invest, we invest to produce, we produce to have higher standard of living.

[DR MBADIWE]

That is how this matter should be got across to the people in the villages. If we must make this as widely known as possible, the Post Office alone cannot do it. I am asking the Minister of Finance that this saving arrangement should not be one which will just pass to the Post Office to finish with it or give one or two types of publicity. If we are going to save, it becomes a national event and must be done that way. It is one thing to do a thing successfully and another to put it on paper and there will be few savings in the Post Office. That would not give an idea of the enthusiasm of the people of this country towards savings. Even good things are sold. The Minister of Finance should find a machinery to sell this idea to the people.

You know that to-day in Great Britain, there are some 200,000 saving groups with some 7½ million members; and the amount of small savings left on deposit with the Treasury exceeds £6 billion, and their own Saving Certificate is 15s. The cost of the Nigerian certificate is 10s. This is welcome, because in England it is 15s. We have to devise a way compatible with our own economic growth, so I say that 10s for a saving certificate is very welcome. So with this 15s certificate in the Treasury in England to-day the total small savings exceed £6 billion—all our economic programme budget for the next six years.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of order, is it an American billion or an English billion, because there is a big difference between the American billion and the British billion. An American billion is a thousand million, and the British billion is a million million. Which billion is the hon. Gentleman talking about?

**Dr Mbadiwe**: It is the British—six thousand, no, I want to correct that. It is six thousand million, the American one. Anyway, it is: six, three noughts, three noughts, three noughts. And that is the amount of the savings.

Now, if we pass through the post offices alone we cannot hope to achieve this. In England there are 200,000 savings groups. In England also there is provision for school-children. The Minister says that the stamps will be in the order of 3d, 1s, 2s, and 2s-6d, so that school children can buy these stamps.

There must therefore be provision for these stamps to be made available in the schools so that as soon as the school children get up to 10s, they will go and exchange it for a certificate. My point is that if we depend solely on post offices we shall not achieve this goal.

Coming now to the organisation, the country must be divided into regions, although we have regions already. The United Kingdom is divided into twelve regions. We must have the National Headquarters here. It is all volunteer service. My main point is that the Minister must not depend solely upon post offices, because so many of the areas do not have post offices. Rather there must be savings groups, and there can be volunteers from the regions divided into divisions, and the divisions divided into various rural areas. They can form savings clubs and savings groups, and instead of giving prizes to the premium, they can give prizes to the various towns in competition with one another, so as to know which town is saving more than the others.

In other words, if we want to make a serious venture of this important savings movement, we have to recast our plans and I hope that the Ministry will take notice of how it was organised in England successfully. I would like to quote a few extracts from this document, which may help the Members and the Ministry. It says:

*“Organisation in the United Kingdom: For the organisation of the national savings movement in the United Kingdom, the country was divided into twelve regions, each with a Regional Commissioner. These Regional Commissioners have District Commissioners, there being usually 16-18 District Commissioners under each Regional Commissioner. The work of the Regional and District Commissioners is to encourage the recruitment of canvassers, organisers and lecturers and to promote publicity for the movement. Under the Regional and District Commissioners there are Local Committee, made up of volunteers—people of good will who are well-known to the public of the locality, such as members of Local Authorities, bank managers, postmasters, teachers and social workers.*

*Volunteer workers for the movement promoting savings groups are issued with badges. Long-service badges are presented to people who have given service to the movement for a number of years. The presentation of these badges is*

made an important local occasion to give publicity to the movement.

*An essential part of the movement is that it is voluntary, and no monetary awards or commissions are given on sales of stamps or certificates. A sporting rivalry is however encouraged between savings groups in villages, schools and organisations in which such groups are established. Encouragement is given to people to think up bright ideas that will bring more people into the savings groups, and so that there is an exchange of information about such bright ideas. There are two magazines produced by the National Committee in which publicity is given to individuals who do outstanding work in enrolling new members in savings groups.*

On the question of post offices I feel we should begin with post offices now—that is the means available to us. Meanwhile there should be set up in the Ministry a Committee to think of how to reach the country more widely, so that every group, every hamlet, should be made savings-conscious. In our schools and colleges, in our universities (for we have many universities now) the students should develop the savings habit. It is through these agencies that our savings for the nation can be made more effective.

I beg to support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : I would like to bring to the attention of the House that the Minister of Finance has set up a committee of this nature, which will start to function very soon.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended 11.47 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed 12.05 p.m.*

#### POOL BETTING TAX BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move, That a Bill for an Act to make provision for a tax on certain pool betting business and for other purposes connected therewith be read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill, is very simple. It is to provide for the levying of a tax on the stake money placed with pool betting businesses in the Federal territory.

Hon. Members will recall that certain steps were taken last year to prohibit transactions with foreign football pools, and so to halt the unnecessary drain on our foreign exchange reserves, which was then running at the rate of between two and three million pounds a year. This action was shortly followed by the enactment of the Pool Betting Control Bill which my friend the Minister of Internal Affairs presented to the House last November.

In the Bill which we are considering to-day, we reach the third stage of the Federal Government's policy in relation to pools. The first step was the prohibition of foreign pools; the second, more effective control of indigenous pools; and now, taxation of these pools.

The Bill provides for a tax to be levied on all monies placed as stakes with every pool betting business. The tax may be not more than twenty per cent nor less than ten per cent of the stake money, the actual rate within these limits being fixed by Resolution of the House. It is our intention that initially the tax shall be at the rate of ten per cent, and the Bill so provides. The tax will be payable out of the stake monies which is received by the proprietor of every pool, and it applies both to treble chance pools and to fixed odds pools.

It has for some considerable time been the Federal Government's belief that it would be in the general interest that there should be a single policy on pools throughout the Federation. We have, however, been faced with great difficulty because the control of pool betting is under the Constitution a residual subject and Parliament's legislative competence is therefore confined to the Federal territory, unless each Regional legislature passes an enabling Bill authorising Parliament to legislate for the Region on the subject. It has been a source of great disappointment that so far, despite all my hon. Friend's efforts to persuade them, the Regional Governments have as yet been unable to extend their full co-operation. As a result, the present Bill can apply only to the Federal territory, and will not affect any pool proprietor whose place of business is situated outside Lagos.

Until we have had some experience of the tax in practice it is difficult to forecast with any degree of accuracy the revenue likely to accrue from this tax, but it should not be less than one hundred thousand pounds in a full year, and may well be considerably greater than this.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I expect hon. Members will be wondering whether their Regions will benefit at all from this revenue. The Federal Government has from the very first been in no doubt that pools could be most effectively controlled throughout Nigeria by a single authority, and on that basis it was envisaged that the revenue accruing from the levy would be allocated on a derivation basis, so that each Region would have received a full ten *per cent* of all the stake monies originating from within the Region. In the event, however, we have been compelled to do it alone, and in consequence, the tax will, as I have said, apply only to pools licensed to operate in the Federal territory. In these circumstances no claim by a Region to any share in the proceeds of the tax can arise.

It is, however, the Federal Government's intention to allocate the revenue derived from stakes placed with the Nigerian Pools Company Limited to Regions in proportion to the Regional Government's shareholding in the Company. At the present time only the Federal and Eastern Nigerian Governments are participating in Nigerpools, and the Eastern Region will therefore benefit from this arrangement.

That, is the present position. The tax will apply only to pools within the Federal Government's jurisdiction in the Federal territory, and no Regional Government can therefore reasonably claim or expect to receive any share in the proceeds of the tax. It is our intention, however, that the Government of Eastern Nigeria as a shareholder in Nigerpools shall receive an allocation of revenue in direct proportion to its shareholding.

I have learned within the last week that the Eastern Government has introduced an enabling Bill which if passed by the House of Assembly, will confer on Parliament authority to legislate for the Eastern Region with respect to Pool Betting Control. This is good news indeed, and I hope that the Northern and Western Regions will quickly follow this example, which I commend to them. Enactment of this enabling Bill by the Eastern Region legislature will undoubtedly introduce a fresh situation where revenue allocation is concerned, and whilst I cannot of course anticipate any new decision which may be taken about this, it does seem that in such changed circumstances

it might well be equitable to allocate to the Region revenue arising from pools operations within the Region.

This is a straightforward Bill and one which I believe to be non-contentious. As I have said, it represents the third stage of Government's policy on pools. We have forbidden transactions with foreign pools, we have established our own pools company and taken steps to control pool betting more effectively. Now I ask the House to grant us the necessary powers to tax pool betting, as another stage in the mobilisation of our resources for the development of Nigeria, a fruitful source of revenue which we cannot afford to leave untapped any longer.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Hon. Chief H. Omo-Osagie): I beg to second.

**12.10 p.m.**

**Mr S. J. Umoren** (Uyo North): This Bill is very welcome. Some time ago in this House, I suggested to the Minister of Finance that the whole of the pools business should be taken over by the Federal Government. From this explanation we do hope that in addition to the Eastern Region Government, the other Governments of the Federation will join the Federal Government. It is very essential that this Bill should be introduced at this particular time.

Much as we cannot avoid pools business, there is one danger, and that is that young school children are being tempted to participate in pools business. Very often as one goes along the streets one sees school children returning from classes and instead of going straight home, they will call at Pool Houses and collect coupons which they, of course, endeavour to fill in and return to these Pools Houses. This raises very serious problems in our homes. Children will not have the courage to go and ask their parents for money to play the pools with, and it is going to lead to some moral degeneracy in our homes.

What I would also suggest to the Minister is that legislation should be brought about to prohibit children under age from participating in this pools business. This affects our children, and if we begin to teach them now to participate in this business which in certain quarters leads to gambling, it is going to be a very serious problem for our society.

Another thing is that we appeal to heads of departments and proprietors of schools to try and bring some pressure to bear on public servants who utilise the time when they should be serving the public in filling pools coupons—

**Chief S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo Central) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Uyo North (*Mr Umoren*) is irrelevant. What is before the House is Pools Betting Tax. I do not know what he is talking about.

**Mr Speaker** : He is not actually out of order, but he is rather wandering away.

**Mr Umoren** : As I said, this Bill is very welcome and we are asking the Minister to see that young people do not take part in pools betting.

**Mr A. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I know that this is about the end of the session, but what has to be said must be said.

With respect, the point raised by my hon. Friend, either upon the Common Law or upon the Special Contract, no person who is a minor can stake in pools. Apart from incapacity, the only safeguard that Pool Houses the world over generally have is to say that anyone under 21 years of age staking will be disqualified. That is always a condition, and I do not think that the Government can do anything more. There are a number of people who do not know their own age, like people from—Mr Umoren knows what I am talking about. They judge their age by the tree planted at that time.

*Chief P. Dame-Obob rose—*

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I am not yielding for Mr Obob—

**Chief P. Dame-Obob** (Ishan West) : First of all, I am not Mr Obob. I am Chief Dame-Obob. I would like to tell the hon. Member that most of these people do betting with their children under seven years.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I think the hon. gentleman is referring to betting by monkeys and not by human beings.

As I was saying, the only thing which the Government can do is what I have said. One must congratulate the Regional Government which has taken steps to co-operate with the Federal Government already. It is my hope that the

other Governments of the Federation will do likewise. I am sure the North Regional Government is really not refusing to co-operate. I think the religious position is that they do not want to gamble; but I think that can easily be arranged between the Federal Government and the Leader of the Northern Government who, I am sure, is very very co-operative.

The last point that I wish to raise—Chief Omo-Osagie, this is your Bill, we must help you to push it through; or do you want us to vote against it? If you want, we shall vote against it—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : A point of information. I can understand why my hon. Friend wants to vote against it—because by voting against it, his company will continue to make money without tax.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I must protest. I have no company in pool business. Those of us who are legal advisers—I am sure my hon. Friend, Mr Briggs, is against me because of that, but we can settle that.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

POOL BETTING TAX BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(POOL BETTING BUSINESS TAX).

**Mr L. N. Ezeani** (Onitsha North) : Clause 1 (3) says that the amount of tax shall be calculated and paid by the proprietor to the Ministry of Finance. It is not quite explicit whether the payment of this tax to the Ministry is to the Regional Ministry or to the Federal Ministry. It is necessary that this should be clarified.

Secondly, in the same section, it says, “. . . and notwithstanding the requirements of any other Act, be certified by accountants approved by him,” that is, accountants approved by the Minister. In my own humble opinion, I would suggest that the accountant should be a chartered accountant. There are instances where some clerks whose duty in the office is to add up pay sheets, are at times called accountants in the office, whereas when they are sent to audit books, they hardly know which is which. In some cases they do not know how to read balance-sheets. In my opinion, it is no question of

[MR L. N. EZEANI]  
 somebody approved by the Minister ; it should be made a point that this should be a firm of chartered accountants, and not somebody who is just a clerk who may have interest in pools organisation, or a clerk promoted in the office to a post of auditor who may have connection with a pools proprietor. Therefore, my opinion is that this should be specific by stating that it should be audited by chartered accountants. This is my comment about it.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : I seem to find that the hon. Minister of Finance only wants 20 per cent tax payable on the private pool betting houses. He is very kind to pool betting houses. I strongly believe that pool betting should be regarded as legalised gambling. These people should be made to pay 50 per cent of whatever they collect to the Nigerian revenue.

Furthermore, there are many fictitious pool betting houses in the country, and whenever there are winners, they do not pay them at all. Therefore, I am asking that the Minister of Finance should reconsider this 20 per cent and make it 50 per cent, to be collected from pool betting houses.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West) : This Bill is welcome. But in subsection (1) it states : "*There shall be levied on all moneys placed as stakes with every pool betting business not operated solely as agency....*" I would like to know the minimum amount that will be levied on any proprietor wishing to start this business. I have seen that many people want to deceive the public and advertise without putting their place of business and their proper address. They put in no capital at all, and then, they collect money from the public without telling them the results of the business. As a result, we have many people getting money by false pretences from the public. In my opinion, I would like that an amount be stated that would be the minimum for any proprietor wishing to start the business.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin East) : Before I have my way, according to my mind, in this Parliament, I would say that this Bill should not be supported because, to a proper Moslem, this is gambling, and as a Christian, it is unscriptural. Whether a pool business pays 10 per cent or 20 per cent, my own opinion is to oppose it. We are not at all going to do as the Western Government is doing. (Laughter.)

**The Minister of Finance** : Although my hon. Friend, Mr Babatunde, has made a point which has caused laughter in Parliament, but I think that he has hit a particular point which I would like him to assist to refer to the religious organisation in the country. I think the time has come when our religious organisations should make their presence felt in the life of this country by preaching a type of moral that we want to inculcate in our children.

Here is a very good Christian, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Anglican as such. But quite seriously, I think that the churches as well as the Mosque have a responsibility in these matters. They should assist us to inculcate this in the minds of our people, especially when there are other avenues of saving.

And there again, I quarrel with our present system of education. In the olden days, in the days when people like ourselves went to school, the question of moral and religious instruction was put in the curriculum and was enforced in those days, and moral standards were—

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : On a point of order, my hon. Friend is being irrelevant. The question of religious organisation has nothing to do with the betting tax. If he is talking about the betting tax—

**The Chairman** : He is replying to a point made by an hon. Member.

**The Minister of Finance** : That is all I have to say.

*Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 3—(OFFENCES).*

**Mr T. O. Oloyede** (Ife-Ila) : I rise to move the following Amendment—

Clause 3 (1), page C110, line 17, leave out "two", and insert "five".

The purpose of this Amendment is to make the punishment more deterrent, because it is common knowledge that since the establishment of these football pools there are lots of fraudulent practices going on. We have observed and have read in the papers that it is not uncommon for names of people to be used for advertisement purposes. Certain pool



betting houses used to pay a lot of money, some thousands of pounds, whereas the pool betting did not take place. Therefore, if as much as £500 is imposed, that will stop such practices. Furthermore it will enable not only Magistrates to have jurisdiction over this type of case, but also the Chief Magistrates, because if it happens that somebody in a pool betting house has committed any offence against this Act, and it is disclosed that thousands of pounds are involved, well, it would not be reasonable if only a sum of £200 is imposed. I am suggesting to the Minister of Finance that this amount should be increased to £500.

**The Minister of Finance :** I oppose the Amendment. I do not see any need for it. If we say "not more than £200 for the first offender", or as the case may be, I think it is adequate. I oppose the Amendment.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr T. O. Oloyede :** I rise to move the following Amendment—

Clause 3 (5), page C110, line 43 leave out "fourteen", and insert "thirty".

I am moving this Amendment because it is the common practice in courts that thirty days is the time limit within which to file an appeal. If somebody is found guilty under this section of the law, I think that to give him fourteen days is an encroachment on his rights under the common law. I am saying that this should be increased to thirty days.

**The Minister of Finance :** I oppose the Amendment.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr T. O. Oloyede :** I rise to move the following Amendment—

Clause 3 (5), page C110, line 44, after second "Court" insert "within fourteen days"

I know that the Minister of Finance has indicated his intention to oppose all these Amendments, but I would like to move them.

Now, in line 44 there is no specific time within which to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. Fourteen days was specified in case of an appeal to the High Court. I think it is proper that a time limit should be given within which to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. An Act should not be like that. This is an Act

which deals with the liberty of the subject, and that liberty must be seriously protected. The Act must not leave it in abeyance just to say that he should appeal within any time. I am suggesting that there should be a time limit of fourteen days.

**The Minister of Finance :** I rise to oppose the Amendment, and in doing so I would like to say that my hon. Friend has just told this House that in the common law thirty days are provided for lodging appeals.—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** Not common law but common rule.

**The Minister of Finance :** But hon. Dosunmu's colleague says that it is a common law practice. He ought to have corrected him then.

**Mr Dosunmu :** It is based on the principles of common law.

**The Minister of Finance :** Common law of Mr Dosunmu's *wuruwuru* court.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** On a point of order, I do not know whether the word "*wuruwuru*" is English or the language of an LL.B. man from Sapele.

**The Minister of Finance :** Honestly, I like to give in some legal arguments to my hon. Friend. That particular clause stipulates that you have the right to appeal from the court of original jurisdiction within fourteen days, and that if you want to appeal to the High Court, there is no stipulation of days, because you have to apply for leave to appeal in the High Court to the Federal Supreme Court. Therefore, all you have to do is to file your grounds of appeal immediately when the case is disposed of.

**Mr Dosunmu :** Notice of appeal.

**The Minister of Finance :** That is right. You have to file your notice of appeal when the case is disposed of. Dosunmu, I know that you are a good lawyer.

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

**The Minister of Finance :** Briggs is a *Jankara* lawyer.

I beg to oppose.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

**Mr T. O. Oloyede** (Ife-Ila): Despite the attitude of the Minister of Finance, I rise to move the following Amendment—

Clause 3 (5), page C110, line 46, at the end add, "and where such leave is refused appeal for such leave should lie to the Federal Supreme Court within fourteen days."

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): On a point of order, I would like Mr Briggs to direct this man properly because this is his first time of speaking since he crossed to the Action Group.

**Mr Oloyede**: I have to point out that the statement which was made by the hon. Member on the other side is not correct.

I move to amend line 46 because, supposing the High Court refused the leave, that presupposes that that is the end of the matter. Therefore, I am saying that the words, "and where such leave is refused appeal for such leave should lie to the Federal Supreme Court within fourteen days" should be added at the end.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance**: I oppose the Amendment because it is unnecessary. It is ordinary practice that where one applies to a court for leave to appeal and that court refuses one leave, one could go to a higher court to apply for leave to appeal. Therefore, there is no point in making that Amendment, and I beg to oppose.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): Subsection 5 of Clause 3 states that:

*"Any person aggrieved by a decision of a magistrates' court may within fourteen days thereafter appeal to the High Court or from the High Court to the Federal Supreme Court on a question of law but not on any question of fact" which is the normal thing "or of sentence: provided that no appeal from the High Court shall lie without the leave of that Court."*

The hon. Minister has opposed the Amendment that no appeal shall lie without the leave of that court but to restrict the right of appeals to the question of law only and not on any question of sentence is curtailing the powers of the court and, I dare say, that it is

unconstitutional. In due course, every accused person who is dissatisfied with the judgment of any court, either a Magistrate's Court or a High Court, may appeal to the higher court on the question of sentence. I think that those who drafted this Bill should look carefully at the Constitution because they cannot restrict the powers which the Constitution, which is supreme in this country, confers upon the court.

**The Minister of Finance**: I think that hon. Members who are themselves members of the legal profession should stop kidding people with threats of violation of the Constitution and should stop making a nuisance of our Constitution or of the High Court. If the hon. Gentleman knows that this is against the provisions of the Constitution he knows that his usual remedy is to go to Rotimi Williams.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: Rotimi Williams is not a court.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Clauses 3-5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

### THIRD SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES: 1962-63

(CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE)

12.42 p.m.

**The Minister of Finance**: I beg to move, "That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62 under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved."

**The Minister of State** (Police): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62 under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

## POPULATION CENSUS

**Alhaji Daura** (Maska) : I rise, on this Motion for adjournment, to tell the hon. Minister of Economic Development to defer the commencement of the forthcoming census which is to take place in May 1962 so as to enable the Muslims now on pilgrimage to Mecca to register their names.

This is quite a straightforward question and we are only seeking assurance to preserve the legitimate rights of our fellow countrymen. The forthcoming census is a burning question in the Federation and particularly in the Northern Region from where the majority of the people concerned come.

The count, it has been announced, is to take place from the 13th to the 17th May and this is just about the time when the holy pilgrimage to Mecca will be performed. It is an undisputable fact that thousands of Muslims from Nigeria will by then be busily engaged in performing the holy pilgrimage and will definitely have no means of coming back home in time to register their names.

This, then, is the plight of the Muslims from the Northern Region who have since left their homes and are still leaving the country in thousands for the holy pilgrimage in Mecca by road and by air. Will it then mean that these innocent people will be deprived of their right to vote and can no longer be citizens of Nigeria for the next ten years or until such a time as another census will be taken? They cannot exercise their rights as citizens of this country nor can they participate in any election for which the prerequisite is the registration of names.

The Minister should be aware of the fact that the majority of those who are now on pilgrimage to Mecca comprise the wealthiest and the leading personalities of their respective communities. Thus to deprive such important personalities of their legitimate rights will, no doubt, constitute an unprece-

dent anomaly for which the Government will solely be held responsible.

There are two aspects to this anomaly, one of which is political and the other economic but both of which are detrimental to the Northern Region.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** : On a point of order, Sir—I refer you to Order 25 (4) which states that—

*"It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission"*.

I remember that this matter, which the hon. Member is expatiating upon, has been raised on the Floor of this House and the Minister of Economic Development assured us that those who were going to Mecca might be asked to register their particulars before they left and the House accepted that. Unless the hon. Gentleman raising the point on Adjournment comes by a substantive motion, or unless there has been a rescission of that decision, it is completely out of order for him to raise it now.

**Mr Speaker** : I believe myself that this matter has been formerly and adequately dealt with. It seems to me therefore that no further discussion should be held on it.

12.54 p.m.

## Private Medical Practitioners

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgbar) : I want to raise a matter which concerns many professionals in this country, particularly private medical practitioners who are registered in countries outside the Commonwealth countries. When I first mentioned this point to the Minister I had the intention of getting a statement from him on this matter which I regard as of paramount importance.

An attempt has been made by the Government to place unnecessary difficulties and restrictions in the way of medical practitioners who are not registered in Commonwealth countries, unless they do practise in Government or missionary hospitals.

[MR TARKA]

I think that at present the Medical Service in this country is not very widely spread and it is, therefore, essential to make use of as many private practitioners as possible in the country. In some cases, people have had to resort to the use of herbalists, private native doctors and even witch doctors. I feel therefore that the time has come for this restriction on practice by private medical practitioners who wish to set up their own private practices to be remedied by the Government.

The restriction goes as far as even stopping these professionals from associating their own private practices with the existing private medical practitioners. I think that the Government should try to allow these people to make use of their practices as much as possible to the benefit of the masses of this country who are otherwise not provided for.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief the

hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): The Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act is one of those Acts still on our Statute Book which have been over-taken by the event of the independence of this country and I wish to assure the hon. Member that this Act is effectively under review in my Ministry.

We ourselves are aware of many anomalies which were incorporated in this Act and when the Act is reviewed we shall bring here a comprehensive Act covering the activities of medical practitioners in this country and these anomalies to which the hon. Gentleman has drawn my attention will certainly be removed. (*Hear, hear*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do adjourn *sine die*.

*Adjourned accordingly at four minutes to one o'clock, sine die pursuant to the Order of the House This Day.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 29th May, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

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

That this House, at its rising This Day, do adjourn *sine die*.

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

**Chief A. Enahoro** (Ishan East) : I beg to oppose. It seems to me that if the situation is as the Government—that is to say judging by the *Order Paper*—pretends that it is then there is something rather silly in all of us coming here for one day and going away. One would have thought that Parliament would be in continuous session to keep the situation in review.

I beg to oppose.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House, at its rising This Day, do adjourn *sine die*.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

That This Day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 16, Government Business shall have precedence over the business of Private Members.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** : I beg to second.

**Chief Enahoro** : I beg to oppose. I think that it is unreasonable for the hon. Leader of the House not to indicate why precedence should be given to Government Business. In the past, from time to time, Government had found one means or another of depriving hon. Members of their opportunity to have their business taken on the Floor of this House. It seems to me that, considering the fact that there are six sitting days in the week, the only day which hon. Members have for Private Members' business should not be taken away from hon. Members.

It was open to the Government to allow Private Members' business to be taken up till two o'clock or six o'clock and then to introduce Government business or to begin sitting on another day of the week so that we should not disrupt arrangements which have been made in order to enable hon. Members to bring matters concerning the vital interests of their constituencies to the notice of the House.

I beg to oppose.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am sure my hon. Friend the Member for Ishan East will agree with me that the first Motion that has been passed takes the sting from his argument. The point is that this House is sitting for one day and has adopted a Resolution to that effect. Therefore, it is impossible for Private Members' Motions which have not as a matter of fact been put down on the *Order Paper* to-day or selected by the Business Committee to come before this House which sits for only this day. In the circumstance, I feel that the argument of my hon. Friend is far-fetched and untenable.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That This Day, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 16, Government Business shall have precedence over the business of Private Members.

## SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

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

That at This Day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 7 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

**The Minister of Transport** : I beg to second.

**Chief Enahoro** : I beg to oppose. It has to be borne in mind that we are summoned here this morning to consider certain matters which have never been considered in this Parliament and the rush with which the Government seeks to transact this business seems to me to be sinister. Since we have come all this way to consider nothing but what is before us, it is possible that certain hon. Members on the other side, for purposes of argument, could have second thoughts over night if we did not finish our business

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

to-day and might come here with a more reasonable attitude tomorrow. I do not think hon. Members should be deprived of that opportunity.

Furthermore, why should we go on sitting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.? Hon. Members will be here till tomorrow morning. I understand that hon. Members have not drawn their allowances and, judging by what transpired in the past, they will probably stay in town until they draw their allowances which means tomorrow morning. Therefore I do not see why we cannot go on sitting tomorrow morning if we do not finish our business to-day.

I beg to oppose.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That at This Day's sitting, the proceedings on Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 7 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

#### STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:

That in pursuance of section sixty-five of the Constitution of the Federation it is declared that a state of public emergency exists and that this resolution shall remain in force until the end of the month of December, nineteen hundred and sixty-two.

Members know the reasons why Parliament has reassembled to-day. For the past week or so there has been no properly constituted Government in Western Nigeria. I would like to recapitulate briefly the events which have led to this impasse and in doing so I would like to emphasise that the Federal Government had been motivated solely by the desire to ensure that peace, order and tranquillity are maintained throughout parts of the Federation.

A political crisis developed within the Action Group which were the party in control of the Government of Western Nigeria. Following the crisis the National Executive of the Party deposed Chief Akintola as Deputy Leader and asked him to resign his appointment as Premier

of Western Nigeria. On the 20th of May, the Premier advised the Governor of Western Nigeria that in view of the political crisis which had been developing in the Region and of the rival claims of the two factions to a majority support of the electorate in the Region His Excellency should exercise his powers under section 31 of Part III of the Constitution of Western Nigeria to dissolve the Legislative Houses of the Region. The Governor refused.

On the same day, the Premier asked the Speaker, for the same reasons, to convene the Western House of Assembly for Wednesday May 23rd to consider and pass a Motion for a vote of confidence in the Government of Western Nigeria but the Speaker also refused. The following day the Governor purported to exercise the powers vested in him by section 33 (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Nigeria Constitution Order-in-Council 1960 and purported to remove Chief Akintola from his office as Premier of Western Nigeria with effect from the 21st of May. Chief Akintola thereupon filed a Motion in the High Court challenging the power of the Governor to remove him from office in the manner he did. The matter is still before the court for determination.

The Governor, nevertheless, proceeded to exercise the powers in normal circumstances vested in him by section 33 (1) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria by purporting to appoint Chief D. S. Adegbenro to be Premier of Western Nigeria with effect from the 21st of May. A meeting of the Western House of Assembly was summoned for the 25th of May.

As Members know, two unsuccessful attempts were made on that day to hold meetings of the Western House of Assembly; the first one ended in a violent uproar and disorder. The police had no alternative but to use tear gas to disperse all Members, but before then the House had become a shambles. I was then approached by one side to the dispute to allow the Nigeria Police to guard the Chamber of the Western House of Assembly so that another meeting could be held, this time in the House of Chiefs which was to be used as the House of Assembly. The other side almost immediately warned that it would be unwise and risky to allow such further

meeting to be held. Before the attempt to hold a second meeting I felt impelled to issue the following release :

*"The two factions in the Action Group have contacted the Prime Minister regarding the holding of another meeting of the Western Nigeria House of Assembly to-day. The Prime Minister cannot stop the meeting from taking place but because of the fight which has broken out in the House this morning if the parties decide to hold a meeting of the House of Assembly they may do so. It must be on the strict understanding that there will be no police protection within the Chamber. If, however, any party insists on being afforded police protection within the Chamber the police may be so present, but the Federal Government will not accept any decision reached as a result of such proceedings in the Chamber. If in spite of all the efforts of the Police there should be an outbreak of violence or any disorder, the Police have authority to clear the Chamber and lock it up"*.

Shortly after the release had been issued, I received a further report from the Inspector-General of Police that an attempt had been made to hold a meeting under Nigeria Police protection but that it has resulted in a far greater uproar and commotion than the earlier one. The Police therefore cleared the Chamber and locked it up.

In the afternoon of the same day, May 25th, the Council of Ministers met to discuss the situation. The same evening I made a nation wide broadcast explaining the position of the Federal Government in the matter and, in the course of my broadcast, I made the following observation—

*"No responsible Government of the Federation could allow an explosive situation such as that which now exists in Western Nigeria to continue without taking adequate measures to ensure that there is an early return to the Region of peace, order and good Government"*.

I said a few moments ago that for the past week or so there does not appear to have been any validly constituted Government in Western Nigeria. In the light of the violent incidents on May 25th which badly shattered both Houses of Assembly, it is difficult to see how the public affairs of the Western Region could possibly be carried on in an atmosphere of

warring factions of a party in power so sadly rent asunder in the old world struggle that will ultimately do nobody any good inside and outside Western Nigeria. This is the background against which I ask hon. Members to assess the situation and to authorise the Government of the Federation to take appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution.

Allegations of conspiracy have been made against the Federal Government, that it had planned the whole crisis in order to take over the Western Nigeria Government. It has also been said in certain quarters that this Parliament would be abusing its powers were it to declare a state of emergency because the sad and unfortunate occurrences had not extended beyond the precincts of the Legislature of the Western Region.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. We are surely not responsible for the chain of events that led to the party and personal wrangles and the attempted by-passing of the Western Legislature and to the mutual dismissal and counter dismissal between the Governor and Premier. The question at issue is whether, in the absence of a duly constituted Government in Western Nigeria, the Federal Government have no responsibility for ensuring peace, order and good government in that Region. The main purpose of this Resolution is to seek Parliament's approval for the measures which the Federal Government proposes to adopt in order to ensure an early return to Western Nigeria of peace, order and good government.

I ask all Nigerians to co-operate and support the Federal Government at this momentous turning point in our national history. It is not yet two years since we began the adventurous but arduous task of nation building. The eyes of the whole world are upon us, particularly now when we, a responsible and friendly people, are seeking to execute our development plans and so increase the happiness and prosperity of our people.

I solemnly assure you that the power we shall soon be forced to assume will be exercised in as humane and democratic a manner as the circumstances will permit and that as soon as reasonably may be, the Federal Government will actively promote and encourage a situation in which an early return to the normal process

[THE PRIME MINISTER]  
of Parliamentary Government could be guaranteed for all classes of the people of Western Nigeria.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to second.

**Chief O. Awolowo (Ijebu-Remo)** : I beg to move the following Amendment to the Motion already proposed by the Prime Minister :

To delete all the words of the Motion after—*That*—and substitute—

“This honourable House declares that having regard to the provisions of section 65 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria a state of public emergency does not exist”.

May I draw the attention of hon. Members to the provisions of section 65 of our Constitution. It is not usual for Members to read the Constitution unless occasion such as this arises or some other incidents which affect us occur. Section 65 reads—

“65 (1) *Parliament may at any time make such laws for Nigeria or any part thereof with respect to matters not included in the Legislative Lists as may appear to Parliament to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of maintaining or securing peace, order and good government during any period of emergency*”.

Then section 3—

“(3) *In this section “period of emergency” means any period during which—*

- (a) *the Federation is at war ;*
- (b) *there is in force a resolution passed by each House of Parliament declaring that a state of public emergency exists ; and*
- (c) *there is in force a resolution of each House of Parliament supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House declaring that democratic institutions in Nigeria are threatened by subversion”.*

That is the section, Mr Speaker, and I hold the view very strongly—and that view is in no way shaken by the speech made by the Prime Minister—that the step which the Federal Government now proposes is uncalled for and unwarranted.

The first question which any reasonable person ought to ask himself is this. Is there a state of public emergency in the Western

Region ? That is the most important question which the Prime Minister and the Cabinet must ask themselves. I submit with great respect that a state of public emergency does not exist in Western Nigeria.

Not long ago, after independence, there was rioting of a most severe nature in the Tiv Division of Northern Nigeria. Several lives were lost, several properties were destroyed, there was arson and a host of other crimes were committed. At that time, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was the Prime Minister as he is the Prime Minister to-day. He did not think it fit to call this Parliament to declare a state of public emergency in the Northern Region. Also in Okrika—there was widespread rioting in Okrika ; again, several lives and properties were lost. I understand that this widespread rioting in Okrika occurred twice in the Eastern Region. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet did not think it fit on that occasion to declare a state of public emergency in the Eastern Region.

But, because the Action Group is pursuing the normal democratic processes as laid down in our Constitution to oust someone who happens to be a very close friend of the Prime Minister, and also because the Action Group is looked upon as a mortal foe to the N.P.C., this very far-reaching provision of our Constitution is now being invoked, only in respect of what might be described as squabbles inside the Chamber of the Western House of Assembly. It is doing violence to our Constitution and doing violence to the construction of words to suggest that what happened in the Western House of Assembly amounts to a state of public emergency.

I was present there myself, and when I left that Chamber, those who were outside the Chamber did not even know that anything was happening inside the Chamber. Ibadan is peaceful—the whole of the Western Region is peaceful ; it is true that the newspapers have been exaggerating the situation in the Western Region ; the Prime Minister himself has lent his support to this exaggeration : he cancelled all his engagements—whether they existed or not I do not know ; the Governor-General was suddenly summoned back from his holiday in Nsukka to come to Lagos even when there was no deterioration in the situation in the Western Region.



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I maintain that this is a calculated, premeditated attempt on the part of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to try, if they could, to castrate the Action Group, to disturb the welfare of the people of Western Nigeria who have always been looked upon as the foes of the N.P.C.

May I say that I can understand the yearnings and the wishes of the N.C.N.C. and the stand of the N.C.N.C. in this matter. Every political party wants to be in power—we want to be in power here in the centre one day, and by the grace of God we will. But the N.C.N.C. wants, naturally, to fish in troubled waters. If I were in their shoes, I would think that no occasion is more favourable than now to have a dissolution of the Legislature of the Western Region, because a dissolution now would mean a split in the votes of the Action Group. It might be that by such a split, they could sort of fluke in and form the Government of Western Nigeria. In any case, whatever happened after that dissolution, the N.C.N.C. would not be any worse off than they were before, namely to be in the Opposition—that is the worst that could happen to them. But there is a chance—the off-chance—that they may just manage to win.

Therefore I can understand the action of the N.C.N.C. in this matter, because that is the party in opposition in the Western Region. The N.P.C. has no foothold in the West, and it is doing its very best to find a foothold in the Western Region.

There are a number of persons who call themselves N.P.C. Members for Ibadan, but they are by themselves; they have some following of a type among people who live in Mokola, Ibadan, that is to be understood; but the N.P.C. as such has no following in the Western Region, and it is the N.P.C.-dominated Federal Government that now wants to impose its rule on the people of Western Nigeria, simply because there was what the Prime Minister called the uproar in the Chamber of the Western House of Assembly—not an uproar in Ibadan as a whole; not an uproar even in Ogbomosho, the home of Chief Akintola who is involved in this matter; not an uproar in Ijebu-Remo; not an uproar in Ikorodu; not an uproar anywhere in the Western Region. The Prime Minister thinks that this very far-reaching provision of the Constitution should be invoked merely to save a friend!

Secondly, what is a public emergency? What is a state of public emergency? May I say that my view quite candidly is that a state of public emergency arises only when there is widespread violence in any part of the Federation or in the whole of the Federation. In this particular case there is no widespread violence or rioting or disturbance in the Western Region. And yet, the hon. Minister for War—for Defence—sent soldiers to Ibadan, as a matter of routine I think, because the soldiers there have been moved to the Congo; and then he went on the air to say “*Oh yes, we have sent them there because of the tension in Ibadan.*” Where is the tension in Ibadan? I may walk about the streets of Ibadan, and if the Minister of Defence challenges that, I invite him to come along to Ibadan and go about the streets of Ibadan. But they want to create this artificial tension in the Western Region in order to invoke this far-reaching provision of the Constitution.

Thirdly, I say—I said it outside this House and I want to repeat it on the Floor of this honourable House—that the action now being taken by the Federal Government is a gross mis-use of power; I do not say abuse because as far as I can see there is no abuse yet—I hope the Federal Government does not abuse its power in the process of implementing this Resolution, but so far it is a gross mis-use of power; the circumstances which should warrant the use of this power have not yet arisen.

What is more? The Prime Minister was very, very careful in stating the events which led to his having to decide to take this action which he is now taking. I never knew him to be a journalist, I know him to be an educationist, a politician and a statesman, but like some journalists he has put a little bit of twist and slant in relating the events, so as to show that it is the Action Group, *vis-a-vis* Chief Akintola, that is at fault in this matter. Why did the Prime Minister not tell this House the story which the Police have no doubt told him concerning the events in the House of Assembly on that day? He knows the story but he has chosen not to tell it, and since he has failed to tell it, I will tell that story and challenge the Prime Minister to deny it.

The truth is that in the House of Assembly that day, hon. Members were assembled as we are here now assembled; prayers were said

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and then immediately after that, one Mr Oke, a supporter of Chief Akintola, a Member from Ogbomosho, jumped on the desk and was running about on the desk and then lifted a chair and struck somebody on the head. That is how it started, and then thereafter one Mr Ebubedike, the Member for Badagry, who lives in Ajeromi, took the Mace and then in an attempt to strike the Speaker with the Mace, the Mace struck the Table and broke into two. These events were witnessed by the Police and then chairs were lifted and were thrown all over the place by supporters of Chief Akintola.

The Police will testify to the fact that all the Members of the Action Group supporting Alhaji Adegbenro remained calm under the gravest possible provocations. They too could hit back—there were 66 of them against 40-odd of the other side and they could have hit back—but they did not hit back. I should have thought that the Prime Minister would have given that story. I spoke to him over the telephone myself and he was candid enough to admit that he received the report of the Police that the supporters of Alhaji Adegbenro remained calm throughout.

One of the Ministers was injured, very badly. He was stabbed with a knife inside the Chamber.

That is what happened and the Prime Minister should have said this.

Then the meeting reassembled. It is true that I told the Prime Minister that it would be only right and proper that the meeting should reassemble, otherwise we would have done damage, serious and irreparable damage, to the most important instrument of parliamentary democracy. If democracy is to survive in this country, Parliament must be allowed to meet. It is also true that I did ask the Prime Minister to see to it that police protection was afforded to hon. Members inside the Chamber. It is true, as he has pointed out, that he did say that in the case of the police being inside the Chamber the decisions taken thereat would not be accepted by him.

But how does Parliament function if a group of people—a minority—choose to make trouble in an Assembly of this character? When we came this morning everyone of us was searched. The Prime Minister has learned a lesson from the Western Region and I notice that he has removed all movable chairs and articles from

this House. Why did he not make that suggestion to the Speaker in the Western House of Assembly? I did make that suggestion to him, that if we met on Saturday we would see to it that all the chairs and movable articles that could injure people were removed from the Chamber. The Prime Minister has now followed that suggestion of mine and has seen to it that chairs and other movable things are removed from this place.

But may I say with respect that we do not come here to disturb the peace in this House; we do not come here to do that. We come here to urge our points of view, have our say and leave the Government to have its way. That is the essence of democracy. What the Prime Minister should have done on this occasion, if he is the democrat and liberal which I think he has always been, should have been to see to it that the culprits, being known and being identified, were dealt with properly under law. There were people who should have been thrown out of the Chamber. It was not proper that tear gas should have been thrown into the whole Chamber which prevented all the Members from meeting.

Suppose I chose to start trouble here? It is true that the Police are around; they might shoot, they might fire, and do all sorts of things, but we would create trouble all the same and the Police might come in and throw tear gas and disperse all of us. We might then come again and start the same trouble; the same Police action might take place and we might come again and start the same trouble all over. What would happen to parliamentary democracy? It would be finished!

That leads me to my fourth point, that a dangerous precedent is being set in this country. I warn the Prime Minister, who has been a faithful custodian of our Constitution, to see that the precedent is not allowed to be created. There is still time. I know it is not easy for a Government, having come into the open in the way the Prime Minister has done, to retreat. I have been in Government myself for eight years and I know what it means to be defeated in the open. But I do warn, very seriously, that the path of duty on the part of the Prime Minister lies in his seeing to it that Parliament functions, and functions properly in the Western Region.

It will be an act of bad faith to our Constitution to set up an organisation which would by-pass the Constitution of the Western Region, under any circumstances whatsoever, and particularly under these circumstances.

The fifth point I wish to make is that this measure, this Motion, is discriminatory. I have already given instances to support that contention, and I do not want to go over those incidents again. I have made reference to the riots in Tiv Division and the riots in Okrika and so on and so forth. I do not want to repeat them. But if this can be done to the Western Region, why was it not done to the Northern Region or to the Eastern Region? I want the Prime Minister not only to project the image of being a statesman in his dealings with the East and the North, I also want him to project the image of an impartial arbiter and statesman in his dealings with a Region which is not of his own origin, that is the Western Region, and a Region in which a party opposed to his party is in power, a Region in which a party—the Action Group—has its base and from where it operates.

In the North, to the annoyance no doubt of my good friend the Premier of Northern Nigeria, I think it is correct to say that it was the Action Group which, during the 1959 elections, compelled the Sardauna to campaign for the first time in the history of Northern Nigeria. The hon. the Sardauna of Sokoto, the Premier of the Northern Region, had to go into villages and towns and mount the soap boxes to address the masses. It had never happened in the history of the Northern Region that the Sardauna would descend to the depths of mounting a soap box and talking to the masses of the people—they take orders through other agencies and not directly from the Sardauna himself.

I remember that a story was told to me on that occasion, that the Sardauna drove through several miles of dusty road and, at the end of it, he found himself covered with dust, and sneezing he said: "*I will never forgive Awolowo for this!*" If he does not want to forgive me we can talk that over between ourselves because we are friends, but this is not the way to deal with that particular situation; this is not the way to deal with that particular annoyance.

I want to refer to some of the points made by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that there is no constituted authority in Western Nigeria at the moment. I say with

respect that the Prime Minister is wrong in making that declaration. The Governor, rightly or wrongly, has acted in removing Chief Akintola from office and, rightly or wrongly, in appointing a successor. Under our Constitution it is the court that has to determine whether the removal of Chief Akintola is right or wrong and whether the appointment of a successor is in order. As a matter of fact the moment the removal of Chief Akintola is declared void, then he resumes his office, but if the court declares to the contrary then, of course, the successor carries on. The case has been fixed for the 5th. Why not wait till the 5th?

It is the duty of the Prime Minister, in my view, to support the new appointee, the successor of Chief Akintola, until the case is disposed of. That is his duty, a clear duty. But what is the pretext of the Prime Minister in taking this measure? "*Well*", he said "*this case is coming up on the 5th but because of this uproar inside the Chamber something must be done even before the 5th.*"

May I say in this connection that I cannot help expressing the feeling that the Prime Minister feels greatly concerned about the action of the Governor of the Western Region of Nigeria, I would not say for a personal reason—but for a reason which is not unconnected with his own position in the Federation. May I say that until Chief Akintola refused to resign I myself had not discovered the provisions under section 33 of our Constitution in the Western Region, and I am sure that the Prime Minister himself was not aware until that provision was invoked that the Governor-General or the Governor could remove the Prime Minister or a Premier if it appeared to him that the Prime Minister or the Premier no longer enjoyed the support of the House of Representatives or of a House of Assembly, as the case may be.

But that is our law. If the Prime Minister feels that the Governor-General may one day wake up and remove him from office, then he could do something about it. As far as I know, the two parties in coalition with him have never at any time suggested that he should resign his office. On the contrary, from the demonstration which we have noticed in this honourable House, they are all loyal to him and he has no cause to be afraid either of his own party, the N.P.C., or of the N.C.N.C. which is in coalition with the N.P.C.

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

But here is a man (Chief Akintola) who himself pleaded guilty to the charges of mal-administration, anti-party activities and indiscipline and was found so guilty by his own compeers. The only question on which Members divided was whether he should be sentenced to life imprisonment or to a fine or whether he should be cautioned and discharged. That was all. As to the verdict, it was unanimous; but whether he should be called upon to resign or whether he should be cautioned and given some lesser punishment, was the issue on which members disagreed; and even on that issue, it was the votes of eighty-one people against the votes of twenty-nine members.

As I said, the Prime Minister has nothing to fear from the Governor-General. I think they are on the best of terms and the parties in coalition are very friendly to him.

The Prime Minister did say in his broadcast, and he has repeated it here this morning, that if the Police were to be in attendance to protect Members inside the Chambers, he would not accept the decision taken in the House of Assembly. First of all, in that connection, it is not open to the Prime Minister to accept or reject the decision of the Western Legislature.

Secondly, it is clearly provided in the Constitution of Western Nigeria and in the Constitution of other Regions and the Federation that strangers can be allowed to participate in the proceedings or to be present when the proceedings of a House of Assembly take place.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon Leader of Opposition has two more minutes.

**Chief Awolowo :** Thank you very much. With your permission, I will make reference to section 28 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria—

*“Each Legislative House of the Region may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its Membership, and the presence or participation of any person not entitled to be present at or to participate in the proceedings of the House shall not invalidate those proceedings”.*

I want to bring that to the attention of the Prime Minister.

Finally, the step that is now being taken in this Resolution is a violent assault on democratic institutions in Nigeria. It assumes that Parliament can only meet at the sufferance of

a group of people who are hostile to that particular Parliament and who are friendly to the Federal Government. That is a dangerous assumption and the Prime Minister must disabuse the minds of all right-thinking people that he has no intention at all to lend his weight to any group of people, however friendly they may be to him, in castrating the activities of Parliament.

I beg to move.

**Chief A. Enahoro :** I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker :** The Amendment to be proposed, is to delete all the words of the Motion after “That” and substitute—

*“This honourable House declares that having regard to the provisions of section 65 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, a state of public emergency does not exist.”*

I would like to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 24 which says:

*“Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any other proceedings for which notice is required except with the consent of the Speaker and the general assent of the Members present.”*

To give my assent, of course, I have to be satisfied that the Motion is in accordance with the Standing Orders and with the convenience of the House. The Amendment Motion merely says “No” to the original Motion and I think that voting in a division can really suffice in order to save the House from difficulty. I might ask the Leader of the Opposition to rely on the votes and to withdraw the Amendment. If he is not withdrawing, then I have to ask the consent of the House. Is it the wish of the House that the Amendment Motion be admitted?

**Several hon. Members :** No!

**Chief Awolowo :** Until this morning, at a quarter past nine, none of us on this side of the House—I do not know what happened to the Members on the other side—but none of us knew what the business of the House was going to be. We only knew that matters connected with the events in Western Nigeria would be discussed and until the text of the Motion was handed to us, we could not file an Amendment. Therefore we could not have given sufficient notice because even the notice for the convening of this House did not

give anybody time to file any Motion or any Amendment at all. I hope that hon. Members, in the light of the circumstances, will reconsider their verdict and allow the Amendment to stand.

**Mr Speaker :** I do appreciate your point but perhaps you have overlooked my own too. What I am saying is that if the Motion met the convenience of the House and were in accordance with the Standing Orders, then of course, I would give my consent. But the Amendment Motion merely says "No" to the original Motion, and that is a question which can be decided in a Division. I do not know whether you accept that.

Is it the wish of the House then that the Amendment be admitted ?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Mr Speaker :** The Amendment Motion then is not admissible and we can debate the original Motion.

10.57 a.m.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** I speak in this House this morning not only for myself. I speak also for the people in Egba Division of the Western Region, for the people in Ibadan Division, the people of Lagos, for the people of Oyo Division, of Oshun Division, of Epe Division, and of Ijebu Division.

On the Floor of this House, and on this side of this House, I have with me eminent legislators, to mention a few, such as Chief A. M. A. Akinloye of Ibadan, Mr L. J. Dosunmu of Lagos, Chief Abiodun Akerele of Oyo, Mr Victor Lajide of Oshun, Chief A. F. Odulana of Ijebu, Mr S. O. Kolade of Oyo, Mr J. O. Taiwo of Oyo, Chief O. Tobun of Epe fame, Mr S. O. Ogunkanmi of Oshun, Mr Ogundipe of Oshun. I have mentioned only a few on this side of the House and on these Benches.

This is the blackest day Nigeria has seen since independence. The measures which we are to-day considering are of such a serious magnitude that we must approach them with solemnity and restraint. It could be disservice to this country for anybody to try to score party points in this debate. I, as a Nigerian, and in particular as a native of Western Nigeria, feel especially sad that so soon after independence this Government, whether justi-

fied or not, should be seeking the powers of this Parliament which will enable them to set aside the Constitution in a part of the country, the Constitution which we all worked so hard together and for so long to build.

However, one will have to view the situation with objectivity and in the overall interests of our great country. The preservation of the unity of this country, of law and order, and of good government is essential to the well being of the masses of our people. Wherever there is justification for it the Government should not feel shy to take into its hands such powers as will enable the best interests of the people to be served.

I have been personally involved in the events which have led to the situation in the Western Region. I have been involved in them not for personal reasons, not for personal aggrandisement, not for personal gain, but because I consider that in the interests of this great country and in the interests of its people I must take a firm stand on the side of truth and justice, on the side of liberty and freedom and on the side of all the things that will make living in our country pleasant and free from intimidation.

Nobody, least of all Chief Awolowo, the Leader of the Opposition, can accuse me of being disloyal to my party and to Chief Awolowo at any time when such loyalty was right to be given in the interest of the country. My loyalty was unswerving, my devotion was unflagging, and my steadfastness behind what the Action Group stood for was unquestionable.

To underline this, on the 29th of September, 1960, Chief Awolowo presented to me a copy of his autobiography entitled *Awo* with the following inscription written by his own hand :

*"To Honourable Ayotunde Rosiji, with the author's gratitude for unflagging loyalty and comradeship."*

Mr Speaker, you will ask why, so soon after this event, there has been such a rupture as has led to the developments that bring us here to-day. The reason is that Chief Awolowo has mistaken loyalty for stupidity, respect for ignorance, and deference for ineptitude.

Secondly, Chief Awolowo's head was always in the clouds. Indeed, he has lost his head there. Respect of his followership, acclamation by the public and flattery by his Press

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have combined to make him lose his head and to make him dream that he will one day be, not just Prime Minister of Nigeria, which we all wanted him to be, but the undisputed dictator of Nigeria who will have under his heels every soul in the country. It is not easy, until experience has unearthed the characteristics and until time has painted the full picture of a man for one to decide whether one is acting right or wrong. The position was clouded by propagandism and bluff. Nevertheless, a large number, indeed the majority of Action Group members have seen the truth and have been grossly disappointed. Disappointment has arisen from five main considerations.

Firstly, the motivating factor in all of Chief Awolowo's activities is himself. If he shows any interest in the people for whom he has avowed to be working, that show is only play-acting which is necessary to the realisation of his self-interest.

Secondly, the worship of money is a characteristic in him. He believes that money can buy anything.

**Mr Speaker :** I think that is an offensive language.

**Chief Rosiji :** Mr Speaker, I was going to refer to the fact that belief in the supremacy of money can result in corrupt influences which is a bad thing for this nation.

Thirdly, Chief Awolowo has no abiding principle. We hear a good deal being said by him about "Democratic Socialism." He does not believe in it. It is all a pretence and a sham. The history of our lives prove what we believe, not our assertions. So also do our personal relations and our private affairs. At one time, contrary to my advice, Chief Awolowo declared that Nigeria must be aligned with the Western Powers, and he backed this up with strong arguments which were then known all over the country. Now, less than three years later, he pretends to be an ardent admirer of Communism, and of Dr Nkrumah of Ghana, whom he used to denounce in the most violent language.

Fourthly, if Chief Awolowo cannot have what he wants, whether or not he is entitled to it, he will do his utmost to destroy it. Rather than look on whilst somebody occupies the position of Prime Minister in this country, Chief Awolowo is prepared to destroy this

country. Otherwise, he would not have deliberately precipitated this type of crisis at a time when all hands are required on deck in the carrying out of our Economic Programme. Indeed, he said to some people who pointed out to him the gravity of his action that he could not care less if the country went to ruins. Uppermost in my mind as everybody in this House knows, and as it should be in the mind of every true lover of Nigeria, are the interests of our country as a whole to which all other interests must be subordinated.

Fifthly, arrogance, conceit and self-opinionatedness are evils which must be destroyed. These evils tend to blind one to the intelligence and qualities of other people, as a result mistakes, very bad mistakes, are made, mistakes which should be obvious to any right thinking person who is not so blind.

For these reasons I felt compelled to stand firm against the excesses of Chief Awolowo. I did not stand alone but many of those who stood with me have been intimidated by techniques which are now being perfected here in Nigeria by Chief Awolowo and which are well known in any totalitarian regime: highly organised propagandism machinery and financial influences have been ruthlessly used to browbeat many people and to sway them from the path of rectitude.

However bad the situation may be, whenever God decrees that time is up, it is up. Here in this House to-day we are singing the political death song of Chief Awolowo. We hope that he will be man enough to bid farewell in an honourable manner and retire from politics. Whichever line he chooses, I pray that he will live physically long enough to see the results of his action and accept the condemnation of the masses of the people of this young nation which he has wronged so much and upon which he has inflicted a great wound.

We have been told on the Floor of this House that by our action, that by the intended action of the Federal Government, democracy is on trial. But indeed the shoe is on the other foot. Chief Akintola asked for a dissolution of the Legislature in Ibadan. He was refused this request. If democracy were to be upheld that request ought to have been granted. Chief Akintola asked that the House of Assembly should be convened with a view to debating a Motion of confidence in him and his

Government. This also was refused. This is slaughtering democracy. We have not heard this spoken about by the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, but that, as the whole country knows, is the truth.

What Chief Awolowo has done however, is to go behind Parliament to collect signatures, to collect a vote of confidence on paper, thus bypassing an established democratic authority of this nation. Many of the people who signed these papers which he gave them and with which he is now bragging that he has the support of 66 people, have also signed another paper with Chief Akintola. These people, after they had been compelled by intimidation and all sorts of methods to sign, had come back to Chief Akintola to say: "*We have been forced to sign these papers but we are with you here*". This is the type of document which Chief Awolowo and the Governor of the Western Region relied upon to ask Chief Akintola to leave office; the document on which the Governor relied upon to remove Chief Akintola from office! This is the greatest violence that can be done to our Constitution and to parliamentary democracy.

He has argued here this morning very forcibly his own view that the Federal Government is not justified in taking the steps which it intends to take; but a particular phrase has been left out of the speech of Chief Awolowo consistently both in the Press and here this morning. In the speech of the Leader of the Opposition we have heard expression given to the breakdown of law and order; but what about good government? Why do they fight shy of talking about good government having broken down? Is it not true that government has completely broken down in the Western Region?

I will point out a few things to indicate that any step that may be taken this morning by this Parliament is right. Firstly, to-day there are two Premiers in the Western Region! Is this order? Can a State in which there are two Premiers be regarded as orderly? Which Premier gives order to whom? Is it Akintola or is it Adegbenro? The instructions of whom should the civil servants accept? Is it Akintola's instructions or is it Adegbenro's instructions?

Secondly, there was a disgraceful scene in the House of Assembly and this scene has led to the people not having the respect which they should have for that august Assembly. I think that this is another reason why the Government should take some steps.

Thirdly, no laws can be passed in the Western Region to-day because the House of Assembly cannot meet. A State where laws cannot be passed is a lawless state. All parliamentary functions are at a stand still to-day in the Western Region.

Fourthly, Ministers are duplicated. We do not know who is the Minister for Trade and Industry to-day. We do not know who is the Minister for Agriculture. There are two people holding each of these positions. Who is running where? Who is running the Ministries? How can anybody perform the executive functions and take the executive decisions which must be taken by Ministers?

On the point of order outside the Parliament, I think it must be admitted by the Leader of the Opposition, who himself lives in Ibadan, that Ibadan is in an extremely tense atmosphere. Everybody knows it. In Ibadan alone more than three hundred people have been arrested by the Police. It is not in the press but we have had to go and bail people from police custody. People have been injured; people have been stabbed and beaten up. We all know these. In addition, we know that the house of the Leader of the Opposition himself, Chief Awolowo, is barricaded: no windows are opened and no doors are opened. Why? We know too that there are policemen surrounding his house. Why? In addition, many shops in Ibadan cannot open; they have not been opened for at least a week now, including the shop of the wife of the Leader of the Opposition himself. These people want to pursue their trade; they want to make their own living but they are unable to do so. It is the duty of any Government that is worth its salt to take measures which will enable people peaceably to go about their business and to earn their living.

It has been argued this morning that there was rioting in Tiv Division and that there was no proclamation of a state of emergency; that there was rioting in Okrika in the Eastern Region and there was no proclamation of a state of emergency. But are these two situations not

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different from what exists in the Western Region to-day? In Tiv Division, the rioting was localised. The rioting that took place in Parliament, in the House of Assembly in Ibadan, involved people from all over the Region; people who could go back to their own homes and start further rioting.

Furthermore, when rioting took place in Tiv Division in the Northern Region, the Government was in firm control and the Government was in a position to quell the rioting. If there is any major rioting in the Western Region to-day which Government is going to quell it? Who is the Minister of Home Affairs who is going to give directives? Is it Ogundiran or, I do not know who the pretender on the other side is? Who is the Premier that is going to give ultimate directives? Is it Adegbenro or is it Chief Akintola?

The situation is quite clear to me. There is no comparison between the situation in the Western Region to-day and events in Tiv Division and in Okrika. The same thing that I have just said of Tiv Division applies to Okrika because the Government in each case was in firm control and could deal with the situation and they did deal with the situation.

I think that the Federal Government should act in the interest of the Western Region and in the interest of the Federation of Nigeria as a whole. The action must be swift in order that these peace loving people may go back to their jobs and live their normal lives. I think also, that any action that is taken should be such as to remove nepotism from the Western Region; it must be such as to remove financial irresponsibility from the Western Region.

Enquiries must be conducted in the Western Region. The relationship between the erstwhile Awolowo Government and the N.I.P.C. must be investigated. We know that the N.I.P.C., one private company, I repeat one private company is owing to the Western Region Government to-day, the sum of £7,200,000, £6½ million representing the principal, and £700,000 representing accrued interest. Nothing of this has been paid so far. Investigations must be made into this organisation; as well as into the Nigersol and the Water Resources which are instruments, agencies for practices with which Chief Akintola did not agree and which fact has precipitated this crisis.

I beg to support.

11.22 a.m.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): I read in the papers this morning, the ban recently placed on me by Chief Awolowo forbidding me from speaking on behalf of the Action Group. I would like to assure him this morning that it has never been my intention to speak for the Action Group in this House. I believe that I am here to represent Ijebu Central constituency and to represent the interests of both the N.C.N.C., N.P.C., Christians, Moslems and Pagans in my constituency. This morning I am sure that I will watch the interests of these people of my constituency.

If the attitude of Chief Awolowo is only to represent the interests of the Action Group alone I am disappointed. I think that, as a leader, probably that is one of the reasons why he lost the Federal Elections—because he believes in favouritism and will not watch the interests of the whole country as a whole as the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

I am personally ashamed at and extremely sorry for what happened in Ibadan last week. For a riot to break out in the Legislature and for any one to have the courage to come forward to say that there was no rioting in the Western Region beats my imagination. Where one finds the blood of a human being like oneself flowing on the Floor of the House how can one say that there was no rioting? Is it when people are carried to their graves that we shall be satisfied that there is a riot in the Western Region? It seems to me that Chief Awolowo regards human blood as the blood of animals and we must congratulate the Prime Minister and also the Police for the immediate action they have taken. If the Prime Minister had not taken immediate action on that day to contact the Police, I am sure that the whole place could have been a grave yard.

On the issue now before the House, I am of the opinion that our Constitution is faulty. I think the time has come that the Government should amend the Constitution to empower the Prime Minister without having to summon a meeting of the House to take immediate action.

Coming back to Chief Awolowo, all this trouble was started by him. It is all well and good for him to come here this morning



and tell the House all these nice stories. At one time he would go this way, at another time, he would go that way. He is the cause of all this trouble. When a man wakes up in the morning and thinks of himself alone, and in the night thinks of himself alone what would you expect—self importance everyday? He is an Ijebu man like myself. Why should I support Chief Akintola if Chief Awolowo is doing the right thing? I cannot follow him because I cannot do the wrong thing. I am a Christian and I must act according to my conscience.

This morning hon. Members have heard the names of the people from the Yoruba areas mentioned by Chief Rosiji. If we are called upon to vote now, probably only Action Group Members from the East who are still in darkness and a handful of people from Yoruba land will support Chief Awolowo. If the Eastern Region Members on the Opposition Bench are wise they will go this way. (*Pointing towards the Government Bench*) That is the right place for them. They should not follow this man Chief Awolowo who is an apostle of disunity. His main ambition in life is to create trouble.

One Yoruba proverb says that the insanity of a rich man is not readily ascertainable. When a rich man is insane he can put on twenty gowns at a time; but people may say that he is a rich man and that is why he is putting on twenty gowns at the same time, whereas in fact the man is insane. We appeal to the Prime Minister, he should find an asylum for Awolowo and send him to an asylum to have him mentally examined. All that he is after in this world is to create confusion. He is never satisfied. His ambition is to become the Prime Minister.

I warned him when he was going to contest the Federal Elections—“*Do not go to the Federal House, sit down like the Sardauna of Sokoto in the Northern Region, sit down like Dr Azikiwe in the East*”. He would not listen, he wanted to become the Prime Minister. Now, he has failed and since his failure the man has become insane. Since his failure, the man has been sick. So, I appeal to the Prime Minister to put him in an asylum.

**Mr Speaker:** I think that that expression is very insulting.

**Chief Okunowo:** I will appeal to the Prime Minister to do something because if we do not put this man under check there will be a big trouble in this country because he is an apostle of disunity, he is an apostle of trouble. He is now surrounding himself with some young boys with beards. So, for God's sake, I appeal: we want peace in our own country, we do not want trouble. We have our Development Programme, but how are we going to work it if one man is saying every day that he is the enemy of the Sardauna, the enemy of Azikiwe, the enemy of Okpara? If a man says six people are no good, then he himself is a bad man. If this man comes in to say that everybody is his enemy, and that he himself is the wisest man in all Nigeria, and that six people are no good, then he himself should be examined—he must be bad.

So I am supporting the Government in any measure to be taken to see that law and order are restored in the Western Region.

**Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East):** I rise to support the Motion. When Chief Awolowo opened his speech, he used the words, “calculated” and “premeditated”. I would like to say that all that happened in the Western Region during the past few weeks was all “calculated” and “premeditated” by Chief Awolowo. May I, with your permission Mr Speaker, refer hon. Members to some of the correspondence which passed between the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, the Governor, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Prince Adedoyin, to show that all that happened in the Western Region during the past week has been premeditated and calculated.

It is common knowledge that on the 19th of this month the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, summoned a meeting of the Joint Executive of both the Action Group of the West and the Mid-West to assemble in Ibadan. It is also public news that on Sunday, the 20th, a meeting of the Federal Executive was also summoned. Prior to these two meetings, we had also a peace meeting attended by both Chief Awolowo and Chief Akintola, at which the Governor presided and later on Chief Rotimi Williams took the Chair, all in the presence of the Governor and at

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Government House. We have also known, and it is public news, that as a result of this peace move there was a draft—an agreement reached between both of the warring factions, which was to be referred to the Joint Meeting of the Mid-West and West Executive on Saturday, the 19th, as well as the Federal Executive on Sunday, the 20th. We know now that this was never the case and on the 21st of May we have all heard that the Governor removed, or purported to have removed, the Premier, Chief Akintola.

I think that it is only fair that with this background I should refer to some of the correspondence which passed between, as I said, the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola and the Governor, the Premier and the Speaker, Prince Adedoyin, the Leader of the Opposition and the Governor, and what has now actually taken place. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I refer to this letter signed by Chief S. L. Akintola, Premier, to His Excellency, dated May 20th, 1962; it reads:

*"In view of the political crisis which has been developing in this Region within the last fortnight and in view of the rival claims of the two factions for a majority support of the electorate in the Region, I hereby advise Your Excellency under Section 31 of Part 3 of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, that you exercise your powers under this Section to dissolve the Legislative Houses of the Western Region of Nigeria.*

*Signed . . . S. L. Akintola, Premier."*

This was on the 20th. Chief Akintola was still the Premier of the Western Region.

On the same day, Chief Akintola, the Premier of the Western Region, forwarded a letter to Prince Adedoyin, Speaker, Western Legislature, Ibadan; I read:

*"Mr Speaker,*

*I should be grateful if you would direct that a meeting of the Western House of Assembly be convened for Wednesday, May 23rd, 1962, to consider and pass the Motion for a vote of confidence in the Government of Western Nigeria, in view of the current crisis in the Action Group Party and the rival claims, of both factions in the dispute that each enjoys the support of the majority of the Members of the Western House of Assembly."*

Those were the two letters written both to the Governor and to the Speaker of the House on the 20th day of May.

Now, on the same day the Governor wrote a letter to the Premier dated 20th May, 1962; I read:

*"Hon. Premier: With reference to your Minute dated 20th May, 1962, you no doubt appreciate that in accordance with section 38, 1 (a) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, I am enjoined to act in accordance with my own deliberate judgment in this matter.*

*2. There was a General Election in August 1960, that is less than two years ago, and I would not ordinarily consider that it is in the interests of the Region to dissolve the House and hold another election unless I think that the Government of the Region cannot be carried on without a dissolution.*

*3. I notice from your Minute to Mr Speaker that you want a meeting of the House summoned for next Wednesday in order to demonstrate that you command a majority in the House.*

*4. In all the circumstances, particularly in order not to frustrate the holding of a meeting of the House next Wednesday, I must refuse the dissolution.*

*Signed Aderemi, Governor, 20th May, 1962"*

Now comes the beginning of the whole plan—calculated and premeditated. On the 21st May a letter was sent to the Governor by Chief Obafemi Awolowo as Leader of the Action Group. The letter is dated 21st May, 1962; it reads:

*"Action Group Headquarters Secretariat, P.O. Box 136".*

That is Chief Awolowo's Post Box number—that is never Action Group Box number. 136 has always been Chief Awolowo's box number in this country, and not the Action Group's. I challenge him to refute that. "136" is his registered post box.

*"Action Group Headquarters, Secretariat, P.O. Box 136, Ibadan. 21st May, 1962*

*Your Excellency,*

*We the undersigned being a majority of the Members of the House of Assembly declare that we no longer support Chief Samuel Ladoke*

*Akintola as Premier. We hereby request Your Excellency to remove the said Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola from his office as Premier in accordance with powers vested in you by section 33 (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria.*

*We have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servants'.*

And here we have a list of the names, numbering according to him, 67. Among these 67 we have Ministers of State, Ministers who are in the same Cabinet with the Premier, the Premier who is charged with maladministration. Where is this question of collective responsibility? More than 15 of these people are Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, who signed this.

Not only that, more than half of the list here had already given their names, affirming their support for Chief Samuel Akintola. This was sent by Chief Awolowo to the Governor. And here was the reply by the Governor.

Dated the same day, "21st May, 1962"  
"Gentlemen"—that is from the Governor—

*I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 21st May, 1962, and will consider what action to be taken after due enquiry.*

*Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) A. T. Aderemi,  
Governor*

*Leader and Federal President  
of the Action Group, and Others,  
Action Group Headquarters,  
Oke-Ado, Ibadan.*

That was the reply.

Chief Awolowo never signed that letter; he was not a Member of the House of Assembly. And this letter was forwarded, a reply by the Governor, the Governor who was actively concerned in this dispute, between two factions as arbiter now receiving a letter from one of the factions, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and now writing a letter, dated the 21st May, a letter to the Leader and Federal President of the Action Group and Others!

We all know who was the Leader and Federal President of the Action Group. We know the Leader and Federal President of the Action Group is Chief Awolowo. This was written by the Governor who is supposed to hold the balance between the two parties. That was

the letter written on the 21st May, and, on the same day, acting in his capacity as Governor, he wrote a letter, dated the 21st May, 1962 to:

*The hon. Adeleke Adedoyin,  
Speaker,  
Western House of Assembly,  
Ibadan.*

*Dear Mr Speaker,*

*I enclose herewith for your information the copy of a document received by me from the persons whose names appear on the document. I have been requested by those who signed the document to exercise my powers to remove the hon. Premier from his office in accordance with powers vested in me under section 33 (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria. Accordingly I would like you to inform me as early as you can:*

*(a) whether the persons whose names appear on the document in question are Members of the House of Assembly; and*

*(b) whether or not they represent the majority of the Members of the House of Assembly.*

*Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) A. T. Aderemi,  
Governor*

On the same 21st; the Governor of the Western Region who sat as arbiter in this dispute now dealing with one section, one side of the parties involved, and with the Premier still Premier: Chief Akintola the Premier of the Region and the Governor of the Region dealing with the Premier in this way!

On the same 21st May there was another letter:—

*Mr Speaker's Office,  
House of Assembly,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Ibadan, Western Nigeria.*

*Reference No. 110/S/101/S*

*21st May, 1962*

*Your Excellency,*

*I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21st May, 1962. I hereby certify that the signatories of the request addressed to you are all Members of the House of Assembly and that they constitute a majority of such Members.*

*Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) Adeleke Adedoyin  
Speaker*

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Would anybody now doubt why then, on the 20th, when Chief Akintola was Premier, he gave instructions to the Speaker of the House to call a meeting, and he (the Speaker) deliberately refused to do so? Would anybody be surprised that all this undercurrent was passing through between Chief Awolowo, the Governor, the Speaker, and that they all engaged in one calculated and premeditated subversive action against the Premier of the Region?

As a result of this, may I refer you to the letter of the Governor. I think the learned Attorney-General will agree with me that when the Governor did say "due enquiry" would be made, those are legal terms judiciously interpreted even by the Privy Council on many occasions. And on the same 21st—we presume that the Governor had made "due enquiry", we all know what "due enquiry" means—on the same 21st there was a letter written to the hon. the Premier:

*Removal of Premier by His Excellency Sir Adesoji T. . . . . Aderemi, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Oni of Ife. Governor of the Western Region of Nigeria—*

**An hon. Member:** What date!

**Chief Akerele:** The 21st.

*Whereas it appears to me that Samuel Ladoke Akintola, Premier of the Western Region no longer commands the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Assembly; now therefore, I, Adesoji T. . . . . Aderemi, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Oni of Ife, Governor of the Western Region of Nigeria, in exercise of powers vested in me by section 33, subsection (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, set out in the First Schedule to the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council 1960, do hereby remove the said Samuel Ladoke Akintola from his Office as Premier of the Western Region with effect from this date.*

But there was a mistake—"Given under my hand on the public seal of the Western Region, this twenty-first day of August, nineteen hundred and sixty-two". This was the letter received.

Members would see that in the Governor's anxiety to help Chief Awolowo, he was doing everything possible on the 21st and the puppet Premier was appointed and sworn in on the night of the 21st, to crown it all, even though the Governor received a letter from Chief Akintola as Premier before the 21st warning him that there would be a document coming, forwarded by Chief Awolowo in his usual way.

I am one of the founders of the Action Group, we were eight, including himself, he cannot deny it. He has been doing this all along. We know all these tricks. It is no use going to swear people in and, having sworn them in, asking them to pose for a photograph. We did that in 1951, did we not, Chief Awolowo? We posed for photographs wearing badges when we submitted ninety people, we put our photographs in the papers and said "Look at the Action Group Members." We did that, it is nothing new. We have got to think of something else.

I have been in this business with you, Chief Awolowo. I am one of the founders of this party. There were eight of us. If Members go to the Action Group Secretariat, they will see the eight of us in the photograph there. I am one and I know everything that is going on.

In spite of what the Premier said in writing to the Governor warning him that there would be some spurious signatures coming to him and that he should take no notice of them, what could the Governor have done? Here is a situation wherein the Premier says, "I enjoy the support of the majority" and Chief Awolowo outside is saying "I enjoy the support of the majority" and the Premier told the Governor "I will ask the Speaker to summon a meeting of the House and there will be a vote of confidence in the Government." If he is defeated, I think we all know what the Constitution says. Why refuse? Why go behind it all? Why all these hurried letters between the Speaker, the Leader of the Action Group and the Governor, all in one day, the swearing in?

We have on that Bench, as my hon. Friend has mentioned earlier on, people who have mortgaged their conscience, people who have been paid through the N.I.P.C., through Niger-sol, a man like Tony Enahoro who has £3,000, a man like Tarka who is paid £3,000, Ibrahim Imam, £3,000, not to mention some of these people like Bisi Onabanjo or Aiyekoto, who has been granted a loan of £20,000 to build a house, all from the N.I.P.C.

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**An hon. Member :** What about yourself ?

**Chief Akerele :** I am free. People who have got money from the N.I.P.C. like Enahoro, Tarka, Ibrahim Imam and Onabanjo, who have been granted loans to build houses and also Jakande who had £17,000 out of the N.I.P.C. funds, must submit to an enquiry into all these things. Public funds were diverted during the tenure of office of Chief Awolowo to private companies. I think that in the interest of the public you, Mr Prime Minister, should act and do something about it. We have the Nigersol, we know that in the Nigersol, £3 million of public funds was supposed to go to the Nigersol but was diverted into the hands of some people like Rewane—*Boma Boys*—Shonibare.

We are told about democratic socialism. Here is a man, this is his document, he started the Action Group with us, he never earned £1,000 in the U.A.C. He is worth half a million pounds in property—Shonny's Brothers & Co. That is his document sent to me by him. He is one of the Directors of this N.I.P.C., he and Rewane. All these Directors now have assigned to Chief Awolowo all their interests. They are four nominal Directors, Dr Maja, Shonibare, Rewane and Gbadamosi. They have assigned to Chief Awolowo their interests and I think that in the interest of the country, the Prime Minister must act and act immediately to save public funds from going down the drains as they have been going.

These people have been feeding themselves on public funds. I challenge anybody to say that I have been paid a penny.

**An hon. Member :** Why did you not say so before ?

**Chief Akerele :** I did not say it for the same reason as you will not say it now because you people from the North would not speak, this money paid your election expenses. You could not even pay your nomination fees. All the people who have gathered together here could not pay. I have always paid mine. That is why you are all quiet, people in the East and North, you cannot talk. You have never spent a penny on elections. I feel that it is time that in the interest of the people of the Western Region, that this Motion—

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : I would like to point out to my hon. Friend through the Speaker that the matter now before

this House is a matter concerning the West, not the East nor the North. He should concentrate on that.

**Mr Speaker :** He is not out of order.

**Chief Akerele :** When this matter started, we were told that it was a question of the supremacy of the party. I am just wondering whether my Friend from the East is developing cold feet. If it is a matter of the supremacy of his party, as Chief Awolowo has been saying, is he not a Member of the Action Group ? I think that it is in the interest of the people of the West that this Motion should be carried and that all necessary steps be taken by this Government.

I beg to support.

**Chief Anthony Enahoro :** I stand before the House this morning in considerable confusion. It is possible for those who, at any rate, until they became elected Members of this House by the grace of their party, were never heard of or known in the public affairs of this country, to deal lightly with the situation which confronts us to-day. I cannot join them, and the questions which are exercising my mind at this moment are, first of all, with due deference to our colleagues and our friends, the Yorubas, that I do wonder what is going to happen to the Yorubas. I say it solemnly and not because I think that that is going to strengthen my arguments in any way, but it is exercising my mind and I am sure that there will be hon. Members who will ask themselves the same question.

Another question which is exercising my mind is the future of party government in this country. Are we hereafter to witness a situation in which anybody in office will consider that he can collect a few people around himself, and, provided that he can get enough support, defy his party ? I say, as the Leader of the Opposition said earlier, that I respect the views which have been expressed by the Premier of the Eastern Region on this issue. He has never left it in any doubt that he does not welcome the situation in which the Premier, or a Minister or anyone placed in public office by his party will defy his party. Whatever else follows from that we can understand as politics.

Another question exercising my mind is the future of parliamentary institutions. Is it now open to minorities in Parliament to create a situation in which Parliament cannot meet ?

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

Another question is the future of democracy in Africa, not just in this country. To the whole world we have pretended to be the one shining example, the future hope of democracy on this Continent and indeed, as some people have said, anywhere south of the Equator, except where British communities live.

My hon. Friend the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) said that this is the beginning of the end of the Action Group. That may well be so, it may not be so, but if it is so, what is the future of democracy on our Continent? It is the Action Group to-day, it may be another party tomorrow.

Another question is, what is the future of the Courts under our Constitution? Is it open to the Prime Minister—at a time when a Court is enquiring into the question as to whether the Government of Western Nigeria is properly constituted—is it open to him, even though we may enjoy privilege in this House, but speaking of a man in his position, is it open to him to get up in this House and to decide, before the Courts have even begun to enquire into the matter, that a properly constituted Government does not exist in Western Nigeria? No true nationalist would consider these questions and deal lightly with the situation confronting us to-day. If there is such a one I cannot think straightaway of any expression strong enough to condemn him.

I am delighted by the seriousness with which the House, barring one or two lapses, is considering this subject this morning. It is only those who cannot look far who will think that this is the end of everything. It may well be the beginning of a chain of events, nobody knows; and nobody can tell when it will end. I have no doubt that some hon. Members on the other side have derived some pleasure from the embarrassment which the Opposition must feel, to find Members who sat with them at the last meeting now denouncing their party and their leader in strong terms.

The hon. Chief Rosiji had no complaints whatever against this party until he was removed as Federal Secretary at the Jos Congress. Ever since then nothing his party or his leader did has been right. It is true that he apologised and agreement was reached; but we all know Chief Rosiji. It is not beyond him if he thought the shoes was on the other foot, to apologise again and seek agreement.

Chief Okunowo. Our Parliamentary Council has met once and the executive once on the question of his contract disputes with the Ministry of Works at Ibadan. That is a fact.

The hon. Mr Akerele. Everyone who lives in Ibadan knows that for many years there had been a firm of *Awolowo and Akerele—Solicitors*. They broke up and since they broke up nothing that Chief Awolowo stands for or has ever done can receive favour with Chief Akerele. Yet, I think it is disgraceful that we should project our personalities in this way and I do ask the House to rise above the level to which hon. Members behind, or rather Members behind, are trying to drag this matter. The question confronting this House, the major question is if the Federal Government imagines that there is trouble in a Region, what should it do? I think that that is the question, and I am afraid that if the Federal Government takes this step we shall merely be undermining the basis on which we have been organising this country since after independence.

The hon. Chief Rosiji said that there is no Government now in the Western Region, and asked "Who is the Minister of this and who is the Minister of that?" All the Ministers in the previous Cabinet, with the exception of five, were reappointed by the new Premier to their old portfolios. There is no conflict whatever. There are the same Ministers in the same offices except those who were dropped from the Cabinet.

The second point is that he asked if there were riots, who was the Minister of Home Affairs to deal with the situation. I have myself been Minister of Home Affairs and the Constitution does not empower the Minister of Home Affairs to deal with the situation envisaged by the hon. Chief Rosiji. That is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police, the Inspector-General of Police and ultimately, the Prime Minister.

It was suggested that if laws cannot be passed, then there is a break down of law and order. Surely, there are old laws. What new laws does the present situation call for? The House was not summoned to pass a new law; the House was summoned to discuss whether or not they had confidence in the Premier.

It was also asked, who will the civil servants obey? All civil servants in the Western Region take their instructions from the new

Premier because they rightly do not consider that it is their responsibility to decide who is the Premier and who is not. That matter is in the Courts and once the Courts decide for or against any person, then they have to obey. In the meantime they obey the person installed by the Governor and I think that is the right and proper attitude for civil servants to take and they have taken that attitude.

One other point I would like to make is that I have played some part in the events which have led to this meeting of Parliament. I do solemnly swear before this House that I did not receive £3,000 from the N.I.P.C. I conduct my personal affairs through a private company whose accounts are filed with the appropriate authorities. I am not a rich man. I have never sought wealth. My name has never been connected with anything to do with money. People have called me rash; people have called me all sorts of names but at no time has my name ever been connected with monetary dealings. It is possible that people may get up and make wild statements in trying to justify themselves and nobody requires them to prove them.

There are only two major questions which, I think, this House should concern itself with. It has been suggested that the Governor acted wrongly. Well, that is for the Court to decide. But the Western Region has had eight region-wide elections in ten years; eight elections of one kind or another. Is it unreasonable for a Governor to hold that a ninth election in the same tenth year is unreasonable?

The Member for Oyo East (*Chief Akerole*) made great play of the date, the 21st. It may well be that hon. Members may think or may consider that everyone acted with great speed. Indeed, why not? Why should they not have acted with great speed? Why should not a Premier have been removed and another installed on the same day? What is the argument for postponing it? There is none. Provided one knows what to do, why delay it? It must not be forgotten that there was also an attempt at the same time by the old Premier to seek the removal of the Governor and, therefore, the Governor had to act with speed.

There are hon. Members sitting opposite me here who I saw in Ibadan during this incident and they can truly testify whether there is any tension in the situation in Ibadan. We saw

troops passing by; nobody took any notice. I hear shops cannot open. It must be in the imagination of the hon. Member. Anybody can get on the telephone and telephone Ibadan and the Prime Minister can do it himself. All shops are opened; all those who are interested in opening their shops have opened their shops. But we have been told that if the wife of the Leader of the Opposition cannot open her shop then that is the evidence that law and order have broken down in Ibadan!

There was also some play about the date, the 21st of August. It is true that a mistake was made, which was corrected. And what is wrong with that? The *Gazette* showed the proper date and that is the document that matters.

As far as the Federal Government is concerned, I agree entirely with the Prime Minister that we are at a momentous turning point in our national history. I agree completely. For a number of reasons, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, it is now discovered that there are other ways of removing a Premier or a Prime Minister than by a vote of no confidence in this House. It is momentous. I do not think we should underrate the weight of that point. It may happen in other Legislatures.

Another point is that the Federal Government has made itself judge of events in another Region where it does not participate in the Government of the day. This Government will not always be in power; sooner or later there will be another Government, another combination of forces. I think that the precedent which the Prime Minister had allowed himself to set on this occasion may well work against others in the future.

As regards the question as to whether those who signed the petition to His Excellency also signed other documents, the claim has been made that they signed papers for Chief Akintola. They have been challenged to publish them; they had ample opportunity to publish them but there has been no publication. The Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) made a statement three or four days ago that 74 Members of the Western Legislature were supporting Chief Akintola at a time when 66 were swearing to an affidavit in court that they supported Adegbenro; and the sum of 66 and 74 is more than the total membership of the House!

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

I said earlier that I am in a confused state because I think something has started to-day, something has begun to-day which is going to go much further than perhaps most of us here to-day imagine. I can only hope and pray that in the exercise of the powers which the Prime Minister is going to seek later, he will be as careful and circumspect as he has promised to be, because I think that may well prove to be the salvation of this country.

12.15 p.m.

**The Prime Minister :** I doubt, after listening to the Members who have spoken this morning, whether hon. Members appreciate how grave the situation is. This is a very serious situation and before taking the decision which we in the Federal Government are proposing, we should weigh very carefully the responsibilities which are on our shoulders.

First of all, we should ask ourselves : are we justified in taking the actions which we now propose to take with the support of Parliament ? I think, after hearing the points made by some hon. Members this morning, that we are justified. In the first place, Nigeria is under two years old as an independent sovereign country. Do we allow people to sidetrack our courts and put away our Constitution and do what they like simply because they form themselves into political parties and because they become leaders of political parties ?

I will explain what I mean because I did not wish to express my views at the beginning. We have a Constitution and we have our Law Courts. The Premier who was supposed to be removed by the Governor had asked the Governor to dissolve the Legislature, but the Governor refused. He asked the Speaker to convene a meeting of the House, and the Speaker refused. The Premier went to the Court and filed a motion, but before the Court did anything about the motion filed by the Premier, the Governor appointed another Premier.

**Some Opposition Members :** No ! No !

**The Prime Minister :** That was what happened. That was exactly what happened. The Premier filed a motion in the High Court challenging the power of the Governor to remove him. The Premier, on the very day

he received notice from the Governor removing him, filed a motion in the High Court challenging the Governor's power. The Governor then disregarded this motion in the Court and appointed another Premier. This happened with us in the Federal Government. We wanted to appoint—

**Chief Awolowo :** On a point of explanation, the action to which the Prime Minister made reference was actually filed on the 22nd of May. The Prime Minister could check that up. The papers were delivered on the 21st but not actually filed because they were delivered late ; they were filed the following day, the 22nd, and the Governor could not have been served until he had made the new appointment. I would like the Prime Minister to check up these facts.

**The Prime Minister :** I have checked them up. I know quite a lot about this. I have checked up because the day that the Governor—

**Chief Akerele :** On a point of explanation, Sir—

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think that can be admitted.

**The Prime Minister :** On the 21st of May, the Governor called the Commissioner of Police, Western Region. The Commissioner of Police went to Government House. There, the Commissioner of Police found at Government House, the Governor, the Speaker and I think the Leader of the Opposition.

A letter was handed to the Commissioner of Police by the Governor in which was conveyed the dismissal of the Premier, and the Commissioner was asked to deliver this letter to the Premier. That was the information I got. It was not the duty of the Commissioner of Police to act as a messenger between the Governor and the Premier ; but he took that letter, not knowing that it was a letter of dismissal. Then later on it was discovered that they made a mistake. Instead of dating it 21st May they had dated it the 21st of August. The Attorney-General, Chief Ighodaro had to come back to the Commissioner of Police to ask what to do ; and the Commissioner of Police then said that he had nothing to do with it. All this was reported to me, Mr Speaker.



Federal Parliament Debates

2205 [State of Public Emergency]

29 MAY 1962

[State of Public Emergency] 2206

It must be borne in mind that we in the Federal Government wanted at one time for a good reason to appoint a commission of inquiry into the National Bank. We received a report from a Bank Examiner that the Bank was not in good shape, perhaps there was misuse of the money put into the Bank. But the Court by the action of these same people, stopped us, they said we could not go ahead. We had to listen to the Court and obey the Court. We did not go ahead. We could easily go ahead but we did not.

We called a meeting of Parliament; Parliament gave us approval to go ahead and we did. When we appointed the inquiry again, the inquiry sat for only fifty minutes and the court stopped us. We did not disobey, we had to wait. I may ask, Mr Speaker, why could the Governor of Western Nigeria and the Action Group not wait if they really had any regard for the Court? Why could they not wait?

According to the information I got from the Police, the very time that the letter was handed to the Premier, he filed a motion. I must say honestly that I am not inventing this story. This information was reported to me on the 21st of May. The letter was sent to the Premier and he filed a motion challenging the Governor's action in the High Court that very day. That is the information I got from the Police.

I think that all of us should be responsible enough. We have to respect our Courts and we have to respect our Constitution. One side cannot say that they do not wish to respect the Court or the Constitution and because the Federal Government is taking certain action they regard the Federal Government as trying to kill democracy in the way they put it. On the other hand I think we are trying to preserve democracy in this country by taking the action which we are proposing to take and there should be respect for the Courts in the manner which we have demonstrated.

Apart from all that, the damage which that fight, the free fight in the House of Assembly, has done to this country is very great. That alone is enough to justify our action. We want to build a name for Nigeria and here we are faced with a fight breaking out in the Legislative House of a Region! The whole House was shattered, every bit of furniture there was broken, the people broke their heads.

Some persons were stabbed and if you really look into it all, you will see that quite a large number of people should really regard themselves as irresponsible and they and ourselves should all be ashamed of it.

Also the Leader of the Opposition said, the Prime Minister said he would not give Police protection; he, the Leader of the Opposition, thought the Speaker could always invite outsiders to be in the House. What happened was, the first meeting ended in a fight. They wanted to meet immediately and I said—"No, it would be wrong, if they want to meet why can they not wait for a week or for another ten days. If they meet now they will also fight." I was told that if the Police were to protect the Members of the House of Assembly from another fight there would have to be a policeman behind every Member of the House in the Chamber. How could that be called a meeting of the House of Assembly? That is the reason why I insisted that if they met under that situation it would be wrong for us in the Federal Government to accept what they decided upon.

When I said that, I never meant to suggest that we had any right either to approve or disapprove of measures decided upon by the Regional House of Assembly. But we would be called upon to deal with a Government in the Western Region and it would be very difficult for us to know whether the Legislature voted in the way that the other faction wanted us to believe would be acceptable to us.

I want to say that this is a very serious situation. We have many times heard people saying that the Federal Government is not effective, the Federal Government is this or that. We are well aware of that, and we are trying to do what we can. But, I must say now, and I hope everybody will take it as a warning, that we in the Federal Government are determined to assert our authority and we are also determined to deal severely with any individual or group of individuals who want to damage the name of Nigeria.

*Question put and the House divided.*

Ayes 232, Noes 44.

AYES

Seat No.	Name of Member
2	E. O. Ifezue
9	Muhammadu Nalado
4.	B. A. Adeyemo

AYES			
Seat No.	Name of Member	Seat No.	Name of Member
6	I. S. Onwuchekwa	87	Umaru Gumel
7	S. Nnaji	90	Saidu Daura
8	J. C. Chukwu	94	C. Chiedozie
14	U. U. Eko	96	J. U. Odey
15	V. A. Nwalieji	97	R. A. Afolabi
16	J. A. Akor	98	D. N. Chukwu
18	F. I. Okoronkwo	100	V. Iketuonye
19	Muhammed Ningi	101	A. A. Odunrinde
20	Muhammadu Kumo	102	J. O. Igwe
22	Shettima Ali Monguno	103	J. O. Ogunbiyi
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa	104	P. O. Eleke
24	Yusufu Ilesha	105	O. O. Nweke
26	Muktar Gajiram	107	Dr P. U. Okeke
27	Abbas Raha	108	D. Senu-Oke
28	Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti	109	A. U. D. Mbah
29	Ladan Isa	112	Chief S. J. Mariere
30	Garba Jabo Abubakar	113	H. O. Chuku
32	Saidu Zango	115	B. N. Ukegbu
33	S. A. Abasi	116	G. O. D. Eneh
34	P. I. Ejukwa	118	R. O. A. Akinjide
35	S. A. Yerokun	119	E. E. Akwiwu
36	F. U. Ihe	120	A. Opia
37	D. N. Oronsaye	122	Dr K. Ezera
38	S. A. Oyewole	123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya
39	Muhammadu Alangade	124	K. O. Mbadiwe
40	E. O. Araka	125	Aminu Kano
41	I. O. Chikelu	126	Maaji Waisu
42	J. U. Udenyi	127	Galadima Maikiyari
43	N. Nwangbo	128	Abdu Kirim
44	N. E. Elenwa	129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida
45	F. C. Ogbalu	130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
48	J. B. Eboigbodi	131	Usman Gwarzo
49	N. Enwo	132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
50	D. D. U. Okay	134	S. D. Lar
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki	135	Abubakar Isandu
52	Abba Terib	136	Ibrahim Gusau
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar	137	Alhaji K. O. S. Areh
55	Yerima Saleh	138	M. Mukтари Sarkin Bai
56	Sule Abba Biu	139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero	154	E. A. Effiong-Spatts
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero	155	Isa Haruna
59	Abdul Karim	156	E. A. Odo
60	Abubakar A. Ibrahim	157	J. O. Ede
61	M. Iro Mani	158	Shekarau Omar
62	Usman Turaki	159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
64	Alhaji Mohamed Bello Abdurraman	160	Sanni Gezewa
65	D. O. Ahamefula	161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
66	U. O. Ekenekot	164	Ibrahim Ladan Fari
67	J. K. De. Omomadia	167	Alhaji Haruna
69	J. N. Nwofokoda	168	Sarki Dalhatu
71	D. E. Y. Agbahowa	169	M. Aminu Suleman Dutse
72	L. N. Ezeani	170	Alhaji Baba Danbappa
73	N. D. Ukah	176	P. B. Olatunde
74	R. N. Muojeke	177	A. F. Odulana
75	E. A. Mordi	186	Aminu Yelwa
76	Yushalu A. Mohamed	188	Zanna Isa Monguno
77	N. N. Onugu	189	Musa Hindi
78	C. A. Odigbo	190	P. O. Tokula
79	F. A. M. Amadi	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
80	U. O. Ayeni	192	Abdu Bauchi
81	K. Giadom	193	Isa Iko
82	B. O. Ikeh	194	Hamidu A. Bayero
83	Alhaji Mai Kano	195	Muhammadu Bayero
84	Usman Shehu Kazaure	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
85	Maina Waziri	197	S. A. Babatunde
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi	198	Ahmadu Angara Doma

Federal Parliament Debates

2209 [State of Public Emergency]

29 MAY 1962

[State of Public Emergency] 2210

Seat No.	Name of Member
199	D. O. Enefola
200	J. A. Yacim
201	Alhaji Aliyi Bisalla
202	Alhaji Mohammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki
203	Umaru Dan Waziri
211	J. M. Damla
215	L. O. Tobun
216	S. O. Kolade
218	Abdullahi Mahuta
219	Alhaji Abubakar Magajin Gari
220	Usman Barkone
222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona
223	Balang U. Barami
225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
226	Abba Sadiq
227	Ahmadu Babandi
228	Alhaji Aliyu Mohammadu
229	S. A. Olokotun
230	Wada Nas
231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
232	Ibrahim Nadabo
233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadejia
235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
249	J. O. Taiwo
250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
251	Mohammadu Koro Madakin Pategi
252	Baba Shehu Ibrahim
253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
254	Abdulkadir Dukku
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange
262	Atto Bungudu
263	Garba Gada
265	M. Ali Gwarzo
266	M. Garba Turakin Paiko
267	Umaru Galkogo
274	S. O. Fajinmi
277	Haikali Maigari
278	S. O. Ogundipe
280	Lajide, V. L.
283	Peter Ipu
284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim
285	Dambo Ibrahim Maikaita
287	M. Dati Kudu
288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
289	Dominic Maisinji
290	Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau
291	Garba Kangiwa
293	Umaru Maltumbi
295	Chief A. M. A. Akinloye
296	Chief E. O. Okunowo
297	Chief A. Akerele
298	Chief A. Rosiji
	Prime Minister
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Communications
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Defence
	Minister of Establishments
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Information
	Minister of Internal Affairs

Name of Member
Minister of Mines and Power
Minister of Labour
Minister of Lagos Affairs
Minister of Transport and Aviation
Minister of Works and Surveys
Minister of State, Hon. M. T. Mbu
Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie
H. M. Adaji
Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
M. Amechi
Hamza Gombe
Ahmadu Fatika
Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna
T. A. Lamuye
S. Lana
Usumanu Maitambari
F. U. Mbakogu
S. F. Nwika
F. E. Offor
R. B. K. Okafor
M. O. Okilo
N. A. Ezonbodor
Ibrahim Tako
D. C. Ugwu
M. Umaru Gella

Tellers for Ayes

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
Mr D. N. Abii

NOES

Seat No.	Name of Member
141	W. Briggs
142	Chief A. Enahoro
143	Chief O. Awolowo
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
148	J. A. Assadugu
150	A. Akomolafe
151	S. A. Ogendengbe
152	M. D. Iyorkar
153	D. D. Dimka
172	Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade
173	M. A. Omisade
175	S. J. Umoren
178	B. U. Ukpong
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
181	P. O. Akpan
182	A. Adedamola
183	E. D. Akinbowale
184	Chief R. A. Orok
185	Auta Anzah
204	M. B. Afanideh
205	G. K. Dada
207	I. A. Brown
209	J. A. Olaore
210	O. J. Eminue
212	J. O. Odeunmi
213	S. U. Idiiong
214	K. Swern

Seat No.	Name of Member
236	A. A. Ajibola
237	T. I. Etukudo
238	V. T. Shisha
239	Chief P. Dame-Oboh
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
241	P. Tarkande
242	M. C. K. Obi
243	Shekarau Ka' Layya
244	J. A. Akinyemi
245	B. A. Ajayi
247	Oba S. A. Oladiran
263	S. A. Oladapo
269	E. J. Ogunkanmi
270	W. J. Falaiye
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
273	T. O. Oloyede
275	G. Yilgwen
276	D. K. Aihonsu

## Tellers for Noes

Mr M. A. Omisade  
Mr I. A. Brown

*Resolved*: That in pursuance of section sixty-five of the Constitution of the Federation it is declared that a state of public emergency exists and that this resolution shall remain in force until the end of the month of December, nineteen hundred and sixty-two.

## EMERGENCY POWERS (JURISDICTION) BILL

*The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice presented, pursuant to Standing Order 52, a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Governor-General.*

*Bill presented and read the First time; to be read a Second time—now.*

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I beg to move, That the Bill for an Act to confer, during periods of emergency, exclusive jurisdiction on the Federal Supreme Court with respect to questions arising in connection with the validity of emergency legislation; and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

This is a short Bill of only two sections, the main purpose of which is to make it impossible for any Regional High Court to entertain any processes in connection with the emergency regulations.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation**: I beg to second.

**Chief Awolowo**: We on this side of the House support this Bill wholeheartedly for the simple reason that we have no special preference for any particular court. We are indeed delighted that in the midst of this apparent outrage on our Constitution, the jurisdiction of the Court is still being respected.

My only complaint is that a Bill of this character should at least have been placed in our hands this morning. It may be, on the other hand, that it has just come straight from the Government Printer.

Apart from these remarks, I support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; read the Third time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 3.00 p.m.*

## EMERGENCY POWERS REGULATIONS

**The Prime Minister**: I beg to move:

That in accordance with section 5 of the Emergency Powers Act, 1961 (No. 1 of 1961)—

- (1) The Emergency Powers (General) Regulations, 1962,
- (2) The Emergency Powers (Essential Services) Regulations, 1962,
- (3) The Emergency Powers (Retention of Services) Regulations, 1962,
- (4) The Emergency Powers (Requisition) Regulations, 1962,
- (5) The Emergency Powers (Billeting) Regulations, 1962,
- (6) The Emergency Powers (Misleading Reports) Regulations, 1962,
- (7) The Emergency Powers (Protected Places) Regulations, 1962,
- (8) The Emergency Powers (Processions and Meetings), Regulations, 1962,
- (9) The Emergency Powers (Control of Arms and Explosives) Regulations, 1962,
- (10) The Emergency Powers (Curfew) Regulations, 1962,
- (11) The Emergency Powers (Detention of Persons) Regulations, 1962,
- (12) The Emergency Powers (Restriction Orders) Regulations, 1962,

Federal Parliament Debates

2213 [Emergency Powers Regulations]

29 MAY 1962

[Emergency Powers Regulations] 2214

(13) The Emergency Powers (Reporting of Persons) Regulations, 1962, are approved.

We are seeking the approval of the House for these Regulations and I want to add that these Regulations are already in force.

**The Minister of Finance** : I beg to second.

**Chief O. Awolowo** : This is a most unfair way of treating Parliament. If I may say so with respect to the Prime Minister, surely nobody doubts the right of the Government to have its way. But at the same time, the Opposition should be allowed to have its say.

The Prime Minister, in concluding his very brief remarks on this Motion, did say that the Regulations are already in force. No one compelled the Prime Minister to bring a Motion to this House asking for the approval of these Regulations. If the Regulations are already in force, why bring them here for approval? If they are brought here for approval I think this House has every right to examine the Regulations and to express its opinion on them.

What we find is that we have this packaged deal on which nobody can make any comments that can be of any use at all because the Regulations, according to the Prime Minister, are already in force. I think this honourable House is merely being taken for a ride. Whereas it is the duty of this honourable House whenever any matter is brought before it to be given a chance of expressing its considered opinion, that opportunity is not given and I have no alternative but to oppose the Motion which has been moved by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister.

If we had had the chance of studying these Regulations I would have taken into consideration the fact that a Motion was already passed this morning declaring a state of public emergency. One may feel that there is nothing to oppose in the Regulations, but as it is we come here this afternoon to find these Regulations on our seats. I say in all solemnity and with a sense of responsibility that the House is not being treated fairly.

A state of emergency is declared, Regulations of far-reaching effect are made and Members of this honourable House are not even given a chance of reading the Regulations before they

are called upon to approve them. It is the height of unfairness and I register the protest of this side of the House, even though that protest falls on stone-deaf ears.

I beg to oppose.

**Chief A. Enahoro** : May I add very briefly to what the Leader of the Opposition has said. The position now is that the House need not consider these Regulations. If they are already in force I do not see that any useful purpose is to be served by examining them. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, there are some Regulations which even we on this side of the House would hardly oppose.

One must make arrangements for special services in a public emergency. But when the Government seeks powers to detain persons throughout this Federation—it does not matter whom those powers are going to be used against—what kind of country are we in? What kind of country are we building when we seek powers to detain persons, to ask them to report, to restrict their movements?

Mr Prime Minister, this is not the kind of country we all fought for. I beg to oppose.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** : May I explain briefly that the purpose of our bringing the Regulations before this honourable House is to allow a debate to take place on the Regulations and for the Regulations to be either approved or disallowed by this House. Under the Emergency Powers Act of 1961, which was passed unanimously in this House in March 1961, this was provided for in section 3, and we are merely complying with that Act of Parliament.

*Question put and the House divided. Ayes 209, Noes 36.*

Seat No.	AYES	Name of Member
1		E. O. Ifezue
2		Muhammadu Nalado
4		B. A. Adeyemo
6		I. S. Onwuchekwa
7		S. Nnaji
14		U. U. Eko
18		F. I. Okoronkwo
19		Muhammed Ningi
20		Muhammadu Kumo
22		Shettima Ali Monguno
23		Alhaji Zakari Isa
24		Yusufu Ilesha
26		Muktar Gajiram
27		Abbas Raha
29		Ladan Isa
30		Garba Jabo Abubakar

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29 MAY 1962

[Emergency Powers Regulations]

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Seat No.	Name of Member	Seat No.	Name of Member
32	Saidu Zango	125	Aminu Kano
34	P. I. Ejukwa	126	Sarkin Gobe
35	S. A. Yerokun	127	Galadima Maikiyari
36	F. U.. Ihe	128	Abdu Kirim
37	D. N. Oronsaye	129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida
38	S. A. Oyewole	130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
39	Muhammadu Alangade	131	Usman Gwarzo
40	E. O. Araka	132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
42	Udenyi, J. U.	134	S. D. Lar
43	N. Nwangbo	135	Abubakar Isandu
44	N. E. Elenwa	166	Ibrahim Gusau
45	F. C. Ogbalu	137	Alhaji K. O. S. Areh
48	J. B. Eboigbodi	138	M. Muktari Sarkin Bai
50	D.U.U. Okay	154	E. A. Effiong-Spatts
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki	155	Isa Haruna
52	Abba Terib	156	E. A. Odo
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar	157	J. O. Ede
55	Yerima Saleh	158	Shekarau Omar
56	Sule Abba Biu	159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero	160	Sanni Gezewa
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero	163	Inusa Tudun Wada
59	Abdul Karim	166	Salihu O. Abdul
60	Abubakar A. Ibrahim	167	Alhaji Haruna
62	Usman Turaki	168	Sarki Dalhatu
65	D. O. Ahamefula	169	M. Aminu Suleman Dutse
66	U. O. Ekenekot	170	Alhaji Baba Danbappa
67	De. Omomadia, J. K.	176	P. B. Olatunde
69	J. N. Nwofokoda	177	A. F. Odulana
70	O. C. Ememe	186	Aminu Yelwa
72	L. N. Ezeani	188	Zanna Isa Monguno
73	N. D. Ukah	189	Musa Hindi
74	R. N. Muojeke	190	P. O. Tokula
75	E. A. Mordi	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
76	Yusha'u A. Mohammed	192	Abdu Bauchi
77	N. N. Onugu	194	Hamidu A. Bayero
78	C. A. Odigbo	195	Muhammadu Bayero
79	F. A. M. Amadi	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
80	U. O. Ayeni	197	S. A. Babatunde
82	B. O. Ike	198	Ahmadu Angara Doma
83	Alhaji Mai Kano	199	D. O. Enefolo
84	Usman Shehu Kazaure	200	J. A. Yacim
85	Maina Waziri	201	Alhaji Aliyi Bisalla
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi	202	Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki
87	Umaru Gumel	203	Umaru Dan Waziri
90	Saidu Daura	211	J. M. Damla
94	C. Chiedozie	215	L. O. Tobun
96	J. U. Odey	216	S. O. Kolade
97	R. A. Afolabi	218	Abdullahi Mahuta
98	D. N. Chukwu	219	Alhaji Abubakar Magajin Gari
101	A. A. Odunrinde	222	Haliru Gwandu, Walikin Gona
102	J. O. Igwe	223	Balang U. Barami
103	J. O. Ogunbiyi	225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
104	P. O. Eleke	226	Abba Sadiq
105	O. O. Nweke	227	Ahmadu Babandi
107	Dr P. U. Okeke	228	Alhaji Aliyu Mohammedu
108	D. Senu-Oke	229	S. A. Olokotun
109	A. U. D. Mbah	231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
112	Chief S. J. Mariere	232	Ibrahim Nadabo
113	H. O. Chuku	233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
115	B. N. Ukegbu	234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadejia
116	G. O. D. Eneh	235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
118	R. O. A. Akinjide	246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
119	E. E. Akwiwu	249	J. O. Taiwo
122	Dr K. Ezera	250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya	251	Mohammadu Koro Madakin Pategi
124	K. O. Mbadiwe	252	Baba Shehu Ibrahim

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Seat No.	Name of Member
253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
254	Abdulkadir Dukku
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange
262	Atto Bungudu
263	Garba Gada
265	M. Ali Gwarzo
266	M. Garba Turakin Paiko
267	Umaru Galkogo
274	S. O. Fajinmi
277	Haikali Maigari
278	S. O. Ogundipe
280	Lajide, V. L.
283	Peter Ipu
284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim
285	Dambo Ibrahim Maikaita
287	M. Dati Kudu
288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
289	Dominic Maisinji
291	Garba Kangiwa
292	Zubairu Liman Katagum
293	Umaru Maltumbi
295	Chief A. M. A. Akinloye
296	Chief E. O. Okunowo
297	Chief A. Akerele
298	Chief A. Rosiji
	Prime Minister
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Communications
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Defence
	Minister of Establishments
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Internal Affairs
	Minister of Labour
	Minister of Lagos Affairs
	Minister of Mines and Power
	Minister of Transport and Aviation
	Minister of Works and Surveys
	Minister of State, Hon. M. T. Mbu
	Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
	Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie
	Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
	M. Amechi
	Hamza Gombe
	Ahmadu Fatika
	Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna
	T. A. Lamuye
	S. Lana
	Usumanu Maitambari
	F. U. Mbakogu
	S. F. Nwika
	F. E. Offor
	R. B. K. Okafor
	M. O. Okilo
	N. A. Ezonbodor
	Ibrahim Tako
	D. C. Ugwu
	Aliyu Zungum
	M. Umaru Gella

Tellers for Ayes

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
Mr D. N. Abii

NOES

Seat No.	Name of Member
141	W. Briggs
142	Chief A. Enahoro
143	Chief O. Awolowo
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
148	J. A. Assadugu
150	A. Akomolafe
151	S. A. Ogedengbe
172	Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade
175	S. J. Umoren
178	B. U. Ukpogon
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
181	P. O. Akpan
182	A. Adedamola
183	E. D. Akinbowale
184	Chief R. A. Orok
204	M. B. Afanideh
205	G. K. Dada
210	O. J. Eminue
212	J. O. Odebunmi
213	S. U. Idiong
214	K. Swem
236	A. A. Ajibola
237	T. I. Etukudo
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
242	M. C. K. Obi
244	J. A. Akinyemi
245	B. A. Ajayi
247	Oba S. A. Oladiran
268	S. A. Oladapo
270	W. J. Falaiye
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
273	T. O. Oloyede
275	G. Yilgwen
276	D. K. Aihonsu

Tellers for Noe

Mr M. Omisade  
Mr V. T. Shisha

Question, accordingly agreed to.

Resolved :

That in accordance with section 5 of the Emergency Powers Act, 1961 (No. 1 of 1961)—

(1) The Emergency Powers (General) Regulations, 1962,

(2) The Emergency Powers (Essential Services) Regulations, 1962,

(3) The Emergency Powers (Retention of Services) Regulations, 1962,

(4) The Emergency Powers (Requisition) Regulations, 1962,

(5) The Emergency Powers (Billeting) Regulations, 1962,

(6) *The Emergency Powers (Misleading Reports) Regulations, 1962,*

(7) *The Emergency Powers (Protected Places) Regulations, 1962,*

(8) *The Emergency Powers (Processions and Meetings) Regulations, 1962,*

(9) *The Emergency Powers (Control of Arms and Explosives) Regulations, 1962,*

(10) *The Emergency Powers (Curfew) Regulations, 1962,*

(11) *The Emergency Powers (Detention of Persons) Regulations, 1962,*

(12) *The Emergency Powers (Restriction Orders) Regulations, 1962,*

(13) *The Emergency Powers (Reporting of Persons) Regulations, 1962,*  
*are approved.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :*

*That this House do now adjourn sine die.*

*Adjourned accordingly at thirty-five minutes to four o'clock, sine die, pursuant to the Resolution of the House—This Day.*



## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### APPENDIX

#### THE CABINET

##### Ministerial Tours

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** asked the Prime Minister if he will state the necessity for the frequent visits of our Ministers to Europe and the Continent, particularly to those places where Nigeria has diplomatic representation.

**The Prime Minister :** Ministers visit Europe and other places only when it is absolutely necessary. The hon. Member will recognise the fact that even though we have Embassies which look after our interests in some countries, there are occasions when the presence of Ministers is both necessary and desirable.

#### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

##### Discrimination against Nigerian Importers

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he is aware of and what steps he contemplates taking about certain British manufacturers perpetually refusing to make their goods freely available to Nigerian importers, restricting their sales solely to expatriate companies thereby limiting their exports in order to maintain high market prices to the detriment of consumers in this country.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I am not aware of the practice alleged by the hon. Member but if he will give an instance I will cause an investigation to be made.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### Automatic Telephone Service for Ijebu-Ode

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the absolute necessity of providing Ijebu-Ode with automatic telephone service in the interest of trade and industry and the inhabitants who at present are kept waiting for four to six hours before a call from Lagos to Ijebu-Ode can be effected.

**The Minister of Communications :** The present telephone exchange at Ijebu-Ode has only been in service since October 1958, and

the equipment installed will last for some years. Consideration, however, may be given to the provision of an automatic exchange towards the end of the next Economic Programme.

As regards the trunk service, it is hoped to provide additional circuits in the 1962-67 programme. The average delay to Lagos at the present time is about one hour during the busy period.

#### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### Application for Nigerian Citizenship

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many applications he has received from foreigners for Nigerian citizenship, stating the total number approved, the number disapproved and the number under consideration.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** Five hundred and sixty-six applications have been received of which ninety-eight are for naturalisation and four hundred and eighty-eight for registration. So far two applications have been approved, one for naturalisation and one for registration.

All the remaining applications are awaiting consideration by a Committee that I am setting up in order to advise me on them.

#### TRANSPORT

##### Ocean Passenger Steamers

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** asked the Minister of Transport, whether in view of the acute shortage of accommodation for a considerable number of Nigerian sea travellers he will consider purchasing one or two ocean passenger steamers to augment the existing fleet of E.D. Lines in order to ease the acute congestion on the waiting-list of the expatriate shipping companies.

**The Minister of Transport :** I am informed that, due to the seasonal nature of the traffic, there are certain times of the year when the present demand for sea passages between West Africa and Europe cannot be fully met by the existing passenger services. I also understand that there is nearly always a

waiting list for the low-graded accommodation, but that for much of the year there is sufficient first-class accommodation to meet demand.

The resources of the Nigerian National Line have so far been directed towards the profitable development of its fleet of modern cargo liners. This has clearly been the most prudent policy to adopt since it satisfies an urgent need of a sovereign Nigeria and can be fully justified on strategic and economic grounds. The

passenger trade is more fickle, however, particularly since a tourist trade to West Africa has not yet developed, and the capital and recurrent costs of a modern passenger liner are very considerable.

Nevertheless, the Nigerian National Line is not unmindful of the value to Nigeria of an efficient passenger service and the possibility of the Company participating in this aspect of the trade will not be overlooked.

## 22nd March, 1962

### EDUCATION U.C.I

W.5 Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Education, when the University College, Ibadan, will become a fully-fledged University.

**The Minister of Education :** The necessary legislation for incorporation of University

College, Ibadan, as an independent University is now in preparation.

The date on which the University will be able to award its own degrees will depend upon the date of enactment of this legislation and I hope this will not be long delayed.

## 24th March, 1962

### NIGERIA POLICE

#### Nsukka Police Quarters

O.11. Mr F. A. M. Amadi : asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has to improve

the police quarters in Nsukka ; and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of State for the Police :** The Charge Office and Rank and File quarters in Nsukka are on the priority list for construction in the 1962-63 Financial Year.

## 26th March, 1962

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### Insurance Companies

O.39. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Insurance Companies operate in Nigeria, what firms or people own them; and whether the

Federal Government has any shares in any of the companies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: There are 53 insurance companies operating in Nigeria. The Federal Government does not hold shares in any of the companies. The list is as follows:—

#### LIST OF ALL INSURANCE COMPANIES OPERATING IN NIGERIA

##### FOREIGN COMPANIES

##### British Ownership

1. Lloyds' Underwriters.
2. Royal Exchange Assurance.
3. Eagle Star Insurance Company.
4. The Motor Union Insurance Company.
5. The Northern Assurance Co., Ltd.
6. The Royal Insurance Company.
7. General Accident Fire and Life Insurance Corporated Ltd.
8. Alliance Assurance Company.
9. The Car and General Insurance Corporation Limited.
10. The National Employers Mutual General Insurance Association Ltd.
11. The Liverpool and London Globe Insurance Co., Ltd.
12. The Tobacco Insurance Co., Ltd.
13. The London and Lancashire Insurance Co., Ltd.
14. The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd.
15. The Sea Insurance Co., Ltd.
16. The Guardian Assurance Co., Ltd.
17. The Caledonian Insurance Co., Ltd.
18. The Law Union and Rock Insurance Co., Ltd.
19. The British Commonwealth Insurance Company Limited.
20. The Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd.
21. The Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
22. The Lion of Africa Insurance Company Limited.
23. London Assurance.
24. The New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd.
25. Commercial Union Assurance Ltd.
26. The White Cross Insurance Company Limited.
27. The New Africa Insurance Co., Ltd.
28. The North British Mercantile Insurance Co., Ltd.
29. The South British Insurance Company Limited.
30. Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation Limited.
31. Legal and General Assurance Society Limited.
32. Sun Insurance Office Limited.
33. Provincial Insurance Co., Ltd.
34. The Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd.
35. Crusader Insurance Co., Ltd.
36. Guinea Insurance Co. Limited.
37. Cornhill Insurance Co. Limited.
38. L'Union Fire, Accident and General Insurance Company.
39. The Yorkshire Insurance Co., Limited.
40. The Dominion Insurance Co., Limited.
41. Standard Marina Insurance Company.
42. C. T. Bowring and Company (Nigeria) Limited.

##### American Ownership.

43. Eagle Fire of New York.

*Indian Ownership.*

44. British India General Insurance Company, Limited.  
45. New India Assurance Co., Limited.

*New Zealand Ownership.*

46. The New Zealand Insurance Company Limited.

*Nigerian Ownership.*

47. African Insurance Co., Limited.  
48. Nigerian Employment Security and Life Assurance Co., Ltd.  
49. Hasadup General Service (Insurance Brokers.

*Nigerian Joint Ownership with Foreigners.*

50. West African Provincial Insurance Co., Ltd.  
51. Nigerian General Insurance Company.  
52. Akin-George Insurance Co., Ltd.  
53. Great Nigerian Insurance Co., Ltd.

## FINANCE

## Foreign Loans

**O.56. Mr D. Senu-Oke :** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will name all the foreign countries which have given loans to Nigeria, indicating how much was loaned to this country in each case, and what is the rate of interest.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance :** Detailed statements of the Public Debt of the Federation are published quarterly—the last such statement being contained in Government Gazette on 8th February, 1962.

This statement reflects the position at 30th June, 1961 since which date further drawings have made upon the United Kingdom Credit Agreement, interest rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent above the rate at which the U.K. Government can itself borrow—at present above 6 per cent and, the I.B.R.D. loan to the Railway Corporations maximum interest rate  $5\frac{3}{8}$  per cent and drawings have commenced on the 7 year Government of Israel loan interest rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent above U.K. bank rate, at present 5 per cent.

In addition, the United States Government has loaned £237,000 to the Ports Authority for 12 years at  $5\frac{3}{4}$  per cent and £1,070,000 to the Railway Corporation for 20 years at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

8th February, 1962

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Government Notice No. 246

## STATEMENT No. 9

PUBLIC DEBT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1961

Part A	Funded Loans	Repayment Date	Original Loan £	Currently Outstanding £	Total £
<i>External</i>					
	4 per cent 1923 Loan	.. .. . 1963	5,700,000	5,700,000	
	$2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent 1947 Loan	.. .. . 1966-71	1,250,000	1,250,000	
	3 per cent 1949 Loan	.. .. . 1975-77	3,000,000	3,000,000	
	$3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent 1951 Loan	.. .. . 1964-66	6,800,000	6,800,000	16,750,000
			<u>16,750,000</u>		

Naval College, Dartmouth and fourteen more are under training. Modern workshop equipment has been installed at the Naval Base which will enable the Navy to undertake many of its own repairs.

Minister of Transport: My hon. Friend is advised that statistics show that, apart from visits by Railway Officers, not more than one visit a year is made to Malam-Maduri by important visitors occupying railway coaches. A

### Federal Parliament Debates

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[Written Answers]

26 MARCH 1962

[Written Answers]

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#### Part B External

Country of Origin	Unfunded Loans Description	Repayment Date(s)	Amount Loaned to date	Amount Outstanding	Total
United Kingdom	Special List 'B'	When claimed	£	£	£
	For use by Fed. Govt. ..	.. ..	1,456,935	1,456,935	
	On-lent to Eastern Region ..	.. ..	178,868	178,868	
	On-lent to Northern Region ..	.. ..	1,195,574	1,195,574	
	On-lent to Western Region ..	.. ..	211,130	211,130	
United Kingdom	Exchequer Loan ..	1961-85	3,000,000	3,000,000	
U.K.—Nigerian	Credit Agreement ..	1960-80	4,845,000	4,845,000	
I.B.R.D.	Railway Development ..	1962-78	9,697,870	9,697,870	
Total External Loans			20,585,377		20,585,377

#### United States Loan

**O.57. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state whether the sum of £80 million given by the United States to Nigeria is a grant or loan; if it is a loan, what is the rate of interest and how long is repayment expected to last.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance:** The £80 million offered by the United States Government will be partly in the form of grants and partly in the form of loans. The terms of the loans have not yet been finally determined although the Minister confidently expects that they will be very favourable to Nigeria.

#### Decimal Currency

**O.58. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Finance whether there are special difficulties which the country will face if immediate steps are taken to introduce the Decimal Currency system in Nigeria.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance:** The country would face a number of difficulties on the introduction of a decimal currency system in Nigeria. Foremost among these are the accounting problems which must arise during the transitional period and the expenses which would be involved for Government in the changing of the currency and for the business houses in the modification or replacement of existing accounting machinery.

The Minister has already appointed a small Committee of Officials to carry out a preliminary examination of the advantages, disadvantages and the problems involved in the adoption of the decimal currency in Nigeria.

#### Capital Formation

**O.59. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Finance what plans he has for encouraging and stimulating capital formation in the country.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance:** It has been the policy of the Federal Government to set up the necessary machinery to make possible the channelling of domestic resources, whether large or small, into investment media to provide funds for the development of this country. Efforts are being and will continue to be made to persuade more people to deposit more of their savings in the Post Office Savings Bank, commercial banks and the thrift and building societies or to lend directly to Government of public bodies through the medium of securities issued by them.

There are now available 91-day Nigerian Treasury Bills for investment of short term funds. We also have here in Nigeria nine Government Stocks of different maturities ranging from 1964-1986, and later on in this Session, honourable members will be asked to authorise the raising of an additional £100 million locally within the next six years to finance the new development plans.

The Ministry gave active encouragement to the setting up of the Lagos Stock Exchange which started operations last June. On this Stock Exchange, Government stocks and shares of some companies operating in Nigeria, their shares may be bought and sold through stockbrokers.

Steps have also been taken to ensure the orderly repatriation of Nigerian moneys at present invested overseas, for investment within Nigeria.

**Railway Caterers**

**O.94. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Transport if he would advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to revoke the agreement between them and Nigeria Hotels Ltd., in view of the heavy losses being borne by the Corporation in respect of train catering by Nigeria Hotels Ltd.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport :** No, Sir, the provision of train catering, especially on long distance trains, is an amenity which the Railway considers essential to offer to the travelling public. My hon. Friend, the Minister, is informed that the Corporation considers that Nigeria Hotels have provided a satisfactory service, and that losses incurred on catering arise not from any inadequacy on the part of the contractor but from the preference of the majority of the travelling public to provide food for themselves. This is a situation common to many railways.

The Railway does not believe that any other contractor would do any better than Nigeria Hotels, but is examining the terms of existing

contract arrangements in the light of comments made by the Public Accounts Committee in its Second Report for 1961-62 with a view to eliminating any unjustified charges.

The Minister would like to remind the hon. Member that 49 per cent of the capital of Nigeria Hotels Ltd. is held jointly by the Federal and Northern Regional Governments.

**Ship Purchases**

**O.95. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Transport, if he will state the names of each of the ships he bought during his recent overseas tours; what was the cost of each, indicating names of ship-building firms from which the ships were bought.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport :** No, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Minister, cannot do so because he has bought no ships, nor were his recent overseas tours concerned with the purchase of ships. My hon. Friend is consulted by the Chairman of the Nigerian National Line before orders for new ships are placed, but the purchase is carried out by the Company direct.

**28th March, 1962**

**O.26. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what is the population of Arabs and peoples from other Asian countries in Nigeria, and how many of them are in the Public Service.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs :** The records do not classify people by racial origin but by nationality. It is therefore not possible to quote true figures.

If by Arabs and other Asians the Hon. Member means nationals of Arab and other Asian countries (who are not necessarily all Arabs or Asians by race), then the answer is as follows :

(a) there are in Nigeria, 1,853 nationals of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain and Yemen;

(b) the population of people from other Asian countries is 3,532. These include nationals of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Nationalist China, Israel, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Phillipines and Persia.

To give accurate information about the number of such persons in the Federal and Regional Public Services requires reference to the Federal and Regional Ministries responsible. This is being done, and the information will be published in the Report in due course.

## 30th March, 1962

### NIGERIA POLICE

#### Bribery and Corruption

**O.131. Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider appointing a Commission of inquiry to investigate the current allegations of bribery and corruption in the Police Force with regard to the dealings of the members of the Force with the public.

**The Prime Minister :** No, Sir. I have nothing more to add to the answer given to Oral Question No. O.483 in the house of Representatives Official Report of the 31st August, 1961 when a similar question was asked by the honourable Member.

#### Road Accidents

**O.132. Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Prime Minister, how many road accidents were recorded throughout the Federation from 1st April 1959 to 31st March, 1961; how many lives were lost as a result of those accidents and what steps have been taken to minimise such accidents.

**The Prime Minister :** There were 27,712 road accidents throughout the Federation, involving the deaths of 2,377 persons between 1st of April, 1959 to date.

The major causes of road accidents are dangerous driving and faulty vehicles but to patrol all the roads would require a prohibitive number of Police personnel and vehicles. Many accidents have occurred at night owing to faulty rear lights: the question of making it compulsory for vehicle number plates to be made from a reflective material is being examined since its introduction would considerably assist in the prevention of accidents.

Road Safety Committees have been set up in all parts of the Federation and a new system is being introduced whereby all traffic matters will be dealt with centrally thus ensuring uniformity of policy. Police have also been lecturing school children in road safety precautions.

#### Independence Celebrations

**O.133. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Prime Minister, how much was spent by the Federal Government on the Independence Celebrations in 1960.

**The Prime Minister :** The cost to Federal Government of the Independence Celebrations was £2,341,000.

#### Corruption

**O.139. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Prime Minister, what plans the Federal Government has to combat bribery and corruption in this country.

**The Prime Minister :** The Federal Government is using existing legislation to combat bribery and corruption and continues to search for ways and means of eradicating the evil in consultation with Regional Governments.

### EDUCATION

#### Teachers

**\*O.143. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the conditions teachers in Voluntary Agency Schools must fulfil to qualify for retirement and pension benefits.

**The Minister of Education :** The rules for the award of retiring allowances and gratuities to non-Government certificated teachers are given in Public Notice No. 117 of 1950 as amended by Public Notices No. 9 of 1951 and No. 2 of 1952. These have been published in the *Official Gazette* and have been reprinted from time to time for the information of teachers and managers.

Subject to the provisions of these rules, the conditions may be briefly stated as :

(a) the possession of a recognised teaching certificate or degree ;

(b) continuous service in a recognised school for 15 years for an allowance or pension and 5 years for a gratuity ; and

(c) proof that the teacher is unable to continue the efficient discharge of his duties for medical or other acceptable reasons, or that he has reached the age of 55.

Provision is also made for the payment of a gratuity if such a teacher dies while still on continuous service.

**Inter-Regional Schools**

\*O.144. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education, what is delaying the establishment of the inter-Regional schools proposed by the Federal Government.

**The Minister of Education :** The establishment of the Inter-Regional Secondary Schools raises certain constitutional problems which are being studied. I am also in consultation with the Regional Ministers of Education with a view to reaching an understanding.

**Roman Catholic Colleges**

O.145. Mr Kemte Giadom asked the Minister of Education, what is the total

number of Roman Catholic Colleges in the Federation of Nigeria ; and how many of them have Nigerians as Principals.

**The Minister of Education :** According to the latest information which has been received there are 197 Roman Catholic Colleges (including Teacher Training Institutions) in the Regions and 6 Colleges in the Federal Territory of Lagos. With regard to the Colleges in the Federal Territory, one is headed by a Nigerian. Eight Nigerians are known to head the Roman Catholic Colleges in the Western Region and nineteen Nigerians are Principals in the Eastern Region. No figures are available in respect of the North.

**2nd April, 1962****COMMUNICATIONS****Postal Orders**

W.3. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Communications, when he will introduce Nigerian Postal Orders.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** It is the intention of the Minister to introduce Nigerian Postal Orders as quickly as possible and this whole problem is now being examined in detail by the Ministry. My hon. Friend, the Minister of Communications, hopes to be in a position to make a further statement on the subject very shortly.

**Afuzé Postal Agency**

W.4. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the volume of business transacted at Afuzé Postal Agency and whether he will consider converting that Agency into a sub-post office.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications :** The business at Afuzé Postal Agency during 1961 amounted to 21,594 units which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4/1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Afuzé Postal Agency cannot therefore be justified at present.

**MINES AND POWER****E.C.N. at 9th Mile Corner**

W.6. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many people altogether received compensation for property destroyed by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria at the 9th mile corner to Nsukka within the portion Ukehe to Nsukka inclusive, and how much was paid to each claimant.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** I am informed by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria that a total of 2,891 persons were paid compensation in respect of economic trees and crops destroyed by the Corporation at the 9th mile corner to Nsukka within the portion Ukehe to Nsukka inclusive ; no other kind of property was destroyed.

The total amount of compensation paid was £16,011-3s-3d, but I regret that I am not at present in a position to state how much was paid to each claimant as the full details have not yet been received from the Corporation.

**APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS****Commerce and Industry****Research**

O.157. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether



there are any research going on now in his Ministry and whether he will make a statement about the past, present and proposed researches.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Scientific research activities within the Ministry are carried on by the Federal Institute of Industrial Research and the Stored Products Research Unit.

The Federal Institute of Industrial Research undertakes research into the utilisation of indigenous raw materials for industrial purposes. It has undertaken applied research on a wide variety of subjects which include the preservation of palm wine, gari making, the fermentation of coffee pulp, the production of methane gas from farm waste, a survey of the medicinal plants of Nigeria, the analysis of rubber production costs, and background work on the leather industry.

The work programme for the next financial year includes research in connection with the commercial-scale preparation of gari from cassava, fish drying, pulp and paper evaluation, coconut coir, the extraction of cashew nut shell oil, solar water heating, the separation of oils from grasses, and the utilisation of vegetable extracts, especially rasins, gums and polysaccharides.

The 1962-68 National Development Plan envisages an extension of the services undertaken by the Institute so that it may supply

technical information to industries concerned with utilising Nigerian materials, and develop industrial processes suitable for use in Nigeria.

The Stored Products Research Unit is a smaller specialist unit, and is concerned with the technical problems of bulk storage of primary export produce, and the storage of local foodstuffs. In these respects it works with the Regional Produce Inspection Services, and the Regional Agricultural Extension Services. Besides cash crops, on which continuous work is in progress, research has been undertaken into the special problems connected with the local storage of maize, guinea corn, yams and fish.

#### Illicit Spirits

**O.158. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he is aware that illicit distillation of alcohol is increasing in Lagos and whether he will make a statement.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance :** My hon. Friend the Minister of Finance, is unaware of any increase in the illicit distillation of alcohol in Lagos, but I can assure the hon. Member that the Minister is very much alive to the problem of illicit distillation, a problem which is not confined to the Federal Territory.

If the hon. Member has any positive information, I shall be very happy to receive it and pass it on to the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, who will take appropriate action on it.

## 3rd April, 1962

### MINES AND POWER

#### Chairman of E.C.N.

**\*O.170. Mr M. A. Omisade** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will make a statement indicating why the Chairman of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria resigned his appointment some time in February 1962 only to be re-appointed six days later.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power :** Matters touching upon Dr Eni Njoku's previous appointment as Chairman of the Electricity

Corporation of Nigeria are at present the subject of judicial proceedings which are still pending. My hon. Friend, the Minister, regrets, therefore, that he is unable to make any statement at this juncture.

Dr Njoku's present appointment as Chairman dates from 23rd February, 1962, and is not affected by the present judicial proceedings. Nevertheless, since matters affecting his resignation (with which the Question also deals) may be involved, it is better to regard the whole subject as *sub judice*.

## 4th April, 1962

### WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### HEALTH

##### Dr Bruno Gans

**\*O.181.** Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Health what exactly led to the dismissal of Dr Bruno Gans.

**The Minister of Health** (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Dr Gans contravened Government General Orders by writing an open letter about service matters to the Press. This action was brought to the notice of the Federal Public Service Commission who, on examining the case, decided to terminate his appointment.

##### Oxygen Reservoir

**\*O.182.** Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Health, whether there is any oxygen Chamber anywhere in Lagos.

**Chief Majekodunmi:** The reference to oxygen chambers is not understood. However, oxygen used in Government hospitals in Lagos is supplied by a Gas Company which has a factory in this country.

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Abudu Postal Agency

**\*O.188.** Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, why the Abudu Postal Agency is not yet raised to a Sub-Post Office.

**Mr Nwika:** Approval has already been given for the conversion of Abudu Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office. Action to effect this is in hand, and the local community are erecting a building to accommodate the Sub-Post Office.

## 5th April, 1962

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Food Shortage

**O.176.** Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Economic Development, what has been done by the Agricultural Research Division of his Ministry to solve the menacing problem of acute shortage of foodstuffs throughout the country."

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): The Answer to this question is a long one and I shall therefore have it recorded in the *official* report of the proceedings of the House. *The answer is as follows:*—The major responsibility of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research is the selection and breeding of improved, high yielding, disease resistant strains of the staple food crops of the Federation which are of common interest to all three regions, *viz.* yams, cassava, maize and rice.

Progress achieved to date has indicated that the following yield increases, and consequent revenue increases, may be expected by farmers who employ the varieties recommended, and cultural procedures suggested by the Department through Regional Ministries.

#### YAMS

The present average yield of approximately 4 tons per acre, may in the near future be doubled by the employment of new selections showing high yield potential. In addition control measures for the yam beetle which have been produced by the Department, if applied, would substantially contribute to reducing the ravages of this pest.

#### CASSAVA

Improved varieties of cassava, at present being made available to Regional Ministries of

Agriculture have indicated yield potentials of from 50 *per cent*-100 *per cent* higher than the average national yield of 4 tons per acre.

#### MAIZE

Maize strains yielding 50 *per cent* more than the national average and showing high disease resistance are being disseminated at present. Further multiplication of these seed stocks by the Regional Departments of Agriculture and issue by them to the farmer should result in a substantial increase in the maize crop.

#### RICE

Thirteen improved varieties of rice with yield potentials of from 15 *per cent*-35 *per cent* higher than present average, are now being multiplied at nine centres throughout the Federation. Varieties are available for the majority of conditions encountered in the rice growing areas of the Federation.

The successful application of the results of this research is very largely dependent upon the Regional Agricultural extension services in making materials and information available to the farmers.

Hon. Members will recall that in my speech introducing the Federal Government's Development Programme, I drew attention to the provision of £25 million for assistance to the Regions in expanding agricultural production and to the reorientation of the work of our Research Departments so that they can have a more immediate impact on raising productivity in agriculture.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Ambassadors

**O.200. Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, how many Ambassadors have so far been appointed by the Federal Government, and in what parts of the world are they serving.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Seven Nigerian Ambassadors have been appointed since independence and have represented Nigeria in Washington, Khartoum, Monrovia, Yaounde, Abidjan, Bonn, and at the United Nations in New York. These are in addition to three appointments as High Commissioners in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ghana and Sierra-Leone.

### Nigeria Office, London

**O.201. Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, how many expatriate and Nigerian officers respectively are now serving in the office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria in London.

**Hon. Jaja Wachuku :** There are 120 Nigerian and 31 non-Nigerian employees in the office of the Nigerian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom. Most of these 31 non-Nigerians are employed in very subordinate grades. Non of them holds a diplomatic or administrative post.

7th April, 1962

## EDUCATION

### Inter Regional Secondary Schools

**W.18. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, how many inter-Regional Secondary Schools are now operating; and where are they located.

**The Minister of Education :** The inter-Regional Secondary Schools are part of the 1962-8 National Development Plan. They are

not yet in operation and, as I have stated before in answer to similar questions, there are constitutional problems which must be solved before the Schools are established.

I am in consultation with my colleagues, the Regional Ministers of Education on the question of location and, indeed, on all aspects of the project.

**Bogus Schools**

**W.20. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware of the existence of bogus schools and "scholarship firms" operating in Lagos, and what action he has taken to check the activities of these institutions.

**Hon. Aja Nwachuku** : I am very grateful to the hon. Member for the opportunity to give further publicity to this question. Legal action has been taken against the proprietors of a number of bogus schools in recent months. As a result of the action four schools voluntarily closed down and the proprietors of four other schools were sentenced to fines or imprisonment in default, and action is proceeding against others.

Every help and encouragement is given to genuine applications to open schools in Lagos but I regret to say that many potential proprietors have neither resources nor ability to operate efficient schools and in some cases no intention of doing so.

I propose, in a very short time, to institute an order against the remaining illegal schools in Lagos with all the forces at my disposal, and I can presume that by the end of the year if any will remain.

With regard to bogus "scholarship firms", in the apt phrase used by the hon. Member, detection is more difficult and I rely on members of the public not to subscribe to such firms unless they are completely satisfied that they are

*bona fide*. Many of them are not, and I take this opportunity to warn the general public against such attempts at fraud.

**Federal Emergency Science School**

**W.22. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, how many students have graduated from the Federal Emergency Science School to date.

**Hon. Aja Nwachuku** : A total of 481 students have left the Federal Emergency Science School to date having completed their courses. The figures are as follows :—

1960	..	..	..	..	171
1961	..	..	..	..	109
1962	..	..	..	..	201

**Federal Government Scholarships**

**W.19. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, whether Federal Government Scholarships and bursaries are distributed on the basis of religious affiliation and tribal grouping.

**Hon. Aja Wachuku** : No, Sir, Federal Government Scholarships are not awarded on the basis of religion, or tribe. In a recent review of Scholarship policy, it was decided to award a number of Scholarships which were limited to applicants from the Northern Region and the Niger Delta Special Area to assist in the development of these areas.

The basis of award for these Special Scholarships will not be religion or tribe but merit coupled with place of origin. The vast majority of Federal Government Scholarships will continue to be awarded solely on the merit of the candidate.

**9th April, 1962****TRANSPORT****Railway Losses**

**W.7. Mr Victor L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Transport what steps are being taken to check losses in the management of the Railway Corporation now totalling £20,000 annually.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : The figure given by the honourable Member for the annual losses now being sustained by the Nigerian Railway Corporation

is not correct. I would invite the honourable Member's attention to the Annual Reports of the Corporation which are laid on the table of the House each year.

The losses suffered by the Railway in recent years have been partly due to causes outside the Corporation's control, such as poor groundnut and cotton crops, and the heavy burden of interest rates on capital loaned to the corporation for development,

With regard to other causes, which are within the Corporation's control, the following are the principal measures to check losses that have been taken to date :—

(i) The scale of allowances formerly paid to Corporation officers has been reduced ; some allowances have been abolished and leave periods curtailed.

(ii) Reductions have been made in the labour force and permanent establishment by not filling vacancies and by strictly enforcing retirement rules. Contract officers, pensioners and staff on completed capital works are not being re-engaged.

(iii) Nigerianisation is being actively pursued and this is leading to a reduction in working expenses.

(iv) Following a recommendation of the Elias Commission of Inquiry, the Corporation has appointed "Scandia Consult", a firm of Industrial Consultants, to advise on improving, operating and management efficiency. The Report of the Consultants has been received and is now being studied by the Corporation.

(v) The Corporation has taken steps to improve operating efficiency by :

(a) the introduction of diesel engines on the Kano-Offa and Bauchi-Kuru-Kafanchan sections. This has resulted in improved passenger and freight services ;

(b) improved signalling and train control ; and

(c) an extensive re-laying programme to enable trains to run at higher speeds than at present.

(vi) A new and more realistic Railway Tariff has been worked out and will come into operation on July the 1st.

(vii) The Inquiry by Indian Railway Experts into standards and costs of the Bornu Extension has enabled the Corporation to apply a number of economies to its capital development programme.

(viii) In pursuance of its dieselisation policy, the Corporation has made provision in its Development Programme for 1962-68 for the purchase of 21 main-line and 11 light diesel locomotives. These will give cleaner and better services, with lower operating costs than the steam locomotives which they will replace.

(ix) As a result of a recommendation of the Standard Research Institute which carried out a study of the transportation systems of this country, an expert Transport Policy Staff headed by a Transport Economist will be established in the Ministry of Transport to deal with the question of transport co-ordination. It is hoped eventually to strike an equitable balance between road and rail transport in Nigeria, and to eliminate competition where it is not in the national interest.

(x) The Public Relations Department of the Corporation has been reorganised under a Public Relations Officer. A Liaison Officer has also been appointed and attached to the Chief Superintendent's Office. The Liaison Officer will be mainly responsible for traffic canvassing and for keeping the public, especially railway users, well informed of the facilities provided by the Railway. It is hoped that this organisation will attract new traffic to the Railway.

(xi) A study is being made of the possibility of attracting more transit traffic from the Tchad and Niger Republics.

## 12th April, 1962

### NIGERIA POLICE

#### Lagos Special Constabulary

O.246. Mr A. A. Odunrinde asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerian Officers in the Nigerian Police Force and in the Special Constabulary in Lagos hold posts of Superin-

tendent of Police, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Inspector Grade I, Inspector Grade II and Inspector Grade III respectively.

Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju : There are Nigeria Police Officers serving in the following remarks :—

Rank	Regulars	Special Constabulary
Senior Superintendent of Police .. .. .	4	1
Superintendent of Police .. .. .	8	—
Deputy Superintendent of Police .. .. .	10	7
Assistant Superintendent, of Police .. .. .	50	15
Chief Inspector .. .. .	8	—
Senior Inspector (formerly Inspector, Grade I) .. .. .	19	—
Inspector (formerly Inspector, Grade II) .. .. .	41	—
Sub-Inspector (formerly Inspector, Grade III) .. .. .	141	23
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>281</b>	<b>46</b>

## 14th April, 1962

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Veterinary School, Vom

**W.21. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Economic Development, what led to the closing of the Federal Veterinary School in Vom; and what is the present situation.

**The Minister of Economic Development:** The Federal Veterinary School at Vom has not been closed except for the short customary holiday break between terms. However, certain of the students did recently refuse to attend classes for a short period. I have caused an enquiry to be held into the students' complaints and it is my intention to visit the School personally shortly after the House rises. The students have already returned to their studies.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

#### Survey Staff

**W.42. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Establishments, how soon does he expect that the top posts in the Department of Geological Survey will be Nigerianised.

**The Minister of Establishments:** I refer the hon. Member to my speech made in this House on Thursday, 5th April, 1962 in which I said, among other things, that "in the Scientific and Research Departments Nigerianisation has not been spectacular, but that training is being vigorously pursued, and that entry of young Nigerian scientists at the lower levels has been encouraging". The situation noted above has been brought about by the fact that in the past these departments offered very little attractions, and also that in Nigeria attention was directed mostly to such professions as Law and Medicine. The Geological Division of the Ministry of Mines and Power is one of these departments.

The Federal Government has taken a bold step in the form of very liberal scholarship awards in the field of Geology. There are now 21 Nigerians reading for degrees in Geology, of which two have qualified and will soon be appointed. It is hoped that by 1966 the entire 21 will be qualified. I propose to examine the structure and promotion prospect in this Division of the Ministry very soon.

## 16th April, 1962

### EDUCATION

#### Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

**W.18. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, how many inter-Regional Secondary Schools are now operating; and where are they located,

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku):** The inter-Regional Secondary Schools are part of the 1962-8 National Development Plan. They are not yet in operation and, as I have stated before in answer to similar questions, there are constitutional problems

which must be solved before the Schools are established. I am in consultation with my colleagues, the Regional Ministers of Education on the question of location and, indeed, on all aspects of the project.

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### LAGOS AFFAIRS

#### Plot Allocation

**W.30. M. A. Yerima Balla** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, how many plots have been allocated to both Nigerians and non-Nigerians since 1st October, 1960, and if he will state how many of the Nigerians come from each Region.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Hon. Musa Yar'Adua)** : I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the Written Answer supplied to Oral Question No. O.204.

Section 4 of the Crown Lands Act, Cap. 45, provides for the granting of leases to natives of Nigeria for "an indefinite term" should I see fit to do so. This is treatment somewhat more favourable than that which the Act permits me to afford to non-natives and it is therefore necessary to know whether or not an applicant for the grant of a lease under Crown Lands Act is, or is not, a Nigerian. It is not necessary to know from which Region an applicant originates and no official records are kept in this connection.

The hon. Member may like to draw such conclusions as he can from the names shown in the list to which I have just now referred.

### WORKS AND SURVEYS

#### Kano-Daura Road

**W.36. Mallam Saidu Daura** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, why he stopped tarring the Kano to Daura Road whilst work is still in progress on the other two sections, Tegna to Kaduna and Zaria-Kano, contrary to the original plan of tarring the Tegna to Daura Road in three sections.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** Work on the Kano-Daura section of the Tegna-Daura Road has been deferred because of engineering considerations which show that the Kano-Zaria section of the road requires more urgent attention. Work on the Kano-Daura section will be resumed when the Kano-Zaria section of the road has been completed.

### FINANCE

**W.38. Alhaji Damale Kaita** asked the Minister of Finance, when he will provide a customs post at Jebia.

**The Minister of Finance :** I regret that I am unaware of any town called Jebia. If, however, the hon. Member is referring to a place situated on the Kano-Maradi Road and marked on the map as Jibia or Jibya, then I would advise him that a Customs post already exists there.

### WORKS

#### Ijora Saw Mills

**O.256. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, why it is deemed necessary to close down the Ijora Sawmills.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** The honourable Member is referred to the portion of the speech given by the Minister in Parliament on the 9th April, 1962, which deals with the question of the Ijora Sawmills.

## 17th April, 1962

### TRANSPORT

#### Rail Line to Sokoto

**O.277. Mallam Tafida Sokoto** asked the Minister of Transport, if he would consider advising the Railway Corporation to extend the railway line to Sokoto in view of the new industries being established there.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport :** My hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, is advised that an estimate of the cost of a railway extension to Sokoto was made by the Railway Corporation in 1961, and at the same time, a traffic survey was carried out. The cost of construction, excluding locomotives and rolling stock, is estimated at £5,000,000.

The traffic survey indicates that the revenue potential of the line would be £440,000 per annum. The direct operating cost would be £337,000 per annum, but the total cost, including depreciation, interest and amortisation of capital would be £1,590,800 per annum. This represents a net annual loss for the proposed extension of £813,800.

In view of the need to utilise Nigeria's scarce capital resources to the best economic advantage, and having regard to the heavy financial burden that is already being shouldered by the Railway in respect of the Bornu Extension, my hon. Friend clearly could not advise the Corporation to undertake a major new development project which appears to be economically unviable.

My hon. Friend will, however, keep the position under review and will carefully watch the traffic trends that may develop from industrialisation in Sokoto.

#### National Shipping Line

**\*O.540. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Minister of Transport, if he will state when a suitable and qualified Nigerian will replace the expatriate agent of the National Shipping Lines in London.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport :** My hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, has recently discussed the Nigerian National Line's programme of



Nigerianisation with the Chairman and General Manager of the Line and as a result of these discussions it has been decided that two Nigerian Management Executives should be posted to the United Kingdom Office of the National Line, which is located in Liverpool. It is my hon. Friend's intention and desire that the National Line's managerial representatives in the United Kingdom should all eventually be Nigerians. The time of take-over must, however, depend on the progress and ability of the Nigerians concerned and must have regard to the continued efficient operation of the Line's affairs in what is its most important overseas office. It is not, therefore, possible at this stage for my hon. Friend to state a date on which a Nigerian will take over the management of the United Kingdom Office but the hon. Member can be assured that my hon. Friend is as concerned as is himself that a Nigerian should take over as soon as is practicable having regard to the best interests of the National Line.

### MINES AND POWER

#### Nigerian Entrepreneurs

\*O.284. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what encouragement Government is giving to Nigerian entrepreneurs so that they could join and participate actively in the exploitation of our oil and other mineral resources.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : There are five Nigerian owned Limited Liability Companies, 14 Nigerian firms operating under Registered Business Names and 18 Nigerian private operators, all actively participating in the exploitation of our mineral resources. As regards oil exploitation, there are at present no Nigerians with sufficient technical knowledge to directly exploit oil resources but Shell-BP, the only producer of oil at present, encourages Nigerian contractors in the supply of drilling mud and on various building and construction projects as well as transport. The five other companies now awarded oil concessions will all be encouraged to employ African contractors on their projects.

#### Agreement with Shell-BP

\*O.285. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how the mechanics of the "50/50" agreement with Shell-BP work in practice; and in view of the fact that some

aspects of this agreement clearly do not seem to favour the country financially, if the Government will immediately press for a thorough review of it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The 50/50 Agreement with Shell-BP and the Nigerian Government favour the country in that, without any financial commitment by the Government, the Government is entitled to receive 50 per cent of the profits, when profits come to be made by the Company. Meanwhile, before profits are being made, Government obtains income from the Company through rents and royalties. This Honourable Member will see in the Revenue Estimates for 1962-63 (under Head 4, Sub-heads 22 and 23) that an amount of nearly £4,000,000 is estimated to be payable on royalties and rents during this present year.

As regards the second half of the question, the Government sees no need for any review of this arrangement; this is in any case automatically due for review if any company working in Nigeria (or the parent body or subsidiary of such company) enters into any arrangement with any other country in Africa whereby more favourable terms are given than the 50/50 agreement in our present agreement.

#### Oil Prospecting Companies

\*O.286. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what safeguards are taken to ensure that Oil prospecting companies do not monopolise the most promising areas on the basis of the licences granted to them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The position regarding the allocation of oil concessions in Nigeria is that Shell-BP, being the first operators to search for and find oil within Nigeria, initially obtained many Oil Prospecting Licences covering the Delta. Under the terms of those licences, half of the area of each concession had—at the time of lapsing—to be surrendered to Government and then became available for allocation to other companies. The most recent allocations were made after due consideration of applications received from the various competing firms in response to Government Notice No. 38 published in Federal Gazette No. 2 of 4th January, 1962.

Since the whole of the Delta area has not yet been thoroughly explored, no one can yet say which the most promising areas are and, therefore, no question of monopolising them arises.

#### Obudu Hills

\*O.287. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether a survey has been made to determine the mineral deposits in Obudu Hills; and if he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power: Yes, Sir. Geological surveying of the Obudu District is hindered by the lack of aerial photographs; but a geological map of the Obudu standard sheet No. 291 has recently been completed. No ore deposits were found during the survey.

#### Oil Mining

\*O.542. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what efforts his Ministry is making to train Nigerians in oil mining.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power: One Inspector of Mines has completed his training in oil matters and is now employed as a Petroleum Engineer. Two Ibadan graduates are at present completing their oil training in Europe and should return to Nigeria by the end of this year as Petroleum Engineers. Two other Nigerians are doing longer Oil Courses, one of which is a refinery course, and it is hoped to employ one or two graduates this year to take the oil course starting in September.

#### Oil Royalties

\*O.543. W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what share annually accrued to the Nigerian Government from oil royalties in the years 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62: and what was the amount paid each year to each of the regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power: The figures are as follows:—

	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
Total .. .. .	£ 48,454	222,110	337,711	1,185,687
Eastern Region .. .. .	£ 28,733	£ 131,712	£ 201,420	£ 708,803
Western Region .. .. .	3,489	15,992	25,256	89,994
Northern Region .. .. .	5,814	26,653	42,044	149,752
Southern Cameroons .. .. .	727	3,332	1,449	—
Federation .. .. .	9,691	44,422	67,542	237,137

\*O.544. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will consider the desirability of revising the present system of allocation of the profits from oil royalties to the regions with a view to making it possible for the indigenous inhabitants of local communities in whose area the oil is found deriving maximum benefits from the operations of the oil companies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power: No, Sir. The Constitution lays down the allocation of revenue received from royalties and rents in

respect of minerals, including mineral oils, as follow:—

50 per cent to the Region of origin of the mineral or oil, and 30 per cent to the Distributable Pool Account, in which 40/95 go to the Northern Region, 24/95 to the Western Region and 31/95 to the Eastern Region. The rest goes to the Federal Government.

These percentages can only be changed if there is a review and then a revision of the Revenue Allocation.

## 18th April, 1962

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**W.73. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Economic Development what steps have been taken to encourage growth of trees for beer and wine brewery.

**The Minister of Economic Development :** It cannot be stated that any attempt has been made to encourage the growth of trees purely for beer and wine brewery purposes. Much research work has however been done on oil palm and cashew trees with a view to utilizing the by-products of those trees in this way.

The West African Institute for Oil Palm Research has a vacancy for a Research Officer for palm wine production on its staff and is still trying hard to fill this post. Meanwhile, however it is still conducting research generally on wine from oil palm trees.

The Federal Institute of Industrial Research issued a report No. 10 in September 1961 on Utilization of Cashew By-Products which contained useful information on the possibili-

ties of producing wine from the cashew apple. This report was sent to the Development Corporations of the Eastern and Western Regions and their reactions to it are still awaited.

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Radio/T.V. Licences

**\*O.274. Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** asked the Minister of Communications how many Radio/Television licences were obtained in 1961 in each of the three Regions and in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika) :** A total of 72,700 Radio Licences and 2,689 Television Licences were issued during the calendar year 1961.

As stated in reply to question No. O.183 the revenue from these licences is accounted for under one sub-head of Federal Revenue and no separate figures in respect of the number of licences issued in each of the three Regions and in the Federal Territory of Lagos are maintained.

## 19th April, 1962

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### Trade with Japan

**W.40. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, which trading firms in Nigeria import Japanese goods, and who are the Directors of these firms.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Most goods are imported from Japan under the Open General Licence. For this reason the preparation of a complete list of all firms importing from Japan will take a considerable time, as it will involve detailed investigation of documents in the Central Office of Statistics. Firms known to trade with Japan and the names of their Directors are as follows :

1. INDIA COMMERCIAL COMPANY  
Jivatram Hakusing Dansingani  
Lajwanti Jivatram Dansingani

2. ISSARDAS  
Tharurdas Bhojraj  
Sircomal Bhojraj  
Hotchand Bhojraj  
Vensimal Khubchand  
Tarachand Sevaram
3. FAWAZ TRADING CO.  
George Fawaz  
Philip Joseph Fawaz  
Kalim Salem Safady
4. M. HABIB STORES  
Mamoud Habib
5. BHOJSONS AND CO.  
Bhojraj Hassomal  
Harkishindas Bhojraj  
Bhagwandas Bhojraj
6. A. FAWAZ AND COMPANY  
Naif Fanwaz  
Ali Fawaz

7. A. H. SULAIMAN & BROS.  
Abdul Hafid Sulaiman  
Abdul Hassan Sulaiman  
Ali Sulaiman  
Mohamed Sulaiman
8. LABABEDI & COMPANY  
Mohamed Jamil Lababedi  
Mahmoud Jamil Lababedi  
S. J. Lababedi  
B. J. Lababedi
9. OWO IYA & SONS  
Lamidi Ibikunle Otun
10. OLOWOFELA BROTHERS  
Ezekiel Sunday Ajani Ogunde
11. UNITED ASIAN TRADERS  
Lachmandas Jeomal Mahboobani
12. D. MUSTAPHA & Co.  
D. Mustapha
13. THE AIYEPE TRADING COMPANY  
Mohamed Latunde Aiyeye
14. ADELAJA & BALOGUN TRADING Co.  
Solanke Adelaja  
Jubirila Adegboyega Balogun
15. GODWIN C. OYI & BROTHERS  
Godwin Chukudummogu Oyi
16. S. ROAD & SONS  
Anis Sheriff Roda  
Nadim Sheriff Roda
17. KHALIL AKAR AND SONS  
Khalil Akar
18. SULE, ASANI & BROS.  
Sule Akewusola Salami  
Asani Taiwo Salami
19. U.A.C. OF NIGERIA LIMITED  
Harold Gavis Dawson  
Christopher Ebhodagba Abebe  
Jack Bracher Davies  
William Hardy  
Raymond Richard Strickland More  
Frederick Spencer Pardoe  
Gordon Henry Wilson
20. G. B. OLLIVANT LIMITED  
Ronald William Walker Standbury  
Richard Barrow  
Clifford Ramwell  
Anthony Cundiffe Gibson
21. J. T. CHANRAI & Co. (NIG.) LTD.  
Seth Lookoomal Ghanshamdas Chanrai  
Damodar Kelwaram Chanrai  
Mrs Jasoti Lokoomai Chanrai  
Bhagwandas Verlomai  
Santdas Telarass  
Tokamdas Tahilram Uttamchandani
22. K. CHELLARAMS & SONS LIMITED  
Lokumal Krshinchard Damfanani  
Musli Tahilsan Damfanani  
Pishu Tahilras Damfanani  
Nihalchand Sobrajnal Mirpuri  
Bassarmal Phabcamd Wadhwa  
Mofiram Teckchand Sadiswani  
Rupchard Komafrai Samfani
23. INLAKS LIMITED  
Indurcumer Hassamal Shirdasain  
William Thomas Wells  
Honourable Christopher Viscount  
Addison  
Lankshmi Indurkumar Shivdasani  
Argan Shewakram Vaswani  
Jethanand Rupchand Karyani  
Chief Lawrence Ajayi Aina  
John David Jennings
24. ALLIED TRADING COMPANY LIMITED  
Mohandas Hassomal  
Navalrai Dingomal Khianfani  
Kundomai Tarachand Punjabi  
Dialdas Dalamal Rammani  
Wadumal Dalamal Rammani  
Jethanand Kewelram Gulabani  
Gobundram Asudomal Amaruani
25. G. KEWALRAM AND SONS (NIG.) LIMITED  
Damodar Kewalram Chanrai  
Pitamber Kewalram Chanrai  
Murli Kewalram Chanrai  
Girdar Kewalram Uhamchandani  
Kalan Chanrai  
Gobind Domodar Chanrai
26. PATERSON ZOCHONIS & Co. LIMITED  
George Aggelos Anastassopolous  
Pericles Demetrios Grilhopolous  
Nicholas De metre Phoros  
Alexandros Havalampos Loupos  
Aristide George Ananiadis  
Norman Douglas Booth

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27. **ROCHALCHET (NIGERIA) LIMITED**  
 Chatru Lokumal Wadhvani  
 Gope Lokumal Wadhvani  
 Koshu Chatru Wadhvani  
 Ramchand Mulchand Melivani (alternate to G. L. Wadhvani)
28. **THOMAS APLIN & CO. LIMITED**  
 Gilbert Dinesen  
 William Arthur Morris  
 Carl Christian Clausen  
 Alan John Treble (alternate to Mr G. Dinesen)  
 Stephen Eda Nomuoja (alternate to Mr W. A. Morris)
29. **M. DEBS & CO. LIMITED**  
 Mohamed Debs  
 Nizar Debs  
 Abdual Hadi Debs  
 Taissir Debs  
 Fouad Debs (alternate for N. Debs)  
 Omar Tabbah (alternate for N. Debs)  
 Abdul Fattah Debs  
 Abdul Sattar Debs  
 Zonhair Debs
30. **A. BRUNNSCHWEILER & CO. LIMITED**  
 Eric Donald Pugh  
 Leslie Cooper  
 Fred Derbyshire  
 Roy Butler  
 Geoffrey John Jagger  
 Reginald Turner Earnshaw
31. **C.F.A.O.**  
 Leon Morelon  
 Marcel Cocquerelle  
 Loen Barety  
 Francios Charles-Roux  
 George Mitaranga  
 Alban Cordures  
 R. A. Rambault  
 Rene Barthes  
 Roger Paluel-Marmont  
 C. Coquat
32. **A. G. LEVENTIS & COMPANY (NIGERIA) LIMITED**  
 Anastasios George Leventis  
 George Emmanuel Keralakis  
 Christodoulos Papaneocleous Leventis  
 Evagoras Neocli Leventis  
 Minas Zisos Pappas  
 Phe dias Myrianthousis  
 Adeniji Akinkunde Majekodunmi
33. **UNITED NIGER AFRICAN TRADING CO.**  
 Surawu Musa Ola-Iya
34. **D. O. SANYA & BROS.**  
 David Olaniyan Sanya  
 James Awo-Bolaji
35. **IFEANYI BROTHERS TRADING CO.**  
 Benedict Ifeanyi Okoye  
 Vincent Obi Okoye  
 Leonard Okafor Okoye
36. **S. O. ADEMOYE & BROS.**  
 Salisu Omolaja
37. **IFELOJU TRADING CO.**  
 Rufai Balogun Akintola
38. **MBA & UKPABIA TRADING CO.**  
 James Eke Ibekwe

**WORKS**

**Bridge at Idemile Obodi**

**W.65. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will cause a new bridge to be made at Idemile Obodi (four miles from Onitsha Township) on Onitsha-Owerri Road, in view of the fact that the present one is old and has caused many accidents.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Provision for the reconstruction of the road from Onitsha to Ihiala is being made under Head 624 sub-head 151 of the draft capital estimates. The reconstruction will include the rebuilding of all the bridges between Onitsha and Ihiala to the width of 24 feet.

**Roundabout on Aba-Oron Road**

**W.66. Mr B. U. Ukpong** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when will Government construct a roundabout at the point where the roads leading to Aba, Umuahia, Ikot-Ekpene district office, Itu and Oron meet in order to check the increasing number of motor accidents at this point.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** An examination was made of the proposal to construct a roundabout at Ikot Ekpene in June 1960, but it was considered that local condi-

tions did not justify the construction of such a roundabout. The situation will however, be re-examined in consultation with the Ministry of Works in the Eastern Region.

#### Toungo-Serti Road

**W.67. Mr D. M. Mapeo** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what is the cause of the delay in completing the Toungo to Serti Road.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** No undertaking has been given at any time that the road from Toungo to Serti would be completed within a specified period. Funds have, however, been allocated as and when available. Already the section Jamtari-Serti has been finished. Owing to the limited allocation for road development under the current National Economic Programme no further funds can be provided for this purpose.

#### LAGOS AFFAIRS

##### Driving Schools

**W.81. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will consider taking steps to establish driving schools to train motor drivers in Lagos.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs :** I am prepared to look into the possibility of controlling by licensing the activities of driving instructors and "schools" operating in Lagos, but I must make it clear at the outset that I do not look with favour on the idea, which was tried unsuccessfully and abandoned in the Northern Region, of trying to operate these schools as public services.

Section 12 of the Road Traffic Regulations lays down strict standards which have to be complied with before a driver may be granted a licence. Under these circumstances it is not considered that the establishment of Government sponsored, or run, driving-schools would make a substantial contribution to the cause of Road Safety.

#### APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### POLICE

##### Police Women

**O.299. Mr S. D. Lar** asked the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to encourage Northern Nigerian women to join the Police Force.

**The Prime Minister :** Arrangements are in hand to accept for training in the Nigeria Police Force Northern Nigerian women at the Northern Police College, Kaduna.

##### Nigerian Forces in the Congo

**O.301. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians are serving in the Congo with the military and police forces.

**The Prime Minister :** There are 372 Nigeria Policemen serving in the Congo. In the case of the figure for the army, I refer the Hon. Member to the answer given to a similar question No. O.87 published in the Official Report of 27th March, 1962.

##### Policewomen

**O.304. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Prime Minister, if in view of the efficient way the Nigeria Policewomen discharge their duties, he will consider employing them in the North irrespective of their Region of origin.

**The Prime Minister :** There are not enough policewomen at present for posting to Northern Nigeria but efforts are being made to recruit more women to the Force.

##### Nsukka Police

**O.305. Mr V. A. Nwaleji** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the desirability of building a new and modern office for the Nigeria Police at Nsukka.

**The Prime Minister :** The new Police Station at Nsukka is on priority list for construction when funds are available.

**O.307. Mr V. A. Nwaleji** asked the Prime Minister, if he will cause the Police Department to erect permanent and concrete quarters for senior Police Officers of the ranks of Inspector of Police and Assistant Superintendent of Police at Nsukka.

**The Prime Minister :** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to a similar question No. O.484 published in the Official Report of the 31st August, 1961.

**Recruitment into the Police**

**O.306. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians, male and female, were recruited into the Nigeria Police Force in the year 1961.

**The Prime Minister :** There were 933 Nigerian Males and 44 females recruited into the Nigeria Police Force in 1961.

**Deployment of Posts**

**O.388. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider establishing a Police Post in every County or District Council Headquarters in the Country.

**The Prime Minister :** The Establishment of a Police Post or Station is governed by the need and population of the area concerned and the availability of funds. Many District Headquarters in the Country now have Nigeria Police detachments and a comprehensive Survey was undertaken in 1959 to determine the needs, vis-a-vis population and crime statistics of the whole Federation. The recommendations of this survey are in the process of being implemented under a carefully phased expansion programme for the Force.

**Awgu Detachment**

**O.389. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the desirability of enlarging the police detachment at Awgu.

**The Prime Minister :** The Police detachment at Awgu will be increased as soon as funds are available.

**Officer Posts**

**O.391. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerian and non-Nigerian officers respectively are in the Nigeria Police Force.

**The Prime Minister :** There are 287 Nigerian, 5 West African and 171 expatriate officers in the Nigeria Police Force. 22 of the expatriate officers will be retiring during the year.

**DEFENCE****Training Scheme**

**O.342. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians were sent to the United Kingdom for training under the Defence Agreement which has now been abrogated.

**The Minister of Defence :** 343.

**WORKS****Tarring of Roads**

**O.315. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has to complete the tarring of the Yahe-Ikom-Mfum Trunk Road 'A'.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** Careful consideration has been given to tarring the Yahe-Ikom-Mfum Trunk Road 'A' during the 1962-68 Economic Programme, but funds are not at present available to undertake this work.

**Uya Oron Bridge**

**O.317. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if the new design for Uya Oron Bridge on the Aha-Oron Road has now been completed, and when work will start on the reconstruction of that bridge.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** The design for the Uya Oron Bridge on the Aha-Oron Road has been completed and consideration will be given to the construction of this bridge when the programme of replacement of sub-standard bridges is prepared.

**Milliken Hill**

**O.321. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider widening the Enugu-Onitsha Road at Milliken Hill, in order to minimise the number of accidents which occur as a result of its numerous sharp and narrow bends.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** Careful consideration has been given to the question of widening the Enugu-Onitsha road at Milliken Hill, but it is not considered that such widening is adequate to meet the problem of traffic on this section of the road. Alternative plans for a second road down the escarpment are being studied, but there is no financial provision at present for the construction of such a road.

**O.323. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what was the cost of building the House of Representatives Flats at Victoria Island.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** The total cost of building Flats for Members of the Legislature at Victoria Island, including the cost of furniture and special foundations, was £798,952-11s-0d.

**TRANSPORT****Buramusa**

**O.163. Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama** asked the Minister of Transport, whether the business transacted at Buramusa temporary station justifies the construction of a full railway station there and, if so, when is one going to be built.

**The Minister of Transport :** I have been informed that the amount of business transacted at, and the number of passengers and revenue derived from the station at Buramusa do not justify the building of a full scale Railway Station. The present arrangement of booking passengers by the Travelling Ticket Collector is quite adequate.

**Ports Authority Manager**

**O.165. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Transport, when the General Manager of Nigerian Ports Authority will retire and what steps he is taking to train a Nigerian to succeed him.

**The Minister of Transport :** The General Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority was appointed on a yearly contract by the Authority after prior consultation with me. The General Manager's present term of office expires on July 10th, 1962, but his contract may be renewed by the Authority from year to year, after prior consultation with me.

When the present General Manager was first appointed, a new post of Deputy General Manager was also created with a view to the holder understudying the General Manager. I am informed that this arrangement is working satisfactorily.

**Owerri-Onitsha Road**

**O.278. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Transport, why there is considerable delay in widening the Owerri-Onitsha Road between Ihiala and Onitsha.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** The Minister is not aware of any delay in widening the Owerri-Onitsha road between Ihiala and Onitsha; this matter, among other desirable improvements, has had to await the allocation of funds. Provision for widening this road has, however, been included in the Draft Capital

Estimates under Head 624, Sub-head 151 and therefore this work can be undertaken during the course of the National Development Programme.

**EDUCATION**

**O.396. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Education, what steps he is taking to close illegal Schools which are springing up daily in Lagos.

**The Minister of Education :** I am very grateful to the hon. Member for the opportunity to give further publicity to this question. Legal action has been taken against the proprietors of a number of bogus schools in recent months. As a result of the action four Schools voluntarily closed down and the proprietors of four other Schools were sentenced to fines or imprisonment in default, and action is proceeding against others. Every help and encouragement is given to genuine applications to open schools in Lagos but I regret to say that many potential proprietors have neither resources nor ability to operate efficient schools and in some cases no intention of doing so.

I propose, in a very short time, to institute an order against the remaining illegal schools in Lagos with all the forces at my disposal, and I can presume that by the end of the year if any will remain.

With regard to bogus "scholarship firms", in the apt phrase used by the hon. Member detection is more difficult and I rely on members of the public not to subscribe to such firms unless they are completely satisfied that they are bona-fide. Many of them are not, and I take this opportunity to warn the general public against such attempts at fraud.

**COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY****Factories**

**O.309. Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what proposals he has for establishing factories for the manufacture of chocolate, and cocoa beverages in cocoa producing areas of this country; and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Discussions for the establishment of a factory for cocoa products have been hampered by the difficulty of reaching agreement on a price for the beans satisfactory both to Nigeria and the potential manufacturer. The local



manufacture of drinks containing cocoa powder seems a more promising venture at present and this is being looked into.

### Control of Spending

**O.311. Dr P. U. Okeke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what steps he has taken to encourage Nigerians to spend less on imports and to export more of our products in order to increase the national wealth.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** A number of steps have been taken to encourage Nigerians to spend less on imports. Apart from fiscal measures which fall to the Minister of Finance to take, the most important step is the encouragement which has been given to the establishment in Nigeria of a number of import-substituting factories producing cement, textile piece goods, cigarettes, beer and soft drinks, tyres and tubes, metal goods, etc. In addition, the importation of certain goods is subject to import licensing.

2. On the export side, vigorous export promotion drives have been undertaken. These include :

(a) *Participation in and organisation of Trade Fairs* in which Nigerian export products are made known to potential buyers. The Internal Trade Fair which will take place this year will bring together a large body of foreign businessmen from all over the world and will give a useful and valuable impetus to Nigerian exports.

(b) *Expansion of Nigerian exports into new markets* has been undertaken through bilateral trade agreements and more such agreements are envisaged.

(c) *Establishment of commercial offices in foreign countries to publicise Nigerian exports.* So far commercial offices have been established in New York and London and new offices are envisaged.

(d) *Encouragement of trade missions* from other countries to visit Nigeria to see for themselves what the country has to sell. In this connection, we have played host to trade missions and delegations from Sweden, Japan, Poland, Czechoslovakia, United States of America, U.A.R., Brazil, and from the Scandinavian countries.

(e) *Publication and distribution of a number of pamphlets* to help foreigners know what export products Nigeria has to offer.

### Land for Industries

**O.313. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether, in view of the shortage of land in and around Lagos, he will consider siting some Government-sponsored industries in the Regions.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** There are no Government-sponsored industries proposed for Lagos. The question of siting any such industries in the Regions does not therefore arise. The Government is, however anxious to promote the even distribution of industrial activity throughout Nigeria.

### Iraqi Trade Mission

**O.409. Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what is the result of the Iraqi trade mission to Nigeria.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** An Iraqi Trade Mission visited Nigeria in March 1960. Although the areas of possible trade between Nigeria and Iraq were explored virtually no trade has developed.

### Trade Fair

**O.410. Mr P. I. Ejukwa** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what nations have signified their intention to attend Nigeria's Trade Fair scheduled to be held in October-November of this year.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry :** 38 foreign governments, representing a total of more than 2,000 million people, have now signified their intention to take part in the forthcoming Nigerian International Trade Fair. These countries are :

AFRICA	
Sierra Leone	
Tanganyika	
U.A.R.	
AMERICA	
Canada	
Jamaica	
United States of America	
ASIA	
Hong Kong	
Israel	

India	Belgium
Japan	Czechoslovakia
Lebanon	Denmark
Pakistan	Federal Republic of
Syria	Western Germany
The People's Republic of China	Italy
	Netherlands
	Poland
	Rumania
EUROPE	Sweden
Austria	Switzerland
Bulgaria	United Kingdom
	U.S.S.R.
	Yugoslavia

**Jordanian Ban**

**O.411. Mr E. O. Ifezue** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will investigate the allegation that the Jordanian Government has imposed a trade ban on the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation because of its relations with an Israeli Company; and if he will consider imposing a ban on Jordanian goods as a reprisal should the allegation be true.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The Ministry is not aware of any ban by the Jordanian Government on the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation and sees no reason to investigate the allegation which incidentally, has been discounted by the Corporation itself. The second part of the question does not arise.

**LAGOS AFFAIRS****Crown Land**

**\*O.204. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will state the names, addresses and nationality of all those to whom he has allocated plots of Crown Land during the period 1st October, 1960 to 30th January, 1962 indicating the purposes for which the allocations were made.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs:** The following allocations have been made in Lagos since Independence:

**SOUTH-WEST IKOYI**

<i>Plot No.</i>	<i>Lessee</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
406	Hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu	Nigerian	Residential
407	Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima ..	Nigerian	Residential
408A	S. A. Uaboi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
408B	Hon. S. Lana .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
409	Hon. Musa Yar'Adua .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
410	Dr T. O. Elias .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
411	Mrs George .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
412	Mallam Isa Wali .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
413	Alhaji Sanusi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
414	Omaro Sabo .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
415	L. O. Edet .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
416	Mrs Okotie-Eboh .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
417	M. E. K. Roberts .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
418	Alhaji Magaji .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
419	Hon. Aja Nwachuku .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
420	Mallam Baba .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
421	Alhaji Mukhari .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
422	Mallam Howeidu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
423	Hon. Jalo Waziri .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
424	Dr Kalu Ezera .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
425	F. C. O. Coker .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
427	} Mr Karaberis .. ..	.. Nigerian	Residential
428			
429	Hon. J. O. Obande .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
430	} Hon. Muhammadu Sanusi .. ..	.. Nigerian	Residential
431			
432			
433	} Oba Adele .. ..	Nigerian	Residential

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SOUTH-WEST IKOYI—continued

Plot No.	Lessee	Nationality	Purpose
434	Hon. Olu Akinfosile .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
435	Hon. Omo-Osagie .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
436A	Hon. A. Ogunsanya .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
436B	Hon. A. Koguna .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
437	Hon. Maitama Sule.. ..	Nigerian	Residential
438A	Hon. Waziri Ibrahim .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
435B	Hon. M. A. Olarewaju .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
27	} Hon. Shehu Shagari .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
28			
29	} Hon. Usman Sarki .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
30			
439	Madam Ogoegbunam .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
775	A. A. Egbor .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
788	E. T. Orodi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
20	} C. P. Leventis .. ..	Greek	Petrol Filling Station site
21			
763	Mrs Staveley .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
765	Alhaji Ala .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
766	Alhaji Sanda .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
—	Boy Scouts Association .. ..	Nigerian	New Headquarters
—	Red Cross .. ..	Nigerian	Lagos Headquarters site
Junction Kingsway/ Awolowo Avenue	Mallam Baba .. ..	Nigerian	Petrol Filling Station site
Alhaji Ribadu Road	Lagos Bowling Centre .. ..	Lebanese and American	Bowling centre, and Restaurant
Alhaji Ribadu Road	Syrian Club .. ..	Syrian	Club
Keffi Street	Girls' Modern Academy .. ..	Nigerian	Extension of School site
Awolowo Avenue	Y.M.C.A. .. ..	International	Headquarters site
Awolowo Avenue	St. Gregory's College .. ..	Nigerian	Extension to College grounds
Awolowo Avenue	C. P. Leventis .. ..	Greek	Site for flats for Federal Palace Hotel Staff

TIDEGATE LAYOUT, IKOYI

1	Tahir Brothers .. ..	Lebanese	Residential
2	British & French Bank .. ..	Registered Nigerian Bank	Residential
3	Justice L. Mbanefo .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
4	Professor Dike .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
5	Costain (W.A.) Ltd. .. ..	British	Residential
6	Reserved for France .. ..	—	—
7	Alhaji Dan Goti .. ..	Nigerian	Residential

Plot No.	Lessee	Nationality	Purpose
GOLF COURSE RE-ENTRY, IKOYI			
1	B. A. Manuwa .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
2	C. C. Mojekwu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
3	Hon. F. E. Offor .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
4	A. I. Osakwe .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
5	Mr Bank Anthony .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
6	Sir Samuel Manuwa .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
7	Justice V. A. Savage .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
8	C. O. Lawson .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
OBALENDE ROAD LAYOUT, IKOYI			
2	Alhaji Maliki .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
3	Dr Pearse .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
4	Mallam Usman .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
5	Hon. R. A. Njoku .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
OBALENDE/ONIKAN LAYOUT, IKOYI			
1	Y.W.C.A. .. ..	International	
2	J. N. Ogunro .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
3	Dr C. Norman-Williams .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
4	} Hon. A. Rosiji .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
5			
6	Hon. Abbi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
7	Colonial Church Council .. ..	International	Residential
8	J. O. Udoji .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
KINGSWAY LAYOUT			
1	} Imperial Chemical Industries .. ..	British	Residential
2			
3			
6	Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
7	Hon. J. M. Johnson .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
8	O. O. Omololu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
9	J. A. Odutola .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
10	Justice C. D. Onyeama .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
11	S. O. Lambo .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
12	S. W. Ubani-Ukoma .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
13	Lever Brothers .. ..	British	Residential
14	Hon. Alhaji Inuwa Wada .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
15	Dr Majekodunmi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
16	Hon. Jaja Wachuku .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
IJORA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE			
1	West African Aluminium Foundry	Nigerian	Industrial
2	Niger Upholstery .. ..	Nigerian	Industrial
3	Pedrocchi .. ..	Italian	Industrial
4	Trans Nigeria Line .. ..	Nigerian	Commercial
4B	Nigeria Hides and Skins Ltd. .. ..	Nigerian	Industrial
5A	Guinea Construction .. ..	Nigerian	Industrial
		registered (Greek Capital)	

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Plot No.	Lessee	Nationality	Purpose
5B	Technical Construction Ltd.	.. Greek	Industrial
5C	Arbico .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Commercial
6	Cappa Ltd. .. .. .	.. Italian	Industrial
7B	Hassan Transport .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Commercial
8	Dantata Bros. .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Industrial
9	M. N. Ugochukwu .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Industrial
10	Khawham Bros. .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Industrial
11	Chief Odutola .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Industrial
—	Alhaji Muktari .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Petrol Filling Station
Apapa Road	Jamal Engineering .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Industrial
Apapa Road	Mattar Bros. .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Industrial
Apapa Road	Trans Arab .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Industrial
Apapa Road	Arakat Industries .. .. .	.. Lebanese	Industrial
Apapa Road	C. P. Leventis .. .. .	.. Greek	Industrial
Apapa Road	Mallam Baba .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Petrol Filling Station

APAPA

North Avenue	Mallam M. Amadu .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
2542	Nigerian National Line .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
2511	Hon. Mbu .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
2874	Hon. R. A. Njoku .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
Plot 1178 :			
Sub-plot	1 Nigerian Association Importers and Exporters	Nigerian	Commercial
Sub-Plot	2 Atlas Nigeria .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Commercial
Sub-Plot	3 Nigeria Ropes .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Commercial
Sub-Plot	4 Nigerian Shipping Federation .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Commercial

(All other allocations in Apapa made prior to October 1960)

SOUTH-EAST IKOYI

Plot 11			
Sec. 8	Usman Ahmed .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
Off Alexander Avenue	J. W. Martin .. .. .	.. British	Residential

(All other allocations in South-East Ikoyi made before October 1960)

LAGOS ISLAND

Simpson Street, Okesuna	Mandilas and Karaberis .. .. .	.. Greek and Naturalised Nigerian	Commercial Garage
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VICTORIA ISLAND

7	Russia .. .. .	..	Diplomatic
7A	Mr Osakwe .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
10	Hon. Jaja Wachuku .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
22A	Hon. D. C. Ugwu .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
22B	Aliyu Zungum .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
26	United Kingdom .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Diplomatic
27	Chief Okorodudu .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
28	Sir Francis Ibiam .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
29	Chief Osadebe .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential
30	Hon. A. G. M. Bida .. .. .	.. Nigerian	Residential

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32-34	Senegal .. ..		Diplomatic
31-33	Sierra Leone .. ..		Diplomatic
36-38	Pakistan .. ..		Diplomatic
35A	Diyan .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
37	D. E. Ogisi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
39	Canada .. ..		Diplomatic
40	Tahir Brothers .. ..	Lebanese	Residential
41	F. S. McEwen .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
42	Dr Essien .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
43	Hon. Inuwa Wada .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
44	Guinea Insurance .. ..	Nigerian registered firm	Residential
45	E. A. Osindero .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
46	H. A. Harper .. ..		Residential
39-47	Canada .. ..		Diplomatic
48	Sir A. Ademola .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
49	G. C. Nonyelu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
50	H. O. Omenai .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
51	S. O. Lambo .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
52	E. N. Nwokedi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
53	F. Fadilalla .. ..	Lebanese	Residential
54	Col. T. Okie .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
55	E.C.N. .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
56/57	Central Bank .. ..	Nigerian Bank	Residential
58	Minister of Agriculture, Enugu	Nigerian	Residential
59	Mallam Kari .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
60	Mrs Khan .. ..	Indian	Residential
61	Mr Briggs .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
62	Alhaji Maska .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
63	Hon. J. M. Johnson .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
64	Borini Prono .. ..	Italian	Residential
65	Hon. F. U. Mbakogu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
66	Miss Nzimiro .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
67	Brazil .. ..		Diplomatic
68	S. D. Adebisi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
69	A. K. Blankson .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
70	A. A. Ayida .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
71	Mallam S. Katagum .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
72	Ireland .. ..		Diplomatic
73	Prince the Hon. Adedoyin .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
74	Hon. Odulana .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
75	Chief Odebiyi .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
76/77	Dunlop Rubber Co. .. ..	British	Residential
78	Metal Box Co. .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
79	Dr F. S. Imoke .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
80	Musa Daggash .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
81	G. Mbadiwe .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
82/83	Sudan .. ..		Diplomatic
84	Hon. Maitambari .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
86	Waziri of Bornu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
87	L. O. V. Anionwu .. ..	Nigerian	Residential
88	Guinea Republic .. ..		Diplomatic
89	Dahomey .. ..		Diplomatic
90	Isa Koto .. ..	Nigerian	Residential

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Plot No.	Lessee	Nationality	Purpose
91	Cameroun Republic	.. ..	Diplomatic
92	Alhaji Kalla .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
93/94	U.A.R. .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
95/96	Ivory Coast .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
97	Ethiopia .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
98	The Oni of Ife .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
99	Pedrocchi .. ..	.. .. Italian	Residential
100	Hon. Bamali .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
101	I. A. S. Adewale .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
102	Norway .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
103	Berini Bank .. ..	.. .. Swiss	Residential
104	Switzerland .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
105/113	Apostolic Delegation .. ..	.. ..	Diplomatic
106	T. A. E. Salubi .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
107	Musa Gashash .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
108	Wembau Daura .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
109	J. F. Iyalla .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
110	Dr Nwegwu .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
111	I. Osili .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
112	Sutherland .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
117, 118 119, 120	Federal Television Service	.. ..	.. ..
116	Sir A. Ademola .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
Two plots un- numbered	Metropolitan Club .. ..	.. ..	Club
121	Dr Okpara .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
122	Dr Mrs Awoliyi .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
123	The Alafin of Oyo .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
127	Shehu Madaki .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
129	Oladele Ajose .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
130	Haruna Kassim .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
132	Chief S. L. Akintola .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
135	Justice Coker .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
136	Mrs Omolulu .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
Unnumbered site	E. Sakis .. ..	.. .. Lebanese	Cinema
Block 115 :	YABA		
8	A. O. Okuneye (Prince Furniture Works)	Nigerian	Industrial
9	Easter Beauty Aids Co. .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
7	Elusos Elect. Works .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
10	Printex (Nig.) Ltd. .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
14 15 16 17	K. O. Mbadiwe .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
	International Women's Society .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	School
Unnumbered Land between Queen's College and Govt. In- dustrial Centre, Onike	E. C. Ajaegbu-Mbaakor .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
	Aliyi Ekineh .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Industrial
Aggrey Avenue, Yaba	Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential
Block 60 :	9 A. F. Agboola .. ..	.. .. Nigerian	Residential

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## OFFICIAL REPORT

SESSION 1962-63

*21st March—19th April, and 29th May, 1962*

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Com. = Committee                      Q = Question

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