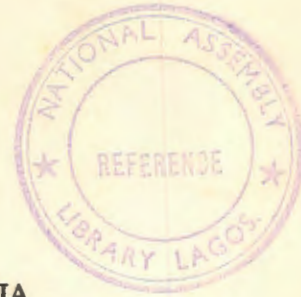




FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

First Assembly

First Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Alhaji Idris Ibrahim—*Deputy Speaker*

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Lt-Col. P. C. Amadi	NPP
Mr Mustapha Mohammed	PRP
Alhaji Sanda Konduga	GNPP

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Mr Tom U. B. Egbuwoku	..	:	UPN
Mr D. D. Dafuan	NPP
Dr Junaidu S. Muhammed	PRP
Dr Gordon J. Idang	GNPP

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The Deputy Speaker : Alhaji Idris Ibrahim

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			6.	Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud
			7.	Alhaji Sanusi Imam
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			2.	Mr Lam Adesina
			3.	Mr G. B. Sadiku
			4.	Mr F. A. O. Osekita
			5.	Mr Effiong Ononokpono
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			3.	Mr D. D. Dafuan
			4.	Dr Eze O. A. Nwala
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			2.	Mr Mustapha Muhammed
			3.	Dr Junaidu Muhammed
GNPP	1.	Alhaji Sanda Konduga
			2.	Alhaji Muhammed Abdullahi Yelwa
			3.	Mr Micheal J. Akpabio

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The Deputy Speaker : Alhaji Idris Ibrahim

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			3.	Alhaji Shuaibu Julde
UPN	1.	Mr A. T. Lawal
			2.	Mr F. A. Akinbisehin
NPP		Mr Abdulkadir Zakari
PRP		Alhaji Aliyu Isa
GNPP		Mr Bukar Mele

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			3.	Engineer Aka Ogbobe
			4.	Mr Yakubu Aliyu
			5.	Mr P. D. Awuna

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			2. Prince T. O. Olusi
			3. Mr M. A. Olukoya
NPP	1. Mr D. M. Onwuzulike
			2. Mr S. U. Wanganga
PRP	Mr Sule Lamido
GNPP	Mr Amos Sunday

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			3. Mr Bala Kantoma
			4. Mr L. O. Okoi
			5. Mr J. M. Zuokumor
			6. Alhaji Babaji Aliyu

UPN	1. Mr Debo Akande
			2. Mr Bon Omoruwa
			3. Mr J. O. Fatola
			4. Mr S. A. Olowu

NPP	..	..	1. Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu
			2. Mr C. A. Modebe
			3. Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu

PRP	..	..	1. Alhaji Bashir Wudil
			2. Mr Abdu Paki

GNPP	..	..	1. Hamza M. Nganjiwa
			2. Mr Musa Abdullah Jega

5. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NPN	..	..	1. Mr Dagogo Princewill— <i>Chairman</i>
			2. Mallam Salisu M. Kanya
			3. Dr O. O. Oreh
			4. Alhaji Salisu Adamu
			5. Dahiru L. Hamman
			6. Dr P. I. Egberipou
			7. Abdullahi Isa
			8. Mr J. M. Zuokumor
			9. Mr Ibrahim Sudan
			10. Mr David Agi

UPN	..	..	1. Mr G. A. Adewumi
			2. Mr Rowland Owie
			3. Mr F. A. O. Osekita
			4. Mr Dominic Vontih Yakoko
			5. Mr Dele Fayemi
			6. Mr M. O. Oni

NPP	..	..	1. Mr P. O. Eleke
			2. Mr f. N. Ochiama
			3. Mr M. C. Okoye
			4. Mr G. N. Uwechue

PRP	..	..	1. Mr Sule Lamido
			2. Mr Aliyu Isa
			3. Mr M. Idi Mustapha

GNPP	..	..	1. Ibrahim Ali
			2. Alhaji Dala Bungudu

7. COMMITTEE ON CREATION OF STATES

- NPN 1. Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar—*Chairman*
 2. Alhaji Sule Ibrahim
 3. Dr Onwuka O. Oreh
 4. Alhaji Umaru Mohammed
 5. Mr Kemte Giadom
 6. Mr J. M. Zuokumor
 7. Mr S. I. Idakwo
 8. Mr Yunusa Folorunsho
 9. Chief Yomi Akintola
- UPN 1. Mr S. Adekunle Odetoyinbo
 2. Mr F. A. Akinbisehin
 3. Mr Effiong Ononokpono
 4. Mr Tunji Ogunsiji
 5. Mrs Abiola Babatope
 6. Chief M. Nwose
- NPP 1. Mr M. C. Okoye
 2. Mr S. U. Wanganga
 3. Mr Josiah Y. M. Mallo
 Chief Godwin B. Wodi
- PRP 1. Mr Mohammed Ahmed T. Fagam
 2. Mr M. Idi Mustapha
 3. Mr B. U. Yamma
- GNPP 1. Dr G. J. Idang
 2. Mr David H. Gba'aondo

7. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

- NPN Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu—*Chairman*
- UPN Mr R. O. Apalara
- NPP Mr David Attah
- PRP Alhaji Umaru Sule Garo
- GNPP M. Machael Akpabio

B. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL SCIENCE

- NPN 1. Mr E. Ejiga—*Chairman*
 2. Alhaji Abdullahi Mohammed
 3. Mr J. U. Uyeh
 4. Mr Aliyu Mahmud
 5. Mr Y. G. Zambuk
 6. Mr Kabir Umar
 7. Chief P. A. Gbinije
 8. Mr Abdulkadir Ja'e
 9. Chief T. Ekpo Etuk
 10. Chief Yom Akintola
- UPN 1. Mr O. Oyatobo
 2. Mr Effiong Ononokpono
 3. Mr B. F. Kayode
 4. Dr Dele Ogunsiji
 5. Mr R. Uneh
 6. Mr B. M. Mabrama Jen
- NPP 1. Mr Nwegede Nwangbo
 2. Mr J. L. Laven
 3. Mr P. U. Chukwu
 4. Dr Chikwe Obihara

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FORESTRY, FISHERIES
AND ANIMAL SCIENCE—continued**

- PRP 1. Mr Mutari Adamu
2. Alhaji Tafida Usman
3. Alhaji Tanko Jaji

- GNPP 1. Mr D. B. Wahu
2. Mr Paul K. D. Mshelia

2. COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION

- NPN 1. Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka—*Chairman*
2. Mr Salihu Adamu
3. Dr E. Y. Atanu
4. Mr Umaru A. Durbawa
5. Mr Adamu B. Yahaya
6. Alhaji M. B. Mustapha
7. Mr E. U. U. Inyang
8. Dr E. J. Sowho
9. Mr Lawal Mohammed

- UPN 1. Mr S. A. Akinloye
2. Mr S. O. Abolade
3. Mr R. S. Owie
4. Mr E. D. Adu
5. Mr F. A. O. Osekita
6. Mr L. A. Alli

- NPP 1. Chief S. I. Alete
2. Mr Andrew O. Nwankwo
3. Mr K. R. Obioha
4. Mr A. N. Njoku

- PRP 1. Alhaji Sarki Adamu
2. Alhaji Sidi Hamidu Ali
3. Mr Musa A. Alasan

- GNPP 1. Alhaji Mohammed A. Yelwa
2. Mr D. B. Kamai

3. COMMITTEE ON AVIATION

- NPN Alhaji Mohammed Rabiu Is'haq—*Protem Chairman*
1. Mr S. E. Asuk
2. Alhaji A. T. Yusuf
3. Chief Yomi Akintola
4. Mr A. E. Ayomanor
5. Dr O. O. Oreh
6. Mr Isa Yakubu Toro
7. Alhaji Aliyu Lugga
8. Alhaji Magaji Kankara
9. Mr Okon A. Eddy

- UPN 1. Chief J. K. Fadeyi
2. Mr S. G. Laosebikan
3. Mr Femi Okun
4. Mr M. A. Mako
5. Alhaji M. A. Amzart
6. Mr G. A. Falayi

- NPP 1. Dr J. E. Eburuche
2. Mr S. F. Dalyop
3. Mr J. O. Okoye
4. Mr G. N. Ozugha

- PRP 1. Mr Isyaku Gumawa
2. Alhaji Sale Abba
3. Alhaji Aliyu Yahaya Bichi

- GNPP 1. Mr Kolo Lawan Yusuf
2. Alhaji Idrissa M. Tikau

4. COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

NPP Mr S. U. Wanganga—*Chairman*

- NPN
1. Mr V. U. Iortim
 2. Mr Umaru F. Kaoje
 3. Mr Umaru Mohammed
 4. Chief E. O. Eyo
 5. Mr D. Princewill
 6. Mr J. M. Zuokumor
 7. Mr A. A. Tuggar
 8. Mr Umaru Altı
 9. Mr Isa Rilwanu

- UPN
1. Mr R. O. Adegoke
 2. Mr O. Olarewaju
 3. Mr G. A. Falayi
 4. Mr S. A. Olaewe
 5. Mr A. T. Lawal
 6. Mr J. B. Balogun

- NPP
1. Mr E. O. Echetabu
 2. Mr E. Ejoh
 3. Mr E. N. D. Uwandu

- PRP
1. Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo
 2. Alhaji Aliyu Isa
 3. Mr Husseinı Gajango

- GNPP
1. Alhaji Gambo
 2. Mr Bukar Umar

5. COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

- NPN
1. Mr Aliyu Mahmud—*Chairman*
 2. Mr O. Afolabi
 3. Mr Hassan Gambo
 4. Mr David Afaityo
 5. Mr Muhammed Ladan
 6. Mr Ahmed T. Yusuf
 7. Mr A. E. Ayomanor
 8. Mr Ime J. Ikpat
 9. Mr N. Poloma
 10. Alhaji Salisu Muazu Kanya

- UPN
1. Mr B. O. Raji
 2. Mr L. Labiyi
 3. Mr S. A. Adeagbo
 4. Mr C. F. Abeki
 5. Mr Peter Obaoye
 6. Mr G. B. Sadiku

- NPP
1. Mr Frank Ugwu
 2. Mr F. Ndukwe
 3. Mr S. B. Allah-na-Magani
 4. Mr O. U. Oke

- PRP
1. Alhaji Mohammed Danjani Hadejia
 2. Alhaji Mohammed Mustapha
 3. Alhaji Labaran Tanko

- GNPP
1. Mr Idrissu Medugu
 2. Alhaji Muhammadu Dagari

6. COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

- NPN
1. Mr Mike O. Ugwu—*Chairman*
 2. Mr P. D. Awuna
 3. Mr Ibrahim G. Bakwai
 4. Alhaji Saidu Kanti
 5. Mr İsa Yakubu Toro
 6. Mr Gambo Abubakar
 7. Mr Efiom Ita Efiom
 8. Mr Mamman M. Altine
 9. Mr S. I. Idakwo
 10. Mr J. Damisa

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS—continued

- UPN 1. Mr S. A. Shiyanbola
2. Mr A. O. Dairo
3. Mr F. Akinyosoye
4. Mr R. A. N. Iduwe
5. Mr S. A. Ogunfuyi
6. Mr David Saraso
- NPP 1. Mr Andrew O. Nwankwo
2. Mr H. C. Racha
3. Mr A. N. Gapsuk
4. Mr T. C. Amasiatu
- PRP 1. Mr Umar Sadiq
2. Mr Garba Isyaku
3. Alhaji Labaran Tanko
- GNPP 1. Mr James Nzalak
2. Mr Kolo Lawan Yusuf

7. COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

- NPP Mr John L. Laven—*Chairman*
- NPN 1. Mr Umaru N. Shuni
2. Mr Sani Amadu
3. Mr Magaji Kankara
4. Mr Mohammed Bawa
5. Mr A. E. Ejiga
6. Dr E. A. Utande
7. Dr O. O. Oreh
8. Mr A. Isah
9. Abdulmumini Mafara
- UPN 1. Mr O. Obiyemi
2. Mr L. B. Kataiyeyanjue
3. Mr R. A. Olagunju
4. Mr Tom Egbuwoku
5. Mr R. Shitta-Bey
6. Mr Dominic Vontih Yakoko
- NPP 1. Mr J. C. Ojukwu
2. Mr A. N. Gapsuk
3. Lt-Col. P. C. Amadi
4. Mr C. Erondu
- PRP 1. Muhammadu Aliyu T/Wada
2. Alhaji Hassan Mohammed
3. Mr Mohammed Ahmed
- GNPP 1. Alhaji Omar Lawan
2. Mr Ibrahim Ali

8. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

- NPP Dr E. C. Emekekwe—*Chairman*
- NPN 1. Mr M. G. Shamaki
2. Mr S. O. Adoyi
3. Mr Usman Gada
4. Dr M. B. Ukpong
5. Mr Yunusa Abubakar
6. Mr Adamu Matoya
7. Dr O. O. Oreh
8. Mr Ibrahim Madaki
9. Mr M. Bachaka
- UPN 1. Mr J. K. Fadeyi
2. Mr S. G. Laosebikan
3. Mr A. Adeola
4. Mr D. O. Bankole
5. Mr I. A. Olaleru
6. Mr T. O. Badejo

NPP .. 1. Mr Godwin Alo-Nwokeocha
 2. Mr D. D. Dafuan
 3. Mr I. D. Hassan
 4. Dr J. C. Eburuche

PRP .. 1. Alhaji Datti Malumfashi
 2. Mr Aliyu Adamu
 3. Alhaji Hassan Muhammed

GNPP .. 1. Mr Amos Sunday
 2. Mr Musa Jega

9. COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AFFAIRS

NPN .. 1. Alhaji Sani Abubakar—*Chairman*
 2. Mr Babaji Aliyu
 3. Mr Dahiru H. Liman
 4. Mr S. M. Tarka
 5. Mr Maiturare Yabo
 6. Mr Sanusi Imam
 7. Mr Mike Ugwu
 8. Mr P. E. S. Ideh
 9. Mr C. O. Agbor
 10. Mr Yusufu Amoka

UPN .. 1. Mr Lam Adesina
 2. Mr J. A. Abiona
 3. Mr Faji Fajobi
 4. Mr M. A. Olukoya
 5. Mr S. B. Abodunde
 6. Prince Samuel Adesida

NPP .. 1. Dr I. B. A. Ufondu
 2. Mr D. Attah
 3. Mr O. K. Ogwe
 4. Mr E. N. Kanu

PRP .. 1. Dr Junaidu S. Muhammed
 2. Mr Mutari Adamu
 3. Mr Muhammadu Aliyu T/Wada

GNPP .. 1. Dr Gordon Idang
 2. Mr Umar Lawan

10. COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

NPP .. Mr Amos Bez Idakula— *Chairman*

NPN .. 1. Mr Rabiu Is'haq
 2. Mr Umaru Abdullahi
 3. Mr Umaru Garu
 4. Mr D. O. Agi
 5. Mr Sani Ahmadu
 6. Mr A. Bala Abdullahi
 7. Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel
 8. Mr O. Ikpeme
 9. Mr Husaini Yakubu

UPN .. 1. Mr S. A. Adesina
 2. Mr O. Obiyemi
 3. Mr F. A. Akinbisehin
 4. Mr Peter Obayo
 5. Mr P. E. Ogida
 6. Mr O. Ijaola

NPP .. 1. Mr Eddy Nweke
 2. Mr J. O. Iwuagwu
 3. Mr E. O. Chukwu

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT—continued

PRP 1. Alhaji Muhammed Mustapha
2. Alhaji Sarki Adamu
3. Alhaji Bako Sitti

GNPP 1. Mr Mohammed Zanna Juggal
2. Alhaji Jidda Haruna

11. JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

NPP Mr Ralph K. Obioha—*Chairman*

NPN 1. Mr Olusola Afolabi
2. Alhaji Inuwa Ali
3. Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo
4. Alhaji Ali Kaita
5. Ibrahim Sudan
6. Alhaji Abdurrahamani Enagi
7. Mr D. Princewill
8. Dr E. Y. Atanu
9. Engineer Aka Ogbobe

UPN 1. Mr D. Ibrahim
2. Mr S. A. Adesina
3. Mr O. Ola
4. Chief M. Nwose
5. Mr M. O. Effiong
6. Mr A. Mako

NPP 1. Mr J. C. Ojukwu
2. Mr D. A. Zubair
3. Mr P. C. Deme

PRP 1. Alhaji Isa Mohammed
2. Alhaji Sidi Hamidu Ali
3. Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo

GNPP 1. Mr Maina Ma'aji
2. Alhaji Hamman Dikko

12. COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

NPN 1. Mr Sanusi Imam—*Chairman*
2. Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo
3. Mr Ahmed T. Wamakko
4. Alhaji S. Ruma
5. Dr P. I. Egberiope
6. Mr J. O. Abu
7. Engineer Aka Ogbobe
8. Mr A. Ukpanah
9. Alhaji Suleiman Aliyu
10. Alhaji S. Julde

UPN 1. M. Ayanbeku
2. Mr L. B. Olaniran
3. Mr C. A. Oluwatusin
4. Dr O. Ogunkoya
5. Mr M. O. Okun
6. Mr Aeneas Gowono

NPP 1. Dr E. C. Emekekwe
2. Mr A. Zakari
3. Mrs V. O. Nnaji
4. Chief A. O. Imo

PRP 1. Mr Abubakar Sadiq Harith
2. Alhaji Bashir Wudil
3. Mr Isyaku Gumawa

GNPP 1. Alhaji Iliyasu Hong
2. Alhaji Musa Inuwa

13. COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

- NPN 1. Mr A. B. Yahaya—*Chairman*
 2. Mr Hassan Mohammed
 3. Mr M. Mijinyawa
 4. Mr Yusufu Bindawa
 5. Mr Shuaibu Julde
 6. Mr J. Emeka
 7. Mr M. D. Shuaibu
 8. Mr L. O. Okoi
 9. Mr J. S. Sangha
 10. Mr A. Agya Agbujoro

- UPN 1. Chief S. Akinwale
 2. Mr S. A. Adekunle
 3. Mr Z. Momodu
 4. Mr O. Fagbamigbe
 5. Mr Dele Fayemi
 6. Mr Aeneas Gowono

- NPP 1. Mr David A. Omeke
 2. Dr Eze O. A. Nwala
 3. Mr F. N. C. Nwandison
 4. Mr T. C. Ochiama

- PRP 1. Alhaji Sule Lamido
 2. Alhaji Ibrahim Nagodiya
 3. Alhaji Musa H. Salihu

- GNPP 1. Hamza M. Nganjiwa
 2. Alhaji Sanda Konduga

14. COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIES

- NPN 1. Chief Yomi Akintola—*Chairman*
 2. Prince J. S. Sangha
 3. Mr B. I. Uwagboe
 4. Mr I. Mac-Eteli
 5. Mr Salawu Atima
 6. Mr A. Wamakko
 7. Mr Ime Ikpat
 8. Mr Garba Musa
 9. Mr C. O. Agbor
 10. Mr Aka Ogbobe

- UPN 1. Mr J. A. Abiona
 2. Mr Babatunde Omole
 3. Mr G. B. Sadiku
 4. Chief M. Nwose
 5. Dr O. Ogunsiji
 6. Chief O. Omonira

- NPP 1. Alhaji M. S. Aliyu
 2. Mrs J. C. Eze
 3. Mr G. I. Anukwuem
 4. Mr E. N. Kanu

- PRP 1. Mr M. I. Mustapha
 2. Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim
 3. Mr Sulaiman Abubakar

- GNPP 1. Mr Mohammed Zanna Waziri Juggal
 2. Mr David Gba'aondo

15. COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- NPN 1. Alhaji Hassan Mohammed—*Chairman*
 2. Mr Mohammed Bornoma
 3. Mr D. Hamman-Liman
 4. Mr B. A. Chaha
 5. Mr Shehu Hamzat
 6. Mr Isa C. Ibrahim
 7. Mr Edet A. Ekpo
 8. Mr Yunusa Abubakar
 9. Mr Gana Doko

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS—continued

- UPN 1. Mr J. O. Fatola
2. Mr M. A. Ojo
3. Mr S. A. Adeagbo
4. Mr R. Shitta-Bey
4. Mr S. A. Famuyide
6. Mr Olumuyiwa Akinboro

- NPP 1. Mr I. U. Chima
2. Mr T. O. Okoye
3. Mr F. M. Wetkum
4. Mr E. C. Ebo

- PRP 1. Mr Umaru Sule Garo
2. Mr Abdu Paki
3. Mr Ado Maitama Gezawa

- GNPP 1. Mr Bukar Mele
2. Mr David Gba'aondo

16. COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

- NPN 1. Alhaji Yunusa Paiko—*Chairman*
2. Mr J. K. Ugo
3. Alhaji I. Gwadabawa
4. Mr Garba Musa
5. Mr Ayinla Folorunso
6. Mr V. U. Ekpo
7. Mr S. Asuk
8. Chief P. A. Gbinije
9. Alhaji Ibrahim Daudu

- UPN 1. Mr Debo Akande
2. Mr R. O. Apalara
3. Mr O. Olofinlade
4. Mr J. A. Ogunleye
5. Mr Tunji Ogunsiji

- NPP 1. Mr E. O. Echetabu
2. Mr C. A. Modebe
3. Mr G. N. Uwechue
4. Mr O. K. Ogwe

- PRP 1. Alhaji Datti Malumfashi
2. Mr Badamasi U. Yamma
3. Mr Umaru Sule Garo

- GNPP 1. Alhaji Sarki Gambo
2. Alhaji Abba Ali

17. COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

- NPN 1. Mr Edet Bassey Etienam—*Protem Chairman*
2. Mr Aliyu Shehu
3. Mr Rilwanu Garba
4. Mr A. D. O. Abubakar Abutu
5. Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita
6. Alhaji Suleiman Aliyu
7. Mr J. O. Odebunmi
8. Mr Kemte Giadom
9. Alhaji Yakubu Husaini

- UPN 1. Mr David Adelu
2. Mr O. Olaniyan
3. Mr B. J. Abegunde
4. Mr S. A. Oduntan
5. Mr A. Ogunseye
6. Mr Yusuf Mohammed

- NPP 1. Mr C. P. Okeke
2. Mr J. C. Ngwu
3. Mr M. A. Agbamuche
4. Mr I. Obasi

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR—continued

- PRP 1. Mr Uba Iliya Garki
2. Alhaji Ahmadu Nafada Mohammed
3. Alhaji Datti Malumfashi
- GNPP 1. Mr Yerima Adamu
2. Mr James Nzalak

18. COMMITTEE ON MINES AND POWER

- NPN 1. Chief P. A. Gbinije—*Chairman*
2. Alhaji Bello Dauda Furo
3. Dr E. Y. Atanu
4. Mr Garba Mohammed Tambari
5. Mr Sani Abubakar
6. Mr Salawu M. Atima
7. Mr C. A. Adoga
8. Mr Abdullahi Isah
9. Engineer S. O. Alu
10. Mr Hamza Gombe

- UPN 1. Mr B. Omole
2. Mr J. B. Balogun
3. Mr Fola Omidiji
4. Mr S. A. Olowu
5. Mr Barnabas Falu

- NPP 1. Engineer Joseph Okoli
2. Mr J. Y. Mallo
3. Mr H. M. J. Nwachukwu
4. Mr G. I. Anukwuem

- PRP 1. Mr Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama
2. Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim
3. Mr Sulaiman Abubakar

- GNPP 1. Mr D. B. Kamai
2. Mr Idrissa Madi Tikau

19. COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PLANNING

- NPP Mr F. N. C. Nwandison—*Chairman*

- NPN 1. Alhaji Shehu Ruma
2. Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo
3. Mr Oma-Eko Muhammadu Sanda
4. Mr Yunusa Folorunsho
5. Alhaji Sani Dandare Kalgo
6. Mr Isa Ibrahim
7. Mr Hassan Gambo
8. Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Umar

- UPN 1. Mr S. O. Abolade
2. Mr Abiodun Afonja
3. Dr O. Ogunkoya
4. Prince O. Adesida
5. Mr R. Iduwe
6. Mr S. A. Adeagbo

- NPP 1. Mr I. U. Chima
2. Dr I. B. Ufodu
3. Mr A. N. Njoku
4. Mr H.C. Racha

- PRP 1. Mr Aliyu Adamu
2. Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo
3. Alhaji Ibrahim Nagodiya

- GNPP 1. Mr Bukar Mele
2. Alhaji Musa Inuwa

20. COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

- NPN .. 1. Dr J. T. Sekibo—*Chairman*
2. Mr B. I. Uwagboe
3. Mr D. A. Ukpog
4. Mr M. Ugwu
5. Mr A. Agbujor
6. Mr E. K. Swem
7. Alhaji Bello Mohammed
8. Mr Ibrahim Zailani
9. Mr Yunusa Paiko
- UPN .. 1. Mr A. O. Omisore
2. Mr O. Otegbeye
3. Chief Bon Omoruwa
4. Mrs A. Babatope
5. Mr M. O. Effiong
6. Mr T. O. Akinbode
- NPP .. 1. Mr Charles F. Adigwe
2. Chief G. B. Wodi
3. Mr C K. Gutus
4. Lt-Col. P. C. Amadi
- PRP .. 1. Alhaji Yusifu Nadabo Gaya
2. Alhaji Aliyu Y. Bichi
3. Mr Nasidi Garba
- GNPP .. 1. Mr Bukar Limambe
2. Mr Michael J. Akpabio

21. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE MATTERS

- NPP .. Mr David Attah—*Chairman*
1. Mr I. . M. P. Kor
2. Mr Aliyu Gummi
3. Mr Musa Gammo
- NPN .. 4. Mr L. N. Daura
5. Mr Oma-Eko Muhammudu Sanda
6. Dr J. Taribo Sekibo
7. Alhaji Garba Jega
8. Mr Salihu Adamu
- UPN .. 1. Mr G. A. Adewunmi
2. Mr J. O. Akintunde
3. Mr Akin Rotimi
4. Mr O. Ijaola
5. Mr F. O. Iyayi
6. Mr Fola Omidiji
- NPP .. 1. Mr D. M. Onwuzulike
2. Mr Frank Ugwu
3. Mr I. Ityo
4. Mr P. O. Eleke
- PRP .. 1. Mr M. Rabiū Sha'aibu
2. Mr Umaru Sadiq
3. Mr Rabiū Sabiu
- GNPP .. 1. Alhaji Mohammadu A. Yelwa
2. M. Barde Gadaka

22. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

- NPP .. Mr Isidore Obasi—*Chairman*
- NPN .. 1. Alhaji Yakubu B. Aliyu
2. Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud
3. Mr B. A. Chaha
4. Mr B. Kantoma
5. Mr A. A. Waba
6. Mr Ekok Ojogu
7. Mr S. O. Alu
8. Alhaji Muhammadu Shera
9. Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel
- UPN .. 1. Mr I. A. Adejare
2. Alhaji Saliu Famuyide
3. Mr F. O. Iyayi
4. Mr Z. K. Adetula
5. Alhaji M. A. Amzart
6. Mr Abdul Kadiri Lanko

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS—Continued

- NPP 1. Engineer G. N. Ozugha
2. Mr M. C. Okoye
3. Mr S. F. Dalyop
4. Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu
- PRP 1. Alhaji Yusifu Nadabo Gaya
2. Alhaji Aliyu Isa
3. Alhaji Ibrahim Hayin-Gada
- GNPP 1. Alhaji Kachalla Damaturu
2. Mr John O. Ekpenyong

23. COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- NPN 1. Engineer Sam O. Alu—*Chairman*
2. Mr I. Kemte Giadom
3. Mr Ibrahim Shuaibu
4. Mr A. A. Umoren
5. Mr Ibrahim Madaki
6. Mr Umaru Abdullahi
7. Dr J. E. Sowho
8. Mr M. A. Gajere
9. Mr Wali Binji
10. Mr Aliyu Kaulaha
- UPN 1. Mr A Afonja
2. Mr Olubisi Olarewaju
3. Mr J. O. Owoseni
4. Mr M. O. Oni
5. Mr L. A. Alli
6. Mr S. A. Shiyانبola
- NPP 1. Engineer Joseph Okoli
2. Dr Eze O. A. Nwala
3. Mr D. Attah
4. Dr Chikwe Obihara
- PRP 1. Mr M. Rabiю Sha'aibu
2. Mr M. I. Mustapha
3. Mr Garba Isyaku
- GNPP 1. Mr Paul K. D. Mshelia
2. Mr Amos A. Inoh

24. COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

- NPN 1. Mr Akininyene Ukpanah—*Chairman*
2. Alhaji Bala Abdullahi
3. Mr Tubo O. Bob-Manuel
4. Mr P. E. S. Ideh
5. Mr V. Iortim
6. Mr Yakubu Aliyu
7. Alhaji Saidu Kanti
8. Mr Muhammed Gana Doko
9. Alhaji Yakubu Aliyu
10. Mr V. U. Ekpo
- UPN 1. Mr D. A. Ibrahim
2. Mr R. O. Adegoke
3. Mr Richard Uneh
4. Mr Barnabas Falu
5. Mr S. A. Ogunfuyi
6. Mr R. A. Olagunju
- NPP 1. Mr P. C. Okeke
2. Mr C. K. Gutus
3. Mr K. Nwosu
4. Chief S. Alete
- PRP 1. Mr Abubakar Sadiq Harith
2. Alhaji Rabiю Tabako
3. Mr Garba Isyaku
- GNPP 1. Mr Umar Lawan
2. Alhaji Hamman Dikko

25. COMMITTEE ON VETERAN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL WELFARE

NPN	.. ..	1. Mr M.D. Shuaibu— <i>Chairman</i>	
		2. Mr Hassan Gambo	
		3. Mr M. P. Kor	
		4. Alhaji M. R. Is'haq	
		5. Chief D. J. Eshiet	
		6. Mr Manzo Daura	
		7. Alhaji Dabo Bujawa	
		8. Mr Sani Dandare Kalgo	
		9. Alhaji Bello C. Gwaram	
		10. Mr Aliyu M. Lugga	

UPN	.. ..	1. Mr B. O. Olabode	
		2. Chief S. Akinwale	
		3. Mr B. E. Kayode	
		4. Prince T. O. Olusi	
		5. Chief S. A. Oduntan	
		6. Mr Z. Momodu	

NPP	.. ..	1. Mr A. Oje	
		2. Pastor Magiri	
		3. Mrs J. C. Eze	
		4. Mr C. Nwokoro	

PRP	.. ..	1. Mr Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama	
		2. Alhaji Sale Abba	
		3. Mr Sani Maihula	

GNPP	.. ..	1. Alhaji Shehu Yakubu Runka	
		2. Mr Audu Mbicho	

26. COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

NPP	Dr Eze O. A. Nwala— <i>Chairman</i>	
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NPN	1. Alhaji A. Suleiman	
		2. Mr Bello Dauda Furo	
		3. Mr A. D. O. Abutu	
		4. Mr Aliyu Mohammed Rabah	
		5. Mr Sule Ibrahim	
		6. Mr I. Mac -Etel	
		7. Mr Okon A. Eddy	
		8. Mr Ahmed Tanko Ushama	
		9. Mr Mohammed K. Labaran	

UPN	.. ..	1. Mr J. O. Opakanmi	
		2. Mr L. B. Kataiyeyanjue	
		3. Mr B. J. Abegunde	
		4. Mr C. F. Abeki	
		5. Mr D. O. Bankole	
		6. Mr S. A. Odetoyinbo	

NPP	.. ..	1. Mr J. Ugota	
		2. Mr M. S. Aliyu	
		2. Mr A. N. Agwu	
		4. Mr K. Nwosu	

PRP	.. ..	1. Alhaji Sule Lamido	
		2. Alhaji Rabi'u Tabako	
		3. Mr Hussein Gajango	

GNPP	.. ..	1. Mr Bulama Ali	
		2. Mr Tijani Lawan	

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 15th April, 1980
The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker : Hon. Members, you are all welcome back from the short Easter break, and I hope you enjoyed your break in spite of the short interruption due to the death of late Senator J. S. Tarka.

I would like, also, to seize this opportunity to urge hon. Members to re-dedicate themselves to the work ahead, particularly, in respect of the 1980 Budget Proposals.

All Members of the Standing Committees should endeavour to complete the examination of the various Estimates Proposals which have been referred to them. I am happy to note that at least one of the Committees has completed its assignment in this regard and the report of that Committee is being presented to the House this morning.

IPU Meeting in Oslo

I would like to inform the hon. Members about the IPU meeting in Oslo, Norway, that is the meeting of the International Parliamentary Union. The Deputy Speaker, who has just returned from Oslo, Norway, where he led a delegation of Members of this honourable House to the Supreme Meeting of the IPU will be giving a verbal report to this House this morning. He will in due course circulate to all Members the full report of the deliberations and resolutions taken during the Conference for the information of hon. Members.

As soon as this House rises this afternoon, the Party Leaders will meet to consider two or three other proposals. The meeting of the Committee on National Planning is at eleven o'clock this morning. Hon. Members are informed that the Minister will be appearing in this meeting so that Members will try to be as punctual as possible. The Meetings of all other Committees are stated in the Order Paper for today.

Has anybody got an explanation? Somebody told me he has got an explanation. Yes, Mr Ononokpono.

Personal Explanation

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my explanation is about a Motion which I saw in the Order Paper of the Senate, and also the newspaper item saying the same thing, that four Senators have proposed a Motion to call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to set up a Judicial Inquiry into the ₦2.8 billion

[Reports on IPU convention in Oslo]

NNPC affair. As hon. Members are well aware, there are three arms of the government, very independent of the other, but always working in co-operation with one another. Whatever the Judiciary is handling cannot be interrupted by the honourable Members, and similarly, if there is an issue being handled by this most august House, it cannot in any way be interfered with by the Judiciary or any other arm of Government. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, deem it a slap on the face of this other arm of the National Assembly that the other House should propose a Judicial Inquiry into an issue being handled by this House. It, therefore, does not show any respect to one House of this National Assembly. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am suggesting very strongly and I believe it is the wish of this House that we inform the distinguished Senators that they drop the proposed Motion calling on the President of the Republic to set up a Judicial Inquiry because the issue is being competently handled by a very strong and powerful Committee of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another point I want to explain is a newspaper item I saw where the Leader of the Senate, respectable Senator Sola Saraki, was saying that he belongs to a more mature House because a Member of this august House called upon him to explain an issue involving the ₦2.8 billion. I consider this House equal to the Senate and, therefore, this House is as mature as the Senate, because the Speaker and Members of this House are very mature, very honest, very competent, very effective, very lively and equal to the task of this nation. (*Applause*) Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am asking this House to call on the Leader of the Senate to explain the maturity of the Senate as compared with this other House of the National Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity to explain these two issues.

Reports on IPU Convention in Oslo

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim (Minna North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to give you and hon. Members a brief account of what took place at our meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which took place from the 7th to the 13th of April, 1980.

As you are aware, Nigeria was a Member of this Union up to January 1966, but from that date we lost our seat in the Union as we had no Parliament. We re-applied for admission immediately after the inauguration of this National Assembly and even though our application was still to be considered, the IPU deemed it fit to invite us to attend the spring meeting in Oslo where our application was to be considered.

The Executive of the IPU met on Monday, 7th April, 1980, and discussed Nigeria's admission or re-affiliation into the IPU, and accordingly from the submissions we gave on the questionnaires they raised, the Executive Committee of the IPU recommended to the IPU Conference, which took place on the Saturday before our arrival, that Nigeria's application be approved. That was the first news that we received

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when we arrived on Monday, that the Executive Committee has approved our re-affiliation.

As I said, you can only take part in the deliberation of the Committee and vote when you become a full-fledged Member, but because we had already travelled that far, the IPU deemed it fit that it would not be out of order to allow us to participate fully.

At the initial stage, from Monday to Friday, the different Committees of the IPU would sit and consider all Motions submitted by the different Members of IPU. Up to the date Nigeria submitted her application, there were 88 countries that were members of the International Parliamentary Union and with the re-affiliation of Nigeria and Ghana, because we started operating the civilian government on the same date with Ghana, our applications were considered on the same day. Because the applications were considered in alphabetical order, Ghana was registered as the 89th Member and Nigeria as the 90th Member. It means there are 90 Parliaments in the world that are members of this Union.

For the interest of hon. Members, you can describe the Inter Parliamentary Union as another United Nations. The only difference is that in the United Nations, the Permanent Representative is appointed or nominated by the Government in power, but in the Inter Parliamentary Union, you are an elected Member from your constituency and, therefore, you represent a political party and it is not necessary that the Membership of the IPU is confined to the governing party, but even members of any political party are allowed to go there. The problem is that in the different bodies of the IPU, you are only allowed a certain number of delegates who will sit in the main Assembly. Therefore, you have to decide who is going to sit and who is not going to sit. This is purely a matter we have to resolve, here, I believe before we even leave. Even though people belong to different political parties, because their country is paramount before any politics, you will find that normally on all issues the political parties are unanimous because they are projecting their country.

So, in the IPU meetings, I, as the leader of the delegation, had the pleasure of serving in the Committee on political questions, international security, and disarmament. Chief Ogwé Kalu Ogwé, who also accompanied us, was admitted to the Parliamentary Juridical and Human Rights Committee of the IPU. Alhaji Muhammadu Aliu Tudun Wada and Mr Paul Mshelia were admitted to the non-self governing territories and ethnic questions which is the Committee of the IPU that deals with those member countries that are yet to become independent. That Committee was attended to by Paul Mshelia and Alhaji Muhammadu Aliu Tudun Wada. The Committee on economic, social, education, science, culture, and environment was attended by Dr Opeyemi Ola and Mr A. A. Waba. They served in that Committee and they made very effective contributions.

So, as you could see, even before the main application of Nigeria was considered on Saturday, our presence had already been felt in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I am very pleased to say here that

the biggest asset we had was that all the six members of the delegation who travelled to Oslo attended all the meetings of the IPU in the Nigerian national dress and that in particular drew the attention of every member who was there, because all the other members of the African countries were dressed in European costumes.

In the overall, after our affiliation on Saturday, when we were called upon to take our seats, all the six members of the delegation sat down and drafted our acceptance speech which was not based on the political parties or whatever we represent because we did not go there as a political party but we were selected on political party basis. This was our submission to the Assembly thanking them for the honour they have done us.

*Mr President of the Council,
Mr President of the Norwegian Group of IPU,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great honour for me, on behalf of the Nigerian National Group, to express my deep gratitude to the Executive Committee of the IPU for recommending my country's re-affiliation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union from which we have been absent for almost fourteen years.

I am also taking this opportunity to thank the President and Members of the Norwegian Inter-Parliamentary Group for the elaborate arrangements made for our comfort and the hospitality accorded to all the delegates to this Spring Meeting. Inspired, therefore, by their good example, Mr President, let me say on behalf of the Nigerian National Group that I am very happy to offer Nigeria as a Venue for the 1982 Spring Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mr President, Sir, I want to assure the IPU through you, that we will do our utmost to uphold the noble aims and objectives of the Union. We will endeavour to abide by the Statutes, working in close collaboration through the various organs of the Union with all the other national groups.

Mr President, Sir, let me take this unique opportunity to comment on the following topical issues which engaged the attention of the various Study Committees of the IPU during the last week.

Political Instability

The Political instability in the world in general and in Africa in particular is caused by the failure of the super powers to recognize the legitimate rights of states to ensure their own security and protect their sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; and for our people to freely determine their future without any external interference.

Decolonization

Nigeria is greatly concerned and committed to the complete decolonization of all territories with specific emphasis on the great need to allow people of all nations accessibility to self-determination.

It is in the light of this commitment and belief that Nigeria in collaboration with the five Front Line States and other progressive African countries con-

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certainly supported the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe to dislodge the racist minority that had illegally installed itself in power in Zimbabwe for over a decade. This, however, is now history and today we rejoice with our fellow brothers in Zimbabwe under the leadership of Mr Robert Mugabe for their Victory in the last election in that country as part of the transition to majority rule.

Suffice it to state here that Zimbabwe is a vindication of the fact that there is no power enough to restrain the desire of a people to freedom, liberty and self-determination.

Nigeria considers South Africa's hold on Namibia as a clear manifestation of betrayal of trust, a violation of all known principles of civilized society and a flagrant violation of the resolutions and injunctions of the United Nations.

We will therefore intensify our support to SWAPO, which is the legitimate and the recognized representative of the people of Namibia in their struggle to liberate and take total control of all territories in their country including Walvis Bay.

The Nigerian Group therefore appeals to all parliaments of the world to give wholesome support to the struggle for the liberation of Namibia and generally to all colonized and oppressed people the world over in keeping with the basic injunction of the universal declaration of human rights.

On the issue of Western Sahara, Nigeria stands by the decision of the O.A.U. on the report and the recommendations of the Ad-hoc Committee on Western Sahara in which Nigeria is a member, which met on the 4th and 5th December 1979; and also the U.N. General Assembly resolution 34-37 approving the decision of the O.A.U. on the report of its Ad-hoc Committee on the issue of Western Sahara.

On the issue of oppressed people, the Nigerian Group considers what is happening today in South Africa, where human beings, because of their skin colouration, are reduced to sub-human conditions, as a potential danger to world harmony and peace.

We therefore call upon the South African racists to, in their own interest, dismantle the apartheid and racist machinery now in force in South Africa and to allow the black people in that country equality and the right to self-determination.

Nigeria is delighted to note the concern which the various groups have shown on the refugee problem.

It is noted that over 3.5 million of about 10-17 millions of the world's refugees are in Africa. Nigeria is as much concerned as the other Member Groups over the flight of those who have been uprooted in their own countries and caused to wander the world over.

Although it is not necessary to enumerate the causes of people fleeing their own country and seeking refuge in other countries, it is to be noted that the main cause of flight arises from human intolerance and suspicion.

Those unbearable human traits which have caused and aggravated the refugee problem must be eradicated and Nigeria would like the international community of which the IPU represents to do everything in its power to alleviate the hardships of those unfortunate people.

This is an issue of which morality should play a major role. The juridical role of which certain instruments have been established, for instance, the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the statute of Refugees, should only complement the moral role.

The Economic Order

The present economic order is not satisfactory to Nigeria and the developing nations of the world because it is based on the concepts of dominant and dependent nations in the world economy. Those concepts are rooted in a neo-colonial relationship of exploitation, injustice and unequal exchange of values. This neo-colonial relationship can never permit rapid economic and technological self-transformation in the Third World.

The present unsatisfactory economic order has to give way to a new order. In the new economic order, the nations of the world must see themselves as inter-dependent and co-operative, because no nation is self-sufficient and no nation is problem-free.

The developed nations should not see the new economic order as a system of humanitarian assistance or sacrifice on their part for the poor nations of the world, but as something from which they themselves would receive immense benefits.

The new economic order has to be committed to the spread of technological transformation to all the developing countries wherever they are in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, with the view to developing their independent national economics.

To realise the above aim the Northern Hemisphere must be ready to eliminate and stop the relationship of economic dependence between it and the Southern Hemisphere; since that dependent relationship can never permit internal transformation of developing economics.

Thank you, Mr President, for granting me the opportunity to address this august gathering.

We are compiling the detailed report of our submission and copies would be put in Members' pigeon-holes. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Thank you very much. On behalf of the House, I thank the Deputy Speaker, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim, and members of the delegation for the able way in which they represented this House and Nigeria in general. Thank you very much.

We will go straight to the Notice of Motion because the other items would amount to our going into Committees. So, when we finish with the Motion we will go into the Committee of the Whole House and then handle other matters.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Compulsory Leave for Mr F. R. A. Marinho, Managing Director of NNPC

Mr Speaker: There is an Amendment, hon. Members. The Motion stands in the name of the Deputy Speaker, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim, and not Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim (Minna North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, being the Chairman of the Special Committee investigating the NNPC—

That this honourable House notes with approval the determination of the Members of the Special Committee on Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to carry out their assignment with thoroughness and despatch pursuant to House Resolution No. 5 in the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 15th January, 1980, in the interest of the nation ; agrees that there is need for the investigations to be conducted in an atmosphere seen to be free from any influence or interference whatsoever, and hereby calls upon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct that Mr F. R. A. Marinho, Managing Director of NNPC, should proceed on leave with immediate effect in order to facilitate the aforementioned investigations. I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Alhaji Mohammed Bornoma (Akko-Pindiga) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim, let us hear the substance of your Motion.

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, for the first time, I will very much like to crave the indulgence of the Whole House over this very sensitive matter.

A lot has been said about the investigations of the NNPC Special Committee. I must tell you, with due respect, that when we went out to institute an inquiry because of the Motion moved by an hon. Member of this House, we were all aware of the task ahead of us. Now, a lot has happened ever since, and the Speaker and myself actually thought it appropriate that before we went on recess this honourable House should have been briefed on how far we have gone in these investigations. I do not consider it proper that this House should only know what is going on in these investigations on the pages of newspapers. You should be the first people to know what is going on. I want to be frank over this issue, and when I say this, I am not saying it because of the party I represent because this is a matter that cuts across party lines. (Applause) We have a responsibility to this country. There is nothing that is impossible to be done in this world as long as we have the conviction that we will do it.

I would like here to vehemently protect the interest of the Members of the Special Committee, because, as part of a system designed to stop this Committee from achieving what it has set out to achieve, there have been campaigns of smear going on within the National Assembly that the Members of the Special Committee had been bought. In my special opening speech, on the day we called in the Managing Director and the Chairman of the NNPC, I made it categorically clear to them that we are not out in this Committee to witch-hunt anybody, but we are here to uphold the spirit of justice and fairplay, and if there is any member of the Committee that has come out directly or indirectly to portray

an attitude that is likely to blackmail the Managing Director or the Chairman because of self-vested interest, we are also open to probity, and such information about any of our Members must be exposed with immediate effect. I believe we would not succeed until we ourselves are honest with ourselves, and until we ourselves are free from corruption. (Applause)

The point at issue is this, that the House Resolution was on January 15th, 1980. When we called Mr Marinho and Mr Hart, they told us they were called to the Senate in December when actually this matter had not been raised. So, I asked the Managing Director, *Is there any motive behind this your call at a time when this matter had not been raised?* As I stand here talking today, I repeat to Members of the National Assembly and to the Press that up till today there is no Motion in the Senate Order Paper that has been passed authorising any individual or Committee of the Senate to investigate the NNPC. (Applause). It is only the House of Representatives that had duly passed a Motion on the 14th of January, and a Committee was appointed accordingly to investigate the NNPC.

What we kept on receiving from the very day we passed this Motion and from the very day the Members of the Committee were appointed, were statements to discourage us from further continuance of this investigation. And I say, with due respect, that there is none of us here that is out to make a capital out of, or become popular over an issue that is of national interest.

One area I would like to elaborate on, and all the Members of the Special Committee are here, and would contribute later to the debate, is that we are told that the money we are looking for is now found in somebody's account and has now been transferred to the NNPC funds. I would like to state here that there is a difference between money traced in somebody's private account, which we Members of the National Assembly have no access to in accordance with the Banking Regulations. There is no bank in the world which will give you an information concerning an amount paid into anybody's account. As it turns out, the Central Bank is the only authorised bank for the NNPC, and they open accounts in the name of the Central Bank on behalf of the NNPC, all over the world : in England, in Germany, in New York. Even though the account is opened by the Central Bank on behalf of the NNPC yet the NNPC itself that the account is being kept for, has no authority to seek information about whatever amount of money they have in that account; only the Central Bank has the sole authority to do so.

Therefore, if you look at the whole matter, the NNPC, in good faith, decided to appoint auditors, as required by the Decree appointing them, to look into the accounts of the NNPC, because right from 1973 when we had the Nigerian National Oil Corporation, and subsequently the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, and then the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, there has never been any audited account of the NNPC from 1973 to 1980. This is the fact.

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Now, when Auditors were appointed, they were not Nigerian Auditors, they started bringing out irregularities upon irregularities, and these irregularities are not only confined to the fact that the NNPC is not taking it upon itself to collect all monies that is due to it from people they have sold crude oil to, but even NNPC has no record or accurate record to show that the amount of petrol that is pumped from the petrol stations is the actual quantity that is pumped. The meters are tampered with. On top of it, the NNPC has not even got an account of the contract they awarded for the Warri and the Kaduna refineries. This is the truth of the matter.

When this mess of disclosures started to come out, the Board of Directors quickly summoned a meeting and I quote from the interview we held with Mr Marinho. He called and told the Auditors :

You are our clients and because you are our clients you cannot go and do things that are not in our favour because the relationship that develops between you and us is like the relationship between a lawyer and his client.

I cut in there to ask Mr Marinho, *If I commit murder, it is the responsibility of my lawyer to defend me that I did not commit murder.*

Therefore, if you draw the same analogy, it means that your Auditors should act as, scape-goats to cover up your mess. On top of it, if the NNPC has nothing to hide, we have a Constitution based on the Presidential system which is an open system of government.

In October, after the inauguration of the National Assembly, the *Punch* made the first revelation on the loss of 2.8 billion Naira. There is, in the minutes of the Board Meeting of 28th December, 1979, which is after the operation of the Presidential system, a recommendation by the Board of Directors that NSO should move in and arrest those members of the *Punch* that made this report in a civilian administration. If the Board or the Nigerian Security Organisation had taken to the recommendation of the Board, this Government would have been thrown into a totalitarian government or a government of dictatorship, but fortunately enough the NSO did not comply with the request. On the contrary, the NSO decided that they are prepared to give us all the co-operation we require in connection with this investigation. (Applause)

What is happening is that ever since this matter started, there has been movements of documents, and we received a petition from six Security Guards that were guarding the accounts documents of the NNPC office in Apapa. They were there on the night when these documents were set on fire, but when they wanted to reveal how the fire incident occurred, the six Security Guards were sacked. The six Security Guards have written that they are now prepared to testify on how those documents were set on fire.

I say to this honourable House that it is not possible for the House to conduct a successful investigation on a matter when the driver of the bus is sitting tight on his seat and still giving orders on what should be done and what should not be done. It is in this spirit,

that we can never get into the depth of what is going on in NNPC until the Managing Director and the Board of NNPC are dismantled with immediate effect, that this Motion is being moved. (Applause)

This Motion was drafted only yesterday and with due respect, Mr Speaker, I will move that the appropriate Standing Orders be suspended to allow an Amendment to come accordingly, because I do not believe that one individual can be accused in isolation of other people.

Several Members : Fire on ! Fire on !

Alhaji Ibrahim Idris : With the help of Members of the National Assembly and the able work of other Members of the Special Committee investigating the NNPC, I want to state categorically matters that affect my own person. What I am interested in is that this matter should not be manipulated or be allowed to be swept under the carpet. It must be brought to light.

I am not here to take credit for the National Assembly or the House of Representatives. If, by virtue of what we have investigated so far, it is necessary that this matter be transferred to a special high powered Judicial Commission of Inquiry, I want to make it categorically clear that that move should be by a Resolution of the House of Representatives. (Applause)

We have a duty to report back to this House that has given us an assignment and this assignment we find is cumbersome. We have not got the facilities to it and therefore we recommend that a high powered Judicial Commission of Inquiry should be established and not, and I repeat not, a Motion from the Senate. Mr Speaker, with due respect, there are Members who would like to contribute to this honourable Motion, so I would like to move that the relevant Standing Order be suspended so that there could be an Amendment now.

I beg to move.

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I second the Deputy Speaker's Motion to suspended Standing Order 20, subsection (1), to allow Amendment to be made without giving a number of days notice.

I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Order 20 (1) of the Standing Orders be suspended to enable a Member to bring an Amendment to the Motion on the Order Paper for today.

Mr Debo Akande : I rise to propose an Amendment to the Motion on our Order Paper in view of the fact that the Motion, as proposed, appears directed against Mr F. R. A. Marinho, the Managing Director of NNPC, and that it will appear punitive and arbitrary. The Motion, embodying my Amendment, should now read thus :

That this honourable House notes with approval the determination of the Members of the Special Committee on Nigerian National Petroleum

[MR AKANDE]

Corporation to carry out their assignment with thoroughness and despatch, pursuant to House Resolution No. 5 in the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, the 15th of January, 1980, in the interest of the nation, agrees that there is need for the investigations to be conducted in an atmosphere seen to be free from any influence or interference whatsoever, and hereby calls upon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct that the Chairman, and all the members of the Board as is now constituted, the Managing Director, the Chief Accountant, the Chief Internal Auditor be suspended forthwith so that there will be free investigation into the affairs of the alleged loss of ₦2.8 billion, and are hereby suspended forthwith, and be sent on compulsory leave with the provision that all their travelling documents be deposited with the Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO) and that they remain within due distance of being called upon at any time to the inquiry without any hesitation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hereby move.

Mr Speaker: Hold on. Let the Clerk put down the text of the proposed Amendment. Meanwhile, is anybody seconding the Amendment?

Mr D. D. Dafuan (Shendam West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Amendment.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! please hon. Members take your seats. The text of the Amendment is now ready and it reads as follows:

That this honourable House notes with approval the determination of the Members of the Special Committee on Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to carry out their assignment with thoroughness and despatch, pursuant to House Resolution No. 5 in the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 15th January, 1980, in the interest of the nation; agrees that there is need for the investigations to be conducted in an atmosphere seen to be free from any influence or interference whatsoever, and hereby calls upon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct that the Chairman and the Members of the Board of the NNPC as is now constituted, the Managing Director, the Chief Accountant, the Chief Internal Auditor be suspended from duty and proceed on compulsory leave with immediate effect, and that all their passports/travelling documents be deposited with the Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO), and that the officials/functionaries should remain within due distance of Lagos so as to be available to give evidence before the Special Committee on NNPC in order to facilitate free investigation into the alleged loss or misappropriation of ₦2.8 billion from the NNPC.

So, this is the text of the Amendment. I do not think that it requires any argument.

Several hon. Members: No.

Mr Speaker: We had better put the Question straightaway.

Question, that the Question be put, put and agreed to.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: Now, we go to the Motion itself. Let us have contributions on the Motion, as amended.

Mr David Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) Mr Speaker: Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended. Unless we settle quickly the question of this Oil-Gate fraud, the country would appear to be sick. Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion as amended, I beg to add that some people should be put under house arrest. (Laughter)

This is not a joking matter. The restriction of movement should be further extended to the Leader of the Senate. He has been very inconsistent in his statements. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Adelu: Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, so many people seem to be involved in this big fraud of the century. Finally, I beg to suggest that the travelling documents of the former Head of State should be seized and that he should not be allowed to travel out of the country.

I beg to support. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Yes, the Leader of the House, the hon. Member for Tangale-Waja South (Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo).

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, having heard the full explanations on the Floor of this honourable House by the Deputy Speaker, and believing that he has put everything right, to the understanding of everybody on the Floor of this honourable House, and with the Amendment to the Motion which has been made, I now move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this honourable House notes with approval the determination of the Members of the Special Committee on Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to carry out their assignment with thoroughness and despatch, pursuant to House Resolution No. 5 in the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 15th January, 1980, in the interest of the nation; agrees that there is need for the investigations to be conducted in the atmosphere seen to be free from any influence or interference whatsoever, and hereby calls upon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct that the Chairman and the Members of the Board of the NNPC as is now constituted, the Managing Director, the Chief Accountant, the Chief Internal Auditor be suspended from duty and proceed on compulsory leave with immediate effect, and that all their passports/travelling documents be deposited with the Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO), and that the officials/functionaries should remain within due distance of Lagos so as to be available to give evidence before the Special Committee on NNPC in order to facilitate free investigation into the alleged loss or misappropriation of ₦2.8 billion of the NNPC.

Mr Speaker : Please, the Clerk, the text of this Resolution must be ready before 12 noon and I will take it myself to the President by 1.30 p.m. today. *(Applause)*

Order! Order! We now move to the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Committee on Banking and Currency

Presentation of Reports

Mr Speaker : The Committee on Banking and Currency will present a Report.

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion is :

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency on a Bill for an Act to make provision for the reconstitution of membership of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion for the presentation of the Report ?

Mr Okon A. Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Aba (*Mr S. U. Wanganga*), have the hon. Members got copies of the Report ?

Mr Wanganga : Yes.

Mr Speaker : So, it is presumed that it has been laid.

Mr Wanganga : I thought that the debate will be tomorrow even though the Report has been distributed for today.

Mr Speaker : I think that the best thing is to allow hon. Members further time to deliberate on the Report. It will be re-listed for debate by the Committee of the Whole House, if you do not mind.

Mr Wanganga : Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Public Petitions Committee

Mr Speaker : Yes, the next one is from the Public Petitions Committee—presentation of the Report on the Budget for 1980 for the Public Complaints Commission. Oh, your report is ready ?

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Yes.

Mr Speaker : All right, leave it with us. Present it so that we lay it on the Table.

Committee Reports

Public Petitions Committee

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : I am the Chairman, Public Petitions Committee, House of Representatives.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I hereby present the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Budget for 1980 as it relates to the Public Complaints Commission. Mr Speaker, Sir, I hereby move that this House do receive the Report of the Public Petitions Committee on the Budget for 1980 for the Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Members, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr O. Akinboro (Oke-Ona/Owu/Gbagura) : I would like to second the Motion, but in doing so, Sir, I would suggest that—

Mr Speaker : No ! No ! Are you seconding the Motion ?

Mr Akinboro : I am seconding the Motion, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : So, we have received the Report. It will be listed for further debate anytime.

Committee on Judiciary

The next one is the Committee on Judiciary—Presentation of Report relating to Section 62 of the Constitution. The Chairman is not even here. Then it lapses.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be adjourned until tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Low Profile

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have one or two points that are worrying me. I would like to draw the attention of the House to this so-called low profile which was the army style in the last few months and which is being adopted by the present government and which I honestly believe, Mr Speaker, does not fit into the mood of the nation. I do not believe that the President, in going to meet a fellow President, should drive in a 504 car in the name of low profile, and drive all the way from Ribadu Road to the airport, and sometimes they give the same type of 504 to this august head of state of another country. I mean it is a shame. Nigeria is bigger than that.

There is no need for an apologetic way of living. Nigeria is big. We are in a position to accord our President and the government functionaries their due positions. I think, the earlier a stop is put into this funny low profile idea, the better for the country. I think, it is becoming ridiculous. There is no doubt that the Army regime that brought in low profile had their reasons. They drove 504 during the day and most of them drove what we all know are very big cars in the evenings. There is no doubt, also, that they caused this country a lot of wastage in

MR AKANDE

trying to get rid of all those Mercedes cars at arranged prices to the detriment of this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the idea of low profile should be brought to a stop.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Alhaji Kaltungo, put the question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 16th April, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Student Demonstration

The Speaker : Hon. Members, somebody wants to make an explanation.

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim (Minna North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I find it necessary to make a point of explanation on the student demonstration of yesterday from the University of Lagos. I was called to come and address the students. I think this matter of ₦2.8 billion is being allowed to take a different dimension which I believe is another attempt to subvert the goodwill of this House. When this Motion was brought and the House of Representatives supported it, we did it irrespective of the parties we represent.

When I wanted to go and address the students the students were heckling. I went to address the students not because I am an Alhaji, and even if I am an Alhaji, I have no regret of being an Alhaji, but I want everybody to know that every Nigerian has a right to be a Nigerian and has a right to contribute to what is good for this country irrespective of the area of the country he comes from.

The students were asking me that when Professor Awojobi made a statement that he had an information to give to the Committee what effort have we made to collect the information from Professor Awojobi. Now, I am saying to the House, to the public, and to the Press that this Special Committee was established on the 15th of January, 1980 and we published it in all the newspapers and announced on the radio and on the television that anybody who has relevant information to give to this Committee should come forward and do so. If Professor Awojobi is a responsible citizen of this country, he should have taken the opportunity to come and make an explanation but he did not do so. Up till today we only heard about Professor Awojobi's explanation on the pages of newspapers. If he has anything concrete to give to this Committee as a Nigerian, he should come forward and do it without trying to give the thing a political motivation. This is the explanation I want to make to this House.

The second point I want to explain is that the Mover of this Motion and the first person to talk about the loss of ₦2.8 billion is hon. Member for Degema I (*Mr Dagogo Princewill*) and not Senator Sabo Bakin Zuwo. Senator Sabo Bakin Zuwo was talking about the missing plane-load of *Murtala* naira notes that was discovered in Uganda, and not the money that has been missing in the NNPC. There is a difference in that matter, and I think the Press should know and should tell the country.

I made a press statement on Monday in which I explained this matter, and only the Reporters of the *Punch* and the *New Nigerian* had the guts to even mention the exact things I said. The other people had no guts to say them. This House cannot correct this country alone. The Press is responsible and every Nigerian is responsible to make sure that none of us appear to be bought by the people in NNPC who do not want this inquiry to continue. I think we will be doing a disservice to this country if we politicise this matter and try to make it as if it is one political party that is here to show to the country that they are more forthright and honest in this matter of discovering the loss of ₦2.8 billion. We are all honest men in this House. We are men of integrity in the House of Representatives, and I have no doubt whatsoever that there is no Member here that has sort of allowed himself to be bought up by what is going on, with due respect, in the other Chamber.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, with these few words I thank the hon. Members for listening to me.

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, when I put in a note to make an explanation which, in effect, would be observation on the students action of yesterday, I did not know that the Deputy Speaker, hon. Idris Ibrahim, was going to make an explanation. My point of explanation, Mr Speaker, is that when the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Special Committee looking into what we now see as oil-gate spoke in this House yesterday, Members gave their support by shouting for fire and some asked for brickstones and many of us taught we even needed tornado and hurricane to bring out the person into whose account this money was paid. But little did we know that outside was a fury much greater than the elements which we were invoking in this House. I am referring to the students' demonstration which led virtually into holding the Members under house arrest.

Now, the point I want to make is this. It is unfortunate that our students have not distinguished between the House of Representatives and the Senate. It would be still more unfortunate if anybody be he student or anybody outside thinks that this House is subservient to the wishes of the Senate. We are not here to score any political point on the Senate, but we owe a duty to our collective name and to our individual names to dissociate ourselves from any irregularities, any double dealings, that may be going on in the Senate. But in doing this I do not at all support any form of character assassination. What is wrong is wrong. What is spoken may be different from the person who spoke it. So, I am not bringing anybody on the altar of this House to be slaughtered, but I want to make it clear that everybody in this House supports the Speaker and the Special Committee that is investigating this matter. We have confidence in this Committee under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker. Because the matter is now taking on a new dimension, I would therefore urge the Committee to come forward within a reasonable period of time with concrete evidence as to show whether they really feel they can go ahead and make useful

[MR FAGBAMIGBE]

discoveries for the nation. If not, they should also come and let us know. We cannot allow a situation in which we all will be regarded as people who can be bought or people who can be influenced or people who can be diverted from the path of justice and righteousness.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I want to make this note that I thank the Police for ensuring that the students' demonstration of yesterday was very peaceful but I am afraid I do not approve of the presence of gun carrying policemen in the midst of our students. *(Interruptions)*

My reason, is that we have lost many students to Police bullets in this country. *(Interruptions)*

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Order.

Mr Fagbamigbe : I have the protection of Mr Speaker. My point, is that we have lost many promising students to Police bullets in this country, and we cannot afford to mourn the death of our children. *(Interruptions)*

Dr Junaidu Muhammed (Kano West Ward) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in making this observation, I would ask this House to please maintain a very cool head. If all the nation around us and particularly the students of yesterday have their heads lost on tingling, I think we ought to keep our own cool.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I take a very serious view of what I regard as the irresponsible manner in which the students conducted themselves yesterday. The concern they have for ₦2.8 billion was no more than ours, and when we sat on the Floor of this House and passed the Motion, there was not a single student around.

I hate to sound suspicious, but I am seriously afraid that these students might be incited and used by people who have dubious intentions of destabilising this country. Those of us who have taken leading roles in unearthing this dirty ₦2.8 billion scandal have the highest sense of responsibility. It was not the intention of this House or of the National Assembly to use this issue to destabilise the country or give students a free hand to come to the premises of this sacred Chamber to abuse, hackle and hustle Members of the National Assembly, and hurl abuses at everybody who happens to have a lighter skin than theirs. This is most irresponsible.

I have taken a view on the ₦2.8 billion missing from the NNPC and I have no apology for every statement I have made in private or in public. At the same time, I have an enormous sense of justice, and I believe all of us here should. Nobody is guilty until he is proven guilty. As yet, neither the House nor anybody outside has come and proved beyond any reasonable doubt that, one, the money is actually missing ; two, that individuals are involved whoever they are. So, for the time being, we can only suspect, and in suspecting, I would say everybody is under suspicion. You, Mr Speaker, Sir, I, and everybody are under suspicion because we do not know the truth. We are merely in the process of digging out this matter. It is unfortunate

that the Senate has taken it upon itself to be issuing out flamboyant statements when they have nothing in fact to back these statements with.

We have said, and we say it again, that we are interested in the stability of this country. We are also interested in the fate of this ₦2.8 billion, but we are the last to contribute directly or indirectly in allowing students or people who are inciting the students, using the press and a bunch of irresponsible elements to come and destabilise the country on ₦2.8 billion. Nigeria is much more important than ₦2.8 billion.

I would like to say a word or two on security of these premises. The question of the security of these premises is very important in the light of what happened yesterday. Mr Speaker, Sir, the leadership in this House must take it upon itself to make sure that there is proper security. No demonstrating students should be allowed within a close range of this House, otherwise they would come and mess us up and make democracy impossible. With these, I say we have to be very careful and stand firm.

Thank you.

Mr Jimoh Damisa (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to speak on a point of explanation. At one time or the other, Members of this honourable House must have gone through the stages of being students, and we knew what we did during our days. If we have anything against or in favour and we want to demonstrate, we go with our memoranda and when we go to where we were going, we do our demonstration and hand them a letter. I challenge the students of Lagos University to give us the letter or memorandum which they failed to present yesterday.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am also aware that since the death of Tarka, a political leader in this country had been having meetings with the Students' Union leaders of the Lagos University. May I also warn that there is time—

Several Members : Mention the name.

Mr Damisa : The time will come for me to mention the name of the political leader. There is time for peace and there is time to quarrel. The students came here yesterday and they were showing a political symbol while they said they were demonstrating on ₦2.8 billion oil money. That is one. *(Interruptions)* Secondly, the students came because of ₦2.8 billion oil money but they started accusing hon. Members' cars, saying : *This is not low-profile.* They knew they did not come for that. What I want to say, Mr Speaker, is that yesterday's students demonstration was politically motivated.

Mr Speaker : Just a minute, hon. Members I have already given directives to the Special Committee that they must conclude that investigation this week. *(Applause)* Secondly, they must get their report and circulate the report among the Members on Friday so that we will debate the Report on Monday. From their Report, the House would then know what to do next. So I think there is no point making further explanations. *(Interruptions)*

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, from all the contributions already made on this very issue, there is one particular aspect of the investigation which I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to. This aspect affects the behaviour of the students of the University of Lagos as they demonstrated here yesterday, and that is the publicity aspect of this investigation. There is nobody, be he student or private individual in this country who heard about the missing ₦2.8 billion who would not be worried as a citizen of this country.

From what has been going on, it appears the public is not fully informed of the work of the investigation Committee. So, I would suggest, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Committee should speed up its investigation and then set up, if possible, a sub-Committee to handle the publicity aspect of this investigation. That will enlighten the public more.

Thank you. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, let us leave this matter because it is going to degenerate into other things.

Votes and Proceedings

Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill 1980 (H.R.6)

Considered in Committee of the Whole House

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Your Committee has deliberated on the Bill referred to it and, after very careful analysis of the implications of the provisions of the Bill, has recommended some amendments as follows :

1. Line 8 delete *Minister with the approval of the President* and insert *President* instead thereof.
2. Lines 10 and 11 delete *Minister with the approval of the*.
3. Line 10 after *persons add of good character and integrity*.
4. Line 11 after *President add of which not less than four are by reasons of their background or experience in matters relating to housing, accountancy, law, finance, banking or economics are in the opinion of the President, suitable for appointments as members of the Board*.
5. Lines 12 and 13 delete both lines and insert *one representative of the Ministry of Finance* instead thereof.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

6. Under (a) delete from *Minister with the approval of the*.

7. Under (b) delete from *Minister with the approval of the*.

8. Under (c) delete the whole and insert *one representative of the Ministry of Finance*.

REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

(a) Your Committee considered it necessary to devolve the power of appointment on the President who by Section 135 (1) of the Constitution is the embodiment of all executive power. It is up to the President to delegate his power, as he is free to do under Section 136 (1) of the constitution.

(b) The President has the mandate of the people whereas the Minister under the Presidential system of Government is a mere agent of the President and should therefore have no original powers of appointment.

(c) A representative of the Ministry of Finance has been allowed to sit on the Board since the Ministry, like the Central Bank, is a shareholder of the Federal mortgage Bank. Your Committee was careful not to insist on the representative being the Permanent Secretary while not excluding him.

(d) Your Committee made recommendations under Amendment No. 4 as to the quality of some members of the Board to enable the Board cope with the technocrats on the management side. Often the Board of a banking institution is called upon to read through complex memoranda and feasibility studies, and unless some of its members understand these complex matters, the Board could be taken for a ride by smart technocrats in the management. Again the presence of some well informed members of the Board would help management in ensuring that wise lending policies are maintained and thus reducing the incidence of bad debts.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : We resolved to receive the report yesterday, so, somebody should second the various Amendments and we shall then take them one by one.

Mr H. M. J. Wachuku (Ukwa) : I rise to second the Amendments.

The Chairman : I do not think we require any other argument from the Chairman in respect of the Amendments, unless any other Member has anything to say on why the Amendments are either necessary or not necessary, so that we can vote straightaway.

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF NIGERIA DECREE 1977, 1977 No. 7, 1979 No. 48)—

The Chairman : We shall take the first Amendment which says : Line 8, delete *Minister with the approval of the President* and insert *President* instead thereof.

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangala Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in respect of Amendment No. 1, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Amendment No. 2 says in line 10 and 11 delete *Minister with the approval of the*. Any contribution ?

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in respect of Amendment No. 2, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Amendment No. 3 says in line 10 after *persons add of good character and integrity*.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, I move that the Question be now put in respect of Amendment No. 3.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agree to.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Amendment No. 4.

Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Na-rogo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to make a few comments with regard to Amendment No. 4, that is, incorporating some Members from various disciplines that is, Accountants, Lawyers, Financial Agents, Bankers and a host of others. Mr Chairman, this is a Federal Mortgage Bank and this present regime is committed to Housing Scheme for workers, and these houses would be allocated to the masses who do not have a house to live in. I cannot see the reason why the recipients of this scheme or project should not be involved actively in the policy-making processes of this Bank. It has been the common practice in this country and even of the Mortgage Bank to give these loans for houses to only affluent people. Why not as at now give it a new insight at least by incorporating some of those people from the lower stratum of the Nigerian society so that they can at least take part in the policy-making of this Bank. I highly object to putting in all these professionals in that they are not the only people who can implement or make policies with regard to housing. Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few comments I beg to sit down.

Mr E. Ejiga (Oturkpo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, before I go on, I wish to commend the Members and the Chairman of the Committee for a job well done. However, I will disagree with this Amendment. Mr Chairman, Sir, we all know that the job of a Board and that of the Management are different. I think it will not be good to make the Board be an alternative management. Now, we have specified the disciplines from which Members of the Board may be selected. I think that will be restricting the President too much. We all know that in matters concerning the composition of a Board, there are many things to be considered, such as political consideration and many other matters. I think there is a danger in trying to make a Board an alternative management. Let us remove this Amendment

and give the President a free hand to choose people of integrity whom he thinks can manage this Board.

Thank you.

Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I support this Amendment concerning line 11. I know that politically, professionally, intellectually, all the nineteen States, I can assure you hon. Members, can produce Bankers, Economists Lawyers, etc. After all, it is only four professionals that this Amendment is asking for, as I understand. In order to save our time because we have other pressing jobs, I beg the indulgence of the Members to accept this Amendment. I think it is very nice.

Thank you.

Chief S. A. Oduntan : Mr Chairman, Sir, my contribution is to ask this honourable House to accept another Amendment to this Amendment.

The Chairman : It is late, Comrade.

Chief Oduntan : The hon. Member who spoke from the PRP was asking that workers should be represented on the Board, and I would have thought that this is appropriate because these houses are for workers. What I was trying to say is that, I would have suggested that there should be a representation from the workers in this Board. If this is accepted, it will make the workers feel that they belong to the scheme, so, they will not agitate so much against the Board.

Dr J. E. Eburuche (Agbaja/Uvuru) : I wish to observe, with pleasure, the very good job done by the Committee. But I wish to remark that the portion of the Bill we are discussing is too academic. The Banking profession is not the monopoly of Economists, Accountants and so on. What we need is a knowledgeable person or persons who will not run away with our ₦2.8 billion. I have seen an historian managing a bank, and managing it very effectively even though history is not related to banking. I think that what we should do is to look for people who are capable and are knowledgeable and who need not be experts. It may be that on the job they can gain experience. Party and political patronage ought to be considered, but what we have to stress is that the Board should consist of people from different parts of the country and should reflect not only members of one political party, but people from other parties as well.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, I move that the Question be now put in respect of Amendment No. 4 on the Order Paper.

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

Amendment put and negatived.

The Chairman : Amendment No. 5. Is there any argument on this Amendment ?

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, from the wordings of the original Bill, one gets the impression that there are two Permanent Secretaries in the Federal Ministry of Finance one of whom is charged with the responsibility for banking

[MR ROHIM]

matters. I have formed the impression that this was why the Mover of the Amendment has substituted in their place : *one representative of the Ministry of Finance.*

While we are trying to reconstitute the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, what bothers many of us about this bank, is the bureaucratic manner in which the Board has been discharging its duties. If we want an efficient Mortgage Bank, I think that, as much as possible, we must keep away bureaucrats from the management of this important Bank. In other words, I am suggesting that lines 12 and 13 of the Bill which talk of : *the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry charged with responsibility for matters relating to banking*, should be deleted. In an attempt to reconstitute the Mortgage Bank, we have in view a more efficient Mortgage Bank. It will create more problem if we include civil servants or bureaucrats of the level of Permanent Secretaries. As much as possible, we should keep off bureaucrats from the Management of the Mortgage Bank. In other words, I do not want this representative from any Ministry to be on that Board. If the Mover of this Amendment will agree with me and appreciate the yearnings of millions of Nigerians who have applied for loans through the Mortgage Bank without success, because of the bureaucratic attitude of some officials in the Mortgage Bank, it will only make matters worse at this stage to include civil servants on the Board. In effect, I do not want this representative from any Federal Ministry to be included on the Board.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am opposed to this Amendment because I do not think that it is necessary to have a representative from the Federal Ministry of Finance. I believe that with a good Board and a good Managing Director the job of the Bank can be effectively performed. I also believe that officials of the Federal Ministry of Finance have enough in their hands to occupy them. There were instances in the past where some Boards could not meet because the Ministry's representative was not present either because he had to be with the Minister or he was in another Committee. This tended to stultify the meetings of these Boards and as a result many Boards did not function properly in the past. This is the only reason why I am opposed to any civil servant being represented on the Board, be he a Permanent Secretary or a Clerk in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Edet Bassy Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am in sympathy with the able Chairman of this Committee in his attempt to please this House by replacing the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance with a representative of that Ministry.

I think this is a difficult task indeed, because the honourable Chairman of the Committee is quite aware of the feelings of this House towards the involvement of the bureaucrats in the Boards of the various parastatals in this country.

I want to oppose this Amendment for two reasons. Firstly, I think this Board is responsible to the Minister of Finance. In that respect, I do not think that it is necessary for the Ministry to have any representative on the Board.

Secondly, it is not in the interest of the Board that the policy matters of this Bank should have anything to do at all with the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance. Hon. Members would observe here that it is our practice, since this House started convening, to ensure the absence of Permanent Secretaries or any other civil servants in the Management Boards of the various parastatals. I think the other representative we have on the Board would adequately represent the interest of this country and the interest of the Ministry of Finance. We do not need a civil servant on this Board.

With this observation, Mr Chairman, I would like to oppose this Amendment.

Mr E. C. Ebo (Mbano East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my contribution on this Amendment is as follows :

In the past, the Federal Military Government involved the Permanent Secretaries or the civil servants in all sorts of Management Boards. By this involvement, the Military Government over loaded these Ministries with all sorts of things, and thereby increased the inefficiency in the Ministries. That did not only increase the inefficiency, the Military Government placed these Permanent Secretaries in such a position of power that nobody could improve on anything when these Permanent Secretaries meant to hold anything down.

Under the new regime, we still think of Permanent Secretaries being appointed into parastatals which they, themselves, are controlling. I feel this is irregular. If the Minister is appointing anybody, he has a lot of people from whom to appoint. He has got junior Ministers like the Minister of State who could be appointed to represent the Ministry.

In this particular arrangement, the Minister has been authorised here to appoint nine Members. Maybe, the intention of the Committee was to make provision for the Government to be represented where the Government has investments. If that is the intention of the Committee, the Minister can appoint the Minister of State in that Ministry to be in the Board. We want the political appointments to be different from the ones in which the Permanent Secretaries and their paraphernalia could be connected with.

Mr Chairman, I oppose this Amendment. The original provision is this :

Nine members appointed by the Minister with the approval of the President, the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry charged with responsibility for matters relating to banking.

This the Committee amended as follows—

The Chairman : Mr Ebo, are you making a new Amendment ?

Mr E. C. Ebo : No, Mr Chairman, I am not making a new Amendment. I am saying that the Amendment of the Committee does not satisfy the wish of the people by saying that we should delete the *Permanent Secretary* and put in a *representative of the Ministry* who may be a civil servant.

If the Ministry should have a representative, that representative should not be a civil servant. If it becomes necessary, Mr Chairman, we can suspend the relevant Standing Order 20 (1) in order to make

[MR EBO]

further Amendments on this issue. If it is very necessary to have a representative of the Ministry because of the investment which the Government has in that Mortgage Bank, that representative should be somebody who is not a civil servant. We want to leave these civil servants alone now, so that they may be efficient in their respective Ministries. They should do the work they are assigned to do. They have a channel of communicating with every Ministry and every parastatal about Government policies and programmes without necessarily being members of the Management Boards. If the Minister is going to attend any Board meeting, he can take his Permanent Secretary with him; but we would not give these Permanent Secretaries any position of power which would be equal to that any elected or appointed representative of the people.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Amendment.

Thank you.

Mr Appolos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am holding a different view over the recommended Amendment. My view is that this provision should be supported. I am saying this for one reason. The Federal Government is a larger shareholder in the Mortgage Bank. Occasionally too, there is need to make some financial subventions to the bank. I think it is only a wise step that a member of the Ministry of Finance should be represented on the Board; not only to be involved in the day-to-day affairs of the Board, but to be convinced about the need for subventions, should the case arise.

I do think that if a representative of the Federal Ministry of Finance is excluded, it might frustrate the efforts of the Bank to get more money. We must not forget the fact that there are human prejudices. If I am in a position to aid a course, and it is felt that I should not take part in the course, I believe hon. Members here know what happens in that sort of situation. There may be the tendency to prove tough, perhaps tougher than one can imagine when these people are not there.

If we are feeling that the Mortgage Bank has not done enough, probably because they are not getting enough money, would it do better if somebody who is in a position to get increased resources is withdrawn from the Board? Hon. Members, I think it is only fair that we should give the Federal Ministry of Finance a place in the Board so that the Ministry could be aware of what is happening and could justify the need for request for subvention, should this arise.

On this score, Mr Chairman, I support the Amendment.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okbebho): Mr Chairman, as a former civil servant, I think I can speak with some authority on this issue.

In the past, particularly during the Military regime, civil servants were involved in the activities of Boards and Corporations. They were appointed either as Chairmen or Members of these Boards. This, of course, resulted in concentration of functions

in these officials, with the result that efficiency was interfered with. In other words, the civil servants had too much to do in their day-to-day activities. Because the Military people themselves were not cut out for administration, they were compelled to assign these responsibilities to civil servants. I would not say because I was a civil servant, therefore, it would be right and proper to give to civil servants responsibilities which are not properly theirs.

I think that it would not only be in the interest of the efficiency of the civil service, but it would also enhance the autonomy and effectiveness of the Board, if the civil servants were excluded. At this juncture, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to recall that sometime ago we took a decision on the Floor of this House that civil servants should not be appointed as Members of the Boards of Corporations and Parastatals. In view of this, Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Amendment and completely support the exclusion of civil servants from the membership of the Boards.

Mr Wanganga: Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, it is a pity that enough emphasis was not laid on the reason for that Amendment although we made a report explaining it. Perhaps it requires some verbal explanation too. Some Members are opposing this Amendment out of misunderstanding of its intention. In fact, the Committee is one with the House that we are not of civil servants coming back to take up positions they enjoyed during the Military era, but that we want civilians to do the job now and not the civil servants.

The reason why we allowed one representative of the Ministry of Finance to be a Member, not the Permanent Secretary is this. We did not insist on the Permanent Secretary being a Member even though we did not exclude him. The Ministry of Finance owns 60 per cent of the shares of the Federal Mortgage Bank, while the Central Bank owns 40 per cent. The Central Bank is already represented and the Ministry of Finance just has to be there because a lot of public funds is involved, and they are the ones who put in this money there on behalf of all of us. If they are not there, it would appear that they put in the money for somebody else to manage. The basic principles of running a business is that if you put in money in a business you should be there to know what is happening. Therefore, it is not like the other Bills where we consistently excluded the civil servants because we want the present regime to be truly public, rather than having civil servants dictate the pace. This is a peculiar case because a lot of public money is involved. Sixty per cent of every money that goes into the Federal Mortgage Bank comes from the Ministry of Finance and they have to be there.

Again, the personal touch within the Board room can make a lot of difference. If you write an application for funds from the Federal Mortgage Bank, it would be quite a different thing if a man from the Ministry is there to see to the need; so, he carries both the application and the personal touch to the authorities, and would effect a quicker action on the release of funds. So, we have no particular love for having civil servants on the Board. In this particular case, we ask Members to

[MR WANGANGA]

take this Committee as having thought very thoroughly on this particular issue, and I recommend that you support this particular Amendment. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Chairman, Sir, after having discussed this Amendment No. 5 extensively, I now move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put and negatived.

Mr E. C. Ebo : Mr Chairman, Sir, now that we have rejected the Amendments of the Committee and we do allow the original provision to stand, we require to suspend Standing Order 20 (1) to delete that particular provision.

The Chairman : You cannot do that.

Mr Ebo : Otherwise, it means that the Permanent Secretary will be a Member.

The Chairman : This is the reason why you were given copies of the report yesterday so that you could make all the Amendments in the world you have in contemplation. You cannot draw us back. It is your own mistake and we must have to work very hard.

Mr Ebo : It is the intention of the House to delete that particular section. (*Interruptions*)

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF NIGERIA DECREE 1877, 1977 No. 7, 1979 No. 48)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Hon. Members, the Committee of the Whole House has accepted all but two of the Amendments made by the Committee on Banking and Currency. I now report the Bill with Amendments and move that it be read the Third time.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowapo) : I rise to support this Bill, and I wish to make the following observation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that since we have been passing Bills in this House, all we have been doing was to make provisions for reconstitution of membership of various Boards, thereby creating jobs for the boys. All we need do at this moment, and I am saying this sincerely, is that we should urge the Government to inject sufficient funds into the Mortgage Bank so that everybody who needs money will be able to go to the Federal Mortgage Bank and get the loans.

We should also try to enlarge some of its functions either to borrow or to create other things. I would be proposing a Bill to that effect very shortly. Mr Speaker, Sir, some Committees and Boards need to be reconstituted. Nobody has thought of bringing Bills touching this type of Boards and Committees. An example of this is the Tafawa Balewa Complex Square Committee which presently is headed by a naval man in person of Commodore Oduwaiye.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I believe that the Government, generally, of this country causes and creates inflation in this country. They make laws to charge arbitrary rents. They make laws to do things that will make it uncomfortable for the common man whom we are protecting.

Mr Speaker : Please, go to the Bill.

Mr Akinbisehin : I am coming to the Bill, Sir. It is pertinent at this stage to say that when we were thinking about membership of this Bill those who were supposed to make good contributions to the Bill were left out with the result that some of us here found what we did not want to be there as being in this Bill. So, I believe, that we should urge our Members in future not to oppose Amendments irrationally. They should think about them before they oppose Amendments which will, in fact, get rid of the intention of the Act.

I say, with respect, Sir, that we should try, as much as possible, to also have in our minds when we have boards of this type, to avoid sentiments, because I am sure some of our men, when we go to talk about membership in future, would think that some are not well represented. I believe that all we should do is to make this representation very broad and to cover the whole country.

With these few remarks, I say I am supporting the Bill.

Mr Ibrahim M. Ali (Maiduguri) : I am making more or less a contribution to the debate on this Bill.

I think that while I appreciate the speed with which we pass Amendments and Bills, I think sufficient time should be given so that we could debate these things thoroughly. I really wanted to make the same observation raised that by rejecting one representative we are merely substituting another evil that is the Permanent Secretary. But it is the express wish of the House that no civil servant should be involved in the management of the Mortgage Bank. However, now we have turned round to put the greater of the evil. I am sure all Members believe that the Permanent Secretary is not going to have time. Whether we like it or not, it is a representative of the Ministry of Finance who is going to sit in the Board. I think we should be very clear in our own contributions. We should give enough time to Members to speak on these points, otherwise Amendments 4 and 5 could have passed very easily because they are valid arguments. So, while I appreciate the urgency of passing Bills please let us give sufficient time for debates so as to get a cross-section of ideas from the Members on the Floor.

I would also like to appeal to the Speaker and the Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency Mr S. U. Wanganga that it is the express desire and wish of this House to eliminate civil servants in the management of the Federal Mortgage Bank. Rather than going ahead and passing the Bill in its entirety, we should devise means of sending it back to the Committee to review in accordance with the express wishes and desires of the majority of the Members of this House. Erroneously Members thought that by rejecting the *one representative* it meant also rejecting the whole of the civil service,

[MR ALI]

but that is not the case. Let us give the Committee another chance to present a much more agreeable solution to this controversial point.

At this point I would like to sit down.

Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

Report of the Public Petitions Committee on the 1980 Budget

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members your Committee on Public Petitions sat on four formal occasions following the resolution of this House on the 19th of March, 1980. I am happy to report that we have completed our assignment and I laid on the Table yesterday the report of our Committee on the assignment. With the leave of the Speaker and hon. Members I now read the report.

Your Committee on Public Petitions in the House of Representatives met on four formal occasions on the 20th March, 1980, 21st March, 1980, 25th March, 1980 and 27th, March, 1980 to consider the proposed Budget of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the year 1980 as applicable to the Public Complaints Commission. This is in pursuance of the House of Representatives Resolution of 19th March, 1980 on the Appropriation Bill of 1980.

APPROACH : The Committee considered it pertinent to invite some officials of the Public Complaints Commission in the course of considering the proposed Budget. On this score, the following officials of the Commission were invited officially to appear before the Committee.

Mr Aminu Ibrahim Katsina, the Secretary ; K. C. Okoro, Deputy Secretary ; Mr Jacob Opeyemi Ajayi the Principal Accountant of the Commission. Also we interviewed some officials from the Office of the Head of Service on Personnel matters and from the Department of Recurrent Expenditure and Budget of the Ministry of Finance.

(1) Personal Emoluments : The Committee noted the following increases in the Commission's personnel Establishments in the various sections—

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member for Aniocha (Mr Uwechue), I was thinking that when we have a bulky report like this all that you will do is to give us a brief summary of what you have in mind. Then we will make our own contributions approving or rejecting it.

Mr G. N. Uwechue : As Mr Speaker pleases. Hon. Members, I was merely going through the report as presented. You can see that the total sum budgeted for this Commission which is a very small establishment is ₦3.5 million, not billion, but million Naira. The Section of the Estimates dealing with this Commission is from pages 365-368. We have noted with satisfaction that the Committee, over the past five years, has performed its functions satisfactorily, having regard to the funds available to them.

During our deliberations, we noted a particular item which is on page 368 of the Estimates. It was the item on information. We observed that during the 12-month period of 1979-80 Financial Year, a total sum of ₦16,000 was spent on this particular item. But for the 9-month period of the 1980 Financial Year, 1st April-31st December, 1980, the Vote for this Head was ₦36,000. At this point, we had to invite people from the Commission itself because we felt that the increase of more than one hundred per cent on this particular item was unreasonable. When we invited the Secretary and Members of the Commission, they, in fact, confirmed to us that they received ₦16,000 for the 1979-80 Financial Year, and they also, for this 1980 Financial Year, budgeted only ₦16,000. But unfortunately, they found that ₦36,000 has been printed. They, of course, contacted the Ministry of Finance who said that they only approved also ₦16,000 this year. In other words, that the extra ₦20,000 was the printer's mistake.

On this score, we had to invite some people from the Ministry of Finance to explain; and they confirmed to us that what was budgeted was ₦16,000, just like last year, and that the extra ₦20,000 we have seen here did not affect the ultimate Vote on this particular Head, and we were satisfied.

We also observed that in the past years a lot of money was spent by this Commission on rents—rent of office accommodation. As a matter of fact, if you go through the report, you will see that ₦150,000 was spent as rents in the 1979-80 Financial Year, and they have now budgeted ₦220,000 for the 1980 Financial Year. So, here, we advised them that it would be in the best interest of the Commission and, of course, of the country if some Capital Expenditure is established to set up the Commission's own offices in Lagos or in the Federal Capital, maybe in Abuja later, and in every State Headquarter. We also observed that since the last Financial Year they have opened up offices now in every State, therefore, this has given rise to their justified demand for increased revenue. On the whole, we felt that the Votes for this Commission was just barely enough to carry out their duties for the period of 9 months in this Financial Year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the verdict is yours.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Chairman of the Committee, I have a very short question here. Go to page 4 of your report before paragraph 5. You said, *the Committee is of the view that this is an important item as it provides a forum for direct interchange of thoughts and ideas among Commissioners; bearing the above commitments in mind the Vote is considered inadequate.* So, you are saying that the Vote in respect of that item is inadequate. What then do you suggest as adequate?

Mr Uwechue : To begin with, this is the first time they are going to have it, so there was no way we could have compared with what they had the previous year. But from our discussions with them, it is possible for them just to manage through with the ₦10,000. We are merely noting this for the future.

Mr Speaker : It is very necessary, where you do not like a particular figure, always tell us which

[MR SPEAKER]

figure you think would be appropriate for that item because we want the Government to succeed.

Mr Uwechue : What I am saying, Sir, is that they did accept that the figure is not in the least sufficient, but within this first Financial Year we persuaded them to do with it. So, we are not recommending any increase. We are just saying that it is just about the minimum they require for their purposes. It is for the Conference of Commissioners ; so, they just have to cut down on what they have to do for this financial year.

Mr Speaker : Members, any questions for the hon. Chairman of the Committee ?

Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I have a few comments on the report of the Committee just presented. Beginning from page 4, I notice that the Committee has taken notice of the development of a library by that Commission and has said nothing about it. Knowing the work of that Commission, I am very much in doubt of the necessity to provide funds up to the tune of ₦7,000 for the development of a library. Point two, which has just been cleared by the question from the Speaker, is on the Conference of Commissioners. I disagree with the views of the Committee on this matter because, I think, there is nothing to suggest that the Commission made a good Estimate of what they may require for a Conference of their Commissioners, and, in any case, they are not going to have more than one conference in a year, to be at all useful. So, I think, the amount of ₦10,000 is quite adequate. The third point is on page 5.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : My point of order is Standing Order 63. I am not so sure in my mind that the procedure we have adopted this morning in respect of part of the Budget proposals conforms with the procedure laid down under the Standing Order 63.

Mr Speaker : Read the portion you are talking about.

Mr Iyayi : Do you want me to read it ?

Mr Speaker : Yes, the one that affects our procedure.

Mr Iyayi : (1) *During each year there shall be introduced into the House an Appropriation Bill which shall contain the estimated financial requirements for expenditure on revenue account on all the services of the Government for the succeeding financial year. The details of these financial requirements shall be contained in the Estimates which shall be presented at the same time.*

(2) *In moving the Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill the mover shall not be bound by Standing Order 32 (Time Limit of Speeches).*

I am not sure in mind, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we have adopted that procedure.

Mr Speaker : This is what happened (*Mr Iyayi*). You will remember that the very first day we started to handle this Budget, we suspended this Standing

Order. The simple reason is that this is applicable in a Parliamentary System. This is a Presidential System. We have not been able to build up our own rules to guide us in this new system.

But what we are doing is purely out of convenience. We have suspended the Orders and we are taking the whole Budget piecemeal. Each Committee will make its own report. We would debate the report, accept it or reject it. When we have received all the reports of the Committees the Second Reading of the Bill would be made bearing in mind those ones we have accepted and the ones that we have rejected. Then the Bill would be passed as we accepted or rejected them.

Mr F. O. Iyayi : I appreciate that, Mr Speaker, but I would have thought that it would make for continuity and one could have a sort of overall picture, if, after all the reports have been received, they are then debated on Second Reading, that is where paragraph 4 of Standing Order 63 applies.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Member Iyayi, you are just complaining that you have not read a single report. When will you read twenty-five reports ? We are expecting from about twenty-five committees. You have not read this very one report, and you want to read all the twenty-five reports at the same time.

Mr Iyayi : I have glanced through it curiously.

Mr Speaker : It would be very difficult for Members to gather all the reports, read all of them, come here and make contributions on all of them. It would be very difficult, Mr Iyayi. We take them piecemeal the way we are going, so that we could make useful contributions. I think, we are in order.

Mr Iyayi : Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Prof. Opeyemi Ola (Ekiti West) : Mr Speaker, hon. Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to make a point of explanation on the submission by my honourable colleague, Hon. Iyayi. While I am not trying to repeat or to confirm what he is saying, I would like to make some points of explanation on what I have previously spoken to you about, in your Chambers, Mr Speaker. That is, while I give respect to the previous submission that we consider the Budget piecemeal, namely by submitting reports Committee by Committee, I think, Sir, there must be a time when we shall reconsider this position, because if we do not do so we would have taken a wrong procedure, and the whole of the budgetary process would be distorted.

Putting it very briefly, I think, a budget something is one exercise. It is an integrated something put before the National Assembly and therefore, being integrated and being one piece, there should be a time when the whole of the Budget is first of all presented before the National Assembly for a total consideration of the whole thing, when every Member of Parliament, regardless of party consideration should have time to look at the Budget in respect of how it fulfils the national interest,

[PROF. OLA]

in terms of how it spells our certain priorities and so on and so forth. We cannot debate a Budget without first of all doing this. It is when we have considered the Budget like this, that we can have the second stage where you bring the reports of the Committees stage by stage. When the Committees have submitted their reports then the reports go to the Appropriation Committee which takes the final decision, then submits the whole thing to the Assembly for final adoption. I think, Sir, we have to raise this again tomorrow before we start any serious deliberation.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir,—

Mr Speaker : Are you pointing Prince Awa-Ekpo to order ?

Quorum

Mr Rotimi : Mr Speaker, Sir, my order is on the question of quorum which is an important issue in the deliberations of this honourable House. From my observation, Mr Speaker, it appears that we cannot effectively continue with this debate without forming a quorum.

Mr Speaker : The Clerk should please check the quorum.

Hon. Members, I understand there is no quorum, and in the circumstance, the House stands adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.07 p.m. pursuant to Standing Order 8 (2).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 17th April, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Message from the President

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I received a letter from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The letter came yesterday. By the time it came the House had already risen. So, I could not read it yesterday. The letter reads as follows :

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
STATE HOUSE
LAGOS, NIGERIA

16th April, 1980

The Hon. Mr Edwin Ume Ezeoke,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Parliament Buildings,
Tafawa Balewa Square,
Lagos

Dear Mr Speaker,

Special Committee on the
Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation

I thank you for your letter No. S/NA/R.48/1/164 of 15th April, 1980, informing me of the unanimous Resolution passed by the House of Representatives at its sitting yesterday relating to the investigations by the House into the alleged missing money in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.

2. While expressing my appreciation for the commendable initiative taken by the House on this matter, I wish to inform you that in view of the dramatic turn which the episode has now taken, I deem it necessary in the public interest to set in motion the appropriate judicial processes to effectively get at the root of the issue. Accordingly, I will shortly, set up the Crude Oil Sales Tribunal of Inquiry whose membership will be made up of men with appropriate expertise, experience and integrity.

3. The composition of the Tribunal is as follows :

- | | | |
|---|----|----------|
| (i) Mr Justice Ayo Irikefe, Justice of the Supreme Court | .. | Chairman |
| (ii) Mr A. Mbanefo, Past President of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Accountants | .. | Member |
| (iii) Mr A. O. Akinrinmisi, Director of the Union Bank | .. | Member |

(iv) Alhaji Aliyu Musa Dangivwa, Secretary-General of the Nigerian Labour Congress .. Member

(v) Alhaji Sule Kurfi, Engineer and Oil Marketing Executive Member

A copy of the terms of reference of the Tribunal is enclosed for your information.

4. Finally, it is apposite for me to notify you that in order to facilitate the work of the Tribunal and to enable it perform its functions in a suitable atmosphere, I have today decided to dissolve the Board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and to approve that the Managing Director and some members of the Senior Management of the Corporation be asked to go on leave.

5. I thank you once again for your timely initiative.

Yours Sincerely,
(Sgd) ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI,
President of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria

So, hon. Members you can see the immediate result and the Presidential reaction to our resolution in this House.

Special Committee on NNPC

Mr E. B. Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I beg to move for the suspension of Standing Order 19 to enable me move the following Motion—

That in view of the fact that a Judicial Commission of Enquiry has now been appointed by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in response to the overwhelming demand of the public for a probe into the affairs of the NNPC with particular reference to the sale of Crude Oil between January 1976 and December 1979 and the alleged loss or misappropriation—

Mr Speaker : You have derailed. I thought your application is to suspend the Standing Orders. Let us deal with that one first.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, my first Motion is for your indulgence to suspend the Standing Order 19 to enable me move the Motion.

An hon. Member : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there is no argument in this one.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 19 be suspended to enable Mr Etienam to bring his Motion.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion—

That in view of the fact that a Judicial Commission of Enquiry has now been appointed by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the

[MR. ETIENAM]

Federal Republic of Nigeria in response to the overwhelming demand of the public for a probe into the affairs of the NNPC with particular reference to the sale of Crude Oil between January 1976 and December 1979 and the alleged loss or misappropriation of the 2.8 billion naira oil proceeds, that the special Committee appointed by this honourable House to investigate the matter be suspended with immediate effect. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I beg to move.

Mr D. Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is very straightforward and it is not controversial. It is propelled by the consideration of our national interest and I hope it will be supported by all sections of this honourable House.

We are all aware that the whole episode of 2.8 billion naira oil proceeds started on the Floor of this honourable House by the Motion proposed by my hon. Colleague the member for Degema I (*Mr D. Princewill*). This honourable House did not waste time, Sir, to go into the matter. It set up a Special Committee under the able Chairmanship of the Deputy Speaker of this House. Since then they have been working almost twenty-four hours to ensure that the report is presented to this honourable House.

There is no doubt that when the history of the whole episode is going to be written, the patriotic role of this honourable House in this matter will certainly be mentioned. The whole nation is one with the House of Representatives in their desire to know what has happened to this alleged amount which is said to have been misappropriated.

We are all aware, that as a Legislative body, the supreme law-making body of this country, we have our limitations in matters of executive action. We have our handicaps, we have our constraints. We can take decisions here, but how do we implement these decisions ?

Mr Speaker, Sir, our Special Committee on NNPC have been working very hard, but unfortunately they have not got the necessary facilities to enhance their work. We do not have the facts. It does appear that we have been working on mere speculations.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, hon. Etienam, we were not working on speculation. Could you withdraw that please.

Mr Etienam : I withdraw that ; we were not working on speculation. The point I am making is that the facilities we have are grossly inadequate for this great assignment. The assignment, is an assignment that history and posterity will definitely like to reflect on what had happened. I know this motion, being a very straightforward one does not require any long speech in order to get the support of the House ; but I want to make one point, before I sit down, and this is a very serious point—that while the ordinary people of this country

appreciate the efforts of the House of Representatives in finding out what actually happened to this amount, there are certain extraneous forces which tended to use this situation to undermine the credibility of this Administration.

I want to say, Sir, with the greatest respect, that the failure of our present experiment to re-establish democracy in this country is surely not going to reflect adversely on one political party in this country. I would, therefore, like to say, that those who want to use this issue to destabilise this country should be warned. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Etienam : Finally, Mr Speaker, I would appeal to my Colleagues to realise that this is a very important Motion because the integrity of this nation is involved. Our integrity as law-makers, our integrity as people who took the initiative on this matter is also involved. It is only proper that we should allow the Executive to do something about this matter.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support this Motion with the following contributions: Firstly, we the Members of the House of Representatives brought out this Motion with the best of intentions. Our intention was to get the root cause of the missing money and also to see to all the irregularities within the NNPC. We had started our work and the nation was with us. Some people from some quarters started issuing conflicting statements that left us in a complete state of confusion. We were still desperate against all odds to go ahead with our investigation. Finally, the nation felt we were not doing enough. The students of this country came out with placards accusing Members of the National Assembly as a whole, and not a particular House. We, who brought up this Motion, brought it to show the world that we are here to work for this country, that we who are here have no hands in the missing money, that we have not been bribed by anybody and that we are going into it without any fear or favour. But unfortunately those who are interested in it from some Houses or from some quarters dabbled into the affairs and we, Members of the National Assembly as a whole, are classified as those who are interested in the whole show.

Now, confusion stepped in. The students, specialists in crisis, were mounting up pressure, and the President saw it wise not to let the nation drift to a state of unknown destination. Hence he stepped in and decided to institute a judicial commission of inquiry. Before the President did this, the Senate stepped in, rightly or wrongly. They are left to be judged by this nation. In as much as they are entitled to stepping into any matter by their constitutional rights and their representative rights, they stepped in, okay.

We have three arms in this Presidential system: we have the Senate, we have the House of Representatives, we have the Presidency.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Poloma : The Executive, I beg your pardon. We have the Executive and we have the Judiciary, and then we have the fourth, and that is the Press. The Executive has decided to institute a Judicial Commission of Inquiry, which is one arm. The Senate has decided to institute a Judicial Commission of inquiry, which is one arm. These arms are elected by the same constituency, that is Nigeria, as we were elected by Nigeria. If we say we have three arms as a whole, which represent one hundred *per cent*, which were elected, two say they want a Judicial Inquiry which is sixty-six two-third *per cent*, and the third arm, comprising thirty-three one-third *per cent* say no, are we being democratic? Hon. Colleagues, in a democracy majority prevails.

To sum up, I have to say that the students have called for a Judicial Inquiry with their placards, the Senators have called for a Judicial Inquiry, and the President has instituted a Judicial Inquiry. There is nothing wrong in this action. We will not allow a chaotic situation in this country where none of us will be free to even conduct the affairs of this country.

And in view of the chaotic situation that is prevailing right now, I support the President's action and I support this Motion.

Mrs J. C. Eze (Uzo-Uwani) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want us to please view this matter from a very serious angle. Nigeria is too big to be toyed with any further. You can see the reaction of the students. It is just a very natural thing. I am not trying to say the students were wrong, but I feel that they were misdirected. (*Applause*) There is no place and no country that would have such a number of paupers and beggars on the streets and have undergraduates and scholars some of whom cannot even pay their 50 kobo per meal in the school, hearing that up to 2.8 billion Naira is missing, and you expect that they will feel happy.

The point is that the students were not told that the Members of the National Assembly—both the Senators and the Members of the House of Representatives are only trying to help Nigeria to find this money which had been embezzled in this country as far back as 1978. The auditing, and the Account we are talking about was ended since 1978 and not just today. So, the National Assembly, having come into this country, has taken pains and trouble to see how they can improve on the condition of our people. The National Assembly is only trying to see if the public, anybody within Nigeria, be he a woman, a man or a child, will come forward and give us a complete clue of how this money got embezzled would come forward and give us the information. Then the students turned round, because some people went to instigate them against a particular thing and came to the National Assembly to mob hon. Members of the Assembly.

Hon. Members, I am very much in support of what the President of the country had done, because I could see that some people are trying to use this opportunity to bring another confusion into this country. What we are talking about is this. Now that the Judicial Inquiry is going on, anybody with any

information, be it in the National Assembly or within the public should please send such information to the Judicial Inquiry.

Furthermore, I want to reflect on what we have been saying in this House. It is good for every parastatal in Nigeria to have what we call reflection of Federal character. What has happened in NNPC will continue to happen unless there is a Board that will reflect people from different states of the country. In any parastatal, any office any where in Nigeria, we should have people working there coming from different states of this country so that you do not gang up relations and brothers. (*Applause*) There is nothing that anybody can do when, in a place, a Corporation or a Company, the Managing Director is from Ibo land, the Accountant is from Ibo land, the Voucher writer is from Ibo land the Messenger is from Ibo land and everybody is from Ibo land. (*Applause*) Definitely, I believe that this would create room for fraud. (*Applause*)

My hon. Colleagues, with these few points I beg to support the Motion. Thank you.

Mr F. C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, and my dear Colleagues, I would want us really to be serious about the issue at stake. I think the issue at stake is an issue of whether to be or not to be. We set up a Committee here. We have been working on the Committee. A few things happened; whether inspired or not does not interest me. What interests me now is the present situation. What do we do? There is a Judicial Commission set up. Are we going to abandon our own Committee? (*Interruption*) Hon. Gentlemen, please allow me my freedom.

The issue is that the three arms of Government cannot afford to conflict. It is my opinion really that since we were the first to start this investigation and because of certain incidents, a Judicial Commission of Inquiry has been set up, I propose that we should go on and produce an interim report. (*Applause*)

My reason is that the National Assembly is the law-makers of this country. We cannot abandon our responsibilities. We are representatives of the people. We cannot succumb to any type of insinuation. We cannot succumb and forget our responsibility to the people. I feel that if we do abandon this project half way, we shall look ridiculous. I, therefore, urge this House with all seriousness to comply with the directive given by the Speaker yesterday that we go on, produce a report and debate it on Monday. I urge Members of this House to give support to this proposals.

Mr M. A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, let us put politics aside. The topic before us is the question of finding out how this 2.8 billion naira got out of hand.

It is our belief that the only thing which will satisfy every Nigerian is that we find out the truth, the full truth, and nothing but the truth in it. Nothing less will satisfy the Nigerian public than knowing either that that money has not been lost or that it has been lost and the people responsible are named. There's no argument about this.

[MR YELWA]

Coming also to the prove by the House itself, we have already established a precedence. We have already appointed a Committee. This Committee has been on this job for three months. I think it is only fair and honourable on our part to keep to our words and get at least an interim report from this Committee. We are not actually against the Judicial enquiry as such. Every Nigerian will certainly support it because all we want is the truth in the matter. But let me give a word of warning about the probes. Experience has shown that probes always give results on the wish of the appointing authorities. This is a fact. We have had it. We know of it. So, let us warn here that the Nigerian society will only be satisfied when the whole truth is known over this issue. Certain reputations have been ruined by probes. Certain black spots have been painted white by probes. This is not what we want here. I think, at least at this stage, the House is at liberty to have an Interim Report so that we can satisfy ourselves that something has been done over this. The interest of this House must also be covered in the Commission. I feel we have been kept in the back-ground. We started this and there is no doubt that our Committee has some facts at their disposal now. But neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives has been invited into this Commission. I feel we should have been part and parcel of whatever is instituted.

Mr M. J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am particularly in sympathy with the Mover of the Motion now on the Floor. I take this chance, Sir, to commend the President for the prompt action he has taken to set up the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the ₦2.8 billion affair. Be that as it may, I am saying, with all amount of responsibility, that this House cannot abdicate its own function, cannot run away, from its own responsibilities, merely because a Presidential Commission has been set up.

A Special Committee of this House had been set up to investigate the ₦2.8 billion affair, and we all know that the Committee has been doing a tremendous job. Special Committee which was set up derived its power from Section 82, Sub-section 1 of the Constitution that vests the National Assembly with power to investigate. That Section does not expressly or impliedly say that we should run away from our responsibilities. I am urging that the Special Committee set up by this House be allowed to continue its investigations. (*Applause*) We must not, be seen to be rubber stamp Members of the House of Representatives. The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary are three arms of Government, more or less three streams. They are not likely to meet as they are running on different channels.

Mr Speaker, Sir, even Mr President, in his own address to the nation, has not categorically stated that the Special Committee set up by the National Assembly should stop performing its duties. He has never mentioned that. I am saying that this is a matter into which no politics should be brought at all. Every eye of this nation is on the outcome

of the ₦2.8 billion, and the honourable Mr Speaker had given directives to the Special Committee to submit its Report to this honourable House. We have not even brought up a Motion, first of all, to rescind Mr Speaker's directive.

Mr Speaker : Point of order. Yes, Alhaji Muhammadu Kaita.

Alhaji Muhammadu Kaita (Kaita) : My point of Order is 26 (3) (4). What I am trying to point out, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that the Motion is asking to suspend the Committee not to disband it.

Mr Speaker : Yes, please, Mr Akpabio, the Motion is that the Committee be suspended, not to be dissolved.

Mr Akpabio : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the Committee should not be suspended. The Committee should be allowed to do its own job. We have confidence in the Committee, we also have confidence in the Judicial Tribunal of Inquiry which has been set up ; we are not going to run away from our responsibilities.

Many have spoken about the recent events, students demonstrations, and outcry here and there over the ₦2.8 billion. I am saying, that we are not here to deceive ourselves, we are not here to behave like hypocrites, with all amount of respect to the Members of this honourable House. This is not a matter for politicking. Everyone of us in this country is affected. ₦2.8 billion is such a huge amount that can even sustain the economy of my own State for 50 years, ₦320 million a year. This is a matter that we are not going to point any accusing fingers at anybody. The whole nation is involved in this matter. We have been elected by our people, we stand by the resolution of this honourable House to continue with the enquiry. I am urging this House that this Motion to suspend the Standing Committee on NNPC over the ₦2.8 billion affairs be thrown out.

Alhaji Aliyu Isa (Makarfi) : I rise to support this Motion. Hon. Members, we must realise that all of us, the Judicial Inquiry and the House Inquiry, are trying to get to the same point. I do not think that we should be at logger-heads with one another in this case. Secondly, I want this House to realise this, that firstly we have no judicial powers ; secondly, we do not have diplomatic channels ; thirdly, we do not control the Police, the Immigration and the other important factors that would be required to go deep into this matter and get the facts.

Several Members : No ! No !

Alhaji Isa : Hon. Members, I want you to understand that—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr E. N. D. Uwandu (Mbaitoli) : My point of order is a constitutional one. In Section 83 (1) page 31 from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (2) 83 (1) says that we can :

(d) to issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects to do so and does not excuse such failure, refusal or neglect to the

satisfaction of the House or the committee in question, and to order him to pay all costs which may have been occasioned in compelling his attendance or by reason of his failure, refusal or neglect to obey the summons, and also to impose such fine as may be prescribed for any such failure, refusal or neglect ; and any fine so imposed shall be recoverable in the same manner as a fine imposed by a court of law.

(2) *A summons of warrant issued under this section may be served or executed by any member of the Nigeria Police Force or by any person authorised in that behalf by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the case may require.*

So, the hon. Member should not try to deceive this House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Yes, Alhaji Aliyu Isa.

Alhaji Isa : Hon. Members, what I want you to realise is this. We do not have control on the Judiciary.

Several Members : No ! No !

Alhaji Isa : Not yet. To get overseas banks involved, and to get the right information we need from these people, we need a very powerful diplomatic channel to get what we want, or at least the information we want to get.

What I would suggest this House to advise the President on is this. All travelling documents of these people involved should be impounded because right now some of these people are being reported to be on the run.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to grab this opportunity to advise this honourable House to appoint a team of very powerful external Auditors to audit the Central Bank and the Minting Company from 1966 to-date. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Waje (*Alhaji A. Muhammadu Tudun Wada*) is to speak.

Alhaji A. Muhammadu Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the issue of this investigation has developed three interesting features. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, hon. Members, listen to the PRP Leader.

Alhaji Tudun Wada : Right from the outset, Mr Speaker, when this House convinced itself that there are indeed some anomalies in the NNPC, it became a matter of strained relationship between the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This is a very interesting feature in the whole episode because at a time, it appeared as if the Senate wanted to convince the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that the House of Representatives was indulging itself in an exercise of futility. However, as time went by, the House of Representatives was by the hour, not even by the day, confirmed on its resolve to uncover the shady deals and the shady affairs in the NNPC.

Now, the second aspect that is, of course, of interest in nature is the students factor in the whole episode. Mr Speaker, Sir, by way of information, and, of course, for the avoidance of doubt, I would like to inform Members of this honourable House that I was, in my student days, a student Leader myself ; a national student Leader at that. I was a national Student Leader in the Military Administration, and at that time things were being done without the citizens of this country having a right to question them. Citizens of this country had no right or even the privilege to gain access to anything, but today we are operating an open civilian Administration where the representatives are accessible to the represented ; where the deeds of government are announced in the Radio and Television and on the pages of newspapers everyday. It, therefore, becomes a matter of grave concern that students should at this stage allow themselves to fall into a situation whereby they lose all their credibility and their image of objectivity. I would have thought, as it used to apply, that before the students whose voices matter very much in the body politic of this country decide to come out on demonstration or any protest whatever, they would have cross-checked their facts and determine what is going on. (*Hear ! Hear !*)

They did not make any attempt to get in touch with the House of Representatives ; they did not make any attempt to get in touch with the Special Committee on NNPC ; they did not make any attempt to get in touch with anybody or with any Member of the Committee. They only saw it fit to come out here and embarrass everybody.

Chief Godwin Bekole Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, there is a point of order by the hon. Member for Port Harcourt II (*Chief Wodi*).

Chief Wodi : My Point of order is Order 26 (2). We are not discussing students' organisations here, so, I would want my hon. Colleague to direct himself to the point in question.

An hon. Member : Sit down !

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Waje (*Alhaji A. Muhammadu Tudun Wada*), please continue.

Alhaji Tudun Wada : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Therefore, because of that, Mr Speaker,—

Alhaji Mutari Adamu (Dutse) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, there is a point of order.

Alhaji Adamu : My point of order is Order 28 (3) ;

Members should not read newspapers in their places. The hon. Member of the NPN is reading a newspaper. (*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! All right. Yes, the hon. Member for Waje (*Alhaji A. Muhammadu Tudun Wada*) please go on.

Alhaji Tudun Wada : Mr Speaker, Sir, by way of advice as an elder student unionist, I would like to advise the students of this country to understand the strategic position they happen to occupy in the body

[ALHAJI TUDUN WADA]

politic of this country, and to understand that we consider whatever feelings they have as important and also to understand that courtesy demands that any matter which is *sub judice* before the National Assembly, should be left as *sub judice* and nobody should dabble into it until a report comes out from the National Assembly.

The third factor, Mr Speaker, Sir, is, of course, what happened yesterday, and that is the creation of the Special Judicial Commission of Inquiry. Without sounding defeatist, I would like to say that I share the contents of the Motion before the Floor of the House this morning that our Committee should actually give way to the Special Judicial Commission of Inquiry. (*Applause*)

My reasons are as follows. In the first instance, this hon. House yesterday clearly expressed the intention, or rather gave the indication that at a certain stage we would request for the creation of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry. We gave the indication that when the time comes, we are actually going to request the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to create a Judicial Commission of Inquiry. Now, matters suddenly cropped up. Some political parties started inciting and dabbling into the issue, in a bid to capitalise on the issue of the NNPC and the missing money and to politicise the issue unnecessarily. (*Interruptions*)

It therefore, became very necessary and important for the President, in the interest of peace and good government of this country, to come out with a positive step to show that his Administration is actually concerned with what is happening in this Chamber.

Mr Speaker : Round up, please.

Alhaji Tudun Wada : Now, Mr Speaker, my final point will be to request that I be allowed to make a small Amendment on this Motion. The Motion was introduced this morning, and I think that I should be allowed to make a small Amendment.

Mr Speaker : No ! No !

Alhaji Tudun Wada : My Amendment will be only to request that the Committee be asked to produce an interim report and to wind up its activities forthwith because—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Have you finished ?

Alhaji Tudun Wada : If I am allowed to make the Amendment—

Mr Speaker : No, you are not allowed. Yes, the hon. Member for Owan (*Mr M. Femi Okun*) is to speak.

Mr M. O. Okun (Owan) : Mr Speaker, Sir, first I want to oppose the Motion. (*Applause*) I would urge this House to throw off this Motion because it is aimed at satisfying the temporary needs and whims of momentary political situation. Secondly, it is most irrelevant at this stage, incongruent and ill-conceived. I would now talk as a former student leader, and I would want to correct what my colleague did say about students. I do not see why students' demonstration should constitute a threat to this nation.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Okun : Students, have a right in this nation, and they must be heard. Student demonstrations are mere registration of their feelings and the feelings of the public. When the students demonstrated against the Anglo-Nigerian Pact—the Defence Pact—it was widely welcomed. When General Murtala Muhammed, the late head of State died, may his soul rest in peace, and, the students demonstrated, it was all welcomed by Nigerians. Now, they have demonstrated peacefully in protest against the alleged missing ₦2.8 billion which is of interest to all nationals of this country, you are worried. It is very sad that students action should be viewed from this very unprogressive angle by some Members of this hon. House.

However, in my contribution, I would want to say briefly that the setting up of a Judicial Commission by the President side by side with the Commission set up by this House is, to my mind, not only colossally at variance, it is also a negation of the elementary principles of Presidential system of government in any civilised society. Maybe you are yet to be told or be advised that the Senate is determined to humiliate the House of Representatives. I want to tell you this.

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Mr Okun : A very grave danger now threatens to engulf the powers of this House. Resulting from the unprincipled and greedy activities of some of our Members who have always been in collusion with the Executive and the Senate to satisfy their selfish ends. It is very unfortunate that some of us in this House have to treat this loss of ₦2.8 billion from a political point of view. I think this cuts across all party lines, and it should be so viewed. I am suggesting that the Committee set up by this House to look into the ₦2.8 billion missing in the NNPC should continue its job and submit a report to this House within the next two weeks.

Mr Speaker : Let us give other people a chance.

Mr Akin Ogunseye (Lagos South II) : I see no reason why we should at this stage want to suspend the House Committee probing the loss of ₦2.8 billion, and I would urge this House to continue with the investigation irrespective of whether the Presidential Judicial Commission is on or not. I will give—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : There is a point of order.

Mr Speaker : Point of order.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my wish to draw the attention of this honourable House to a very vital point of order. Only yesterday, Sir, we took a decision that—

Several hon. Members : What order.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin : The order is coming. Only yesterday, Sir. (*Interruptions*) The order is Order 26 (4). Only yesterday Sir, I will read it ; listen ; hold on. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Please read the Order. Let us hear the Order.

Mr Akinbisehin : If the Speaker will permit me, Sir, the Order is as follows :

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.

Only yesterday, Sir, you gave a directive. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please let us hear the point of order.

Mr Akinbisehin : Only yesterday, Sir, we took a decision that this Committee should conclude its proceedings before Friday so that we could debate it on Monday. There is no need to re-open the issue, and I humbly submit that we should give a ruling on this, Sir.

Mr Speaker : No ! No ! Bayo, I see the point you are making, but you will agree with me, in all honesty, that we did not take any decision like that yesterday. What I said was just a question of personal opinion. I said that the Committee should complete its report by tomorrow. That was what I said. It was not a resolution of this House.

Mr Akin Ogunseye : Mr Speaker, Sir, we all agreed.

Mr Speaker : No, it was not a resolution of this House. Please wind up.

Mr Akin Ogunseye : Now, I will like to say—

An hon. Member : A point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, let us hear him please. Order ! Order.

Mr Ogunseye : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I would not waste your time, but I would like to give three reasons why I think we must continue our investigation in this House. The first one is that we must ask ourselves this question : *why do we now want to abandon our responsibility ?* This is the first question. The second point, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that we have heard on the Floor of this House some persons—

Mr Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : What is the order ?

Mr Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : It is Order 26 (3) which says : *Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in Mr Speaker's opinion, prejudice the interests of parties thereto.*

Yesterday, a Judicial Commission of Inquiry was set up on the ₦2.8 billion. Today is another day. So, already there is a judicial commission of enquiry pending on this matter.

Mr Speaker : It is all right. We have unlimited powers. (Interruptions)

Mr Akin Ogunseye : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, we have heard on the Floor of this House from persons known—

The Speaker : What I am saying, Mr Bob-Manuel, is that this House has unlimited powers in Debates.

Mr Akin Ogunseye : The Deputy Speaker told us only a while ago that a lot of impediments had been put in the way of the Committee that is probing the affairs of the missing ₦2.8 billion and that there were persons—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Now that the Leader of the UPN is here, I think he can now take over from—

Several Members : No !

Mr Akin Ogunseye : Mr Speaker, Sir, we heard that certain personalities in this country were trying to put impediments in the way of the Committee probing the affairs of the ₦2.8 billion.

Now, the question we should ask ourselves is : are we now succumbing to the pressures and the threats from people who are alleged to be putting impediments in the way of the Committee ?

The other point is that, with all respects, the appointments of the Judicial Commission by the President does not necessarily nullify the activities of the Committee appointed by this House. So, I agree that the Committee should continue with its work and conclude in good and record time and report to us.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Please, the Chairman of the Committee is here now. Let him throw some light.

Several Members : No !

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Sergeant-at-Arms tell people to sit down. Hon. Members, I do appreciate the feelings of Members and, I think, in the circumstances the Report of the Special Committee will be submitted as scheduled. (Applause) That is, we will get the Report tomorrow. In the circumstances, this Motion is suspended until after the Report.

Please the Special Committee on NNPC will meet immediately.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

Presentation of Report

Mr Speaker : The Committee on Banking and Currency will present a Report. Yes, hon. Member for Aba. (Mr S. U. Wanganga).

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency on Losses of Nigerian Currency Notes at the Central Bank of Nigeria. I beg to move.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : The Report is now on the Table. Please distribute copies to Members so that it will be listed for debate in due course.

Hon. Members, we were considering a point of procedure in this matter of our Budget Bill. As you can see, we are going to receive about twenty-five Reports from the Standing Committees. Members have suggested that we have to create rules to enable us handle the Budget smoothly. There was a suggestion to the effect that what we should do is to collect the Reports and then pass them on to the Appropriation Committee that would do the various allocations and bring before us a comprehensive Report for debate. After the debate, the process of passing the Bill will then follow. If that is acceptable to us, I will urge the hon. Member for Aniocha (*Mr G. N. Uwechue*) to pass his Report to the Appropriation Committee. Every other Standing Committee should pass on its Report to the Appropriation Committee, which will in turn, bring a Comprehensive report to the House. We will then be in a position to debate it. Is it acceptable to Members ?

Several Members : Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move the adjournment of this sitting until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita (Kaita) : I rise to second the Motion.

Conduct of Debates

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : First of all, under Motion for adjournment, I would like, with due respect, Sir, to make an observation on the general conduct of the debates in this House. Naturally, when any issue comes up, it is almost impossible for every Member in this House to be given opportunity to air his views. But at the same time, I think, it is about time we realise our responsibility to this country, and as much as possible a cross-section of this honourable House should be given the opportunity to air their views particularly on major issues. Now, to my mind, it is not enough to pick only two people from each political party, out of a total of 448 Members here, to express views on things that really affect the entire nation. What then have we come here to do as Representatives of our people ? With due respect, Sir, I would appeal to the Speaker to please give us more time to air our views on issues.

I would like to make particular reference to the last Supplementary Appropriation Bill which was passed here some time last month or so.

Before we all came here, we were invited from our various constituencies. I remember some of us heard the news over the radio that we were being summoned to return to Lagos to come and pass or debate a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

But it is very unfortunate that many of us had to travel about five hundred or even over a thousand miles away to come to Lagos only to find out that we had no opportunity even to air our views on this vital issue.

Now then, when you compare the way and manner the Senate handled this particular Bill, I think, it took them almost three days before they could pass the same Bill which in turn was passed within only two hours in this House.

What impression do we give to the general public ? It appears then that some people will regard us as a mere appendage not only of the Senate but also of the Executive.

Having said that, I would also, with due respect, like to point out certain lapses within ourselves here. Some time ago a lot of us were crying that we want provision for this or that. But instead for us to come here, sit down and work, it is unfortunate that sometimes, as it happened yesterday, we could not even form a quorum to debate one of the most important aspects of our duties here, and that is the Budget. This is very unfortunate indeed. What impression do we give to members of the public if we cannot sit down tight and do the work for which we are elected ? I think it is about time we address ourselves to the work we are elected to do.

Finally, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that there is a growing tendency for some Members to regard one particular Committee or the other as more important to the work of this House than another Committee.

With particular reference to the work of the Committee on Public Service Matters, I discover that some Members who serve on two or three Committees merely regard the work of the Committee on Public Service Matters as a secondary assignment, and as such they care less even to attend meetings of the Public Service Matters. As a result sometimes, we could not even form a quorum. On the other hand, from the administrative point of view, I discover—(Interruptions)

Mr J. U. Uye (Vandeikya East) : Point of Order. Order 26 (6) says : *No Member shall impute improper motives to any other members.*

The hon. Member was saying that we were summoned to come and debate the Appropriation Bill. We were not summoned. We were here on Friday, and we were asked to come back on the Monday and debate the Bill. We were not invited to come and debate the Bill. We were only summoned back to come and pay our last respect to the late Senator. So, if you had gone home before the time, you are imputing improper motives to the other hon. Members. Nobody went home.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Akintunde Rotimi : Thank you very much. That is a point of correction rather than a point of order. Mr Speaker, as I was saying, the Committee on Public Service Matters is as important as any

[MR ROTIMI]

other Committee of this House, and to my mind, I think, the Committee on Public Service Matters even has a very wide spectrum over the rest of all the other Committees and I would like the Speaker—

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : Order 26 (6) says : *No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.*

I think the last Speaker was imputing motives. There are Members who are in the Capital Development Committee and at the same time in the Public Service Matters Committee, and these two Committees were scheduled to take place at the same time. I do not see why any one should think it is a responsibility for any one to attend one in preference to the other. I think it depends.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member for Ekiti North (*Mr Rotimi*), please round up.

Mr Akintunde Rotimi : In rounding up, Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that it will be quite irregular for people to regard an important Committee as the Committee on Public Service Matters as a subsidiary. It is true that some Members belong to one or two Committees and, to my mind, if Members will discharge their duties effectively, and efficiently, I do not know how one single Member, under the present circumstances when we have not got enough provisions, should serve on more than one or two Committees at the same time. This is exactly what is affecting the Committee on Public Service Matters.

Mr Speaker : Mr Rotimi, it is only in one respect I will just say something and that is the issue of quorum. What you said about it is correct, but unfortunately, you have talked to Members who are always present. Those who are responsible for the absence of quorum are outside there. So, the best thing for you is to go outside and talk to them. (*Laughter*)

Judicial Commission of Inquiry

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : In contributing to the debate on Motion for adjournment, I would agree with what the last Speaker said that on very vital issues, more than two persons from each party should speak so that there will be a cross-section of the views of the Members of the House, if time permits.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House, I will also raise a very solemn point on the matter of the NNPC. I feel that the Judicial Commission which was set up was a slap on the face of this House in as much as this House is the highest Court in the land. Once we have set up our own Committee to deliberate on the matter, hear investigations, the setting up of the Judicial Commission would be secondary. Although, there are concurrent parallel lines of activities between the Executive and the Legislature, but once we have commenced the Executive should have waited until we have finished.

And in point of fact, the President himself in a Television interview did say that if the Legislative House was not satisfied with the report which was forthcoming, he then would set up a Judicial Commission of Inquiry.

I will note with very great regret that the Commission of Inquiry set up consists of one Judge in this very vital matter. I would also hit a note of warning or perhaps, a very displeased voice that we have over-used one Judge in matters of inquiries by the Government, and that is Mr Justice Irikefe. There are other Judges. We cannot have him on Land Commission, Boundary Commission and every Commission, and they are all Commissions. He is not the only Judge appointed for the question of government inquiries. The public will think there is something more to it. When we were being told to vote for the Motion because people were stampeding here—

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North) : The Speaker is imputing motives and it is wrong of him. The Judge appointed so far has not failed the nation in his duties.

Mr E. O. Echetabu : He is not the only Judge. There are about four Commissions in which we have had only one Judge. There are seven Judges of the Supreme Court and we can, at least, try others for this Commission.

I feel, in the matter of ₦2.8 billion there should be three Judges sitting so that we will have a majority report. There should be three judges sitting in addition to the laymen. The Judge is the Chairman, therefore, he can just ostracise the reports of the other men and the Accountants. So, this aspect must be taken into consideration. People are now just saying if we do not do these things the members of the public will cry out. Let me warn this House that what you are trying to prevent will come down on you. If we suspend our own inquiry, the public will say we have eaten money and that is why we suspended our own.

I would also hit a very strong warning that when this House was constituted as the highest court of the land, a Member of the Senate was called upon to come and give evidence here. Rather than come here, he slighted us and had the impudence of going to the President. If any member of this House or of the Senate will go to the President, there is no need for us to pass a Motion. The procedure will be that there will be a Joint Resolution by the Houses to set up this Judicial Inquiry, and not for a few individual Members going to the President to advise him to set up this Judicial Commission of Inquiry. What are we then here for ? It is our duty to pass a Joint Resolution. I would not like somebody pampering himself to be above the Legislature of the land. This House is the highest court and is the highest law-making body of the land.

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Point of Order.

Mr Ijaola : I think the last speaker must stand properly. (*Laughter*)

Mr Echetabu : He does not understand that I am a lawyer of over 25 years experience, that I am talking now as a body constituted as the highest court in the land, and that this is the etiquette of the Bar.

I would also feel that, in order to have the concurrent powers working in their own parallel lines but never meeting. I hope that the setting up of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry will not make the committee work too fast and produce nothing, so that by tomorrow they just gag up a report and bring to us.

An hon. Member : Since January.

Mr Echetabu : Since January we quite agree, but we have seen even from information from newscast that you can only investigate the funds overseas by the concurrence of the Central Bank and the NNPC. What move have we made to find out the funds overseas? If the Members went overseas they would not find out this money, except the Central Bank together with the NNPC give their consent, or in the alternative, the Head of State asks Mrs Thatcher in Britain or any other Head of State of any other country to help in order to get it, or by a judicial process which is very lengthy.

We know there are some people who want to cause confusion in this country by using 2.8 billion naira. We are not supporting them. We are also aware of the fact that some people have pampered students to come here and stampede us. Nobody is going to stampede us. And then there is the alleged fear of a *coup*. Tell the Army they cannot do anything. They have failed the nation with 2.8 billion naira. If they come with the guns we will go to our own constituencies. They have the guns, they cannot rule.

What I am trying to say is that until we have done justice to this matter, there will be no grounds on which we would now say we would shirk our responsibilities and allow the Executive Power. I think that we are making a mistake of thinking that we are running the stale Westminster type of government. I hope that this House will continue with its inquiry, finish with it, summon up whoever it wants to summon under Section 83 of the Constitution in which we have inherent and legislative powers in due deliberations and regularisation of the interests of this country.

Attendance at Committee Meetings

Alhaji Sarki Adamu (Dawakin-Kudu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to speak first on the attendance at committee meetings by both the Chairmen and Members of this House. Mr Speaker, it was scheduled the day before yesterday that the meeting of the Appropriation Committee would take place at half past one. I and six other Members went and waited for over an hour and nobody turned up. The same thing happened yesterday. We went for the meeting of the Federal Capital Territory. We waited for half an hour, nobody turned up and we had to go.

Now, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to you personally to advise both the Committee Chairmen and the members because these committee meetings are very important. Any time we have Committee meetings we do not have to come to the Chamber of the Assembly, which means the meeting is a substitute to our sitting here, and that is what we are paid for. We should realise our rights in the Assembly and our duties to the masses who elected us to this Assembly.

Students' Demonstrations

Secondly, I would like to speak on the students' demonstrations of yesterday and that of the day before yesterday, but the one of yesterday was the worst one, because they tried to harm some of the Senators who were here then. This demonstration, Mr Speaker, has nothing to do with the investigation of this 2.8 billion naira, because if it has something to do with the investigation, they would only limit themselves to that topic. But when they came here, they were abusing everybody. They were insulting everybody.

We have done nothing practically. We have only come into power about six months ago and none of us here is involved or has committed anything with regard to petroleum. We are only being good. We have only taken the initiative to investigate this in the interest of the nation. We deserve some credit; we do not deserve such treatment from the students. The students are doing nothing but practically demonstrating their bad behaviour, and we should try to put a stop to this immediately, because if this continues we have no security. If the students could come and attack us here in our chamber, I see no reason why they could not come to our Houses and attack us. (*Applause*)

If there is any political sabotage in this demonstration I think it should be investigated. Even if it is not, if it is leaked in the future, we shall take serious action in this country to either see that such a party which is involved is proscribed and would not stand the 1983 elections.

Judicial Commission of Inquiry

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, I am going to speak on the Commission of Inquiry instituted by the President. We should not be too sentimental or too irrational about this. I think that we should sit down and look at it from different angles.

The President has already carried out our directives and has suspended the Board of the NNPC, as recommended by the House of Representatives. This is quite good, but I think our argument here centres on the President's acceptance of the Senate's decision which automatically divests our Special Committee of its functions.

Much as this is the position, we should understand that our Special Committee is professionally incapable of handling this job within the time stipulated. I know, of course, that the Committee can obtain a lot of facts, and has the guts to reveal these facts.

ALHAJI ADAMU]

It may be that the difference with the newly appointed Judicial Inquiry is that it is more professionally composed and perhaps can professionally hide something. But, the two situations should be weighed; as soon as the House Special Committee finishes its investigations, the results arising from these investigations should be handed over to the Judicial Commission of Inquiry to carry on with its investigations accordingly. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is getting thinner and thinner, and I ask that the question be now put.

Mr Lam Adesina (Ibadan South): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the question be now put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adjourn until 9 o'clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.20 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Committee on Education

Dr E. C. Emeziwure (Ibadan South): Mr Speaker, I beg to table for the consideration of the House, report of the Committee on Education on the submission from the Federal Government and our recommendation thereon, and move for its adoption.

Mr Speaker: Yes, anybody wanting to speak?

Mr E. C. Emeziwure (Ibadan South): Mr Speaker, I beg to thank the House for its support.

Mr Speaker: We have now received the report.

Some Members: No.

Mr Speaker: The Government has not got enough copies of the report for all Members.

Dr Emeziwure: Mr Speaker, I did not check in the House on the necessary responsible circular to every Member of the House but will

Mr Speaker: I beg to put the question.

Mr Adesina: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr Speaker: I beg to put the question.

Mr Speaker: I beg to put the question.

Mr Adesina: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the question be now put.

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Mr Adesina: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr Speaker: I beg to put the question.

Mr Speaker: I beg to put the question.

Mr Adesina: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the question be now put.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 21st April, 1980

The House met at 10.15 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Personal Explanation

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Mr Atimah, you said you have an explanation.

Mr Salau Atimah (Okehi-Isunwe) : My point of explanation is on today's Order Paper. If the Special Committee on NNPC had gone according to the Speaker's directive, by today we would have had our interim report. According to the announcement of the—

Mr Speaker : Please, hon. Mr Atimah, in the letter you gave me you said your explanation is on the Order Paper.

Mr Atimah : May I know what we call this ? I refer to this sheet as the Order Paper and everything in it is referred to as items on the Order Paper. Well, I may not know the technicalities involved, but what I am trying to refer to is the announcement that the Committee sitting has been suspended yet we came in to see the Committee summoned meet. That is exactly what I wanted to know, if this situation can be cleared.

Mr Speaker : If I can help you, our own Committee has not submitted its report yet. I know what you are referring to was the statement credited to the Deputy Speaker. What he actually meant was that the public sitting of the Committee has been suspended not the Committee itself. It is only the House that has a right to suspend the Committee because we set it up. It was the public sitting of the Committee that was suspended and not the Committee itself. I think that is clear.

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : On the Order Paper, continuing with the explanation of the last speaker, Mr Speaker, I think this House can also expand the Commission being set up by the Executive, as is now composed. One sole Judge for the Commission will not be sufficient. We may need about two or three Judges. We would like an expansion of this Commission of Inquiry (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : What is it about, Mr Echetabu ?

Mr Echetabu : Speaking on the Order Paper, it is only an explanation that this House perhaps may view that an expansion of the Commission so set up might be better in order to have a cross section of the whole country in the Enquiry.

Some hon. Members : No.

Mr Echetabu : The basis of this request, Mr Speaker, is that the sovereignty of a Presidential Constitution lies with the will of the people, and if we have only one sole Judge in a Commission of Inquiry—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : My point of order is Order 16. It does appear to me that hon. Echetabu did not, in fact, inform the Speaker in writing *in extensio* about his intension to make a point of explanation.

Mr Echetabu : I have made my submission on paper. Perhaps you did not see it. I know Order 16 better than yourself (*Laughter*). I have submitted it since Friday.

Dr Oreh : I was referring to Order 16, Mr Speaker, Sir, and I submit that hon. Echetabu did not submit his point of explanation *in extensio* to the Speaker. As a result, he was speaking at the ignorance of the Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, gentlemen, sit down.

Mr Echetabu : If I may continue, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : No, no. Dr Emekekwe please, go on with your report.

Before he goes on, Party Leaders, there will be a meeting in my office immediately. We have quite a lot of things to discuss.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Committee on Education

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to table, for the consideration of this House, report of the Committee on Education on the admission policy into Federal Institutions and our recommendation about ways and means of making this reflect the Federal character of Nigeria.

I beg to table the report.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr F. N. C. Nwandison (Oji River/Agwu South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : We have now received the report. I think everybody has got the report ?

Some Members : No.

Mr Speaker : Dr Emekekwe, have you got enough copies of the report for all Members ?

Dr Emekekwe : Mr Speaker, Sir, I did ask the Clerk of the House or the Secretary responsible to circulate it to every Member of the House last week.

Mr Speaker : It was put in everybody's pigeon hole, but the problem is that there are so many of these reports, so Members may not be aware of them especially when they come over the week end. So, we have all got the report please Gentlemen, go through the report. We shall come back to discuss the report, and if necessary we shall start a legislation on the admission policy because this is a very important matter.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Photographs of the House of Representatives

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : I think the Motion speaks for itself. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move—

That this honourable House notes that the authorities of the National Museum are currently holding an Exhibition entitled *Nigerian Government, yesterday and today* the purpose of which is to show the different stages in the development of Government in Nigeria from the colonial era to the present day; agrees that officials of the National Museum be allowed to take photographs of the House of Representatives while in Session on Tuesday, 22nd of April, 1980 to be displayed in the Exhibition.

I beg to move.

Mr H. M. J. Wachuku (Ukwa) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this honourable House notes that the authorities of the National Museum are currently holding an Exhibition entitled *Nigeria Government, yesterday and today* the purpose of which is to show the different stages in the development of Government in Nigeria from the colonial era to the present day ; agrees that officials of the National Museum be allowed to take photographs of the House of Representatives while in Session on Tuesday, 22nd of April, 1980 to be displayed in the Exhibition.

Mr Speaker : The Appropriation Committee will meet at 10.30 a.m. today in Committee Room 4. All the other Committees will meet as scheduled, and please Members of the Committee should try to hurry up over the Budget, because we are trying to see whether we can conclude it by the end of this month at least to enable us, the National Assembly, spend our own money.

Hon. Members, I do not know whether it is appropriate if we suggest a dead-line for the Committees to conclude their businesses. I am saying this because it has been noticed that some Committees come and instead of working full length, utilising the whole period allotted to them, they work just for about thirty minutes and go away. So, I will suggest that every Committee must be ready with its Report to be submitted to the Appropriation Committee on or before the last day of this month—30th April, 1980. Is that the wish of Hon. Members ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be adjourned until 10.00 tomorrow morning.

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : I rise to second the Motion.

Oil Exploration in Ondo State

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my State, our gratitude to the Federal Government for the token amount granted for the exploration of oil in Ondo State. It is hoped that within the next few years or months, Ondo State will join the oil-producing States in the Federation.

But then, I would like also to ask the President to increase this token amount because, from my reliable sources, there are vast mineral resources in all parts of Ondo State which, if we have sufficient money we can exploit not only for the benefit of Ondo State but also for the benefit of the whole Federation.

Policy on Wages and Salaries

Having said that, I would like also to make a brief observation on the current policy on wages and salaries for workers in this country. As you all know, there are a lot of dialogues going on between the Government, the NLC and the employers, but from our side of the National Assembly I would like to place it on record that the National Assembly has been doing all it can to ensure that the workers of this country get their fair share of the national cake.

We have put all our suggestions to the Executive, but there is one aspect which the Executive seemed to have overlooked and that is the continued wage freeze for the senior civil servants in this country. Having lifted the wage freeze in the private sector, to my mind, I do not think it will be in the best interest of the Public sector to continue with the wage freeze particularly for the senior civil servants.

I would like the Executive to particularly note that this is the fifth or sixth year since the salary of people at the higher level was last reviewed, and that was in 1974. To my mind, this is not in the interest of the senior workers in the Public Sector.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, the problem of car loan still lingers on. We have made recommendations that employers and the Government should give direct loans to workers instead of asking them to go through the banks.

Mr Speaker : Round up, please.

Mr Rotimi : While the Executive is insisting that workers should go through the banks, I find it difficult to understand the rationale behind the present policy whereby the Government spends a lot of money on

[MR ROTIMI]
official vehicles. As I am speaking here, Mr Speaker, there are a lot of Peugeot 505 vehicles in the premises of the Senate.

Mr Speaker : It is all right, it is time. Yes, the next person. Please, Committee Members should remember to attend their Committee meetings.

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I want to make it known to the hon. Members of this august House that since this nation is struggling to be wealthier, if there are places where mineral deposits are found in any part of this country, in the interest of the States concerned and in the interest of the nation at large, they should be disclosed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1951-52, the Shell D'arcy found oil in Iho in Ikeduru Local Government Area of Imo State. Mr Speaker, because, at that particular time, they had not got the sophisticated type of equipment for oil exploration, those oil wells were sealed. Last week I was there with the Deputy Governor of Imo State and some of the State Commissioners, we saw some of the oil wells sealed in 1951.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the interest of the nation and the State, it is quite appropriate to reopen those oil wells, because the more oil wells we have in this country, the more the country becomes richer and financially buoyant. So, I am making it known, through the honourable House and through the Committee on Petroleum and Energy, that appropriate

measures should be taken to look into this particular area, that is in Iho, Mbaitolu/Ikeduru Local Government Area of Imo State.

Mr Speaker : Round up ! Round up ! It is time. Let us go for the Committee meetings.

Mr Ochiama : This area should be looked into for the exploration of the oil deposits in that particular State.

I have another explanation, Mr Speaker, which is very vital if you would want me to say that. Since the Supplementary Budget has been approved, I think it will be quite appropriate for us, the Members of this august House, to receive our consolidated payment which has been approved. So, Mr Speaker, the earlier this thing is done, the better for the hon. Members of this honourable House. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Time up ! Time up !

Mr Ochiama : Thank you.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 10.40 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 22nd April, 1980

The House met at 10.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Photograph of the House

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, you will remember that we passed a Resolution yesterday to the effect that we would allow this House to be photographed today by the Staff of National Museum. They are already outside there, but before they come in we have here two points of explanation. We will take the two of them before they bring in their equipment.

Personal Explanation

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya) : I have a point to explain, and before I make that point I am making a special appeal to my hon. Colleagues that they should not misunderstand me. The point I am going to make is this. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Yes, Mr Uyeh, go on.

Mr Uyeh : Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I am going to make is on the Punch Publication in which one of the hon. Members in this House called upon the Senate to remove the Leader of the Senate. I have viewed this thing very seriously that we, the Members of the House of Representatives, are trying to bring what I may term to be a clash of personality. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like us, the Members of the National Assembly, who are the highest law making body of this country to behave in this way.

If one can go further to read the Constitution which the hon. Member quoted, and that is Section 83 (c), and if you go further to read the following Section which is 83 (d), the hon. Senator was in order. Section 83 (d) says and I quote :

To issue a Warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects to do so and does not excuse—

That is the only phrase I want—*does not excuse*. The Senator, when he failed to attend, gave his excuse. If the Members of the House Committee were not satisfied, it was for them to challenge the man and not an hon. Member of the House. Here again, Sir, (*Interruptions*)—

Several hon. Members : Go ahead. Fire ! Fire !

Mr Frank Ugwu (Nsukka) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! There is a point of order. Make your point of order.

Mr Ugwu : My point of order is Constitutional point of order, and I refer to Section 36 (1) of the Constitution.

Mr Speaker : Please, leave it. What he was saying does not infringe that Section.

Mr Uyeh : The hon. Member who was saying this thing in the paper was not in this House here. He was not sitting in the House here, and I would not like, as I have said earlier on, that we should bring this honourable House into conflict with the Senate.

Several hon. Members : Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much, Mr Uyeh. (*Applause*) Mr Olinmah, are these people here ? Ask them to come in. Let them not waste time.

Mr P. D. Awunah (Gwer West) : Mr Speaker Sir—(*interruptions*).

Mr Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, point of order. Let us hear his point of order.

Mr Efiom : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that you have not approved the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday to us yet.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much. Yes, Mr Awunah.

Late J. S. Tarka : Thanks for Sympathy

Mr Awunah : The point of my explanation is that I want to thank Mr Speaker and hon. Members of this august House for the honour done to late Dr J. S. Tarka. We, the people of Benue State, particularly in this House and at home were very happy and appreciate what you, the hon. Members of the National Assembly did right from London to Lagos, from Lagos to Makurdi, and from Markurdi to Gboko. We buried the late Senator Joseph Sarwuan Tarka on the 12th of April, 1980.

I thank you, very much. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker : Let the photographers come in and take their photographs.

Photographs taken in the Chamber.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There is only one small announcement, and that is, that an hon. Member of this House deliberately took over the flat belonging to another hon. Member in Victoria Island. This man has refused to quit the flat despite repeated appeals by many Members of this House including the Leader of his own party, the Chairman of the House Committee, and even the Leader of the House himself. He had defied all appeals, and he said before me and before many other people that he preferred to die than to surrender the flat to the rightful owner.

Hon. Members : What is his name ? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Please, I have suggested that the Leaders of the political parties and their Whips meet immediately after this sitting to recommend

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[MR SPEAKER]

to the House an appropriate disciplinary measure to be taken against this man. There must be discipline in this House. (*Interruptions*)

Special Committee on NNPC PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Mr Speaker : The first item, hon. Members, is the Notice of Presentation of Report by the Special Committee on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation on the alleged loss or misappropriation of ₦2.8 billion in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Alhaji Idris Ibrahim should present his Committee's report.

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim (Minna North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to move—

That pursuant to House Resolution No. 48 of January, 15th 1980, this House do receive the Report of the Special Committee on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation on the alleged loss or misappropriation of ₦2.8 billion in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.

I beg to move.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the Question is that the Report on the Special Committee on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation be laid on the Table of this House.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, let us hear the voice of the Deputy Speaker once more.

Alhaji Idris Ibrahim : Mr Speaker, Sir, the reports are being put in the Members pigeon holes now, as you cannot pick them from here. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order! Order; Please, hon. Members, those of you who have got the report, should go through them. Those who have not got would definitely get today. We are not discussing the report today. We have to go home, read it carefully and digest it before it is discussed. A date would be listed by the Clerk for debate on the Report. It is important that everybody gets a copy of the Report.

NOTICE OF MOTION Committee on Education ADOPTION OF REPORT

Mr Speaker : The next item, hon. Members, is the adoption of the Report of the Committee on Education on the Admission Policy of Federal Government Institutions. The Report has been distributed. What happens is that most Members do not come into the House. So, when Reports are distributed, they do not get them and they come back to complain that there is no report. It is the duty of every Member to attend the meeting of this House everyday.

Dr Emekekwe can move that we adopt the Report.

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have laid the report on the table before and it has been accepted. It is meant for discussion today.

Mr Speaker : You can proceed to move its adoption.

Dr Emekekwe : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on the 22nd of January, 1980, this House passed the following Motion—

That this honourable House views with great concern the failure of the Federal Government Students Admission exercises into the various Federal institutions (i) to reflect the Federal character ;

(ii) to bridge the educational gap among the States and between the various ethnic groups ;

(iii) generally to reflect the needs of the country, and therefore directs the House Standing Committee on Education to investigate and submit within 30 days admissions policy suitable for promoting the unity and stability of this great nation.

We worked on this Motion. I think it is very proper that this Report be debated upon now because it has everything to do with the Budget that is now before this House as you will find from some of our recommendations.

We found, for instance, that there are 39 Federal Government Secondary Schools in the 19 States of the Federation. Out of this number, 19 are mixed while 19 are for girls only and one is for boys only. It would appear that the girls are having the lion's share in this aspect of our education. We found it necessary to recommend that Secondary Schools should be built one for girls, one for boys and one mixed in each State.

That would, in effect, mean that there would be nineteen boys' Secondary Schools which we would recommend to this House to have reflected in the current Estimates before us. Furthermore, having found that most of these schools are on temporary sites, we recommended that they should now be moved to their permanent sites. This we can give effect to by incorporating such a proposal in the current Estimates.

Now, we further recommended that there should be Federal Secondary Schools in all States where they do not now exist. For example, at the moment, there are only seven located in Cross River, Gongola, Imo, Niger, Lagos, Ondo and Sokoto States. We can make it possible for those who have not such schools to have them in this Financial Year.

It is our belief that these secondary schools go a long way towards uniting this country. They go a long way towards understanding ourselves, and this Government should resist any efforts by State Governments to take over these institutions for obvious reasons.

Moreover, the Federal Polytechnics are not well spread out in this country. We have them at the moment only in seven States, namely, Niger, Benué, Ogun, Ondo, Lagos, Bauchi and Gongola. We, therefore, found it necessary to recommend that one Polytechnic should be built in the State where they do not now exist.

Now, you will observe that we made certain recommendations which, on the face value, would appear as if we are encouraging quota system, but that was not our real intention. We rather mean that you accept it as an expedient measure in the circumstance in which we find ourselves now. It is our view that such a situation, whereby there are States described as educationally disadvantaged, can only be a temporary measure. As a matter of fact, we expect, since the concentration of population of this country tends to be more in the so-called educationally disadvantaged areas, that in the near future, the balance will be tilted even in favour of these so-called educationally disadvantaged areas. We expect that, in no distant future, talents will begin to emerge from these so-called educationally disadvantaged areas.

It has always been my belief that human intelligence is evenly distributed among all races of mankind. No single race has a monopoly of talents; no single ethnic group has a monopoly of potentially intelligent people. And so, I am appealing to you, hon. Members, to accept these recommendations since they can only be temporary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move acceptance.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Chairman of the Committee on Education, if I may refer you to paragraph 6 of your Report, that is, your recommendation, it says :

The Committee recommends that those Schools on temporary sites be moved to their permanent sites quickly. The Committee also recommend one Secondary School for girls, one for boys and one mixed for each State.

Your Committee did not state what would be the cost of these proposals.

Dr Emekekwe : Mr Speaker, Sir, that was what I had in mind when I did say that it is very opportune that we are discussing this report now, because it is my intention that, in the Education Committee, we will bring proposals not at all contained in the present Estimates, whereby we name figures for establishing these institutions in these various places.

Mr Speaker : There is another one, the same paragraph 6. It also talks about recommendation. It says :

Having examined the number and location of such schools the Committee recommends that one such school should be built in the States where they do not now exist.

It will be necessary, the hon. Chairman, in future reports, that we must be given an idea of what should be the cost of such projects because the purpose of this report, if I may invite your attention, is that your Committee can start a legislation on these your proposals, and we cannot do that unless we have the detailed facts of what would be involved in such projects. So, please, in future, and for the guidance of other Committees, the cost of any proposals or projects contemplated in any Committee must be specified in the reports.

Mrs Biola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, naturally, as a mother of children who should benefit from the educational programme, I have looked through the Report. It is a pity that the Chairman of the Education Committee has been reading into the Report some of those items which are not contained in the copy which I have, except if the last page is missing. But having gone through, I do not seem to see the justification of the Committee in changing the percentage which had been allocated for the admission policy.

If you look at paragraph 3, it says :

Federal Government Colleges : 20 per cent admission is based on national merit ; 50 per cent is based on equality of States and 30 per cent is based on environment.

I believe that the portion on environment is to cater for the catchment areas and in catering for the catchment areas, the so-called educationally backward States should benefit because that 30 per cent is exclusively reserved for children from these States. It has been argued on the Floor of this House that it is this 30 per cent that the Principals of some of these schools are not giving to the respective States.

I think the emphasis should be to make the Principals comply with the 30 per cent on environment rather than lower the percentage on merit, because the Education Committee are now recommending that that percentage on merit should be reduced. I believe we should encourage what is best because education speaks an international language. If we start reducing what should go on merit, then the inescapable effect is our children, when they compete with children in other universities in other parts of the world, will not feature very well.

We are also trying to introduce the question of the take-over by States. That is not contained in this report at all. Federal Government Colleges are exclusive and nobody is trying to take over any Federal Government College. Rather we should encourage having the Federal Government Colleges spread over all the other states where they are not established at the moment.

Then, the Committee made specific reference to Benue State. If you look at paragraph 8, the Committee says, *for the 1978-79 and 1979-80 sessions, there should be 30 per cent on national merit, 10 per cent to the Benue State and the rest to be shared equally among the States.* I do not see any reason why Benue State should be treated preferentially. Benue State is not the only State among the supposed (If I should use his language) educationally backward States. If you treat Benue State in a different category while dealing with the Federal Government Polytechnic at Idah, then when you come to another State, that State should also argue for the 10 per cent which should be given to its own indigenes.

There is no reason to hold back the children from all these other states. All the children in the Federation are to be catered for and they should be catered for on equal basis. I do not believe that we should

[MRS BABATOPE] have some egg-heads in this country. I believe that what is good for the goose should be good for the gander. If we try to treat some people specially, we are encouraging what will boomerang in the future. Let us for now try to put up merit and if we put up merit, our children will be able to compete any where in the world.

I think this report needs some touching-up so that it would be acceptable to the majority of us in this House. Thank you.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I think the Committee on Education has done a very good job for this House. I have gone through the Report myself. I think my Colleagues should refresh their memory about the recent examination leakages, when you talk about merits.

This Committee, to my mind, has done a very good job in the sense that it gives percentage to the various Federal Institutions in the States. I do not think the 20 per cent allotted on national merit has reduced the percentage, but it has only cut down the number of intakes and not the number of percentage scored by individual candidates. The 50 per cent based on equality of States is also in order.

The Committee on Education has tried to differentiate the pattern of post-primary institution from the Polytechnics which are higher than post-primary institutions. I do not want to bother on the details of this report because, as I have earlier said, the Committee has put in a very good job and it needs the blessing of this House.

Where one thinks that the Committee has anything to add, we should look round and see the various States' policies on education. The State which comes to my mind is the Lagos State educational policy where a child who does not belong to the State probably may not have to enjoy whatever policy the State Government adopts. (*Interruptions*) There is a reference made to it. On the strength of that, Mr Speaker, Sir—

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central) : Much as I do not want to disturb the flow of this debate, my hon. Colleague should be conscious of Order 26 (2) because insinuations and irrelevancies do not show maturity in debate.

Mr Jimoh : I do not intend to hurt the feelings of my Colleagues. I would have loved that this House gets a clarification from the Chairman of the Committee as to what is their thinking on higher education in this country. Rather than single out the Polytechnic in Idah, they should have said all Federal Polytechnics in the country.

If it is a general pattern, then this House would be convinced and we would therefore know that this is their recommendation. We would very much like them to clear this point. Apart from this clarification, Sir, I beg to support the Report.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, I want to correct the impression that the hon. Member from Mushin Central (*Mrs Babatope*) gave concerning Idah Polytechnic.

We did not recommend that Idah Polytechnic be treated separately. What we wrote down there is what obtains in Idah Polytechnic, and we made a general recommendation for all the Polytechnics in the country—seven of them. It is quite clear on page three.

Thank you, Sir.

Dr Junaidu Mohammed (Ringim Gado) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the adoption of the report of the Education Committee, I would like to make a few observations. Mr Speaker, Sir, education and educational policies in this country have become unduly controversial. They have become controversial because of hypocrisy and double standards which previous governments have been applying in adopting and executing various educational policies as they affect primary, secondary and university education in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said by various proponents of one theme or another as regards Federal character, quota admission system and merit. Valid as these arguments are, they have all missed certain vital points. Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as I am concerned, the word *merit* is a non-starter because it is neither easily definable nor is it quantifiable. If many people believe that, having a number of *O Levels and A Levels* is what they mean by merit, then I do not know where one would put the blame on examination leakages that are rampant in those States where the word *merit* is heard loudest. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the reality of Nigerian politics demands that much as we like to talk of merit, much as we like to ingratiate ourselves with this tribal genetics that certain groups of people are more intelligent than others, we have to be careful about what we say because by the way we have been going about things, it seems to me that people who would like to talk of Federal character today, when it comes to concrete policies that are likely to influence positively the federal character, would simply run back.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to propose to this House what I call *affirmative discrimination*. I call it affirmative in the sense that this is a sort of discrimination which aims at helping the disabled, and by the disabled I mean those States that are educationally backward. Calling them *so-called*, calling them what, does not solve the problem. If you walk into any Ministry, you will find that in that Ministry, apart from the Commissioner who is a figure head, an empty portrait, from his Deputy down to the Messenger all belong to one section of the country. You cannot but be completely downcast knowing that no matter how real, no matter how genuine your complaints are, they are not going to be given a hearing. The majority of Nigerians know, no matter what we say, the people who control the Ministries have controlled the government policies ; those who control the bureaucracy have controlled politics in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in talking about merit, I want us to be absolutely careful because this would lead us into a situation whereby a few people are catered for; and when you read the writings of Tai Solarin you know what they mean by merit. They mean that a certain tribe or certain groups of people in this country are more intelligent than the others. Now, it is a pity that Dr Tai Solarin is neither a Doctor nor is he a Biologist. He should have been told in no uncertain terms that his own brand of tribal genetics is unscientific. Psychometry does not back the nonsense we read in the Nigerian Tribune.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am speaking with all sense of responsibility because I am a Medical Doctor and Psychology is my field. So, those who want to know should be told in no uncertain terms that their brand of tribal genetics is as obnoxious as the brand of racial genetics we read about in Southern Africa. They should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it abundantly clear that so long as this country is not prepared to tackle the problem of those who are educationally disadvantaged, the meaning, the true meaning and content of one Nigeria would be nothing but hollow. There have been many countries in the world that have been facing the same problem. There is a country that I visited, Malaysia, where the majority happen to be people who live in tribal homelands and who are educationally disadvantaged as regards the ethnic Chinese and the Indians who live in the country. Malaysia has been grappling with this problem and they have been grappling with it not by going around and talking about merit and the hypocrisy of saying that some people are more intelligent than others, but they go about it by making sure that the schools the students go are fairly distributed, and that students who as yet, come from badly staffed schools with bad laboratories are given concession to catch up. In the final analysis, these students are given the same opportunity to take the same examinations and pass. You cannot compare a student who is attending Kings College, Lagos where all the teachers are graduates with a boy who is attending a secondary school somewhere in Argungu in Sokoto State where all his teachers are Grade II teachers and expect the two boys to go and sit the same examinations and come out with the same results. In a situation like this, you are making nonsense of whatever you call merit, because merit pre-supposes equality of opportunity of learning. You must give the same boys the same teachers, you must give them the same laboratories, you have to give them the same educational opportunity, then you test them. Then and only then can you talk of who is more intelligent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, occasionally we hear a lot of talk, a lot of heat coming from people who are beneficiaries of the existing systems, that what we have is all right, and that there is no need for change. As I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, in my opening remarks, this is nothing but classical hypocrisy *par excellence*. I think that for anybody to compare some of the schools in the educationally advanced states with the schools and the teachers in the educationally disadvantaged States would be nothing but an exercise in fantasy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me make it clear that the bulk of the money for financing education in this country whether at Federal level, at State level or at Local government level, for primary, secondary or university level, comes from the Federal Government. As such, it is nobody's preserve and nobody has the prerogative to say that it is the fault of a government or of a local government that they have bad teachers or bad schools. It is not their fault. The money comes from Lagos and those in Lagos who control the bureaucracy in Lagos know where they send the money to. So, stop deceiving yourselves, Mr Speaker, Sir, and Members of this House. If we want to do something about it, we have got to sit down and say we have to discriminate affirmatively. We have to make sure that we give concessions and we have to make sure that the facilities we give to people who are attending the same schools and who are to pass the same examinations are equal. Then and only then can we talk of who is intelligent or who is not intelligent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want this issue to be a very emotional issue. I am trying to restrain my comments to the realities. MR SPEAKER, SIR, With these few comments I beg to support the adoption of the Committee's report. Thank you.

Mr D. O. Agi (Otu): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon Members, having listened to the principles behind the admission policy in the country from an hon. Colleague, Dr Junaidu Mohammed, one really has almost nothing to say.

I just want to make one or two comments on the Report submitted by the Chairman of the Education Committee of this House. Turning to paragraph 6, page 2 of the Report, the Committee, on the issue of location of Secondary Schools for boys and girls, recommended that these schools should be built in those States where they do not now exist. This is a very good recommendation, but it is short of one thing: it does give the power of location to the respective States affected. Invariably, States authorities cannot be taken for granted when it comes to locating these schools as fairly as possible. Since these are Federal institutions, the authority to locate or the power to have a final say on the issue of location should be reserved with the Federal authorities. I am, therefore, appealing to the Chairman of the Committee to note that issues with regard to location of these schools and final determination should be referred to his Committee for clearance. If possible, appropriate representatives of the areas concerned should be consulted on the fairness of these locations or otherwise.

In paragraph 7 of the same Report and under its recommendations, the Committee endeavoured to correct the anomaly of admissions into Federally controlled schools or Federally sponsored schools particularly as it affects Federal Advanced Teachers Colleges. The Committee says that States that have not yet got Federal Advanced Teachers Colleges should be given; with regard to admissions into these colleges, the Principals or Heads of these colleges, should submit annual returns of admissions to the Federal authorities, the Federal Minister of

[MR AGI]

Education in particular as soon as admission exercises are completed. This sounds very good but it has one shortcoming. There is not much the Federal Minister of Education or the National Assembly can do after the returns have been submitted at the completion of the exercise of admissions. I would, therefore, ask the Chairman of the Committee to proceed further and request the authorities of these Advanced Teachers Colleges, to submit these returns before provisional letters of admissions are sent out to the students. Otherwise, there is the possibility that the returns would merely be okayed after the students had been asked to report at the various institutions because the embarrassment and the cost to individual students would weigh higher in asking them to stay back after they had been initially admitted as a result of vetting of the returns by the Minister or the National Assembly. It is better, therefore, to prevent than to cure in these circumstances.

Finally, I would like to make a brief reference to the last page of the Report dealing with the Committee's recommendations at paragraph 8 on Federal Polytechnics. An hon. Member had quarrelled with the ten per cent allocation by the Committee to Benue State. I wish to remind this honourable House that this ten per cent allocation which looks like a preferential treatment has been made to Idah Polytechnic because of the peculiar circumstances of that institution. Hon. Members are aware that petitions were received from the indigenes of that State and particularly from the students of that institution regarding the unfairness of admissions into the institution. The staple phrase of *catchment areas* has been completely ignored, and I think these were the factors that the Committee judiciously and fairly took into consideration before it made, if you like, that condolence percentage. The Committee is composed of representatives who cut across this House, and it will be *sub judice* of the hon. Member to talk of preferential treatment in this matter. It is also wrong to say that the Committee was motivated by favouritism or sentiments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the light of the points I have highlighted, I think the Committee has done a good job.

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the last speaker but one had really exhausted all the points minus the heat wave of sentimentalism he brought to bear on the House. There is no comparison or any key-note of who is intelligent. The word *intelligent* is very ephemeral, very elusive and is not a word anybody could come to the floor of the House to classify.

Regarding the so-called term *disadvantaged areas*, who is in fact, disadvantaged? We run away from our own responsibilities and try to pin them at other ends by the use of parochial statements and tribal sentiments in our doings. Let us ask ourselves this question : can the Legislature pin down a child for a fault which is not his? Let us take a standard test with pass marks ranging from forty to seventy per cent, and you take on the average children who have passed the test on sixty per cent, and then you condemn half of those children who have scored under

60 to admit those who scored 40 per cent. Why should the Legislature pass such a law to deprive the other unfortunate ones of their own rights and merits?

It is quite naive sometimes for us to come here and blow up sentiments which would do this House no good. I think the so-called term *disadvantaged areas*, will be a thing of the past as time goes on. The issue is that we need more schools, more teachers and more competition. People should school wherever they pay their taxes, wherever they live and should enjoy the same privileges. It is wrong for one to say that because a child is taught by a graduate teacher, therefore, he should do better than those who are not. A singled out example was King's College. King's College is not the only secondary school down South here or in the North. From my own physical knowledge of the situation as it is, the North has more and better equipped schools than even what we have in some parts of the South. They have schools manned by Europeans and some of them are first-class schools you can find anywhere in the world.

An hon. Member : Have you been to the North?

Mr Echetabu : I was in Jos in 1950, I do not know if you had been born then. I was also in the North during the elections which was in 1978-79. If you take the statistics, you will see that there is a quiet movement, a quite upsurge, of development which must be gradual. You do not pin down examinations and school roles by an automation. These things have got to be achieved gradually. Human beings are manageable, pliable and you have to treat them as human beings.

The last speaker but one, who said he is a medical doctor and a psychologist should know that human beings should not be treated like decadent machines. People are treated in a very subtle manner, and in their own psychic content of a social welfare organisation or, the welfarestate in which they find themselves. Assuming you build all the schools and people do not want to go to school, will you victimise somebody who wants to go to school? I think the short way out is that Government should print certificates for sale in all the State capitals of the Federation. And you can see that the standards are going down gradually everyday. Standards are no longer what they used to be. The reason for this is that people make all sorts of demands and there is no well formulated national principle on education. Once we have that, the question of quota basis, who is intelligent and sectional consideration will no longer arise. In fact, when you mark examination papers or you build more schools, the question of what part of the country you come from would be a thing of the past, and in doing that we will be pursuing the qualitative education programme of the National Party of Nigeria.

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, as the last speaker said, this is not the day for sentimentality. This is a day to see things in their true conceptions, and not in individual concepts. It is very morbidly drilling for a Member in this House to say that education should not be controversial. Intellectually, it is a futile statement.

Anybody who knows about the history of education will realise that since man emerged from homo barbaric to homosapiens, education has been controversial. Mr Speaker, Sir, anybody who has read the philosophy of Plato will realise that the contents there are the controversy of what is the value of education.

To go to the real issue, the real issue today is about merit versus non-merit. (*Interruptions*) I will not call it *demerit* because that is another sentimentality. It is very sad, as a teacher, a lawyer and a politician, I am putting it across to this House, that a society without education is a barbaric society. Since we are not, we must have a sort of compromise in this issue because of our historical facts. I do not know of any society which does not want to train its children, but Lugard has caused this. The controversy in this House today is the work of Lugard. Whether he is going to rest in peace or in pieces, I do not know. (*Interruptions*) Since Lugard has created it, it is for us to cure it, not to treat the symptoms. The best way to do it at the Federal level is firstly to have merits 20 *per cent*. I will particularize this. If you set an examination, the first 20 *per cent* will be taken irrespective of where they come from, because he who calls for equity must practise equity.

Everybody knows that his scholarship is based on merit, but because of our historical facts, wherever an institution is located, 40 *per cent* of admission will go to that particular State and 40 *per cent* will go to the other States. In a civilized society, this is how to treat a controversial issue, a conflicting

interest. This issue is not that of who is right or wrong. That is not the issue. The issue is how to balance a conflicting interest ; it is how to live with ourselves despite our differences.

Mr Speaker, Sir, for anybody to indulge in intellectual dishonesty and intellectual sentimentality on the issue of merit about education is an abuse on this august House. In that respect, Mr Speaker Sir, I urge this House to support the Motion.

Thank you.

The Speaker : Hon. Members, the meetings of the Committees will soon commence. If we have not done justice to this debate, we can adjourn it till next time to enable more hon. Members to make their contributions, but the time for the meetings of the Committees is now due.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be adjourned until tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this sitting be adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.27 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 23rd April, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have only two announcements. One is on the Membership of the Committees we have already proposed, that is the Committee on the creation of States and the Public Relations Committee. Please, Leaders of political parties, submit the names of your nominees for the Committee on creation of States and Public Relations Committee to the Clerk before Monday.

Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday, and they are in order.

The Committee on Science and Technology will now meet in the new wing, the new National Assembly extension.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : My point of explanation is on a deliberation that took place two days ago at Lagos State House of Assembly. The Legislature raised an attack on the Presidential Panel on NNPC, and their grounds are as follows :

(i) That Alhaji Sule Kurfi an Oil Engineer is a brother to Ahmadu Kurfi of FEDECO.

(ii) That Justice Ayo Irikefe was a Judge of the Supreme Court and was one of the Members who decided the Presidential Election Court decision.

(iii) That Mr Akinrinmisi was an Accountant in the last Head of State's Office.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr E. Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is a constitutional one and it is Section 36 of the Constitution :

Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

Mr Poloma : I comment on this issue as follows :

(i) Because a civil servant was in the last Head of States Office, I do not see any reason why he should not participate in any job in this country again.

(ii) That Ayo Irikefe was a Justice at one time deciding a Court decision of Presidential Election ; what has that got to do with NNPC investigation ?

Hon. Members, was the President in NNPC ?

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr A. Afonja (Oyo Central) : My point of Order Order 16, and it says :

A Member may make a personal explanation although there be no question before the House ; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this appears controversial and I would suggest that it should be dropped.

Mr Poloma : Hon. Members, Ahmadu Kurfi of the FEDECO is a man of high integrity. (Applause) This man was the man who screened all the documents of all of us who are here today. He was the man who screened the papers of those whose papers should not have been screened at all. There are people in this country who were charged with terrible offences and were pardoned, and they had no documents showing this nation that they were pardoned, yet Kurfi forgave them. (Applause)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! There is a point of order.

Mr O. Akinboro (Oke-Ona/Owu/Gbagura) : My point of order, Sir, is based on the provisions of part two of the Constitution. This deals with the House of Assembly of a State. This is page 32, Section 84, 85, 86, and 88. I would say, Sir, that the Lagos State House of Assembly is constitutionally constituted, and therefore, they are entitled to their views. I would say, Sir, it would be very wrong of us here to query whatever opinion they hold because—

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Let Mr Poloma continue.

Mr Poloma : In conclusion, hon. Members, I have to say that this issue has been debated on the Floor of this House, has been debated in the Senate, and there is a Presidential decision on it. Now, all decisions of the National Assembly supersede those of any Assembly in this country. Before I conclude, Mr Speaker Sir, I want to tell these Lagos Assembly Legislators that they should respect the Judiciary of this country. For some time now, there has not been respect for the Judiciary.

Mr B.J. Abegunde (Ekiti East) : Point of order. I refer to Order 26 (3). The hon. Member has been drawing a lot of inferences and conclusions which could be prejudicial to the proceedings of Judicial Inquiry. Let me read the order please. The Order is as follows : *Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way—*

Mr Speaker : That is a good point. Order ! Order !

Please, Gentlemen, I think we have not really been doing a very good service to this particular provision of the Standing Orders. In fact, we have been flouting it for some time because nobody has in fact referred us to Order 26 sub 3 which says—*Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as might, in Mr Speaker's opinion, prejudice the interests of the parties thereto.* This is the Standing Order of the House of Representatives. It is not the Standing Order of Lagos State, and in my own opinion, any further comment on the issue of the NNPC inquiry will prejudice the rights of the parties. (Applause).

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 19/
Discipline of a Member

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two Motions standing in the name of the Leader of the House. The matter has been amicably resolved and it is therefore very unnecessary to continue with these Motions. In the circumstances, the two Motions are hereby withdrawn.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Motions by leave withdrawn.

Mr Speaker : Thank you very much. Order ! Order ! The various Committees are also reminded that all Committees must complete their assignments by the end of this month. If there is a Committee that has not completed its job, that Committee will be dissolved, a new one will be empanelled, and the Chairman will be removed. (*Interruptions*)

ORDER OF THE DAY

Committee on Education

Adoption of Report

(Adjourned Debate on Question—22nd April, 1980)

Motion made and Question again proposed. That the Report of the Committee on Education on the Admissions Policy of Federal Government Institutions be adopted—(*Dr E. C. Emekekwe*).

Mr E. C. Ebo (Mbano East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, while I thank the Committee for the work they have done, I feel they did not go in depth to advise this House on what policy to follow, considering the resolution of the House that was referred to them. My submission here will border around referring back this subject matter to the Committee for an in-depth study and full recommendation. On 22nd of January, 1980, this honourable House had a Motion by Alhaji M. B. Mustapha, in which he prayed the House to view seriously the failure to reflect Federal character in admissions, the failure to bridge the educational gap among the States, and the failure to reflect the needs of the country in our educational policy. The job he wanted the Committee to do was that they should investigate and submit admissions policy suitable for promoting unity and stability. The recommendations I have seen, have not very much reflected the needs as shown on the Motion.

This honourable House would expect the Committee to interpret Federal character in context with other provisions in the Constitution in relation to education. Does Federal character mean that, in order to serve the nation, we have to bring our students, say, those in primary six with those in secondary five and those in higher school, and place all of them in one class in order to reflect Federal character ? Is that what it is about ? To my mind, this is not what it is about. Federal character has been defined on page 91 of the Constitution. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I refer this honourable House to that definition. It says :

“Federal character of Nigeria” refers to the distinctive desire of the peoples of Nigeria to promote national unity, foster national loyalty and give every citizen of Nigeria a sense of belonging to the nation as expressed in section 14 (3) and (4) of this Constitution ;

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Committee which looked at this point failed to explain to us how we can apply Federal character to education without necessarily lowering the standard of education in this country. Does Federal character mean holding back those who are already higher in education in order to give chance to those who are yet to do the primary and secondary courses ? If we interpret Federal character in this sense, are we really not discriminating against citizens of this country, contrary to the provisions of the same Constitution ?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer hon. Members to the fundamental right of the citizens with regard to discrimination. Section 39 (1) (a) (b) of the Constitution says—

Mr Speaker : Mr Ebo, why not go straight to the Report ? We are not interested in all these things. This is not a University, we are here for politics. So, go straight to the Report.

Mr E. C. Ebo : This question of Federal characters is a matter that requires development in this House.

Mr Speaker : Go to the Education Report. Leave federal character alone.

Mr E. C. Ebo : Mr Speaker, Sir, page 1, paragraph 4 of the Report says :

After many meetings and careful considerations, your Committee arrived at the following recommendations : into Federal Government Colleges (Secondary Grammar Schools) 20 per cent on National Merit (Keen competition) 40 per cent on environment factor (i.e state of School location of candidates) 40 per cent to be shared equally among the states of the Federation.

I expected that the Committee which made this recommendation should, first of all, think of the causes of disadvantaged States over education. What really were the causes ? What brought about some States lagging behind others ? You cannot go into the remedy without locating the causes. The Committee did not go into the causes. In order to get the remedy, you eliminate those causes.

I am saying here, Sir, that the so-called advantaged areas may be the Western States, the Eastern States, the Bendel State and part of the Middle Belt States. What really placed these States at advantage ? I say, Sir, that these are :

(i) the culture of the people

(ii) the religious aspect—

Alhaji Sa-idu Ibrahim (Kiyawa) : Point of order !

Mr Speaker : What is your point of order ?

Alhaji Ibrahim : My point of order is Order No. 26 (2). The hon. Member is completely out of the topic on the Floor of the House.

Mr Speaker : Please, Mr Ebo, confine yourself to the Report. You have only three minutes more to go.

Mr Ebo : In trying to do justice to what this House resolved to do to find this satisfactory solution to the educational imbalance in this country, this honourable House would allow free flow of thoughts and debates to get out the actual substance, that is, what we require to do. I am saying that this educational imbalance we are talking about was caused by the culture of the people, the religious aspect, the leadership and the attitude of the leadership. What do I mean by culture? By culture I mean what people hold dear, values, attitudes, beliefs, orientation and the norms of the people.

If you look through history you would find out that the people in those areas you now regard as advantaged areas were receptive to Western religion. The Missionaries brought schools, hospitals and other things; but in some areas, people did not want these Missionaries and they did not open the doors to receive them. You find out that up till now, education is still retarded in those areas. You find out also that this situation will continue in so far as there is no change of culture, no change of attitude, and no change of values.

If we are saying here that we really want to bridge the gap, we have to give that orientation to the people to change their attitude.

An hon. Member : You want to change them to Christians?

Mr Ebo : I am not saying that they should be changed to Christians. I did not say that.

Mr Yusuf A. Amoka (Okene) : Point of order!

Mr Speaker : Yes, what is your point of order?

Mr Amoka : My point of order is Order 26 (2) We are not here to discuss religion. The hon. Member is introducing a matter that is quite irrelevant to the subject under discussion. He is saying that some area failed to accept some religious bodies and that is why they are backward, and that unless they change their attitudes the backwardness will not improve.

This is not relevant to the point under discussion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, that is correct. Please confine yourself to the Report, and round up.

Mr E. C. Ebo : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am giving a historical background to our problem. If Members read the Hansard of the United States or other places, you allow Members to develop his point. You cannot get the point until you allow a Member to develop the point he is making, and anybody who is talking the historical background to his facts. The interruptions in this House cannot help full development of debates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying, that, now that politics has brought all of us together and we are brothers and sisters, we should allow this free flow, free orientation of all sections. Right now, there are States in Nigeria which still discriminate against the sexes, which do not allow certain sexes to come up even in the day time because of culture and because of the type of religion they have. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member for Imo State, this language is unparliamentary. It is time, please.

Mr Ebo : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think every Member is entitled to thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker : It is time.

Mr J. C. Okoli (Ezeagu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to start by congratulating the Committee on Education for a job well done, and for providing us with a working paper on this particular subject. There are two salient points I would like to raise. If you look at the first page under *Federal Government Colleges*, there is a distribution of the admission percentages—20 per cent on merits, 50 per cent on equality of States and 30 per cent based on environment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to observe that in the past, the 30 per cent had been misapplied. Here, it says, *only candidates resident in the States* where the school is located benefit in this category. We noticed that the administrators who applied this formula often regard the 30 per cent as indigenes of a particular State, which is wrong. I think this point has to be made abundantly clear that it means people resident in a particular State, otherwise the distribution should read 20 per cent on merit and 80 per cent on equality of States. But they have carefully put it down the way they like it represented, and I am fully in support of this. But the issue is that it should be made clear to the administrators who see that these percentages are maintained, that when we talk of residents in a particular State, we are not limiting this to the indigenes of that particular State; but if they mean that it should be that, then, it should be spelt out. So, I think there should be further clarification or elaboration on this 30 per cent so that this will not be misapplied.

If you look at page 2, the last sentence, it says, *the Minister should, in return, forward a copy of the returns to the Committee on Education of the House of Representatives for scrutiny*. I think it is here that we have effective power for controlling the application of some of these percentages, and I am happy about this.

The other point I would like to raise on the report is on issue of educationally disadvantaged areas. I think here the emphasis should be on *areas* as a common denominator, not particularly States. For instance, the area I come from, that is, Ezeagu in Anambra State, is an educationally disadvantaged area, and I would like Ezeagu to be noted as an educationally disadvantaged area which should be added on to the considerations raised on page 2 where we mentioned Bornu, Bauchi, Sokoto, Benue, Gongola and the rest as educationally disadvantaged areas. I am only imploring the House to include Ezeagu as an educationally disadvantaged area.

Also, to expand this a little bit more, one may like to consider what causes an area to be educationally disadvantaged. The last speaker made an attempt to enlighten us on this, but I would like to also add that you can be educationally disadvantaged if the facilities in the schools are not provided. I know that in my area or in Anambra State, the majority of the schools are very ill-equipped for obvious reasons, and this has rendered the area educationally

Adoption of Report]

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disadvantaged. I think this may also be applicable to Imo State and some other areas in the Eastern States. These areas have been educationally disadvantaged because of lack of adequate facilities in the schools. The issue is, you may have two hundred students going into an institution, by the time you finish, only five of them would pass and obtain certificates because they were not properly trained and because they had not the equipment to study.

You can also be educationally disadvantaged because you do not have the numerical strength of the qualified people to go to school. So that in considering educationally disadvantaged areas, we should also take into account the facilities in the particular areas and also other circumstances surrounding this aspect. And in this regard, I would like to urge the House to also include Anambra State and possibly Imo State among the educationally disadvantaged areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think these are really the two points I would like to raise, and I urge the Committee to really try and see whether they can bring this in, in their overall recommendations. Thank you very much.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake): I intend to raise one or two issues with regard to the Committee on Education's Report. My idea is that I do not necessarily allow sentiments to overrule my sense of judgment, but I know that Education in this country is a thorny issue which must be tackled with all seriousness. Again, I would also like to say that we should not allow sentiments to overrule our sense of judgment as revealed in what the hon. Member for West Ward, Kano (*Dr Junaidu*) said yesterday. He has taken to insinuations and I think those are not good for the unity and stability of this country. I would also like to say that Dr Junaidu should try to help President Shehu Shagari by watching his tongue. I am sure the President would like people who would contribute, who would join hands with him to build a stable nation, and not people who would continue to utter words that would incite one section of the country against the other or things that would divide us.

Having said that, I would like particularly to refer to some sections of the Report. I do appreciate the work the Committee has put in by submitting this Report, but I would again refer to an issue which I raised here on the Floor of this House last year about the West African School Certificate. Talking on the performance of our Students in the Secondary Schools, one is a little bit worried about the outcome, and if truly this country is to progress, education can not be ignored because we all agree it is a wheel of social change and this is what we need in this country. So, apart from the Federal Government's deliberate effort to provide secondary education at the nook and corner of this country, there should be remedial courses available particularly to our students. If remedial students are available, I think the question of merit, quota and what-have-you, would be a thing of the past, because there would be sufficient number of the students to further their education in whichever way they decide to take.

The issue of providing remedial courses, I think, should catch the attention of this House, particularly the Education Committee.

Talking about educationally disadvantaged areas, well, I would like to refer particularly to the time when the issue was hot and when it affected admissions to universities, and that is why Malam Aminu Kano will continue to be a patriot and a national Leader of this country. He said at the time that no State or no area would wait for any other part of the country as far as Education was concerned, and he was well acclaimed. I think again this is in contrast to what the hon. Member for West Ward, Kano (*Dr Junaidu*) who calls himself a PRP Member has said on the issue. I think he is neither here nor there. It is in contrast to the views of his Leader.

Mr Speaker: There is a point of order. Yes, Alhaji Abubakar Abutu.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South): My Learned Friend, (no, I am not a Lawyer of course) my hon. Friend is using unparliamentary language against a Member who is not here to defend himself.

Mr Speaker: Yes, go on, Mr Omidiji.

Mr Fola Omidiji: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I think we should all accept the point that I have raised about the hon. Member for West Ward, Kano (*Dr Junaidu*) and people should tell him.

I am here to offer concrete suggestions to see that Education is not made an issue that we should toy with, because we feel that it is the only thing that can unite this country. If all of us are informed, we would know our rights and we would continued to fight for our rights, that is why Education is very paramount to us. I would appeal to the Government, particularly to the Education Committee, moreso as our able Speaker said yesterday that we want our Committees to put up concrete proposals with a view to helping this House to Legislate if necessary. I think no child should walk more than five kilometres from his house before he receives education.

Boarding House is another constraint which hampers the progress of our students. These are the things which should be eliminated in our schools; if we start right away from the beginning we would have no problem as far as education is concerned.

Finally, Mr Speaker, on the issue of Federal Polytechnic much has been said and I share the view expressed by Mrs Babatope yesterday on the issue. I would say that the Federal Government should gear up its efforts to establish more Federal Polytechnics in the country and particularly those areas where at the moment there are no Federal Universities the Federal Government should do something about this.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to suggest that the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board which the Government has scrapped should serve as an alternative body to the West African School

[Mr. OMIDIJI]

Certificate in providing Examination forum for our students. I think WAEC is not enough body for conducting examination in this country. In advanced countries we have many bodies like that and they are functioning side by side helping the Universities. I think it is not enough simply to scrap JAMB because some people are calling for it. Alternative arrangement should be made to see that JAMB performs a function similar to that of WAEC. WAEC at the moment is having much in its hand, and one can see the handwriting on the wall that inefficiency is coming in. Therefore, JAMB should be set up to perform part of the functions which WAEC is now doing. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Tom Egbuwoku.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, what I am going to say is brief. I intend to move a very minor Amendment. This will be in view of the remarks you made yesterday and the contributions by several Members on the Floor. I think the Committee has done a beautiful job. If we bring it to the Floor of the House after series of debates, there is a possibility that this kind of good work may be killed. I think the Committee should do a further job in line with several suggestions. Take for instance, in a matter like this, it was not enough to have interviewed only the Minister. They should have gone further, maybe to interview a few other persons who are professionals in this field. I think we must put seriousness in, whatever Legislation we want to do. People like Principals, certain known Principals, Universities and so on and so forth should also be interviewed.

Now, if you look at even the last paragraph they are saying about Universities : *in view of the recent policy statement by the President of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) the Committee reserves its comment on admissions into Federal Universities.* I do not think it is in the best interest of this House to handle issues like this in a piecemeal manner.

I think they could investigate further, find out the Government policy if they want and rhyme it with what the honourable House feels and come out with concrete proposals.

Secondly, they are talking about disadvantaged areas. If you look at the paper, they have not even spelt out which are the disadvantaged areas. They have not even given the criteria which they have used to get what is called *disadvantaged areas*. They gave certain ratios of admissions to certain schools. They are not even uniform. If you say, for instance, that in areas where schools are sited you should reserve 40 per cent for the indigenes, and then you say the others 10 per cent, suppose that area cannot produce enough candidates to fill those vacancies for a particular period, are you going to give the principals a free hand to fill them ? What will be the criteria that you will use ? They are also saying that we should lower standards for certain areas in order that their students be admitted. We do not know the criteria they want to use. Will it be 10 per cent of a particular examination or 20 per cent or 30 per cent. These ratios must be given so that when people are working they know what they are working with.

As we are discussing here, Mr Speaker, you can even see that the Chairman of the Committee on Education is not around to defend his paper. This does not show enough seriousness on the part of a Chairman of a Committee and in fact the Committee as a whole.

Mr Speaker : No, please, hon. Member, you cannot make a remark that is derogatory of a Member of this honourable House.

Mr Egbuwoku : I am sorry, I withdraw that. I have due respect for the hon. Member for Onitsha South (*Dr E. C. Emekekwe*). He is a very capable man. (*Laughter*)

What I was trying to say, hon. Members, is that in view of the various remarks made by hon. Members and the Speaker, I move a minor Amendment :

That in view of the remarks made by the Speaker and several hon. Members, it is apparent that the committee's recommendations are incomplete and not costed ; that the report should be returned to the committee for fuller detailed costing and investigation.

If this works, then we can come out with a better Legislation and give details, so that we do not create confusion in this country for people to say *you did not say this you did not say that*. That is my appeal to the Speaker and the hon. Members of the House. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Arochukwu. (*Dr O. O. Oreh*)

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members since the Amendment by the hon. Member who spoke last is not in conformity with our standing Orders, I do not want to take it seriously and I urge the honourable House also to dismiss it.

Mr Michael J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, what is your point of order ?

Mr Akpabio : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that the hon. Member for Arochukwu (*Dr O. O. Oreh*) is not speaking from his seat, the seat allocated to him by the Speaker of this honourable House.

The Speaker : The hon. Member for Arochukwu (*Dr O. O. Oreh*), please go to your seat and speak from there. (*Laughter*)

Dr Oreh : I was saying, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*) did not comply with our Standing Orders on how to move Amendments to Motions, therefore, his Amendment should be disregarded.

Now, I want to say that your Committee on Education made very careful consideration of all the facts available to it from members of the public who wrote in, from the Ministry of Education and also took great care to study the contributions that hon. Members of this House made when the Motion on Admissions to Federal Government Institution was discussed and you will agree with me that it was very extensively discussed in the House. So, I will just make a few points by way of an explanation.

First, the point must be made that culture, just like education, is a dynamic force. No culture in the world is known to be inimical to education. Education itself is described or defined as a process of socialization. In that respect, since education is part of culture and both go hand in hand in developing man for his society, there can be no question about Education being inimical to education as one hon. Member tried to suggest here.

Secondly, there is, as a matter of fact, educationally disadvantaged areas, largely in the North and, I do not know by what irony of fate, including the Rivers State. So, when some hon. Members say *so called* educationally disadvantaged, I begin to wonder if the phrase *so called* has lost its meaning. I want to believe that they know that this is a fact, that there are educationally disadvantaged areas in this country.

The other matter I want to point out is this question of interview. Your Committee was fortunate in having, not only former Principals of secondary schools but also, by all standards, very well qualified, very well experienced, very knowledgeable and very intelligent educationists in the Committee. So, I want to say that the Committee did what good work any good Committee could have done to produce the Report it did.

Now, on JAMB, we were working on the terms of reference. We had a Motion on admissions policy, JAMB was not part of this. I think it would have been out of our terms of reference to take a decision on JAMB. What we did, therefore, was to reserve our comments; not that we have no opinion on it. I want to recall that there was a Private Member's Bill on JAMB which came here but lapsed because it was not properly presented, it was published. I want to correct the impression that Government abolished JAMB, it has not. The Government has merely given its indication to abolish JAMB. Since government cannot abolish JAMB and only this Legislature can abolish it because it was established by a Decree, I want you to hold your fire until the Bill on the abolition comes, if it comes.

I do not think there is much one can add to the Report we made, because I think it was exhaustive in view of the Motion that was referred to us. Unless somebody or any group of persons want to refer another Motion to us on this, I would urge everybody here to accept the Report as presently presented. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Yes, the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*).

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think you will agree with me that this matter has been exhaustively discussed.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Other Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Mr Afolabi: In the circumstances, may I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Report of the Committee on Education on the Admissions Policy of Federal Government Institutions be adopted by this House.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*), please move the Motion for Adjournment so that Members will go for the Committee Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker: Anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Dogogo Princewill (Degema I): I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Anybody speaking on the Motion for Adjournment? Yes, the hon. Member for Oyun. (*Mr Isaac Ayodeji Olaleru*)

Political Vendetta in Kwara State

Mr Isaac Ayodeji Olaleru (Oyun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a few points to make on the Motion for adjournment. Recently, there have been a lot of political vendetta going on in my State, Kwara. Recently, 22 senior members of staff in the Kwara State College of Technology were sacked because they were accused of being known supporters of the Unity Party of Nigeria. You will recall that teachers teach in the classrooms and they are not supposed to be politicians. So, they are not. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, the people who were sacked from the Kwara State College of Technology are mostly, people from Irepodun, Ifelodun, Oyun and Oyi, where people are known to be supporters of the Unity Party of Nigeria.

I think, Sir, Nigerians are free to hold political opinions, whether they are in government or anywhere as long as these political opinions are not expressed. This witch-hunting and victimisation is going to a very dangerous extent in Kwara State. For instance, the Registrar of the Kwara State College of Technology is number one on the list, because, according to the sole administrator of that school, this man testified during the gubernatorial petition that saw Governor Atta to the throne in Kwara State. After this man had testified during this election Petition, he was promised a sack; and now that almighty FEDECO had seen the NPN in government in Kwara, he got the sack.

Before I end this speech, these various people who have been sacked have been robbed of their daily livelihood. Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigerians who are free citizens of this country and who are entitled to hold Political opinions, should not be victimised for it, because freedom of expression is entrenched in our Constitution. When people start this kind of witch-hunting and victimisation even to higher education institutions in the nation, it is a dangerous precedent because when academic freedom is being encroached upon, we are treading on a very dangerous path. I think the most pathetic verse in Shakespeare is *Othello's Occupation gone*. When you drive a man to the wall and take his job, you want to kill him.

[MR OLALERU]

Mr Speaker, Sir, this state of affairs in Kwara State is causing some concern because over the last weekend there were demonstrations in Ilorin to the Kwara State House of Assembly to the Governor's house, and the Principal of Ilorin College of Technology has also resigned in protest because people are being victimised unnecessarily. I would like to end this speech by saying that you do not victimise people if you want them on your side. If this kind of victimisation does not stop, I am afraid, it might one day explode and set perhaps the whole of Kwara State in flames.

So, with this Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the powers that be in Kwara state that they should note one thing that the only evidence about power is the instability of it, and power is very temporal.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Establishments of Federal Institutions

Mr Sani Dandare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a request through you to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari. The request is on two items—buildings of two Federal Institutions in my constituency, Bunza Kalgo. These two Federal Institutions I am talking about should be built at Bunza town and the other one in Kaglo town respectively. These institutions may be technical institutions.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Omidiji : The speaker on the Floor of the House is asking too much. Very recently the Federal Government opened a Market, the first of its kind in the continent, and he is now asking for another school. Are you the only one in Nigeria? So, I would advise the hon. Member to please sit down.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Bunza Kalgo. (*Mr Kalgo*)

Mr Kalgo : Hon. Members, I can request if I like. I am representing my constituency and I am here for the interest of my people. I am requesting for my people and I am requesting more for them. If there is need at all next time, I will request for more for my constituency. I am here for that. As I was saying, Mr Speaker, I am requesting for two Federal institutions in my constituency. This will help my people in improving the standard of education in my constituency. The other group is saying free education. It is now they are looking for free education. In my constituency, we have been receiving free education long ago. So, building these two Federal institutions in my area will improve the standard of education in the area. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Yes, the hon. Member for Mushin Central II. (*Mrs Biola Babatope*).

Statement by Lagos State Commissioner of Police

Mrs Biola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : On this Motion for Adjournment, I wish to comment on the statement credited to Alhaji Gambo, the Com-

missioner of Police in Lagos State where he said that the Governor of Lagos State had no right to demolish anybody's house. The statement credited to the Commissioner of Police is capable of sparking off industrial unrest. If I were an LSDPC worker and read the publication credited to the Commissioner of Police, the man who is supposed to cater for Law and Order in Lagos State, I will be very demoralised. We do not think that the Commissioner of Police is the man that should encourage the break-down of law and Order. The Commissioner of Police should take his orders from the Governor of the State and should co-operate. If somebody like Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, an arch rival of Alhaji Jakande, can admit that Alhaji Jakande is one of the foremost Governors we have in Nigeria, then it is wrong for a Commissioner of Police to go against him. It is my own view that every encouragement should be given to the demolition gang of the LSDPC to carry out their work because we all have laws and regulations which pertain to buildings. If any group of people decide to flout the laws and regulations pertaining to buildings, they should be called to order.

The Lagos State Government has done well so far in according the victim of the shooting incident at Ilado a very good burial, but they should go a step further than that and compensate the widow and the children of the late Alhaji Soares. They should do as they have done in case of Mrs Ibrahim Taiwo and Mrs Ajoke Muhammed in making sure that the family of this man is adequately compensated. In future occurrence, I feel, that the Police in Lagos State should co-operate.

It is also well known in Lagos that the Police would only investigate a case with despatch if a policeman is involved. You can all recall the armed robbery incident involving ₦80,000 in which some policemen were killed. The policemen with despatch conducted the investigation and brought the robbers to book. Most of us were witnesses when the robbers were shot at the Bar Beach even though we know that these days people who steal more than that still go scot free. But we expect that the Police should investigate this case with despatch and bring those who have caused this gruesome murder to book. That is what we expect from the police, rather than Police making inciting statements.

It is only in Lagos State out of all States in the Federation that the Police Headquarters is not in the capital of the State. We have the Headquarters of Lagos State in Ikeja, but Alhaji Gambo chooses to be on the Lagos Island in the Lion Building, and he also knows the amount of co-operation he has to give to Lagos State Government. He does not expect to function very well if he is not resident in the State Capital. So, Alhaji Gambo should co-operate with the Lagos State Government and move the Headquarters of the Lagos State Police Command from Lion Building to Ikeja, except if Alhaji Gambo is having another interest other than that of protecting law and order in Lagos State.

In Anambra State we read in the papers that the College of Technology has been closed down because of Students' unrest. Also in Kwara State

one Advanced Teachers, College has also been closed down. The Police Command in either of these two States did not insinuate that the students unrest was sparked off by any group of people. Also in these States, government action has not been grounded to a halt. So, I do not see why Alhaji Gambo expects that the Lagos State should just fold its arms because he, Alhaji Gambo, is pre-occupied with quelling students' unrest. Students' unrest are spontaneous, and once the issue at stake and in this case the ₦2.8 billion has been adequately taken care of, I think, that is not a good excuse for Alhaji Gambo to keep on rattling. If he knows he wants to contest election, he should give his uniform to Prof. Osamor and contest Local Government Election in his State.

As for the people of Ilado, if they know that they want to benefit from the 50,000 housing units which Alhaji Jakande has promised Lagos State, they should provide the land on which these houses would be built. They should not turn round to say there is discrimination against them. We know the number of immigrants into Lagos State per hour and we are determined to cater for all these people. We expect the Police Commissioner to co-operate with us and not to constitute himself into a stumbling block in the progress of Lagos State. Thank you.

Development of less developed areas

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to move your attention a little bit from Lagos this time to a very small strategic economic centre in this Federation, Bori I, where I represent.

In terms of national economic contribution, I think, fifty *per cent* of the oil that you have been talking about that comes from Rivers State comes from this small centre. The first Nigerian refinery is sited in this small place. The Port Harcourt port complex is also in this small LGA. The Afam Power Station is located in this small place. Paradoxically, this is the most undeveloped part of the Rivers State in terms of infrastructures, amenities and what have you. It will surprise you to know that a place that is only twenty three kilometres away from Afam Power Station with a teeming population, and a government centre for long, is up to this time, not lit. The roads constructed by the people of this area are often damaged by lots of heavy shells of these oil prospecting vehicles. Everyday we sit on the bank of the river and still wash our hands with spittle. I think the time has come when men of conscience in this country should think of the less developed areas of this country.

¹¹ Why would NEPA starve us when on our land, they have all the facilities they want, they have all the co-operation they can think of? In Bomu location alone, which was discovered soon after the discovery of Oloibiri, the first oil well in the whole Federation you have well over fifty-two wells in one place not to talk of Yola not to talk of Kurukuru, not to talk of Eneme, not to talk of Ibubu and still you do not find oil in Port Harcourt. Last weekend I was at home and I saw people queuing up. The oil is flowing through

the pipes to other parts of the Federation. Lagos has not lacked oil any day but in some of these areas, you pay as high as three naira for a distance of thirty kilometres just because the taxi drivers have to queue up to get fuel.

I do not know what is going on, but I think I have uncovered one thing. When we talk of educational disadvantaged people, all those who live in Lagos here, because of the type of facilities in the schools that their children attend, because of the quality of teachers that teaches these children, because of their access of WAEC and the consequent leakage available to them, they think that merit should be the Panacea for the solution of our educational dilemma in this country. When you come again to those who would drive their cars one kilometre and see oil in abundance, oil that is produced in other parts of the country and yet the producing areas are starved, people who sit in comfort here think that you do not have problems as long as Lagos is okay, Ilorin is okay, Kaduna is okay, Sokoto is okay, and, perhaps, Port Harcourt is okay.

So, Gentlemen, I think many of us, about seventy *per cent* of those of us in this House come from rural areas, and having been familiar with the problems there, I think the time has come when this House should do something. We in Bori who produce all these types of resources to this country, at no cost, and yet undeveloped, want help and we want the conscience of this House; we want light in Afam. Afam village itself, on which the Afam Power Station is situated, is as dark as any dark corner in Mushin, if Mushin is dark at all. So, you do not know what to do. You contribute to the nation and you sit and fold your arms and starve. We want oil to flow in Port Harcourt. I am sick and tired of queuing up each time I go home, and yet that is the refinery there. You get to Aba, about forty kilometres away from Port Harcourt, you start queuing, and yet that is a Refinery. And when I come to Lagos, there is nothing like that; if you go to Kaduna there is nothing like that; if you go to Kano there is nothing like that.

Must all of us become Military Administrators, Military Governors, Presidents and all these things before we can get what we want? I think, as citizens of this country, we deserve a right to get what we are entitled to. You do not continue to produce and produce and be denied of what you produce. I think action must be taken now, Mr Speaker, before it is too late.

Thank you.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.50 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 24th April, 1980

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and I have approved them as reflecting the correct things that transpired in the House yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are one or two announcements I would like to make this morning. This morning's sitting will be a short one.

Firstly, I wish to inform the House that the Speaker has travelled outside Lagos to attend his Party Convention in Aba. It is, therefore, my duty to preside over the sitting of this House this morning under the provisions of Standing Order 6 (1).

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

We have received an invitation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Members will recall that on the 10th March, 1980 this House passed a Resolution that Nigeria should rejoin the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). Following that Resolution, which also received the concurrence of the Senate, an application for membership was lodged with the Secretariat of the Association in London. Following our rejoining the Association, we can now participate fully in the various activities of the Organisation.

Last week, the Speaker received a telegram from the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association requesting him to nominate two Members of this honourable House to undertake a Parliamentary tour of parts of the United Kingdom from the 29th of this month to the 17th of May. We are accordingly announcing the names of the two Members on Monday. They will travel to United Kingdom in response to the invitation.

1980 Budget Exercise

The main reason why we are going to have a short meeting this morning is to allow the various Committees enough time to concentrate on their examination of the 1980 Budget Proposals in order to ensure that all the Committees complete their assignments within the deadline already set. I cannot over-emphasise the need for all the Chairmen of the various Committees to treat this matter with all seriousness and with the utmost sense of urgency.

I should seize this opportunity to inform hon. Members that this House has been allocated ten Committee Rooms in the new block behind the

Senate Building, and some of these Committee rooms are all ready for use now. In fact, some of our Committees have already started to make use of the rooms. This new development should make it possible for our Committees to work in a more congenial atmosphere than was the case when the examination of the 1980 Budget Proposals began a few weeks ago.

Seminar of Chartered Accountants on Budget

There is a letter from the Institute of the Lagos District Society of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, announcing that they are having a weekend Seminar on the 1980 Budget on Friday, April 25th, 1980, at Council Chambers of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Plot 16, Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island. Those Chartered Accountants among us who would like to attend the meeting can do so.

Committee Meetings

The Chairman of the Appropriation Committee, Alhaji M. Bachaka, would like to have a meeting with all the different Chairmen of Committees looking through the 1980 Budget in Committee Room 3 at 11 o'clock. All the Chairmen of Committees should be present. He said it is going to be a very brief meeting.

In the Order Paper for today, we have the list of all the Committees that are meeting this morning. Those Committees which will meet from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. are as follows: Joint House Committee in Committee Room 3; Committee on Public Service Matters in Committee Room 4; Committee on External Affairs in Committee Room C2 at the new extension behind the Senate Building. Committees meeting from 1.30-4.30 p.m. are: Committee on Transport in Committee Room 3; Committee on Health in Committee Room 4; Committee on Industries in Committee Room C1 New Extension; Committee on Housing in Committee Room C2 New Extension; Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in Committee Room C3 New Extension; Committee on Internal Affairs in Committee Room C4 New Extension. Among those sitting today in the morning, even though it is not listed in the Order Paper, is the Committee on Works and Surveys at Committee Room Extension C2 at 11 o'clock, and hon. Ojogu from Cross River State will be the Chairman of this Committee because the main Chairman of the Committee is away but will be coming into the meeting later.

For Friday, we have Committee on Water Resources in Committee Room 3; Committee on Defence in Committee Room 4; Committee on Agriculture in Committee Room C1 New Extension; Committee on Finance in Committee Room C2 New Extension; Special House Committee in Committee Room C3 New Extension; Committee on Public Service Matters in Committee Room C4 New Extension; Committee on Internal Affairs in Committee Room C5 New Extension.

There is no Motion on the Order Paper for today. I have a lot of submissions from individuals wanting to speak on points of explanation.

Personal Explanation Kwara College of Technology

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of explanation before the House this morning is to correct an impression, a wrong one in fact, which was given to this House yesterday by an hon. Member from Oyin (*Mr Olaleru*) as regards the activities of Kwara State Government on the sack of some staff of the Kwara College of Technology.

The correct information is that this was not in any way being motivated politically. The correct version is that there were cases of theft in this Institution.

There were two cases of theft. Each time they stole a safe containing money from this College. Some members of this Institution have, on many occasions, engaged the official vehicle of the Institution in private errands. An instance of these was when one of these vehicles was involved in an accident, and up till now the insurance company has refused to pay the Institution because the vehicle was used on private errands.

In fact, the question of politics never came in in this, and I am sure any political party in power in such a situation will definitely take an action irrespective of the staff being linked with any political party. This has been misconstrued to be because the person who was involved in this crime does not belong to the same political party as those in government.

There was an occasion when this House heard about the accusation levied against the Kwara State Government that some members were sacked from *Herald* on political grounds. All the members from Kwara State in this House happened to meet the Governor on this issue after the explanation. The hon. Member for Oyin (*Mr Olaleru*) will bear us out that after the Governor's explanation, he in person had to tender some apology before the Governor for having accused the Government wrongly.

I would have thought that if the hon. Member of the House has to pass any information concerning his State to this House, he ought to have cross-checked this, not just from the daily newspapers particularly his bible known as the *Tribune*. (*Laughter*)

I am again drawing the attention of this House to the fact that the Kwara State College of Technology has been over-staffed, and 90 per cent of staff in Kwara State Government happen to come from Oyin, Irepodun and Oyi. Consequently, if there should be any purge or any accusation levied in the Ministry, these people, having the lion share of the number of members serving in the service, should at least have the highest number affected. But I will not support somebody saying that the sack exercise was politically motivated. If members of staff were sacked or dismissed as a result of frauds or absenteeism, I hate to hear that it is because of politics and because these people have come from a political party, unless you want to confirm here before the House that members of this party are fond of behaving in that manner. The exercise was

Just a general one and if it happens that it involved more members of a political party, it is just by accident. And that also reveals that they are more involved in this sort of dirty attitude. So, you will just have to bear this. Again, the Kwara State is unlike the Bendel State or the UPN controlled States. Victimization which is going on in Bendel State, where no registered contractor can perform unless they belong to UPN, does not happen in Kwara State.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

In Defence of Mr Akinrimisi

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowapo) : Mr Speaker, my point of explanation relates to the two publications in the *Tribune* of the 22nd and 23rd of this month.

One is the lead story and the other is an editorial. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is a matter of deep regret for a popular paper like *Tribune* to write an editorial on a subject and in particular on a person without properly checking out the facts. It is also indeed a matter of deeper regret for Legislators to get up on the Floor of their respective Houses and make allegations and insinuations which they cannot support especially against innocent people who have not the opportunity of defending themselves on the Floor of the Houses.

I am making a particular reference to the appointment of one Mr Akinrimisi as a member of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry on NNPC. The allegation is that this young man who has distinguished himself in his own career is an accountant of Obasanjo. As a matter of fact, this poor boy does not know Obasanjo from Adam. It is very wrong for us to come here and—

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North/East) : Point of order. My point of order is based on Order 26 (4) which says :

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.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you were here yesterday when this same matter was raised, and when the point of order was raised, it was agreed, and Mr Speaker did say this (it is in the Hansard of yesterday) that we would not discuss anything further on the issue since it is already with the Judiciary. The point now being raised by the hon. Member for Ifesowapo is similar to that raised by hon. Nuhu Poloma yesterday. I think it is wrong for any Member to raise such an issue as of today.

Mr Akinbisehin : This point in issue is unrelated.

Mr Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, on the point of explanation being made by the hon. member, the ruling yesterday was in reference to Standing Order 26 (3) which says:

Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in Mr Speaker's opinion prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

[THE DEPUTY SPEAKER]

The character of a member of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry has been assassinated, and the matter has been raised on the Floor of a State Assembly. Since that matter has been publicised, and the member of the Commission was in no position to protect or defend himself on the floor of another House, it is only fair that another person defends him on the Floor of another House.

Mr Akinbisehin : I am very grateful, Mr Speaker. Justice is to be done. Here is a young man who studied and obtained his degrees in Economics and Statistics from the Universities of Wales and Manchester. He was never an Accountant and did not know Obasanjo from the beginning. He did banking and he is a banker. He heard his name as I and your good selves did, on the wireless and on television sets. As a matter of fact, he did not know of the appointment as he is not a lobbyist. He is a hard working young man, industrious, intelligent, unassuming and indeed, he is a man of integrity and honour.

I am seizing this opportunity to call upon the Members of this hon. House, and Nigeria as a whole, not to be a nation of rumour peddlers. We peddle rumours a lot and we do not listen to facts. We are men of facts—lawyers are men of facts and they know facts when they see them. This is an opportunity for everyone to come out and tell us what he knows about this sum of ₦2.8 billion which is alleged missing. Mr Speaker, this figure is staggering; indeed, it is a grave amount. We should allow—

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : On a point of order, I think it is very wrong for the hon. Member to project the image of a profession on the Floor of this House. Lawyers are known to be liars. They master-minded the two-thirds calculation in the presidential election in this country. It is, therefore, wrong for anybody to come to the Floor of this House and extol the legal profession.

Mr Akinbisehin : Mr Speaker, I am seizing this opportunity to call upon hon. Members, traders, bankers, workers and businessmen to come out and tell the Inquiry the facts they know so that, for once, we will see the end of this grave allegation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that when we have the opportunity we do not always come out. For example, this House instituted an Inquiry. Those who were supposed to come and give evidence refused to come, yet they go about saying that they have facts. Why did they not go to give the facts? The opportunity has now come for everybody to tell the facts and then we would see an end to this matter. Awojobi and others should go and give evidence of what they know.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to belabour this issue. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity of defending a person who otherwise, would not have had the opportunity of defending himself.

Giri Dam : Resettlement of Displaced villagers

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, a serious situation has arisen somewhere in this country and I am appealing to the Federal Government to act at once.

There is an area called Banjira in Lugunda local government area, of Gongola State. A dam is being built in that area by the Federal Government, called Giri Dam and its construction has affected fourteen villages. The villagers are being displaced because of this dam. Some government officials became interested in the show, and one of them has one or two modern buildings there. The villagers were asked whether they wanted to be resettled or paid compensation for their houses. This powerful government official manipulated the survey the result of which was to say that these villagers wanted to be paid compensation.

A villager with a thatched house might not get more than one hundred to two hundred Naira compensation, and evidently, this poor villager would spend the money and not build a house. Having examined the whole issue, the villagers have now discovered that they have been manipulated.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Government to resettle them instead of paying them compensation. But, this official is so powerful in Gongola State that he is making things almost impossible. I am now on the floor of this House appealing to the Federal Government to send an independent panel of interviewers to this area to interview these villagers. The panel will find that the villagers want resettlement and not compensation. Whatever is paid as compensation might go to the pockets of one or two individuals only. The villagers do not want compensation but resettlement, and I am seizing this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to please resettle these villagers and not compensate them.

1980 Budget

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I would like to say something on the working of the present system as it affects our procedures in this honourable House.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is not speaking from his seat.

The Deputy Speaker : Please go to your seat.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam : Mr Speaker, I want to speak on the working of the present system of government as it affects our procedures in this House. As is very well known, Sir, the Nigerian Constitution is not a carbon-copy of the American Constitution.

All that has happened is an adaptation of certain sections and practices of the American Constitution to our own situation and experience.

Early this week a statement was made to the effect that reports of the various Standing Committees on the Budget should be submitted to this House through one Committee. I want to say, Sir, that all the Standing Committees in this House are equal, none is superior to the other. If anybody feels that any

particular Committee, and in this respect the Appropriation Committee, is more important than others, then there was no need at all to assign the consideration of the Budget proposals to other Committees. I am, therefore, suggesting that if Mr Speaker wants us to pass the Appropriation Bill in time in this House, he should allow all the Committees to finish their jobs, and submit their reports directly to this House and not through any Committee. Otherwise, he should ask the Appropriation Committee to go and consider the Appropriation Bill. That is the point I want to make, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Mr Bassey Etienam, you are the Chairman of the Labour Committee, and right now there is a meeting of all the Chairmen of the Standing Committees of the House going on. This point you could hammer there and hear the views of other Chairmen. The meeting is taking place now.

Security of Life and Property in Lagos

Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Commissioner of Police of Lagos State to tighten up security because of the increased wave of crime in Lagos, especially now that cars like Mercedes Benz and so on belonging to Members of the National Assembly are being stolen.

We are now afraid as we are now living in a state where the security of our lives and properties are in danger. I appreciate that the Commissioner of Police for Lagos State has done his best. Since he assumed office, the wave of crime has been reduced. He should continue to work very hard to see that crime is completely eradicated. I will also appeal to the Inspector-General of Police to increase the strength of the Nigeria Police for the security of life and property in Lagos State. Armed robbery is on the increase and these robbers are after the seizure of Members' cars at gun point here and there. We are afraid to travel even after 7.00 p.m. As hon. Members will agree with me we are normally in the various Committees and we have to go home late in the night. Since our lives are not secure, the performance of our job will not be easy. As I said, I have to express my gratitude to the Commissioner of Police, but he should put more effort to see that life and property are safe in Lagos State. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Political Victimization in Bendel State

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiope North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this honourable House to an incident that happened about 3.00 p.m. on the 18th of April, 1980 in Benin. On the 15th of this month a letter was sent to the Secretary of the National Party of Nigeria, Bendel State saying that the house in which he lives, duly allocated to his wife, a senior civil servant in that State and for which rent had been regularly paid, was due for renovation. He phoned back to the Ministry to say that there was no need for renovation because there was nothing wrong with the house since they had only just painted it.

On the 18th of April, 1980, twenty people went with a senior official from the Ministry of Works in an official vehicle, and dismantling the door of the garage, climbed on the roof, removed the ceiling and damaged a lot of things, all in the name of renovation.

At the time they arrived, the Secretary of the Party in the State was here in Lagos for a meeting, the wife was away in the office and a little child and the house girl were the only people present. They were driven out of the house. By the time the Secretary came back, and I happened to have travelled back with him in the same plane, I dropped him in his house, and we found that the whole thing had been dismantled. Later, the Police were contacted and they sent in somebody to stand by the premises. Meanwhile, the wife made efforts to contact the Governor of the State who refused to grant her audience. She also went to the Deputy Governor who again tried to phone across to the Governor in an attempt to get audience for her, but the Governor still refused to see her. The Commissioner for Works in that State, Dr T. A. Salubi, was not available to see her either.

I thought I should bring this up because it is one of the very many incidences that have been happening lately in the State in areas and to persons not belonging to the Unity Party of Nigeria. We are in 1980, and we are supposed to be a different brand of people. We are not now expected to play the pre-1966 politics that almost destroyed this country, and I thought it is necessary to bring it here that we should advise our various party leaders and governments wherever they are. Happily, every political party in this House has some States that they are controlling.

We should stop victimising ourselves. We should set an example for the future. We should not transfer teachers unnecessarily, we should not blackmail them. This is a very serious issue. If it can happen to the Secretary of a party in a State, only God knows what can happen to many others who are not that prominent. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

Dead Bodies on our Roads

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak on a subject entirely different from what other people have been saying. My topic is *dead bodies on our roads*. There is no doubt, hon. Members, you must have been going from place to place in the entire nation and while you travel you will see traces of accidents with victims and dead bodies lying here and there. I am appealing through this House that the time has now come that the alarming rate of accidents and uncollected corpses on our roads is needing very urgent attention. I would now like to appeal to Local Government Authorities, State Governments and Voluntary Agencies to please join the crusade in assisting this country in removing corpses off our streets, and roads.

[MR ADEAGBO]

I believe all of us have got to pass away one way or the other. How you are going to die you do not know. It might be in a car crash, a victim of armed robbers or by natural consequences. Through, you, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the President that the time has now come that dead bodies or accident victims, should really be assisted.

For example, in cities like Ibadan where I know too well, particularly the road from Oyo to Ile-Ife, people die day in day out for want of immediate care and attention. This is also applicable in Imo, Anambra, Gongola, Cross River States, and so on and so forth. I once more call on all the newspapers in this country to highlight the degree of the losses we are sustaining in manpower as a result of road accidents. Dead bodies, particularly in the cities being left for days, apart from being an eyesore, are worth nothing.

I would like to appeal once more to the Inspector-General of Police and the Police Authorities that the time has now come for the Police to relax their attitudes towards accident victims. There are many people who are very kind-hearted in conveying accident victims to the hospital for treatment but in many cases the Police will ask them, *where did you get the corpse, where did you get it? You have killed him.* This makes many people to run away from that Good Samaritan service.

I regret to mention, hon. Members, that I lost a friend of mine, who was very dear to my heart as a result of non-immediate clearance and assistance in the accident in which he was involved.

Hon. Members, I am appealing to you that when you go to your various Constituencies, there is no doubt, you will see the road blocks which are being mounted by the Police. While I was away to Ondo State last week, I did see in about three places at the road blocks, accidents involving motorists. This again, to my mind, is not assisting the generality of our people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I am not taking much of your time, this is an over-flogged issue—dead bodies on our roads. You see heads being severed from the bodies for days. So, Mr Speaker, I sincerely appeal to you to call on Mr President to please assist us. Lives are really going in hundreds, if not in thousands.

Mr Speaker, I beg to sit.

Mr O. A. Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : My point of explanation is on the House resolution of 20th February, 1980 which reads :

That this House views with great concern the

rampant incidents resulting in clashes between border towns-villages in various parts of the country and hereby directs the Committee on Internal Affairs to investigate without delay these incidents and make recommendations for a lasting solution to ensure peace and stability in the affected areas before the next farming season.

It is unfortunate that since this Motion was referred to the Committee on Internal Affairs, nothing has ever come on the Floor of this House for consideration. The bad side of the issue is that those villages concerned are still living in fear because of constant war between one village and another on boundary dispute. I am now appealing to the Committee concerned to give priority to this issue as this affects a greater number of the people of Cross River State. For example the people of Ikorim Ime in Cross River State and people of Onicha Ngwa in Imo State are still living inside the bush now. They have refused to go home and live in their houses, and this is a period of farming in which everybody should go to the farm, but because of this dispute, this has not been made practicable.

Our problem does not end with inter State disputes. The Cross River State is at the moment having trouble with a neighbouring country, that is the Cameroon. Recently, the Governor of Cross River State, Dr Clement Isong, drew the attention of the Cameroonian Consul to the burning of fishing villages and the disturbing of Nigerian fishermen at the border towns between Cameroon and Nigeria.

I am taking this opportunity, at the moment, to appeal through the Speaker to the President of this country to have a small talk with his counterpart, especially at this time when, very soon, Heads from different parts of African States are meeting, to remind him that peace and unity demand conflict-free atmosphere, and that the peace being maintained by the people of Cross River State should not be misinterpreted.

With these few comments, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat. Thank you.

Mr M. G. Shamaki (Katagum) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, my point of order is constitutional. There is no quorum in this sitting. Thank you.

Speaker : The Clerk has confirmed that there is no quorum, and therefore, this House stands adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.22 a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 8 (2).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 28th April, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, are still reminded that the Committees must make their reports available as soon as possible. I know that the Committees have a lot of problems in getting their reports ready, but please make your reports available as we decided last week.

I am also requesting the parties to send in the list of Members for two Committees. One is the Committee on Public Relations and the other is the Committee on Creation of States. On Committee for Creation of States, I seize the opportunity to say that our Committee will go straight into action this week as soon as the names are collected tomorrow. I do not see any legal validity in the statement made by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on creation of states. (*Applause*) Our Committee will definitely consider all applications within the meaning of the Constitution. The definition of what amounts to membership of local government is quite clear and if anybody is in doubt all that he has to do is to go to court. We are going to consider every application before us and it will be treated accordingly.

Invitation from C.P.A.

Hon. Members, as you all know, we have an invitation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom Branch, and two of our Members will take part in the seminar. The members are the Hon. Olusola Afolabi who will lead the delegation and the hon. Mr J. C. Okoli. The two of them will represent the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Committees will meet as shown in the Order Paper.

Members' visit to US.

Hon. Members, I have the pleasure to announce that the Members of the Rules and Business Committee that travelled to the United States are now back. The Leader of the delegation will now tell us what happened.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekwa (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, as the Leader of the delegation to the United States, I have pleasure in reporting that the entire team came back over the weekend, and that members of my team, including hon. M. A. Olukoya, hon. Amos Sunday, hon. Mac Eteli, hon. Alhaji Sule Lamido and also our Secretary, Joseph Obianwu, all came back over the weekend. I must say that the mission was very successful.

It was successful in many respects. First we had a very comprehensive programme. In fact, by the time we arrived there we had a neat, tight programme awaiting the delegation. We were taken round the Congress, and we met Congress in session. We had the opportunity to see the Committee on Rules in operation. We were also taken to various sections of Congress and saw how the Bills are prepared. We had discussions with the Director of Nationalities on the Democratic National Committee. We had briefings on the Congressional Research Service. We also had briefings and discussions with the Staff Council of the Committee on Rules. We also had the opportunity to watch Congress itself in session. All these we were able to do within the little time at our disposal. It was quite tight and on the whole we really enjoyed the trip and we did learn a great deal.

I do hope, in due course, to make a written report because we consider the facts of what we saw and what we learnt are something that we should really pass on to all Members of this hon. House for due consideration, with a view to accepting quite a number of the ideas, again subject to your approval. In particular, we do hope that our mission will accelerate our present work on the preparation of the Rules of the House. That is one of our primary objectives. We have also got new ideas on the treatment of Motions and Bills. We have also got new ideas on the procedure in the handling of the Budget. As a matter of fact, we hope that our mission will give rise to the presentation to this hon. House of a specific act to be known as the Budget Act which will spell out all the legislative processes in the preparation and treatment of the Nation's budget, both within the National Assembly and also within the Executive itself. It is a very important procedure and we do hope we shall try and generate action that will provide for this.

There is also need to really have a nice staff training programme. You cannot operate this type of system we have now taken upon ourselves with effect from 1st October, 1979 without adequate trained manpower. It is a bit frustrating, after finding out what facilities are made available to the Congress, what facilities should really be made available to the National Assembly and Members and the Committees, to look at all these in the United States and come back home to see the little that we have. You feel very sad indeed.

I think that it is within our competence to initiate action to get the proper things done for the House. I see ourselves as pioneers in the practice of the Presidential system, and I do not think we should only stop at making laws, we should also aim at establishing for the system facilities that will last. Some people say it has taken the United States 200 years to attain their present standard. I do not think any Nigerian would be fair to this country to think that Nigeria should wait for another 200 years before we are able to adopt the facilities that really attend to the system. So, hon. Members, I do hope we will be able, in due course, to really get these things going.

[MR IHEKWAZU]

Finally, I would like to place on record the due appreciation of the Members of my delegation particularly to the African-American Institute in the United States. As I said, on arrival we found a tight, nice programme already awaiting the delegation. This was entirely as a result of their homework, hardwork and wonderful liaison services. I like to remember in particular one Dr Clifford Lee, a Black American, and I am sure that most of you, as you go to the United States, are bound to come in contact with this gentleman. He was extremely useful to all of us. So also were many others. I had the privilege in fact the entire Committee had the privilege, of meeting the Rules Committee in session. We also met the Chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr Richard Bowling. He was very useful and promised to make available at any time any information whatsoever which we may consider necessary, even at short notice. He promised he would be prepared to help as much as possible.

All these, hon. Members, are part of what we intend to report in greater detail. There are many other things to talk about, but I think the gist and the summary, that the mission was quite successful, would suffice for now. We do thank all of you, Mr Speaker, who have made it possible for us to have this wonderful experience. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : May I seize this opportunity to welcome our Members who have gone abroad to learn and know more and gain more experience in their administration, that is to say, in the rules and the business and working of this National Assembly. We must place on record that the Presidential system is really an expensive system and since Nigeria adopted it, we must look up to it, face the consequences, and spend money on the training of manpower to enable us have proper working of the system.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also seize this opportunity to express my views on the question of the Standing Orders Committee and the Business Committee. I believe that they ought, at times, to have joint meetings to enable us achieve a common goal, that is, to make a success of this system. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also want to place on record, that for some time now, we used to have the list of what we were going to do for a whole week and this, at that time, gave us the opportunity of preparing our papers for a good debate. I believe that since the Chairman of the Business Committee has arrived, he will not forget to let us have, every Friday, the list of what we are going to do for the coming week, except where the Speaker has a very urgent matter to include on the list. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : I would say the purpose of this visit is to enable both the Business and the Rules Committee to study the Rules in the United States with a view to bringing our own rules up to date. As I have told them this morning, they must come together now and see that we get our Standing Orders ready as soon as the budget is over.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that the House do adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Aremu B. Yahaya (Ilorin East) : I second the Motion.

A plea to Leader of Delegation

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want Members to note one point, especially the Members who went to America, the Chairman has just given a report. We have been used to having all Leaders of delegations coming along here to give a report and promising us that we will soon have a full report. I think it should be necessary to mention it now that we do not want this report to be delayed in such a way that we are unable to follow up the gist of what we were given with the details that will be contained in the report. I must make specific mention of the first delegation to America, I think that delegation went either in November or December, and up till now, we have not been privileged to have the full report as promised this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to implore all Members, especially Leaders of delegations, to please always learn to fulfil their promises when they give them on the Floor of this honourable House.

Thank you.

Suspension of Miss Vera Ifudu

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my contribution on the motion for adjournment has something to do with a report in one of the newspapers this morning regarding the suspension of a Journalist whose duty before now has been within the National Assembly. I refer specifically to the case of Miss Vera Ifudu who has been suspended from duties by her employers.

Without prejudice to whatever may be behind her suspension and without any intent to dilute discipline, I wish to remind the Television Authority that, for as long as there appears to be element of victimisation and intimidation, this country cannot get on very far. It should be pointed out that when Miss Ifudu, as reported in the Press, was testifying before the Special Committee on NNPC, she did ask for protection and it does appear that she had an inkling of what might happen. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am seizing this opportunity to call on the Authorities concerned to look into this matter again, otherwise, there is no guarantee that the people who are going to testify before the Irikefe Tribunal will not be victimized. (*Applause*) And I do hope that this message gets to the right quarters loud and clear. Nobody is going to pull any wool across anybody's eyes, and we do hope that the matter will be rectified, especially as this young lady did ask for protection. I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr Speaker : Is Alhaji Ibrahim here? All what we would like to know is whether we gave a guarantee in respect of her protection when she was testifying

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Yes, it is recorded, we gave a guarantee that she would not be victimised, and as a matter of fact, we appealed to the Managing Director, Mr Saka Fagbo, that under no circumstance must Miss Vera Ifudu be victimized, particularly at this time. We made it quite clear. Mr Speaker, for your information, on the day that she had the tape when they were looking for it, she was also harassed by the Police. She ran away, they could not get to her, and they went to her house. Well, I do not know why she is being suspended now, but in view of the present circumstances, I believe, Mr Speaker, if the House wishes, we could ask for explanation because we cannot interfere in the Internal Affairs of the Television Authority.

Several Members : No ! No !

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, Sir, well, you asked for an explanation. They gave us an undertaking that they would not victimize her and we took it for granted that she would not be victimized. Thank you.

Mr S. A. Shinyanbola (Ede South) : This matter of Miss Vera Ifudu is a very serious one. It is serious in the sense that it is a slap on the face of the National Assembly. (Applause) Therefore, the Nigerian Television Authority should be called upon immediately to reinstate the lady and then a probe of the National Assembly should be set up to find out whoever started the matter of suspending that lady.

Secondly, it is a good idea for us to be able to guarantee the witnesses whenever we invite people to this House. Therefore, we must make sure that this lady is reinstated immediately. Again, all the parties that are represented here, really want freedom, especially freedom of the Press and this nation needs it. This censorship is just from a few group of people and we do not know whom they are. We must stop it immediately. Also, the Senate Leader's credibility will be protected if we reinstate this lady immediately, otherwise, it might even tell on his name. Therefore, we should please make sure that the lady is reinstated immediately.

Mr E. Ejiga (Oturkpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a point of explanation in contributing to the Motion for adjournment. My point is on the reported case of some parties rejecting official cars allocated to them. Mr Speaker, Sir—

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member, you will take up this matter later but let us reach an agreement on this first issue, if you do not mind. (Interruptions)

Order ! Order ! I was thinking that it is a point on which the House has an interest.

Some hon. Members : Yes.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin (Ifesowapo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, whilst on this topic, I thought that some of our Members who spoke on Vera Ifudu's matter would have specifically referred to Order 19 whereby we could suspend it and make a Motion in this House immediately subject to your permission. I suppose, if the Speaker permits that, we can make a Motion and ask the Director of NTA to make an explanation

and at the same time, pending that time, to move that that lady should be reinstated (Applause), because I believe that this is a contempt of this honourable House.

Some hon. Members : Yes, yes.

Mr Speaker : Let us take the view of the House then we would know what to do.

Mr D. Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the very serious matter regarding Vera Ifudu's case. When we called this lady to testify before your Sub-Committee, we gave a guarantee that she would not be victimized. It is a matter for regret that this lady has been victimized and has been suspended from her job. I would like every hon. Member in this House to associate himself or herself with any Motion on this matter, because if they can do these things now, I wonder what they would do before the Irikefe Tribunal of Inquiry on NNPC. What I am saying, Sir, is that I would like the Director of NTA to appear before this House or the Speaker and a selected few to investigate the matter.

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Mr Princewill : Mr Speaker, Sir, Miss Ifudu is a great Nigerian. She is very loyal to her job. The tape we received from Vera Ifudu is a copy of D tape not the original D tape. D tape was missing. Without this lady we could not have been in a position to rehearse this tape. The she presented to us was a copy of D tape. D tape was missing and nothing is done by the Director to say where D tape is.

Hon. Members, I could say that this is not a political issue and we shall look into this matter to its logical conclusion.

Chief Stephen Alete (Ikwerre/Etche I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I stand to support the idea on the Floor of the House regarding the suspension of Vera Ifudu. I feel that this matter is very important. We know the division of labour between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. If we let this matter lie, that interference by the Executive would succeed to suppress the effect of the Legislature. I feel that this is not a matter of suspension from the Department where this lady is working. I think it is an operation somewhere from the Executive. I feel that we must go very deep into this matter to find out why Vera Ifudu was suspended. They may cloak it by administrative action.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am a member of the NNPC Committee and we know what help this girl gave to us. I have my suspicion that her suspension has a direct relation to her activities in that Committee. I feel that if we find out why this girl was suspended, we might find that it has to do with that Committee ; and if it has, I feel it would be a contempt of this House. Therefore, we must institute an inquiry to find out the cause because if we do not do so, we might be given a very wishy-washy explanation that it is an administrative action. We want to know the full details. Thank you very much.

Mr J. O. Iwuagwu (Mbano West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my name is J. O. Iwuagwu Mbano West, Imo State. I am really so much disappointed that a little arm of the Government of this country could take such a very stupid step against somebody who has come out to help the whole nation. This is not just a question of the Legislature or trying to assert the independence or the right of the Press to report the truth. This is a question affecting everybody in Nigeria, and what the General Manager has done is terribly contrary to the provisions of the Constitution. If this man feels that he is above the Constitution, Sir, it must be made very clear to him that he cannot ride rough-shod of the Constitution and the National Assembly.

Now, Sir, Section 83 of the Constitution says that we have the power—*shall have power*, and this means command to everybody in Nigeria, to *procure all such evidence written or oral* and that is what Vera Ifudu has done. If this girl is going to be persecuted by anybody, I think we would not be living up to our duty of protecting the Constitution if we left that person alone. It is not just a question of only moving a Motion in this House requiring the General Manager to come here to give evidence, we must go ahead also to suspend him from his job (*Applause*) pending the time Vera Ifudu's job is given back to her. It is as simple as that.

I think the reason why some other executive powers in this country are trying to ride rough-shod of the Legislature and the Constitution is because of the very simple way in which the Senate chickened out of a legal action instituted by Mr Momoh, because the Constitution says that we have every right to bring any person here and no person can say no.

Now, Sir, I would also ask that apart from reinstating Vera Ifudu in her job, she should be given promotion for giving us the evidence we required. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, hon. Members, let us finish this point. I think, instead of our having a resolution, I will request the Clerk of the House, Mr Olinmah, to write to the Managing Director of the NTA to come to this House on Wednesday by 1.30 p.m. (*Interruptions*)

Allocation of Official Cars

Mr E. Ejiga (Oturkpo) : In contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, I want to speak on the reported case of some parties rejecting official cars allocated to them. Mr Speaker, Sir, the point which I want to emphasise is the moral justification for any party to go outside the house and pull out of any agreement concluded by Party Leaders, thereby leaving other parties holding the sack and making them look foolish.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when we all came here first, we were very hostile to ourselves, we were very suspicious of ourselves, but by the able leadership of Mr Speaker and the House Leader, I think, we all now have come to work together. It appears that there are some people outside this House who are not happy about the harmonious way we are working, and they always

like to politicise anything that we do here. I think that is wrong, and those of us here should have the moral courage to tell them that we are party to this decision and we must uphold it.

Again, Mr Speaker, I think, if an official car is allocated to anybody and he rejects it, no car must be allocated to him again, because it will be a double standard if a group of Leaders are riding this type of cars and others are riding the other type. Those people who have rejected official cars, I think, can make use of their own personal cars.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, there is no problem there. Mr Mabrama Jen, do you want to say anything? (*Interruptions*) Hold on ! Hold on ! Let us hear from the Leaders involved.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! I am almost certain that I have not seen Mr Mabrama Jen's car returned. Is it returned to the pool now ? Anyway, to the best of my knowledge, no party Leader has returned his car to me. So, we leave that point. Nobody has yet returned his car ; the House will know when that happens.

Yes, Motion for Adjournment, any further contribution ? Yes, Dr J. T. Sekibo.

Dr Taribo J. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members, I am sorry I have to bring back the case of Vera Ifudu because I was a member of the NNPC Committee. There are certain explanations that hon. Members require and as the other speakers did not make mention of them, I feel it is necessary for Members to know because it will throw more light. This girl did not refuse or disobey her boss. What really happened, from her explanation, was that she submitted the original copy to the Research Section that stores such copies and unfortunately, this copy got missing there, but she herself, being aware of how sensitive the matter was, bought her own tape and made a copy. In fact, what she presented to the Committee was a copy made from her own personal money, not—

Some hon. Members : How do you know ?

Dr Sekibo : Yes, that is true. You do not know (*Interruptions*). What she did was (*Interruptions*) No, cool down.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*) please move that the Question be now put so that we may go. Leave that till tomorrow. It is too hot.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I think the House is getting hotter and in the circumstance, I now move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.13 a.m

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 29th April, 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I hope, from the first of May, we shall start to consider the Reports of the various Committees on the Budget. I do not know how many reports the Clerk has received. So, please, the Party Leaders will meet with all the Committee Chairmen, including the Business Committee Chairman, in my office immediately after this sitting. Let us agree on the final procedure for considering the budget.

The Special House Committee will now meet in the Senate Committee Room this morning.

Presentation of Committee Report

Committee on Water Resources : Report on the River Basins Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill 1980 (H.R. 7).

Dr Eze O. A. Nwala (Ikwere/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move :

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Water Resources in respect of the River Basins Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill, 1980.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Hon. Members, anybody seconding the Motion?

Alhaji M. S. Aliyu (Nasarawa) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Please, may I know whether copies of the Report have been distributed to hon. Members.

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : Please ensure that copies of the Report are put into hon. Members' pigeon holes so that a date will be set down for the debate of the report.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : So, the report is now with us. Hon. Members, please, go through the report, then we come back to debate it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this honourable House do adjourn until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Okon A. Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Any Motions on Adjournment ?

School for Members' Children

Alhaji Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to take this opportunity to forward a request to the Minister of Education. Now that we are all living in the Victoria Island Flats, there is a place which is being regarded as a school, and that school is being run by the Management of a construction Company. We would like the Ministry to take over the running of that school so that we can improve and expand it with Government's own money. These people are only using it as a temporary school which combines a nursery and a primary school. In fact, it will serve both purposes. As it is at the moment, and realizing the list of the children registered there, (there are over 400 children), the site and the classes are too small. So, I appeal through this honourable House to the Minister of Education to check in there, take control of the whole school and then make the necessary provisions for our children. Thank you, Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

Threat to World Peace

Mr Emmanuel Obidigbo Echetabu (Njikoka South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in support of the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable House to a situation that is threatening World Peace and this affects Nigeria directly or indirectly if the escalation of war does take place. Touching this very solitary point, it behoves us at this stage, to know that hostages are still held against the public international law sanctions which are embodied in the United Nations Charter. Article I of the Charter requires that all Member-States should be peace loving. Article IV enjoins Member-States who form the panel not to engage in aggression or acts of subversion or anything inimical within the forum of that club. So, we could see that the continuous detention of 58 hostages is a breach of the sanctity which is given to diplomatic missions, and I do not think that the World Powers would just keep their hands akimbo allowing the situation to deteriorate.

If it is within our knowledge that where there is an espionage in a country, the normal thing to do, is to break off diplomatic relationship which could be renewed, but you cannot hold Members of the Mission with their diplomatic immunity as hostages and be maltreating them. Although we are not taking sides on any side, the purpose of raising this point is to ameliorate the situation so that this thing does not escalate. If our views are made known to the appropriate authorities, and now that the OAU Heads of State are assembled, it might be a good idea to lobby them to make sure that these hostages are definitely released.

[MR ECHETABU]

In the international law, the diplomatic mission of America in Iran is a foreign territory, and they have a right to defend their economic interest and the interest of their nationals. It is not like what we used to have before when if you approached our Ambassadors for help they just told you : *What State? Are you a private student or a government scholar?* They do not do this sort of thing because once the interest of the State is in jeopardy, for the prime reason of America being a super country, they will definitely go to war. They have tried to rescue, but it has failed and these people are still jeering at them.

The issue is this. Assuming a lethal weapon is used, the Sahara Desert will be affected, and when the North-Western winds flow, it would come down to Nigeria. The atomic dust does not know whether you are a Nigerian or any other person. It goes in the air, and it is going to affect us ; by that time, it affects Nigeria. (*Hear! Hear!*) So, what we are trying to avoid by saying that we do not want to be engaged, we want to be neutral, will come to our door steps. Not when the war ships are in the lagoon that we are threatened. We could be threatened from the air. We have only 250 feet above sea level, by international law, which is the air corridor of your own. So, I feel it behoves us, at this stage, that we should call a spade a spade.

We are not in here to condemn America or to condemn Iran, or to know who is right or who is wrong, but all we are trying to say is that temperaments will really have to be cooled by these two countries by a third factor trying to lobby these two countries so that these hostages will be released.

Over the radio three days ago, the Ayatolla Khomeini said that he was now turning to the Third World Powers for help. Why should he turn to us now if he knows that what he is doing is right? The third world power have not got the means, they have not got the power lustre to fight any of the super powers. You see, when America now chains the gulfs and the Suez through which Iran will carry out its oil, well, they are economically asphyxiated.

As the situation is now going, and knowing that the presidential election is still on in America now, the present President may really do what he did not intend to do. I think we all will agree with the fact that America has, for six months, borne the disgrace, borne the jeering of a lesser power, and it is up to us here to decide how we are going to prop our government and other governments of the third world not to take action by taking sides, but calling on reason and fairplay among the two sides so that the situation will not escalate to the position of war.

Mr Speaker : Round up! Round up!

Mr Echetabu : We are here not only to legislate on municipal laws, where the interest of peace in the universe under the international law is concerned, we, being members of the United Nations Organisation and under the Charter and the Sub-regional OAU Organisation, it is incumbent on us that we should pursue this matter to see that these people are released. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Mr I. F. Akinyosoye (Ondo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to pass some comments on the points raised by the last speaker, hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr E. O. Echetabu*). In principle, I agree with him that the issue of the hostages in Iran raises a serious humanitarian point which, of course, is bound to touch the conscience of everyone of us in this honourable House. I also agree with his citation of Article (1) of the United Nations Charter to which we are corporate members that this body exists for the promotion of peace and harmony in the universe.

But I would differ with the last speaker on the grounds that international law itself, like any other written law, has its rules, regulations and sanctions. For the United States of America which is also a member of the United Nations to have gone to the extent of interfering with the peace and harmony of another country has already started in breach of this Article itself. One has a very sad example in mind—

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Mr Akinyosoye : Mr Speaker, Sir, one has an example in mind in the situation in Uganda when Israeli Commandos descended on the airport in their bid to rescue some of their nationals there and thousands of people were killed. It is true that they succeeded in rescuing those nationals, but the fact still remains that they were acting in contradiction and in breach of Article (1) of the United Nations Charter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my humble submission that we should not at all get ourselves in this House involved in the issue between Iran and America. It is none of our concern. Our policy is that of non-interference, and even if the Secretary of State to the United States, Mr Cyrus Vance, considered this issue as being so serious that he decided to resign from the cabinet, I want to assure this House that this is an issue which itself is going to raise a lot of hulla-baloo within the electorate in America during the next election. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my considered judgment that this issue does not affect us, and we should not ridicule ourselves by lobbying during this OAU Conference with us in favour of America.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker : Please, I would like to remind Members again that Party Leaders and Committee Chairmen including the Chairman of the Business and Rules Committee will meet in my office immediately after this Sitting.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow to enable the various Committees to meet on the budget.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.42 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 30th April, 1980

The House met at 10.55 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have read the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Budget Committee

Mr Speaker : The only thing we have on the Order Paper for today is a Motion on the Budget Committee.

Several hon. Members : No ! (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : All right, all right. Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, you do not want to have a Budget Committee ?

Several hon. Members : No ! (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Let us take it three times. You do not want to have a Budget Committee ?

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr Speaker : All right. (Interruptions) Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, please take your seats. We would not have any controversy over this sort of thing. The Motion will be suspended until further notice.

Motion suspended.

Several hon. Members : Yes. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, please Party Leaders, remember to bring your nominees for the Creation of States Committee and the Committee on Public Relations. You know, we closed accepting nominations this week. Please bring the names of your nominees. Also, every Committee Chairman would remember we said that by the end of this month every Committee must conclude its business on the Budget but it appears that the period is too tight. So, it would be extended a little bit to ensure that from Monday morning at 10 o'clock we start to receive the reports of all the Committees. Please, whenever your own report is ready, give it to the Clerk of the House who will make copies and ensure that everybody has a copy ; then we shall come here and debate the reports, Committee by Committee. (Applause)

We would be able to do about two or three reports in a day. Also, Members should please be prepared to work for longer hours to enable us clear the reports. If any Committee does not complete its work by the end of next week, that Committee will be dissolved.

I understand some Committees have sent their reports to the Appropriation Committee. The Appropriation Committee should please send the reports to the Clerk of this House to make copies and distribute to members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Tom. Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : I rise to second the Motion.

OAU Economic Summit:

Message of Solidarity

Mr Muhammed Mustapha (Ringim Gado) : Mr Speaker, Sir, talking on the Motion for adjournment, I would like to bring to our attention the fact that the First Economic Summit of the Heads of State of the OAU Countries has just ended in Lagos and I think it should not pass without some Message of Solidarity and support from this august Assembly.

I am, therefore, commenting that Members of the National Assembly are very delighted in noting that the Leaders of Africa have finally come to the conclusion and realise that all the efforts being made for our economic emancipation and development cannot succeed without the unity and direct political decisions to go ahead and implement accords which have been arrived at, at various meetings of the OAU. This is very important because, according to the speech of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the meeting the day before yesterday and, Mr Speaker, I would like to quote for avoidance of misrepresentation :

African countries are faced with international economic system which is chronically unbalanced and inherently unstable. Faced with this system, their economic options cover but a very narrow range. Measures within their scope are not in themselves capable of controlling inflation nor of removing those constraints on the flow of trade, technology and finance which have restricted their economic growth in real terms. With increasing payments deficits and a rising debt burden, they, like other developing countries, rightly feel that they will become less and less able to accumulate the resources necessary to sustain the immense costs of developing their societies in a world which is rapidly pulling ahead in science and technology.

We have won political Independence nearly two decades ago, but the statistics of the United Nations and those of the EEC point to a state of affairs where African countries are getting poorer and poorer, whereas the advanced countries are getting richer and richer. Somebody is reminding me here that the gap is widening. Now, this cannot be allowed to continue, otherwise, our political independence would be meaningless, as has been said over and over again.

The cause of this is the international trade order, the international trade structure which favours these developing countries. Our raw materials are still being exported in a raw state. Even those of us, like

[MR MUSTAPHA]

Nigeria, with petrol still have to refine most of it outside and bring it back for our consumption, making the price higher than it should normally be. Trade among African countries is rather with Europe than among ourselves. This should be corrected. For example, we were told at the meeting of these OAU Heads of States that many African countries are paying very high cost for our petrol because they cannot buy direct from us ; they have to buy through multi-national companies. They do not have refineries in their countries nor have they the means of transporting the petrol from Nigeria direct to their countries.

These are questions which require political decision of establishing an economic community not only of West African States but for the whole of African Continent. This is what Europe has done. They started this discussion in 1957 in Rome and today there is the EEC. They hardly take any decision without all the collectivity of the European nations deciding. The latest example is the American request for them to support American position against Iran. People argue this is a national affairs ; all that American should do is to take their decision, but they have refused sturdily to take any action which will jeopardise the economy of Europe ; but in Africa no such organisation exists. If we are faced with economic problem, everybody goes his own way and the benefit normally goes to the advanced countries.

I do not want to talk too much, Mr Speaker, Sir, but there was an Arab Leader who commented in the Meeting that what is saddening to him (the man comes from Libya), is that Arab money which has been accumulating since 1973 which are kept in European Banks are used to help European Economies in Africa. They are invested here, and in the end, the European Bankers and their multi-nationals make more profits than we Africans who are being exploited, and they the Arabs who have the money. This is a sad situation and we must, therefore, register our solidarity and support for the decisions arrived at by the Heads of State of the OAU.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Disaster Area

Mr Adewara Toyin Lawal (Ifelodun) : I thank Mr Speaker for allowing me to bring to the Floor of this House the issue that is now touching the minds of my people in my constituency.

In the first instance, I would like to seek the indulgence of this House to please note that the issue I now bring to the Floor of this House has nothing to do with politics, and I would like all Members to note that my idea should not be politicized. I am fully aware that no government can satisfy the needs of his people. It is in the light of this awareness I have decided not to bring the matter of my people to this Floor of the House ; but about three days ago, I had a delegate of six people from my constituency requesting me to declare Ifelodun Federal Constituency of Kwara State a disaster area before this honourable House. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Mr Lawal, you have done that.

Mr Lawal : Mr Speaker, Sir, with much reluctance, I told my people that it may not be necessary to bring this matter to the Floor of the House, but after much consideration over the issue brought to me, I realise that the sympathy of this House is necessary. Therefore, I will go to explain the reasons why the area has now become a disaster zone in Kwara State.

We have about fifteen Secondary Schools, forty-five Primary Schools in my area. It is very unfortunate to inform you that there is no access or graded road throughout the Local Government area.

Several hon. Members : Sit down, it is not important.

Mr Lawal : This may not be important to you but it is very important to the people living in my constituency. In my Constituency, we have some industries. For instance, we have Furniture Industry at Igbaja. We have Weaving Industry at Oke-Ode but there are no access roads linking all the districts in my Constituency. I want hon. Members to know that we have nine districts in my area, which means we have nine District Headquarters. None of these district headquarters have got access roads. Therefore, I will like to plead to the government of Kwara State, through this honourable House to take the following actions with immediate effect.

I will urge the government of Kwara State to tar Ajasse-Igboja-Oke Ode road to Share without much delay. I would like to plead to the Kwara State Government, through this House that Eddi-Agbeku-Ora-Share road should be tarred without much delay. I would like to inform this honourable House that Ifelodun Federal Constituency is one of the largest constituencies in Kwara State, and there is no single Federal Government Project in that area. There is no single Hospital in that area. There is no single Post Office in that area. Putting this summary into consideration, you will all realise that there is not any economic progress that can come up in that area. I want to make it abundantly clear that there is no area where life can be okay without economic progress. There is no area where life can be okay without educational progress. There is no place where life can be made abundant without social improvement. Therefore, the concern of my people is my primary concern, and I do not want this honourable House to consider it as a trivial matter. I am appealing to Governor Atta to give my Local Government a proper attention which we are now demanding. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Members of the Defence Committee, the Service Chiefs are waiting for you.

Compensation for seized Yacht

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I want to remind hon. Members and the Speaker of an issue which concerns the Rivers State Ocean going Yacht. *Doginagbereto* sometimes last year, we appealed to the President to release the Rivers State-owned Yacht seized by Murtala/Obasanjo regime from the Rivers State and to return this craft to the Rivers

State for our riverine transportation. This appeal was not adhered to. In just about two weeks ago, this vessel bought with about two million naira had a head-to-head collision with another Ocean-going vessel in the Cross River State.

Now, we are submitting that we need about four million naira for the compensation of the craft because Rivers State is a part of the Federal Government and is not a foreign state where our vessel would be seized. *(Interruptions)*

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, Gentlemen, if you are going out, do so and allow us to have deliberations in silence.

Oil Spillage Relief Fund

Mr Bob-Manuel : My second point is about our relief fund. Last month, we passed the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the details of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill showed about two million naira for the Rivers State for the oil spillage and that of ₦800,000 for the Bendel State. Up till today the ₦1.2 million meant for Rivers State has not found its way to Rivers State. We are appealing that the President should instruct his Relief Committee to send us that money in cash. We do not want the money to pass through any Committee in Lagos. We have our products to buy at home. Our people know how to buy these things. We do not want to buy them in Lagos and transport them to Port Harcourt.

What we want is a cash of ₦1.2 million out of ₦2 million meant for Rivers State. We do not want that amount to be reduced by payment for freights, payment for transportation and delivery costs to the Port Harcourt Airport. We want the money straight to the Rivers State Government ; then we shall disburse the money as we need it.

Mr Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita (Kaita) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, before I make my contribution, I would like to remind the Chairman of the House Committee about the welfare of the Members of this honourable House. Up till now, they have not transferred the Medical facilities to Victoria Island. I hope the Speaker would give directives to the Chairman of the House Committee to see to it. This is very important.

Need to improve old Airports

What I would like to speak about is to make an appeal to the Nigerian Airports Authority to see that they improve the old airports.

We have some Airports in the former provinces like those of Katsina, Minna and other Airports. It is very important to improve them for domestic use. *(Interruptions)*

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! Hon. Members, please there should be no chatting when somebody is speaking. If you are in a Committee and your Committee is going on, you can go and attend your Committee meetings. Those who want to be here should be here in silence.

Alhaji Kaita : If these Airports are improved, it would minimise the problems which hon. Members from some of these States are encountering. For example, a person has to come from Katsina to join a flight at Kano or Kaduna and he has to travel for over one hundred kilometres.

So, I am appealing to this honourable House to direct Nigeria Airways to see that they improve these old airports for domestic use.

Thank you.

Regrettable Press Conference

Mr M. O. Ugwu (Udi) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I would like with regret to say that some Leaders in this country called World Press Conference to condemn this Nation when we are actually hosting the Heads of State of the whole of Africa.

I am dismayed to say that this country cannot be negotiated on-board-the-table. This country belongs to all of us, and of course, I know that some people think they are better qualified to lead this Nation, and once they cannot be the Head of State or the Federal Government, they would like to say that this Nation is doomed.

No one man has right to say that the economy of this country is heading for doom, when in fact, the government is doing what it can in order to make sure that our people benefit maximally from the wealth of our Nation. It was regrettable too that a leader, who called himself a leader of this nation would say, while the Heads of State of African countries are here, that OAU is a toothless bulldog and that OAU is a useless venture because he is not a member.

It is important for us to remember that destiny is the best thing we have to follow in this world, and nobody can vote himself to be President of Nigeria and nobody can be a tribal leader, and become the President of this country. *(Interruptions)* I want to say that those days are gone. Anybody who wants to lead this country must be acceptable to the generality of our people. The Constitution of this country has made it absolutely clear that we have departed from those days when we led our people by the nose. What we want is truth, honesty and all that.

The Lagos State Government switches off the lights in Lagos Streets just to show that the State Governor does not approve of the Government in Lagos. Of course it is a disgrace to the nation because anybody who switches off light in Lagos does not switch it off because Shagari is the Head of Government ; he did it and he disgraced not only the Head of State, but the whole of our Nation.

I would like to say too that a Governor of Lagos State is only a part of nineteen, and a part does not make a whole. And a Governor of Lagos State must just remember that he is a Local Leader of his people, and we in this honourable Assembly have even more powers to call him to order if we want to do it. *(Applause)*

[Mr. UGWU]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not trying to provoke any sentiments but I am only trying to highlight these things. There is no need for us to wash our linen in the public. Why is it that people who called the World Press Conference could not do it last week, so as to challenge the actions of the government? What they are doing really is to challenge the action of the OAU, and this honourable House would condemn such actions and in future the National Assembly will call such people to order.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

Lesson of the OAU Economic Summit

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jemaia North) : Mr Speaker, thank you for allowing me to air my opinion. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Summit Committee of the OAU which has just ended was purely on the Economic Policies of the African countries. Africa has always been a place where people call dead wood.

We have always had the resources for development, resources for growth which, if utilized we would have a gigantic economy which can compete with that of the Western World and that of the Eastern Block. The summit Committee actually ought to have started much earlier. It is now that the African Economic Committee that has been formed would realise that the EEC which was established had not been foolish in indulging her policies to the detriment of African policies.

Mr Speaker, Sir, coming back home, I would like to make some observations. Nigeria was the parameter of this Summit Committee and we have to show a very good example to tell other countries of Africa that great things have to start in this gigantic country that Africa sees as its own lion.

We have small-scale industries in this country, like the detergent Company, Fabric Company, Zinc Company that can produce sufficiently for our own consumption without importing. It is sad, Mr Speaker, to note today that detergents in form of *omo* and other things are being imported into this country. You go to Kingsway stores and other supermarkets that are owned by these so-called people who must have used us to naturalize themselves, set up these shops, have sixty *per cent* shares, import these things and still sell them.

It is a shame for one to see that toilet soaps are imported when we can manufacture them in this country today. This is very unfortunate. Last month, a fibre factory in Jos could not continue with her marketing because the Nigerian government allows the importation of *surf* which the company manufactures. Following the keen competition, the company has not been able to sell her products and has, therefore, sacked so many of its employees.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the time has come for us to boost our economic heritage. We have got the resources and we have to tell the world that we can produce these things. I do not see the reason why we can produce things in this country and still import them especially when we have enough to consume. In this regard, Mr

Speaker, I would like the Import duty on detergents and other products we can manufacture in this country to be raised to five hundred *per cent* and not fifty *per cent* as the Federal Government has put it. We want it to be five hundred *per cent* so that when you import *omo* tomorrow, you want to sell it and nobody buys, you will stop its importation. It is at this stage that our economic emancipation can be seen all over the world.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I will like to go back to the last world conference which our so-called leader gave the day before yesterday. It is a shame, Mr Speaker, that a leader who wishes to rule this country could make such sweeping statements as the ones the Chief made the other day. He, as a Nigerian, can make his own personal contributions to President Shagari on the OAU Economic Summit. He is a Nigerian, an African and he can participate equally like any other Nigerian. This is the cardinal point at issue : some people only preach that they want to head, but in reality, if the mantle of leadership falls on them, they will be so sectional. Nigeria cannot be taken for a ride any more and, let every Nigerian be aware that this country does not belong to one single person, but to eighty million people. Mr Speaker, it might be your turn tomorrow to be the President of this country just as it might be any other person's turn. The type of world conference that was given is a shame to Nigeria, and to Africa. Most importantly, I think the man who gave that conference was not aware of what he was saying, and people of that nature should be called to order.

Thank you very much.

Lack of Development in Ankpa Local Government Area

Alhaji A. Abutu (Ankpa South) : I want to make an appeal to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I would rather not declare my area a disaster area but would make a passionate appeal. In the Ankpa Local Government Area in Igala land, we have a population of about four hundred and twenty thousand people. We have got only one Cottage hospital with about thirty-five beds in the whole division and only three doctors.

We are in Nigeria but development is passing round, but my people are suffering. I am appealing that we should be considered during the consideration of the Budget. Luckily enough, the President of the Federation during his election campaign tours was in Ankpa Local Government area in Benue State twice and he saw for himself the problems facing my people.

The second problem is that we have what we call natural drought. We have no water and we have been faced with this problem for a long time. I am appealing to the President that the Ankpa local government area should be provided with enough water either by the provision of pipe-borne water or by the sinking of wells or bore-holes so that we can have water. I do not agree with the usual saying that the oil boom has been circulating very well. My area has been forgotten in so many things and we are not enjoying what other areas are enjoying.

International Trade

I want to deal with international trade as regards the current OAU Economic Summit. As a former Trade Unionist, I wish to make a comment as it affects the workers of this country. I think we have been so foolish in Africa that we have not been taking—

Mr Speaker : Alhaji—

Alhaji Abutu : I withdraw that statement and say that we have not been very careful about multi-national companies in Africa or in Nigeria, let me restrict myself to Nigeria. Multi-national companies have made things difficult for us. I would like to call for a minimisation of ready-made products from the developed countries to the developing countries such as Nigeria. These companies have cunningly stopped the expansion of industries and agriculture which would provide employment opportunities, more wage and salary increases to Nigerian workers. They rather want to produce these commodities in their countries and import them to this country. I, therefore, think that we have to be very careful in deciding our economic policies.

I am happy that the OAU Heads of State Summit has taken cognisance of this, and I hope they will stick to their decision so that we can have our own share of the international cake by industrial and agricultural expansion and thus reduce the country's unemployment problem.

Our present educational policy should be taken into account in this regard. The Unity Party of Nigeria want free education for instance, but if we train people and there is no work for them to do, they will call for a revolution. The Federal Government should, therefore, be very careful in ensuring that we expand our industries and agriculture so that employment can be created for Nigerian workers and for those coming behind on the completion of their primary, secondary, technical or university education. Right now, the country is being faced with unemployment problem. I am happy that Members would agree with me that it is our duty too to ensure that this problem is taken care of within these four years that we are going to be in this National Assembly.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Local Government Elections

Mr S. Abodunde (Oyi) : Mr Speaker, I think it is the duty of this honourable House to draw the attention of the Executive to any major fault we may notice in this country as law makers. This is why I feel that the question I am about to raise concerning

the local government elections, is not just a question for the State Assemblies, but also for all of us as Nigerian citizens. Up to this point, we are seven months old in office. Our people who are democratic are looking forward to the time when they will choose who will govern them, and how they will be governed in the various local government areas.

But as it is, when the Lagos State Government wanted to conduct its local government elections, we found that the voters' list along with other things that needed be prepared were not ready. As a result, the ruling of the Court, which affected the Lagos State government, is affecting the whole country, in that voters' list needs to be updated. Up till now, there is no visible sign that any preparation for the elections is in sight.

I am, therefore, using this forum to appeal to the Executive to see that our people are no longer denied the opportunity of exercising their political rights by choosing who to govern them and how they should be governed during the local government elections. As far as I am concerned, the Caretaker Committees are not the rightful people to be there. They are meant to be there as a stop-gap. But as it is, we find that in some areas those in the caretaker Committees are boasting that they are going to remain there till 1981, which means that people who are peace loving and who are democratic in their nature would have to bear the burden, and the shackles, of members of these Caretaker Committees for so long. This would amount to a deprivation of their political and fundamental human rights.

This is why I feel that it is not a problem that is peculiar to a particular State. It is common to all the States in Nigeria as I have not seen any State that has conducted these Local Government elections. Therefore, I think it is very important that the Executive will hasten to instruct their various agencies to conduct these elections as quickly as possible.

I know that this House has no constitutional right to legislate on this issue, but even then, the Executive whose duty it is to govern this country and govern it well and fairly should please do something about it.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I 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 House do adjourn untill 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.37 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 1st May, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : Members of the Business Committee will meet immediately after this sitting to arrange the time-table for the debate on the various reports on the Budget starting from Monday next week. You will fix the time-table and the conditions for debate and that will start to operate as from Monday.

Resignation of an Hon. Member

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have received a letter from an hon. Member, hon. S. O. Ige. The letter reads as follows :

*Hon. S. O. Ige,
P.O. Box 1437,
Ibadan,
Nigeria.
1st May, 1980.*

*The Speaker,
Federal House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Lagos,
Nigeria.*

Mr Speaker, Sir,

Resignation of Seat in the National Assembly.

Having been given a new opportunity to serve my State Government, in another capacity, and realising that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to serve the National Assembly conscientiously and full-time as it should be, I am left with no alternative but to resign my Seat in the House with immediate effect. The leadership of my Party, and my Constituency, have been informed.

I wish the House all the very best in all its future deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

S. O. IGE,
Member for Obokun Constituency,
Oyo State.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives will take the letter and inform the appropriate authority. So, there will be a bye-election in that Constituency.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on National Planning

Presentation of Report on the Appropriation Bill 1980, in respect of the budget proposals for the Federal Ministry of National Planning—Head 31 of the Estimates.

Mr F. N. C. Nwandison (Orji River/Awgu South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move :

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on National Planning in respect of the budget proposals for the Federal Ministry of National Planning—Head 31 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1980.

I beg to move.

Mr Hogan Chowe (Racha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, I hope hon. Members have all got copies of the report.

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : I do not think there will be any comments because we have to go home and read them.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : So, we have now got the report. The debate on the report will start on Monday as soon as we receive the calendar or the time-table for action from the Business Committee.

Yes, the next one. I understand that Mr Ugwu is not even here. *(Interruptions)*

Order! Order! Hon. Members, even if you have not got the report, we still have time, because all that is important is for us to receive it first ; then it will be distributed to all the Members and from next week we will start to debate the report.

Let a Member of the Committee present it. I understand a Member of the Committee is delegated to submit the report.

Committee on Communications

Presentation of Report on the 1980 Appropriation Bill in respect of the budget proposals for the Ministry of Communications—Head 29 of the Estimates.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to present the report standing in the name of the Chairman (*Mr M. O. Ugwu*) of the Committee on Communications :

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications in respect of the budget proposals for the Ministry of Communications—Head 29 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1980.

I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! All right, let us put the question all over again.

Order ! Order ! Gentlemen , please sit down.

Question put and agreed to.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Alhaji Kaltungo, move the Motion for Adjournment to enable the Committees to meet.

Mr Yunusa O. Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that this sitting be adjourned till Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr D. Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Telephone Exchange Code Number for Akure

Mr O. Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, I want to raise a matter which is of great importance to my Constituency, Akure. It is a matter which is of interest not only to the people of Akure. It is of importance also to the people of this country, and in view of this, I have no doubt that I will have the sympathy and the support of this honourable House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Akure has no telephone exchange code number. It is indeed a shame, not on the people of Akure, but on the planners of our Telecommunication system. I need not remind this honourable House that Akure is the headquarters of Ondo State. You know, of course, that Ondo State is now recognised as an oil producing State. This fact has enhanced the economic status of Akure, and therefore, it is a serious matter if a town which is the headquarters of an oil producing State has no direct telephone exchange code number.

Even before the discovery of Petroleum, Akure has always been a very important centre of governmental activities. It is a big commercial town and a very big cultural centre. It is a pivotal centre of learning, and a potential university town. It is an ancient city which occupies a place of pride, glory, pomp and pageantry in the annals of the economic, social, and administrative development of Nigeria.

Apart from all these, Mr Speaker, Akure harbours about 300,000 politically and economically active citizens of this nation. Of course, as a State capital, Akure is, along with eighteen other State capitals, a number one city in this great country of Nigeria.

That such a town, seat of government, a great commercial, cultural and political centre, should be denied of direct telephone exchange number in Nigeria of 1980 is a very serious punitive act of economic blockade, political ostracism and social stigmatisation.

This House, and in fact the entire government of this country, is committed to even development of all parts of Nigeria. In order to accomplish this task, we need to attract businessmen and industrialists to places outside the usual commercial centres of Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano. We want to set up industries in other State capitals. Akure, because of its economic potentialities, normally attracts many industrialists, but because of this great social stigma

that we have no direct telephone exchange code number, it is impossible for many people to come to Akure to establish their businesses.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the situation is made most abominable and deplorable by the fact that most of our neighbouring towns have direct telephone exchange code numbers. These towns are good neighbours but we normally maintain traditional healthy rivalry. This, therefore, has caused us a lot of depression and mental agony, that while other towns surrounding us have direct telephone exchange numbers, we in Akure do not have that facility.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I invoke all the powers of this great House in calling on the Director of Telecommunication Services to provide Akure with telephone exchange code number without any further delay.

Bills for Dead Telephones

One more point, Mr Speaker, and I have finished. The telephone exchange authorities are committing a great fraud on the people of Akure. The owners of so many telephone lines that have been dead for years, continue to receive bills monthly from the telephone exchange authorities. I can cite my own example. For three years my telephone did not work, and every month I receive bills from the telephone exchange authorities. At times, I receive bills not only for local calls, but also for trunk calls. And I can cite the ridiculous case of a man who, three years ago, wrote to the P and T to come and remove the telephone in his house because he was going to demolish the house in order to build a better one on the site. The telephone exchange people did not turn up. So, this man waited and waited then he disconnected the telephone, removed it and put it in a room. This telephone has not been functioning for three years, but the owner continues to receive bills from the telephone exchange authorities every month not only for rental, but also for local and trunk calls. The man is still in Akure and he is an aggrieved man. There are so many people in this predicament, Mr Speaker. Therefore, I call on the telephone exchange authorities to stop committing this fraud on the people of my constituency.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr M. O. Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : Mr Speaker, thank you for recognising me and—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr C. O. Agbor (Obubra I) : Mr Speaker, my hon. Colleague is not properly dressed.

Overhead Bridges for Ibako and Mowe

Mr Oni : Thank you for calling me to order. I think I am all right now.

Mr Speaker : Please, do not do that next time. All right go on.

Mr Oni : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a very important matter to bring to the Floor of this House this morning, and this is a matter concerning thousands of people living in a community in two towns

[MR ONI]

along the Lagos/Ibadan Express Road. These are the people living in the towns of Ibako and Mowe in Obafemi/Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Lagos/Ibadan Express Way was constructed, we all rejoiced. We rejoiced in the sense that it will provide a smooth drive-way from one part of the country to the other. We rejoiced also in the sense that the road will afford opportunity for economic progress. However, the construction of that road has been a sort of tragedy to thousands of people in this country. It has been doom to some people because of the dangerous situation in which they find themselves.

The people of Ibako and Mowe have been dying day in day out because of the Express Road. This is because the road divides the two towns into two so that the people have no means of having a smooth crossing from one side of the town to the other.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no means by which they could cross from one side to the other either by road or by vehicle. What is needed at the moment is an overhead bridge each to be constructed at these two places, that is at the town of Ibako and the town of Mowe. If an overhead bridge is constructed, the inhabitants of these two towns will have the opportunity of crossing to their neighbours at the other side of the road. On this, I am calling on the Ministry of Works to please speed up action and construct a bridge over Ibako and Mowe respectively. This should be done as a matter of urgency preferably within this fiscal year. What I am calling the Ministry of Works to do, especially, is to make it possible within this fiscal year, 1980 Budget, to make sure that the bridges are constructed so that the people of Ibako and Mowe will cease to die day in day out.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Chairman.

Construction of Airports

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members of this august House, my comments are as follows: It is now very vital for the Federal Government to come to the aid of Imo State as regards the construction of Airports, not only in the interest of the inhabitants of that particular State, but also for any member of the society from geographically any part of this nation, or even outside this nation, who wants to travel to Imo State.

You would find out that it constitutes a sort of risk for anybody who is travelling to Imo State ; you either stop at Port Harcourt Airport or you stop at Enugu Airport and then you take the risk of hiring a taxi that will take you to a destination anywhere in Imo State. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Head of State is travelling to Imo State now, undoubtedly, he has to stop at either Enugu Airport or Port Harcourt Airport, and then finish the rest of his journey by road. If any member of the society or any hon. Colleague of mine is travelling to the same state, that is Imo State, you will also agree with me that he either stops in any of these Airports or has to go by road.

So, Mr Speaker, since we are here as the mouth piece of this nation and anything we find out that is very necessary for the benefit of the entire masses of this nation, definitely it has to be given a green light. Mr Speaker, Sir, the construction of Airports should not be the prerogative of a State Government since the Nigerian Airport Authority has a standardised plan for construction of Airports. You will agree with me that any secondary school built in any State by the Federal Government is always of a nice standard ; but anyone built by State Governments or communities are always of poor standard.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Ochiama : So, if you say that the construction of Airports should be left to all these states, because it is not only Imo State, there are other States in the Federation which have not got Airports too. Definitely this affects them.

If you leave the construction of Airports to these States to undertake, eventually they are going to construct it according to their own financial resources, which might not measure up to the expectation of the Nigerian Airport Authority's plan. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying that we view it with all amount of seriousness, to make sure that the Federal Government comes to the aid not only of Imo State, but also other States of the Federation which have not got Airports, and who are also soliciting to get their own, because all of us do not travel to our States alone ; we also travel to other parts of the country.

So, I am saying that this is extremely viable. If the Federal Government helps those States which are already embarking on building their own airports by building it for them up to the standard that will suit at least the Nigerian Airport Authority these airports would be able to carry at least 737 aircrafts.

I am saying, Mr Speaker, Sir, without wasting more of your time, that the Federal Government, without further delay, should come to the aid of Imo State since they have initiated their own, and contribute effectively there technically, financially and otherwise to make sure that a standard airport is constructed in Imo State to be able to carry 737 air-craft, and save lives and risks which people encounter. Thank you very much, Sir.

Fuel Distribution in Nigeria

Mr Muhammed Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for adjournment, I would like to comment briefly on a matter which has continued to agitate the minds of Nigerians over the years. Mr Speaker, this has to do with fuel distribution in this country. Nigeria is an oil producing country, and we export oil even though in crude form. It is unfortunate tonote here Mr Speaker, that most of the fuel that is normally consumed in Nigeria has to be refined outside. Despite the infrastructural development

that has been initiated to ensure fuel distribution all over the country, the perennial problem of fuel shortage especially in the hinterland still seems to linger on.

Mr Speaker, early this morning, I received a report of complete near paralysis of municipal activities in Kano municipality because of fuel shortage, and because of an action that was carried out as from last Saturday by Motor Transport Workers Union. Mr Speaker, the most unfortunate thing about this action is the way and manner the Motor Transport Workers Union went about expressing their grievances. Besides the complete paralysis they injected in the distribution of fuel by fuel tanker drivers, they also went about forcibly placing a total embargo on fuel sale and distribution in Kano municipality. The taxi drivers and bus drivers who are not members of the Motor Transport Workers Union, and who vowed not to be part of this demonstration or public outcry, were forced into it by refusal of fuel to them.

Although the Kano State Governor has timely intervened in the whole situation, the point has to be made, Mr Speaker, that a gigantic system that would forestall this kind of paralysing social and economic activity has to be thought over by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Any part of the country can find itself in a similar situation and it is high time that we found ways and means by which we could forestall this type of unexpected happenings.

The grievances of the Motor Transport Workers Union, in brief, Mr Speaker, have to do with the highway patrol. The Police that normally patrol the routes which these drivers ply carry out various types of checks without giving notice. As much as I would like to look at it from their point of view, that probably one would like to suggest that the Nigeria Police should notify the public about their intention before they carry out road checks, one also has to think about the other side of the whole situation, because this thing can be a double edged knife. If the Nigeria Police is hereby mandatorily asked to notify the public of their intended checks, especially on the highways that are being used by these mammoth tankers and lorry drivers, one would likely find oneself in a difficult situation, because these people are probably the greatest culprits of violation of road traffic regulations in this country. If they know that the Police are going to carry out a check or something like that, the likely thing that is going to happen is that they will take all necessary steps to circumvent those check points or to circumvent the activities of the Police in totality.

I agree, Mr Speaker, that some form of meeting point has to be arrived at between the need to inform the public and the random checks that are carried out by the Police.

But the point has to be emphasised again, Mr Speaker, that what is happening now in Kano is something this country should not tolerate at any moment, and I hope something would be done with the greatest speed to redress the situation. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Traffic Chaos around the National Assembly

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take the indulgence of comments on Motion for adjournment to draw the attention of Members to some traffic chaos going on around and near these National Assembly Buildings. For the last few days, the Nigerian Army have closed the Kings College Road down there. Long before then, the Police in the Lion Buildings closed part of Catholic Mission Road. Mr Speaker, Sir, the closures of these two roads are causing untold hardships and traffic chaos in and around these areas. Yesterday, between here and Western House, it took me and several other Members over 38 minutes. When I spoke to one Army Corporal on the road, he confirmed that they closed the road. But, what justification do the Police have for closing part of Catholic Mission Road ?

These roads have been closed, and it is situations like this that one would like the Nigerian Press to focus attention on, draw the attention of the public to them, and make an outcry about them. In this respect, I think the Nigerian Press can help the country better if they see to matters of day to day affairs in this country especially where some authorities take laws into their hands.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know under what law the Nigerian Army have closed this King's College Road recently ? I do not know under what law the Lion Buildings closed part of Catholic Mission Road. Mr Speaker, Sir, untold traffic chaos is being caused by the closures of these two roads, and I would like to have your indulgence, Mr Speaker, Sir, to ask the Chairman of the Defence Committee, Mr John Laven to please kindly get in touch with the Army Chief for clarification.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of serious concern to the public, and I think the Chairman of our Defence Committee can also help in taking these matters up with the respective authorities. These matters are of interest to the whole public. We have no easy movement in and around these areas any more, and it is about time the Nigerian Army was called to order. They should be reminded that they are no longer in power, and that they can no longer take laws into their hands. There is no reason for the closures of these roads.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to mention these matters and I hope that the authorities concerned will take immediate steps to rectify the position.

Thank you, Sir.

Fly-overs Across Dangerous Railway Crossings

Alhaji M. B. Mustapha (Bida North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to register my dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Federal Ministry of Works for disregarding loss of property and lives along the Railway crossings throughout the Federation despite repeated demands that it is now time for them to see that fly-overs are built across railway crossings throughout the Federation.

[ALHAJI MUSTAPHA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, in assessing the damages, particularly in Niger State, immediately after Jebba Bridge, the Railway crossing before Mokwa is now a dangerous zone.

Every month, property, including vehicles, amounting to nearly one million naira perish there. Last week, when I was passing the same spot, I counted about fifteen tankers not to talk of saloon cars. There again, you can find more than thirty Railway Wagons as a result of collision.

If the Federal Ministry of Works can not repair or rehabilitate the roads from Kontagora to Birnin Gwari, at least, it will be better for them to build flyover across this particular spot. This is not the first time, Mr Speaker, with your permission, that I have been calling on the Nigeria Railway Corporation to see to building flyovers throughout the Federation. It is a fact that they cannot construct them within one year or a short period, but at least they have statistics of accidents occurring on the Railway Crossing from Jebba to Mokwa, and from Kaduna Junction to Zaria. These places are dangerous railway crossings, and several times, the Nigerian Railway Corporation has been promising people; and whenever there is a serious accident involving loss of lives, they will come out and say, *We are building flyover*. They would not mind sending their surveyors to come and do the fake survey work.

So, Mr Speaker, in warning the Railway Corporation and the Ministry of Works, if they fail to do something, I would not hesitate to force the Niger State Government to render little assistance, but this will amount to cutting off transportation by road and rail between South and North for complete one year. So, it is up to them now to decide. If Nigerians can afford that, well, we in the Niger State will not hesitate to mobilise our resources and close the transport between South and North for at least one year.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Alhaji Kaltungo, please move that the Question be put so that Members would go to their Committees.

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I now ask the question to be put.

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

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Monday.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.05 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 5th May, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I received a letter from the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The letter reads as follows :

*Ambassador
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria
Lagos*

April 30th, 1980

Excellency,

I have been directed by the President of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to extend an invitation for a Parliamentary Delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to visit the People's Republic of Bulgaria at a time mutually agreed upon this year.

I am fully convinced that the visit of a group of representatives of the highest legislative body of this Great country and the discussions to be held with their colleagues in Sofia will be of great importance for the further development of the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries.

I am happy to offer to you the services of my Embassy for the realization of this important visit.

As far as climatic conditions in Bulgaria are concerned the best time for a visit is in the period May to August.

Please, accept Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

A. K. Ataassov

*His Excellency,
the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Lagos*

The Clerk of the House will eventually contact the Embassy to express our appreciation and the party Leaders will hold a meeting to discuss the appropriate date for the visit.

The Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology would like Members of the Committee to assemble in Room C.3 Red Brick Building at 10.30 a.m. this morning, for a short meeting to consider the final report of the Committee in respect of the 1980 Budget for the Ministry of Science and Technology.

We shall now go on to the consideration of the reports on the 1980 Budget, but before we go on, hon. Members, I would like us to make some

alterations in the Standing Orders to enable us to conduct the Budget Debate effectively. The Standing Orders to be suspended are 32 (1) 63, and 26 (1). The very first thing we would do, hon. Members, is to agree on the mode of the Debate. We are 449 Members and each and every one of us would like to make a contribution. So, I thought it would be a very wise thing if we would agree on a time limit for the debate and I will suggest, if that is the will of the House, that we resolve right away that every Member will be entitled to speak for not more than five minutes. (*Interruptions*)

Order ! Order ! I was thinking that, to enable every constituency to have an opportunity to speak on a particular matter, about five minutes will be all right for us. If I can explain myself, what I mean is contribution on a particular report, not on all of them. It is only on one, like this one we are going to have this morning, each Member will have five minutes to say something, for those who want to say something. Is that all right ?

Several Members : Yes.

Suspension of Standing Order 32 (1)

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I move that Standing Order 32 (1) be suspended and the time limit for speeches in respect of the present Budget on every report be limited to five minutes.

Alhaji Sule Ibrahim (Rimi Batagarawa, : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the time limit for speeches in respect of the present budget on every report be limited to five minutes.

Suspension of Standing Order 63

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, another one we have to go into quickly is the question of Amendments. You remember, under the Standing Orders, the Notice of Amendments has to be for a period of five days, but we want to shorten this period to two days, to enable us finish this matter. So, if that is the wish of the House, we will have a resolution to that effect that Amendments to any of the reports can be filed within two days.

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that any Member having Amendment regarding the reports on the Budget should present his Amendment within two days and not five days.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 63 be suspended to enable Members make their Amendments within two days.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! A Lady Member of the UPN has changed her seat. (*Applause*)

Suspension of Standing Order 26 (1)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member, the next one is that we have to suspend the Standing Order relating to reading of speeches. Because of the importance we attach to this Budget and to ensure that Members make contributions, that we allow Members even to read their speeches, provided that they do it within five minutes. So, anybody can prepare a well written speech and then come and read it but it must be done within five minutes.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that Standing Order 26 (1) be suspended so as to allow Members read their short speeches during discussion on the Budget

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the motion.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita (Kaita) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 26 (1) be suspended to enable Members read their short speeches.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980 (H.R. II)

Mr Speaker : Appropriation Bill, 1980 : (H.R. II),—

(A Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation of Nine Billion and Forty Million Naira (₦9,040,000,000) for the Service of the Federation for the Period of Nine Months commencing on the 1st April, and ending on the 31st December, 1980).

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House for the consideration of the report on the Appropriation Bill, 1980.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

**APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980 (H.R. II) :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE****HEAD 46.—PUBLIC COMPLAINTS COMMISSION**

Question proposed, that ₦3,578,000 for Head 46—Public Complaint Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, you may recall that on the 15th day of April, I laid on the table of this House a report of the Public Petitions Committee of this House regarding the 1980 Estimates of the Public Complaints Commission. The next day, the 16th of April, I explained details of the report and we actually commenced debate on the report, but unfortunately somebody interrupted. There was a point of order, that there was no quorum, and the next day we could not continue with the debate.

Hon. Members, at this point, I am not going to take more than my five minutes. For the benefit of those who were not present on the 15th of April, I will quickly go through a few of the major highlights of the report. You may recall that when I was explaining details of the report, I did say that on a particular item, that is, item on information, the Public Complaints Commission had requested for ₦36,000. They spent ₦16,000 for the 1979-80 Financial year which was a period of twelve months, and for the 1980 Financial year, a period of nine months, April to December, we found that for this Head ₦36,000 was allocated and we felt that this was far too much for this short period. We then called upon the Members of the Commission and they came before us and gave evidence claiming that it was a typographical error. We then proceeded to invite Members from the Ministry of Finance ; they came and confirmed it. I am happy to say that if you open the new draft Estimates which we received last week or early this week, I have seen that that error has been corrected. It now shows ₦16,000 rather than ₦36,000.

An hon. Member : What page ?

Mr Uwechue : Page 370 of the new Estimates. You can see information, item No. 253, it is now ₦16,000 for 1979-80 and ₦16,000 for 1980.

The honourable Speaker who was the Chairman during the last occasion took me to task on the placing of the conference of Commissioners. They have made provision for ₦10,000 for the conference of Commissioners. There are twenty Commissioners on the whole—the Chief Commissioner in Lagos and one Commissioner from each of the nineteen States in the Federation. We have stated in our report that we feel that the sum of ₦10,000 for this conference of Commissioners was barely enough. In fact we thought it was too small, but we managed to convince the people of the Commission that, for this particular Financial year, they should put up with whatever there is which is ₦10,000.

There was one other point which an hon. Member raised. It has to do with the Library. There was a section where they provided for a Library for the Public Complaints Commission. This matter did feature in our deliberations during the Committee meeting. Some hon. Members with whom I discussed this matter felt that there was no need for a Library for the Public Complaints Commission. The consensus was that their job combines both the functions of the Police investigating, and the function of the Judiciary who would also sit after investigating, to take decisions and that it was necessary for them to be properly informed as to the procedures either on investigation or on the judiciary.

Hon. Members, I do not intend to take more of your time. The Report has been with you for a very long time. I am sitting by here to take all your question and to throw more light on the Report.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, you have had the Report and you have all read it. Do you have any comments ? Yes, Alhaji Tuggar.

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Mr chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise in support of the proposal by the Committee.

I would only like to make a few observations regarding the Public Complaints Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. During the deliberations at the defunct Constituent Assembly, the decision of the Constituent Assembly was that this Commission should be independent absolutely, and should be seen to function as such. For that reason it was expunged from the constitutional provisions as proposed by the CDC, and a decision was taken to the effect that the National Assembly would make an Act to establish the Commission with a view to making it absolutely independent of the Executive or the Judiciary, or any other body. But unfortunately, the powers that be in those days put it back into the Constitution.

Judging from things going on as at today, we all believe and appreciate the wisdom of this Commission coming strictly under the National Assembly. For example, Mr Chairman, recently, we made a number of researches and found out that there were several thousands, at least thirty thousand dismissed or discharged soldiers, discharged policemen or discharged prison warders, *et cetera*, who were unable to get their pensions. Some of them even died without getting their pensions and other retiring benefits, and their next-of-kin would thereby continue to suffer.

One of the functions of this Commission is to pursue such cases. I wonder if this Commission, having close link and relationship with the Executive, would be able, at the same time, to check this kind of lapses regarding pension payments and other things. It is my hope that this honourable House would give its blessing if a very serious proposal comes up for this Body to come completely under the National Assembly.

Mr Chairman, these are my remarks. Thank you.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okchi Adavbi) : Mr Chairman, the Member who spoke last had mentioned most of the points I wanted to talk about.

This Report, as I see it, is the minimum proposal we would expect from any responsible Commission. But for the period of nine months, I would suggest that since anything worth doing at all is worth doing well, if we want this Commission to do the desired job it is set out for, this honourable House should enact a law because there are many things for the Commission to do. We should bear in mind that the rights of Nigerians are not political and economic rights alone ; Nigerians should have social and civil right too. We know that so many things happen in this country which are unchecked and it is only through this Commission that Nigerians could be heard and helped out.

The Committee said that there should be no need for a library which I feel is a very essential thing for the Commission. We want this Commission to do something very reasonable against next year so that we can really take off. We do not want this type of child's play. There are so many things happening in this country about which we need to help people, and we cannot do this on this sheet of paper.

Mr Chairman, with these remarks I beg to take my seat.

Mr David Okwoche Agi (Oju) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not really have any quarrel with the provisions as contained in the proposals and the Report submitted by the Chairman of the Public Complaints Committee. What I want to point out is what I consider to be a misdirection in the activities of the Public Complaints Commission.

The idea of the Public Complaints Commission is to provide a forum where complaints from citizens of this country would receive prompt action so that the normal processes, either of the law court or of the Ministries and other Establishments, are bypassed. It is rather strange that the Estimate proposals have put for the public Complaints Commission the traditional Personal Emoluments, the traditional Accounts Section, the traditional Other Charges, the traditional Special Expenditure and Internal Audit, and what have you.

I really wonder whether the despatchness which is attached to the Public Complaints Commission can really be achieved when you have the typical bureaucracy attached to the operations of the Public Complaints Commission. I wonder how somebody who considers himself victimised in a particular issue, and has decided to direct his case to the Public Complaints Commission, can really get his matter attended to as speedily as he would have wanted taking away the Courts of Law and the traditional Ministries when the matter has to go to the Secretary who is in charge and he will direct all the line of Administrative Officers after which it will go to the Executive Officers ; then maybe the Accounts Section the Audit Sections, and all the other sections will be involved before a decision can be taken. It is because of this that we are having things like setting up a Library, setting up magazine houses and in fact asking for conferences of the Commissioners. So, I feel that the provisions under the Public Complaints Commission, not that they are many, not that there is anything big there to be slashed down or increased, but the entire set up should be restructured so that we have a plain organisation composed of definite lines of functionaries so that the meaning attached to the Public Complaints Commission can really be realised. Under the circumstances, the present set up is a typical Ministry and the aim of having an organisation which will work decisively on the people's complaints cannot be achieved.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Josiah Y. Mallo (Akwanga) : I very much want to congratulate the Chairman of this Committee for the assignment he has done, but there is a quarrel over a matter which, I hope, he should be able to explain to this honourable House. Under the actual expenditure for 1978-79 page 370, that is two years ago, there is nothing reflected. I, therefore, do not know the basis upon which the Chairman of this Committee is asking us to accept the figures provided for 1980. This is because we do not know how much was actually spent, but we only know that in 1979-80 there was a provisional appropriation ; and in 1980 we are given some figures. I do not know whether the Chairman has the actual details.

The Chairman : Yes, the Chairman of the Committee, do you get the point he is making ?

Mr Uwechue : Well, I am trying to get the point I think what he is saying is that we have seen the Estimates for the previous year and the one for this year but there was no indication as to the actual money spent out of the previous year's estimates, and he is asking if we have any information as to this. No, I do not think that is the practice. The thing is that when we invited the Chief Executives, the Members of the Commission, and the Chief Accountant, we deliberated with them, and we are satisfied that there was nothing left at the end of each financial year. There was no question of having any left overs at all. We do not have details of day-to-day spending of the total allocation for the previous year, but we are satisfied that there was nothing left out whatsoever. All the allocation made for the previous year was spent by the Commission. There was no surplus.

An hon. Member : Did they over spend ?

Mr Uwechue : They are not allowed to over spend. There was no over-spending. They just made do with what was allocated to them the previous year.

The Chairman : Thank you, very much. Yes, you are all right ?

Mr Mallo : No, I am not all right, Sir. The point I am trying to drag out is this. I think that this is a distinguished House and we are highly responsible. It is constitutional that if we give two kobo to the Executive, the Executive should tell us that they have spent two kobo, that is the actual expenditure. I do not think it is enough for us to approve of one million naira and then at the end of twelve months, we sit here and we say that we are satisfied that one million naira was spent. It is hereby assumed that after twenty-four months, the Executive has not been able to give us the actual figures.

Now, if you look at the provision for 1978-79, in the old Estimates for 1978-79, we are aware of the fact that there had been a lot of Supplementary Budgets all along. Even for last year, there were so many of them, but unfortunately what we have here only shows what was broadcast on April 1st. Now, what happened to the Supplementary Budgets all along the year ?

So, I think it is a great responsibility of this honourable House to ensure that if there should be any supplementary Budget, it must be incorporated here, so that we do not only deceive ourselves but the Executives are also, probably, finding themselves in a mess somewhere. Otherwise, I cannot just justify any figures here since there is no basis for comparison, and I cannot really tell my constituency that I am really approving ₦3.5 million for the Executive when in actual fact, the money might probably be more than that. That is, after twelve months, we may not know how much has been spent. So, I feel we should really take a look at this point, so that when we go ahead we should know what we are talking about. (Applause)

Mr Mike A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : Mr Chairman, I have a different view over this, not the work of the Committee, but it is my view that the Public Complaints Commission should be scrapped. (Hear ! Hear !)

We have the Police, we have the Judiciary, we have the Ministries and we have other functionaries responsible for receiving complaints. It is my opinion that the functions of the Public Complaints Commission is a duplication of efforts and a waste of time and money. The ₦3.6 million allocated for this Commission this year should be provided for the provision of electricity and water supply in some remote areas of this country. (Applause)

I have no idea what we are complaining about, Mr Chairman.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Point of Order.

Mr Chairman : Yes, your Point of Order ?

Mr Iyayi : My point of order is constitutional. The existence of the Public Complaints Decree is enshrined in Section 274 sub-Section 5 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (Interruptions) The decree is No. 31 of 1975. So, if you want to scrap the Public Complaints Commission, you have to follow the prescribed procedure under the Constitution for amending the Constitution.

Mr Agbamuche : Mr Chairman, it remains my view and opinion that this honourable House can initiate legislations, including the amendment of the Constitution. (Interruptions)

The Chairman : Order ! Order !

Mr Agbamuche : I submit, Mr Chairman, that it is my proposal that—

An hon. Member : Point of order.

The Chairman : Please, let him finish.

Mr Agbamuche : Mr Chairman, it is again my submission that because it is enshrined in the Constitution does not prevent this honourable House, and indeed any other citizen of this country, from commenting on it. It is my submission further that we will, in due course—

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Point of order.

The Chairman : Yes, your point of Order ?

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura East) : My point of order is Order 26 (2). He should confine himself to the Budget and not—

The Chairman : Please restrict yourself to the report on the Budget.

Mr Agbamuche : Hon. Members, I said earlier that 3.6 million naira can be used for something much more useful than the establishment of a wasteful institution, this semi monster, not functioning under any Ministry. I do not know to what Ministry of Government it belongs. That is my comment Mr Chairman.

Mr Sani Danbare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : I rise to comment on the report on the Floor of the House. First, I would like to answer some questions posed by the Member for Oshinuli. (*Mr Agbamuche*)

The Member has forgotten the importance of the Public Complaints Commission. He wants the Public Complaints Commission to be scrapped. Why !

This is one of the important Commissions in our own rural areas. He has forgotten the rural areas, that is why he is asking for the scrapping of this Public complaints Commission. We have very low income people, and very poor people in Nigeria ; this is the only way they can complain and get their own rights. But the hon. Member has forgotten this. It is only here in Lagos that people can take their complaints direct to High Courts, Magistrate courts and other places, but our poor masses in Nigeria have no money to do that. Where are they going to take their complaints to if they have no money to do it, without the Public Complaints Commission ? The hon. Member has obviously forgotten about this, and he should be reminded that these people are so poor, and it is through this Public Complaints Commission that they can complain and get their own rights. Even to me—

The Chairman : Time up.

Mr Kalgo : Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji M. B. Mustapha (Bida North) : Mr Chairman, briefly my quarrel with the provisions for the Public Complaints Commission is on two items. First, on page 369, new current Draft, sub-item 131—*Rent of office accommodation*. This may not apply to the arm of the Executive responsible for the preparation of these estimates. As regards the rent being paid now, my submission is that by the end of the current financial year all the new Federal Government Secretariats throughout the Federation in the State Capitals must have been completed. I think not only the Public Complaints commission, but also other Statutory Bodies which are hiring offices throughout the Federation will be able to move to these new Secretariats, and this rent is likely to cease from the next Estimates.

Mr Chairman, another item is on page 370, the first item on the list, item 160—*Library development*. Now, this is very important Mr Chairman, taking into consideration the work of the Commission. People will complain on various matters. The Commissioners are not magicians nor are they little gods. Definitely, the Public Complaints Commission requires quite a reasonable and very sophisticated reference library, which they will have to refer to from time to time as a result of complaints from the masses. You do not expect the Commission and its staff to be jumping from the Magistrates' office to the Police office, looking for one type of ordinance or the others or going to the State Libraries looking for certain traditional or historical documents which may likely assist them. So, it is very important for the Commission to have an up to date reference library. Therefore, as at now, for them to achieve that, the ₦7,000 for reference library for the Commission throughout the nineteen States is very

inadequate, and I hope the arm responsible will take note of that and provide them with quite a reasonable amount.

Mr J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : I have a different notion of these estimates altogether. To pump in ₦3.6 million into an economy that is so bedevilled with inflation in the area of service, especially this type of service that is yet to justify the need for its existence, is to me too much. I say this with due respect to the Chairman of this Committee who has done his job. I want to draw his attention to one important thing that runs through the whole Budget. As long as it becomes convenient for bureaucrats to use the principle of increamentalism, they simply attach figures without justifying these things. I do not see why they spent a little above ₦2 million last year for twelve months and for nine months, the current financial year, they want ₦3.5 something million.

I think this figure is grossly out of proportion. Let us take one specific case, Sir. Item 253, with regard to information, they want ₦16,000 this year because they had ₦16,000 during the last financial year. Holding every other thing constant, what is the justification for an increase of 25 per cent ? Is there a change in the number of staff ? I think this amount is again out of proportion. It is the duty of this august body to protect the economy of this nation.

Mr M. O. Ugwu (Udi) : Point of order. I think that Prince Sangha is not actually doing his work properly. He is talking out of point.

Some hon. Members : We want to know the order number.

Mr Ugwu : You want to know the Order number ? We do not come here to seek cheap publicity. We are debating, and I will tell hon. Prince Sangha that he should try to confine his observation to the topic on which we are speaking. When we are talking about Public Complaints Commission, Mr Chairman, it is a service to this nation. Prince Sangha is speaking out of order. My order is No. 26 (2).

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Please, allow him to make his own contribution.

Prince Sangha : Well, Mr Chairman, Sir, I think we owe it a duty to this nation not only to protect the economy but to give our useful contributions in areas that we feel might reduce wastes in the economy. So, I think the whole estimates here should be reduced by 25 per cent and that is really what they want and not three million. Three million is inflationary.

Chief Stephen Alete (Ikwerre/Etche I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to make my contribution on the Appropriation Bill on Public Complaints Commission. Before now, when we were in the parliamentary system, we used to make provisions in the Estimates without relating them to the productivity of what we do with the money. We are now in a new system which is a practical system, a system which has a bearing on what use you make of the money. This is the presidential system, very efficient system it is ! Now, I am very much dismayed by the report of the Chairman which has not given us exactly what the Public Complaints

[CHIEF ALETE]

Commission has produced with the last fund we provided them. I would have expected to hear how many cases they have tried in the last period, how many have they disposed of and how many are pending, so that we will be able to relate it to the fund we have provided them. I think the time has come when we should be able to know exactly what use we are going to make of public fund ; not just mere provision of the money without knowing what they would do with it ; it should not be merely asking for money to be provided. I do not care how much money we provide for any services, but what I care about is : that which we have provided, we must show what use we made of it.

In other words, whether we are producing services or we are producing goods, whenever we are asking for money through the Budget, we must show, if we are producing services, how much services we have produced in the last one ; if we are producing goods, we must show how much goods we have produced. It should not be a question of just asking for nominal amounts, without knowing what we have used them for ; only for the executive to make use of them as they like.

Another point I want to raise is to highlight what my hon. Colleague and Member for Gamawa (*Hon. Tuggar*) raised here. The public complaints commission is set up for the public to make their complaints, when they are affected, against the Executive, and I feel that Commission will be useless to the public if it is under the control of the Executive. In other words, we are bringing complaints to those we are complaining against. I would want to see that when we approve the Estimates for the public complaints Commission, we must endeavour to try to get the public Complaints Commission away from the Executive so that they can be effective and produce the desired result. Thank you, very much.

Chief Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani) : I want to say Mr Chairman, that I am really impressed by the set-up of the States offices of the public Complaints Commission. In the past the Public Complaints Commission had been regarded as a toothless bull dog. People who went to the Commission to lodge complaint never received redress. The Commission have not the facilities. They say they have nobody to go out and investigate. They merely sit down in the office, and write to the Permanent Secretary to say *a report like this has been lodged against the staff of your office. Will you please explain whether this was so or so ?* The Permanent Secretary or the Assistant Secretary will write all the long story and all the grammar he can to the public Complaints Commission. They will then look at it against what reports you have lodged and good luck to you. God knows what method they use, they will just tell you, *your complaint has been disposed of. We think it is a police case or that we think this matter can best be handled departmentally.* In the end, it boils down to lack of staff.

But I see that in each State they have a Principal Investigation Officer, a Senior Investigation Officer, two Investigation Officers, Grade II (Level 09) and three Investigation Officers on Grade Level 08. I think this is a good complement of staff for a start.

I do not share the view that the Budget for the Public Complaints Commission is too much. Those who happen to deal with the Public Complaints Commission will really know that they are a basic necessity in our society. Even in the township where you have the police, the courts and so on, they are expected to provide the fastest means of dispensation of justice, and I think, with the present set-up and the increased allocation to them, there will be enough encouragement for them to perform their duties well. I must say the Services, or wherever you are, requires encouragement ; and if that encouragement is given, good service is the result.

Thank you, very much.

Dr M. B. Ukpong (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make some contribution in this respect. In spite of the fact that the Public Complaints Commission has been practically ineffective, irresponsible and useless to the nation, I think we should give it a chance. If it fails again, we can scrap it.

But there are a number of anomalies with regard to public accounting and public budgeting system which I am sure the Committee has not, to the best of my knowledge, satisfied. I want to refer to page 369 with special reference to *Accounts Section : State Office*, and also page 369—*Other Charges*. We, in budgeting system, have to justify why we have some increase or some decrease in account. I think it is wrong for somebody to say that it is not the practice to talk about the actual expenditure in order to justify how much money has been spent, how much money has been underspent, and how much money has been overspent. It is our own responsibility to protect the economy of this country and to be really able to tell the public why we make the provisions.

On page 369—*Other Charges*, item 026, you have ₦210,000 for nine months and ₦150,000 for twelve months. This needs some explanations. *Office and General*—₦100,000 for the nine months and ₦90,000 for twelve months. There are some increases that have no explanation and, therefore, we need some explanations in order to justify these increases.

I am referring Members to page 369 of the Amended Draft Estimates. The total for Staff and Emoluments for 1979/80 was ₦2,313,950, but for these nine months of 1980 it is ₦2.5 million. Mr Chairman, I am not against the provision as such, but I think we should have some explanation why we have this increase.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Sir, the objective of making provisions in the Estimates is to have service that can be either quantitatively or qualitatively explained. I know that in social service, we can even quantitatively or qualitatively explain it. It is my own opinion that there has to be a serious re-structuring of the Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : I rise to support what the Chairman of this Committee has presented to us and to appeal to this House to approve this Budget, in the following respects.

First, I am highly surprised to see a Member of this august House get up and say that this organisation should be scrapped. I am a typical representative of a rural constituency and this is the only avenue open to the masses of rural areas in this country to appeal for justice. (*interruptions*)

In most rural constituencies, mine inclusive, you have only one or two Police Stations serving a population of about two hundred thousand. The situation is really pathetic and you need an organisation like the Public Complaints Commission to serve the masses.

Now, coming to some Members who say that the amount appropriated for this Financial Year is greater than the one for last year, they forget the fact that in as-much-as this is just for a period of nine months, this organisation is also a growing concern as Nigeria is a growing country. There is no organisation that is static and you do not expect the Budget to be static. Coming also to the question that this organisation should be removed from the Executive, I put it to this House that this organisation is not under the Executive. This organisation, from the time of its establishment, was under the then Supreme Military Council. Now, the Supreme Military Council is no more, therefore, all the functions and duties of the Supreme Military Council have fallen under this House.

Several Members : No ! No !

The Chairman : Order ! Order !

Mr Poloma : When the then Supreme Military Council was going away, they did nothing to bring this organisation directly under the National Assembly ; it is now our duty to bring appropriate Regulations and Laws to bring it under this House.

Hon. Members, with this contribution, I will appeal to you to support the Motion.

Mr Frank C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in making my contribution to this Report on the Budget for the Public Complaints Commission, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to a point which we seem to forget, and that is, if you look at the total Budget for last year for this Commission and compare it with what we are trying to approve, you will notice that there is an increase of more than 50 per cent. This, in effect, means that we are sort of encouraging inefficiency if we do approve more than 50 per cent increase in the Budget for a Commission which we know has in actual fact not produced anything.

Honestly speaking, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would urge the Committee to go back and see how they can share among the Commission a total a location of not more than ₦2.5 million. We cannot approve ₦3.6 million for the services of this Commission when we know that this Commission has not produced anything for the last one year, and they are asking for this for just nine months. I do not share the view in any case, that we should right away scrap the Commission. We have come in, let us give them a trial. I think they will now realise that they are accountable for any money we allocate to them.

But, I would urge this House to insist that the Committee goes back with this Report and share not more than ₦2.5 million for the various services of this Commission.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support some of my Colleagues who thought it wise that this particular Commission should be scrapped because it is not viable. Mr Chairman, Sir, if we still want to give them a chance, maybe to try them again for another one year, it should not be to the detriment of the masses.

Mr Chairman, last year there was no provision made for medical services and this year this unproductive establishment is demanding ₦10,000.00. Mr Chairman, the thing that surprises me about this particular amount that they are really soliciting for is that they put here *medical examination and treatment within Nigeria and abroad*, which means that they want to make the consolidated fund ready for themselves. All the medical doctors we have in this country cannot treat them for a disease that has not yet been seen ; a sickness that has not yet come up. (*Applause*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, we should not actually encourage situations of this nature. There are people whom we represent who, in fact, if they are sick, the only opportunity they can get is to go to a quack medicine store to purchase drugs. But in this aspect, these people are trying to siphon away ₦10,000.00 to overseas which means that in the whole medical institutions in this country, there is no medical officer who is competent to handle a disease that has not yet come up.

So, I am saying, Mr Chairman, Sir, if it is necessary that this Commission should be scrapped, it should be but if we want to give them a trial, this particular amount that is entrenched in the Estimates should be referred back to this Committee and be slashed down to ₦2,000.00.

Thank you.

Mr A. Danjuma Zubairu (Jama'a North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Draft Budget for the Public Complaints Commission which is before the House. (*Applause*)

Mr Chairman, hon. Members of this august House, many Members have criticized this Draft Budget which the Committee has presented. It is unfortunate for some people to say that this Public Complaints Commission is a toothless dog that cannot bite and as such, it is useless and should be scrapped. It should be noted that the purpose of this Organisation is not to make profit, and if we say that it should be scrapped, it boils down to the same thing as saying that the whole Public Service in this country should be scrapped. No Ministry or government establishment can be accused in isolation of the others. If you accuse the Public Complaints Commission of being unproductive, you also have to accuse the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Works and all other Ministries; we come down and scrap all the Ministries.

[MR ZUBAIRU]

So, it is only ignorant of our Members here to criticise that the public Complaints Commission has not taken off. (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman : Hon. Member from Kaduna State, the hon. Members of the House of Representatives are not ignorant.

Dr D. A. Zubairu : Thank you, Sir. I beg to withdraw that statement.

Mr Chairman, this Public Complaints Commission came into existence in 1977, and it will be very wrong for somebody not to take a proper stock of what it has done. It has done very well, and most Members have said that this is the only Police Office we have within our own primitive and social Constituency. This is the only office, Mr Chairman, that people can pass their complaints through.

Dr J. E. Eburuche (Agbaja/Uvuru) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to find myself in alignment with the views that this Commission should be scrapped. (*Applause*)

It is my opinion that those who are in support of it are not well informed about it. I still have to know where in the rural area this Public Complaints Commission—

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Point of order. I am raising a constitutional point of order in respect of scrapping or not scrapping the Public Complaints Commission. What we are concerned with is the debate on the Budget Proposals in respect of the Public Complaints Commission. (*Applause*)

If I might go further, the proposal to scrap or reduce the vote of the Commission is tantamount to amending the provision under the relevant heads of the Estimates and in this connection, Mr Chairman, with your permission, I would read the relevant Standing Orders.

The Chairman : What Standing Order is that ?

Mr Iyayi : Standing Order 63.

The Chairman : It has been suspended.

Mr Iyayi : The whole of 63 ?

The Chairman : Yes.

Mr Iyayi : All right, I shall go to the Constitution. I said earlier that the existence of the Public Complaints Commission has been woven into the Constitution.

Section 274 (5) provides that—*Nothing in this Constitution shall invalidate the following enactments, that is to say—*

(b) *the Public Complaints Decree No. 31 of 1975.*

In view of this, if any Member has any complaint about the existence or the performance of the Commission, he is at liberty to bring a Bill or to set in Motion the necessary machinery to amend the Constitution.

The Chairman : That is a good point, hon. Mr Iyayi, but here we have unlimited right to speak, and Members can comment extensively. The sky is our limit as long as we can comment on the matter before the House. I think what the hon. Member from Imo State was saying is simply that so much money should not be given to the Commission

because the Commission is not effective. There is no point telling us that it should not exist because the Constitution has said that it must be there.

Dr J. E. Eburuche : What I am saying is that we should tie up our expenditure to productivity. I am saying that in the rural areas, for example, where the hon. Member from Tangale-Waja North cited as an areas that needs the services of the Public Complaints Commission very badly, the impact of this Commission is yet to be felt.

I do not know anybody in the rural area that has used the services of this Commission. (*Applause*) I would like to take a stand that, as a matter of fact, nothing is irrelevant when you are talking about spending money.

The Chairman : There is a Point of order.

Several Members : What is the Order

Mr Zubairu : It is a Floor Order.

Dr Eburuche : I am saying that expenditure should be tied with productivity ; the Commission has not proved itself and for us to be spending heavily on it, is just a waste of money. I am suggesting that since, for twelve months the Commission spent two point something million naira, we should *pro-rata*, give that Commission an amount equal to three quarters of two point something million naira, there is no need for an increase.

Mr Christopher Gutus (Pankshin) : I rise to make my contribution on the Motion before this House. Mr Chairman, from what I have observed, it looks as if there is a sort of duplication of some of the Sub-heads, and there are some sub-heads that are not realistic. For example under the *Special Expenditure* an amount of twenty thousand Naira was voted in the last Financial Year for the installation of telephones and intercom. Assuming that this money was spent in the last Financial Year, we now have the same figure for the same purpose when it is clear that things like telephones and intercom are not consumable. I do not know why such a provision should be inserted again.

Secondly, I would have very much loved to see an explanatory note under the *Special Expenditure*.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to sit down.

Mr Irimiya D. Hassan (Dase-Tafawa Balewa) : While I congratulate the Committee on Public Petitions for work well done, I would like to say that it is a little bit conservative to say that because the Commission received ₦2 million in the last financial year, it should receive that same amount this Financial Year. This would mean that the Commission does not at all expand its services which is not the case.

Secondly, on the issue of the functions of the Commission, it appears that some people are not at all well informed about them. This Commission was established to handle cases that are not amendable to solutions in our law courts, and because of the expensive nature of justice in this country. For example, you cannot expect a retired officer who has no more source of income to take a case to a

[MR. HASSAN]

court of law. How would he pay for it and when should his grievances be redressed. The process is expensive and very long.

Thirdly, on the issue of a library for the Commission, I think this is necessary. In a statement issued recently by the Chief Complaints officer of the Federation, he said that out of the cases the Commission has handled more than nine thousand were rejected. It simply means that the public is not aware of the type of cases that the Commission is authorised to handle. So, the establishment of a library for the Commission where people can go and find out about the type of cases they can take to the Commission is very necessary. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Maina Ma'aji (Kukawa South-East): Mr Chairman, in contributing to the allocations made to the Public Complaints Commission, I would firstly take it from the point of view of its desirability and its functions. A number of hon. Members have said that the Commission is meant to cater for the less privileged group who cannot afford the expensive nature of law enforcement agencies or the law courts in this country.

Mr Chairman, I would like to point out that if these are the people who are meant to benefit from this Commission, the purpose of the Commission has absolutely been negated. This is because those masses for whom the Commission is supposedly meant, as it is said, are not aware of the existence of such a Commission. Secondly, where and when they become aware, the Commission is found only either in Lagos or in the various State Capitals. I am not sure whether anybody could count ten other towns outside the state capitals where this Commission has any office. Therefore, the question of solving the problems of those who cannot afford the expense of the law courts is completely out.

In terms of its desirability, the Commission does not deserve even one kobo from us. Can the Commission's powers stand the test of enforceability? Whatever their views or decisions, they are not enforceable in any law courts; they are mere recommendations. These recommendations, when the Commission was established, were neither directed to the courts nor to the bureaucracies. The Commission was, as was correctly said, under the Military Governors in respect of States and under the Supreme Military Council in respect of the Federal set-up. Therefore, when a decision or recommendation was made, it was passed to these bodies who, without necessarily having any backing of law will decide the issue finally. That cannot be the case today, Mr Chairman. Therefore, if the Commission's decision cannot stick today as it did in the past because it was usually decreed, the question of responsibility to whom must come in. The constitutional existence of the Public Complaints Commission is clear, but to whom is it responsible and how autonomous is it to effect even those skeleton services they are supposedly meant to give out to the masses?

Mr Hamza Nganjiwa (Biu North): I rise to give full support to the Report of the Public Complaints Committee. I recall that the hon. Member for Bori (*Prince Sangha*) and the hon. Member for

Nsukka (*Mr F. C. Ugwu*) to mention a few, have highlighted the reasons for the phenomenal increase in the Budget of this Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if hon. Members could render a careful scrutiny to the provisions of the Budget, they would have realised the provisions by States and provisions under the headquarters here in Lagos. Mr Chairman, Sir, according to the explanation (and for your information, I happened to be a member of this Committee) given to us one of the reasons for the increase was that they are opening new offices in the States where they do not have branch offices before. This will have, at the same time, reciprocal increase in terms of staff and in terms of services. This means also that their commitments have got to increase to cover all the nineteen States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is for this reason that we will expect an increase in terms of their Budget for the year 1980.

With regard to their inefficiency, Mr Chairman, Sir, the increases from the States as well as the increases at the Federal level will also be expected to produce a kind of increased efficiency and productivity in the years ahead. Therefore, I would like to appeal to hon. Members to see this as one which affects the life of the common man; this is a Commission before whom you yourself could go and lay your complaints. I see no reason why hon. Members should advocate the scrapping of this very important agency. Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to appeal to hon. Members to receive and accept this report.

Thank you, very much, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Sarki Adamu (Dawakin-Kudu): Mr Chairman, Sir, in the first place the definition of a budget is simply a comparison of resources and objectives. The objective of creating such a Commission, by the Military was to consult the people in the rural areas because the Military had no time to go close to them. Now, the time has changed, Mr Chairman, it is now a civilian government. We are elected by these people right from the rural areas. We have got representatives representing the local Government Areas, we have got representatives for the States and we have got representatives for the National Assembly. I am sure the complaints of people nowadays are being taken care of by the politicians, and not by the Public Complaints Commission. They are effectively doing nothing, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in the second place, if a budget is a comparison of resources and objectives, I do not see how we can achieve our objectives through the Public Complaints Commission. We have some better ways of achieving our objectives with half of the money budgeted this year for the Public Complaints Commission.

Thirdly, Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a question for the Chairman regarding this budget. Last year, ₦20,000 was budgeted for the Maintenance of Building, and this year ₦50,000 has been budgeted just to maintain the existing building, built last year with ₦20,000. I do not see the justification of this

[ALHAJI ADAMU]

₦50,000 Mr Chairman, Sir, I am in total support of the contributions of Prince Sangha and Lawyer Agbamuche who really supported the abolition of this Commission. It is useless, it is unproductive and it is going to serve no useful purpose for the masses.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Isa Aliyu (Makarfi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the budget of the Public Complaints Commission, I have noted a lot of irregularities in this budget. For example, this Commission wants 152 Office cleaners, which means that every State will require at least eight Cleaners to clean their offices. This is not justifiable. Secondly, last year, for twelve months they were allocated ₦2.3 million, which means proportionately they spent ₦194,000 every month, but this year for nine months, they are requesting for ₦3.6 million which means that they need ₦400,000 every month which is more than 100 per cent increase over their last year's expenses. There is no point to justify this. Mr Chairman, Sir, most government Ministries and parastatals have got a habit of increasing their budget every year without a justified cause. I do not know whether this is due to the fact that during the Military rule they did not scrutinise anything to justify their expenses. Every Ministry should report frequently to a responsible organisation, to justify their existence, their functions to the public and also to render an account of previous allocations so as to justify their expenses. This is not done in this country.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, the Commission is not effective in this country because most of the people in this country do not even feel the existence of the Commission. I will agree with most of the hon. Members that this Commission should be scrapped. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Sule Lamido (Birnin Kudu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in making my contribution for the budget for the year 1980, I feel extremely pleased and proud to be able to come here and effectively do what I am elected to do sincerely. As far as I am concerned, I have tried to relate this Public Complaints Commission to the set objectives it is supposed to meet. Over the last years, analysing these objectives in terms of the services rendered to the Federation, in terms of services to the people, to me, a Public Complaints Commission is certainly very important. But I do not think, at this point in time, it is the priority of Nigerians. As a farmer, maybe, in the village, you will complain if you do not farm enough to feed your family, maybe as a traveller, if I go to the Nigeria Airways, and I do not get the expected service, I will complain. So, it all depends on what you call complaints. From what this Commission has been doing, I think, they have only been able to settle pension funds, and, maybe, retirement benefits. But I think those who are able to work and reach retirement time must have been very few privileged Nigerians. The majority of Nigerians are after what they will eat today and, maybe, within the next five hours. That is all. That is their own priority. To me, so long as we have a very effective Police Force, the question of this Public Complaints Commission is no longer a priority in the Nigerian context. Therefore, I sincerely suggest that all the money voted here for the Public Complaints

Commission should be transferred to the Police vote so that we get them fully equipped to give the services they are supposed to give to Nigeria.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr M. L. Na-uogo (Karaye) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to give a comparative suggestion to what has been so far said by my hon. Colleagues. After weighing the pros and cons for the establishment, of this Commission on one hand, and on the other, after listening so attentively to what my hon. Colleagues have said, and the criticisms heaped on this Commission, I have therefore come up with this idea. Mr Chairman, Sir, as it has already been said, this Commission has no power whatsoever to prosecute or to take any legal action and it has not been mandated by anybody to do so. Mr Chairman, Sir, I believe that in order that the effort of this Committee may be really worthwhile, if at all it wants this colossal amount of money to be allocated to the Commission, the Commission should be annexed to our Committee in this House, that is the Committee on Public Complaints.

Mr M. L. Gumawa (Gabassawa) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in contributing to the report on Public Complaints Commission as regards this Budget, I want to associate myself with the Members who have so far expressed the real and actual thing, that is, that the Public Complaints Commission is a toothless dog. Mr Chairman, let me make two points clear. This is an Administration which has promised its people food and shelter and there are always complaints from even the cities and mostly rural areas that people are not getting enough medical attention. The most important thing, I want to say here, as far as this Budget is concerned, Mr Chairman, is allocation to States.

The Chairman : Please, confine yourself to the report. The report is on Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Gumawa : Mr Chairman, I want to mention a very important thing. If there is need for some changes and amendments in the Budget proposals as a whole, then it is now that we should start to look at the areas where we can get more money for better allocation.

The Chairman : Hon. Member from Kano State, go to Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Gumawa : Mr Chairman, why Public Complaints Commission if we know the complaints of our people? What I am trying to say is that why do we not use the money voted for this Commission for more important things? Why Public Complaints?

Mr A. M. Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would make a token contribution in the light of the previous contributions. It is clear that during the Military Regime, there was a need for a body to be named Public Complaints Commission which would be charged with the responsibility of receiving complaints from the public, collecting and looking into them and taking effective measures to remedy such complaints.

Mr Chairman, this is tenable within the Military Administration because of the simple fact that by the nature of their Administration, the

Military usually come into power by the authority of the gun, and they are largely not responsible to anybody in the country. So, they have almost what I may term a blank cheque to execute whatever they want to execute. However, Mr Chairman, looking at the situation, as it prevails today, one is tempted to conclude that the entire National Legislature is in itself a Public Complaints Body. One is tempted to conclude, arising from that, that if the National Legislature is so constituted, then the existence of a separate body to look after the Complaints of the public is highly questionable. It is in the light of that, Mr Chairman, that I feel strongly that some of the suggestions that have been given by my hon. Colleagues should actually be looked into closely. If there are arguments that this body has got constitutional immunities, then we also know that the Constitution is not rigid and inflexible. There are conditions and clauses within it that show the way that could be taken to amend the Constitution to be in tune with the realities of the day. It is, therefore, in that light, Mr Chairman, that, while I would not want to delve into the area of the expenditure of the Public Complaints Commission because of the way I feel, I would want this Legislature to start thinking seriously about how we would want to amend the Constitution of Nigeria to be in tune with the realities of the day. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr O. Akinboro (Oke-Ona/Owu/Gbagura) : First of all, Sir, I should like to say that I deeply appreciate the job done by the Committee in presenting the report, and I would like to congratulate the Chairman in particular. I would also say, Sir, that I fully support our approving the Budget as proposed in this Estimate for the Commission. But in saying this, Sir, I would like us to go further and examine the usefulness of this Commission.

It is a pity that the Decree setting it up has been written in to the Constitution. I should say, Sir, in passing that to me, this is very wrong, because trying to do so is like trying to rule from the grave. Everybody knows that Parliament is Supreme and when you make a law and put it in the Constitution and make it difficult to alter, it is like trying to rule while you have really left power. So, Sir, I would say that this, by itself, is very unfortunate from my own point of view. The Military ought not to have done that at all. All the Decrees they wrote into the Constitution are quite wrong, not the Decrees themselves but the idea of writing them and trying to perpetuate them in the Constitution is very wrong. By doing so, you are trying to tie the hands of the Legislature which, as I have said, is all over the world, supreme.

Subject to that, Sir, I would suggest that this House should do something, and that is set up a Committee of its own to examine how to strengthen this Commission, how to widen its scope, how to make it effective, how to make it useful and how to make it justify the expenditure we are going to approve for it. As it is now, to me, it is a wild dog, a toothless bull-dog, a huge joke and a child's play. All the same, since it is in the Constitution, we cannot just say we are not going to do anything about it, and I think, the Executive was right in making some appropriation for it. So, I would say, hon. Gentlemen, let us approve the Estimate for this year, but let us see what we can do to improve the performances of this monster.

Mr O. Fagbamigbe (Akure) : I would start, Mr Chairman by correcting the impression given by the Member who spoke last when he said that this Legislative House is supreme. Under our system, it is the Constitution that is supreme, and whatever is written in the Constitution is not inviolable.

It is a good thing that the Public Complaints Commission is under the National Assembly and that fact makes it a hallowed institution. I note with deep satisfaction that the Commission is doing a great job to free men and women, especially those who have no access to the law courts because of financial and other restraints, from the oppression of local tyrants. In a Community plagued with apathy and inaction, the Public Complaints Commission is obviously a good idea. But unfortunately ours is a community in which no one seems to listen and very few care for public opinion. It would appear, Mr Chairman, that although the Public Complaints Commission has investigative powers, it has no power to compel performance.

In a country in which public officers are apathetic to public needs and outcries, it is necessary for the Public Complaints Commission to have the powers to compel performance.

Finally, I believe very strongly that the functionaries of the Public Complaints Commission should have access to up-to-date specialist and general books which only a well-equipped library can provide. As the nation advances, complicated problems of criminal, psychological, sociological and cultural natures will come before the Commission and it is important that the latest discoveries of scholars in these fields should be brought within easy and regular reach of the functionaries of the Public Complaints Commission. In view of these, a good library is necessary for the office of every State Public Complaints Commission. It is, therefore, a regret that the Committee on Public Complaints Commission did not see the inescapable necessity for providing a generous library allocation in the 1980 Estimates. I strongly suggest that the ₦7,000 provided in the Estimate for Library should be allowed to remain.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in making my contribution and giving my support to the Estimates of the Public Complaints Commission, I would like to say that a good government is a government that gives the greatest amount of services and goods to the greatest number of its people. The Public Complaints Bureau or Commission is an instrument of grass-root justice. I am sure, Mr Chairman, Sir, that it will be easier for a village man or a fisherman to make an approach to the Public Complaints Commission rather than go to a Policeman who scares him in uniform.

Mr Chairman, Sir, when people talk of productivity, I think productivity is very relative. You have productivity in services, you have productivity in money and productivity in productivity when you actually see it. So, I consider the productivity of the Public Complaints Commission as justice dispensed

[MR ONONOKPONO]

If we have been complaining that it has been a toothless bulldog, I am sure it is because they had not got adequate funds to dispense the expected justice.

Now, that we have the increase, let us watch. I will compare this with the new system that we are operating. One says this person has not functioned well, this person is not doing well, what time have you given the person? Now, that we are starting a new and injecting this youthful spirit into this Commission, I consider it necessary to give them time and the additional money which will make for additional staff and the additional equipment to see if they will be functional or inactive. I consider three million or thereabout naira a good sum if they can use the sum to buy us justice to the grass-root people in our villages. Mr Chairman, Sir, that is the little much I can contribute to this Budget.

Mr Dele Fayemi (Badagry): Mr Chairman, Sir, Public Complaints Commission, if improperly run, will be a court of redress for the oppressed masses, hence it must be encouraged. The Budget before us, as relative to Public Complaints Commission, to me, is not properly prepared. For these few reasons, it must be referred back to the Committee concerned for proper homework.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if we go to page 370 of the Budget, it will be seen that most of the figures for 1979-80 are repeated for 1980, and the actual amounts spent for 1979-80 are not spelt out in the Budget. Some hon. Members have raised this very important point, but we have failed to address our minds to this very important point. You cannot just be pumping out money to any institution that has failed to give you the account of how it spent the money that you gave it last year. The failure to do this, Mr Chairman, Sir, may be due to wrong accounting system; it may be due to a cover-up system in the institution concerned, either some frauds had been perpetuated there and they do not want to render the correct account to the main body concerned; or the reason may be to cover up and to deceive those who are to approve.

I do not think there is any good father that will not ask his son how he spent the ₦10 he gave him last year, which he happened to trade with, before giving him another ₦20. I do not quarrel with the ₦3 million already budgeted for, as explained by one of the hon. Members of the Committee that handled it. But how are they going to spend this? How did they spend the money they were given last year? That is the big question, and we must ask the Committee to look into this very closely before we approve of it.

Prince Lateef B. Kataiyeyanjue (Iwo East): My comment on the Public Complaints Commission is that this Commission is very unproductive. They are not doing anything. I have come in contact with this Commission on several occasions and they have done nothing, because they are powerless, very unproductive and they are not free to do anything. Whenever you have any complaint with the Commission, or whenever you present any petition before them, the report is that they forward their findings

to the appropriate quarters and they are expecting report. Whenever their report comes back, they will tell you that the matter is being handled by the appropriate authority and the last thing is that you hear nothing from this Commission.

I will further recommend that the Public Complaints Commission be scrapped because they are not doing anything. About four or five times I have sent petitions before them and nothing came out of these petitions. So, I will strongly suggest that the money suggested for this Commission be reduced to ₦10,000. Mr Chairman, that is my comment.

Mr J. Oyedeji Opakanmi (Iwo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I strongly recommend that there should be a drastic cut in the allocation for this Public Complaints Commission.

These are my reasons, Mr Chairman. This Complaints Commission now wants to rival the Nigerian Police or perhaps, usurp their position. Recently, I learnt that they would soon open offices in all Local Government Councils in Nigeria. This will cost a lot of money. This is very wrong. Mr Chairman, I do not see any reason for the increases in the staff cadre on page 369 of the revised Estimate. I do not know the reason for wanting 114 Clerical Assistants, grade III instead of 57 for last year; and then 114 Motor drivers instead of 57 for last year; 190 messengers instead of 95 for last year; 152 office cleaners instead of 95 for last year; and then for this year, innovation of Senior Accountants on Grade Level 10, 19; Senior Executive Officers, Grade Level 09, 19. Mr Chairman, you can save money for these items and transfer the money to either capital projects or for other social amenities in Nigeria. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr J. O. Owoseni (Ekiti South): One of the most unfortunate legacies left behind by the defunct Military Administration is the establishment of this Commission, and one of the greatest disservices that that Administration has done to this country is the inclusion or perpetuation of this Commissioner in the Constitution, otherwise, I see no reason for the existence of this Commission at all. As has been pointed out by many Members of this House, if it suited the Military Administration, it does not suit this Civilian Administration. Right from the inception of that Commission, its terms of reference were very shallow, powerless, and of no effect. Therefore, if such a Commission, during this civilian regime, should exist, it amounts to a waste of our revenue more especially when there are more pressing things that the rural areas need nowadays than merely complaining and complaining. I do not know to whom they can complain. You complain even to the Police they do not answer you; you complain even to your Local Government Councils, they do not answer you, how much less to a nebulous Commission on which a fantastic amount of money has been voted. Mr Chairman, Sir, in any case, since it is impossible for us now to amend the Constitution, and we have to allow the Commission to exist, at least, for this Financial Year, I would say that the amount of ₦3 million that has been voted for this Commission be drastically reduced.

Mr Dauda Ibrahim (Irewole West) : Mr Chairman, in my own comment over the report of the Public Complaints Commission Committee, I have a contrary view to other Members who spoke against the existence of the Public Complaints Commission. I know that the intention of the last regime which established the Public Complaints Commission is good. It was set up for the people to come and get justice for any wrong done to them. Again, there are certain workers in the Public Service who are in the junior cadre and who have got no money either to go to courts or to employ the services of solicitors or Lawyers. They can just go to this Public Complaints Commission to receive redress instead of abolishing this establishment, we can improve upon it. Does it mean that if we have any establishment, that is not doing well, the next thing for us is to scrap it ? The best thing for us is to improve upon it and see that regulations are enacted so that it may know the type of work it needs to do.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to give my full support, my total support (*Applause*), my committed support (*Applause*) to the allocation for the Public Complaints Commission.

Mr Chairman, I would like to give a short history of the Public Complaints Commission which came into existence a few years ago. It was established to support, or supplement the activities of the Armed Forces, particularly the Police. I would like to tell you also that in the private sector of the economy where we have thousands of our people working and suffering with no redress, the Public Complaints Commission is a good opportunity for workers who were demoted, who were terminated and who were sacked to make redresses. I would love to see the Commission extend its duties to the sector of where chiefs are being removed arbitrarily. I would also love to see the Commission continue to fight the battle against oppression in this country. Many Members have said that the Public Complaints Commission has not been able to do well ; the reasons are obvious.

If you have no money, no materials, and no equipment, you cannot work. Now that we are giving them money to work, Mr Chairman, I give it my total support.

Mr S. B. Abodunde (Oyi) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in contributing to this Budget proposal for the Public Complaint Bureau, I stand to support the views expressed by some of the Members that the Public Complaints Bureau should remain. At the local level, the farmers, our rural dwellers, fear going to the courts, but they can always lay their complaints with the Bureau without any fear and at less costs. To me, the proposals are quite moderate. For example, for 1,476 workers, the Commission is proposing to spend ₦5,000 on the welfare of such a large number. So, I do not see any excesses here, and I can say before this House that my Constituency approves of its continued existence because they see it as their last resort. We cannot say that they are asking for three point something million Naira and refuse to grant this. If by granting that amount they will be efficient, we should grant it. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr A. Afonja (Oyo Central) : My support for the recommendations of the Committee on behalf of the Budget Appropriation for the Public Complaints Commission is based more on resignation rather than on admiration, because I think, the sum of three and half million naira is chicken feed compared to the amount that is allocated to a lot of other irrelevancies in many other parts of the Budget. Secondly, Nigeria is not the only place where we have an organisation that does the same kind of things that the Public Complaints Commission does. Therefore, in spite of the existence of the law courts, the Police and so on, we still need an ombudsman represented by the Public Complaints Commission.

We do not know enough about the activities, maybe, it is not publicised enough, and that is why some of us are saying that it is a useless organisation. The fact that we do not have sufficient facts should not make us draw that kind of conclusion. Those who have experienced some of the workings of the Public Complaints Commission in some areas will know that they are performing a useful function to a lot of the rural people.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that—

The Chairman : Time.

Mr Olu Olofinlade (Ero South) : My contribution to this debate is that the vote for Public Complaints Commission should be reduced because it has not proved itself useful to the nation. Its usefulness could have been in the rural areas where people have no access to courts and to the Police Stations. Then, this one could have come in between to serve these societies. But you find all the officers are in Lagos and a few of them are in the state capitals. None of the officers of the Public Complaints Commission can be found in the rural areas where they are supposed to serve. So, in my own view, it is better to use the money to establish something where you can complain to the local councils instead of duplicating the work of the local councils, do they stand ? They investigate, they give judgment which cannot be enforced. Where is the function ?

Some people have said that it is in the Constitution. It is not in the Constitution. (*Interruptions*) We can amend the Decree which was embedded in the Constitution. We can do all those types of things. In my own judgment the vote is too much and it should be reduced.

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, having discussed this report thoroughly, I now move that the question be put.

Question that the question be now put, put and agreed to.

₦3,578,000 for Head 46—Public Complaints Commission—ordered to stand part to the Schedule.

HEAD 31—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL PLANNING

Question proposed, That ₦24,630,000 for Head 31—Federal Ministry of Planning—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : Order ! Order! Please it is getting to time. If we can only introduce Head 31, we can continue tomorrow. The Chairman, National Planning, just introduce it, the debate on it will continue tomorrow.

Mr F. N. C. Nwandison (Oji River/Agwu South) : Mr Chairman, I beg to propose an Amendment standing in my name that in the Appropriation Bill, 1980, Head 31, Federal Ministry of National Planning, page 199 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates—Other Charges :

(i) *Item 022 (Local Transport and Travelling)*,—

To leave out the figure ₦500,000 and to insert the figure ₦700,000, instead thereof.

(ii) Last line, to leave out the figure ₦13,138.00 and to insert the figure ₦13,338,000, instead thereof.

Mr Chairman, I beg to propose.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, you have all got the report and you have also seen the Amendments, is anybody seconding the Amendment?

Mr Appolos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Amendments.

The Chairman : The Chairman of the Committee should explain why he is proposing the Amendments.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, in proposing this Amendment, I would like to refer hon. Members to page 2 of my report paragraph B—*Other Charges*. This Report had earlier been circulated as far back as Wednesday last week. On page 2 you will see *Item 022, page 199—Local Transport and Travelling*. The Budget Draft has provided a sum of ₦500,000 as against ₦700,000 requested by the Ministry. The Minister submitted that in the 1979-80 financial year, the Ministry spent ₦25,000 over and above the approved Estimate of their ₦500,000 by virement from other Subheads, yet it was unable to attain all its liabilities under this vote. The Minister remarked that failure to grant annual leaves for lack of funds breeds frustration among junior workers, and appealed very strongly for substantial increase in this vote.

Mr Chairman, this increase recommended by the Committee was purely necessitated because many junior workers in the Ministry of National Planning for the past two years have not been enjoying their annual leaves as a result of inadequate funding under this Charge. That is why the Committee, after reviewing all the problems that normally arise when Senior workers take their annual leave and junior ones are deliberately denied because of lack of funds, we thought it wise to propose this Amendment.

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Mr Chairman, hon. Colleagues, I rise to support the Amendment as proposed by the Chairman. This Amendment will remind many of us who are in constant touch with many of the junior workers in the Federal Public Service of this country of the plight of these workers. It is not only in the Ministry of National Planning that this kind of problem arises, and it goes very far in demoralising the civil servants. On many occasions you would find a Clerk, an Executive Officer, an Assistant Executive Officer, a

Chief Clerk or what have you unable to have their annual leaves ; or even in some cases senior officers intending to go on tour to carry out their functions properly would be told that under those Heads in the Ministries there was not sufficient fund for them to undertake such tours. In some cases they would go on the tours, spend their money and come back, put up their claims, six months, seven months and in some cases a whole year no refund is effected to them. I think that the sooner this kind of anomaly is eliminated and done away with the better for efficient services of the Federation.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiophe South) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Amendment proposed by the Chairman of the Committee for National Planning, but in our budgetary system the total indicated here should have shown a saving against which this ₦200,000 would be reduced from a specific Head and Item in order to balance the items under this Heading. Otherwise there would be an imbalance in the Proposal and where this is raised under any other Head a problem would arise. So, I would suggest that the Chairman should suggest under which Head and Item the ₦200,000 proposed will be removed to increase the sum of ₦500,000 proposed in the Estimates.

Mr F. N. C. Nwandison : Mr Chairman, to reply to the point raised by the Chairman of the Committee on Mines and Power, I have three suggestions to make from where this ₦200,000 can be easily got.

Firstly, on page 199 of the Estimates, that is the amended Budget, you will see under *under-staffing* a budget surplus of ₦1,410,320. That is the amount saved due to probable under-staffing. You have a surplus of ₦1,000,000 there. This ₦200,000 can be taken out of that vote. You have again 20 per cent reserve vote. In most of the major items on capital expenditure you have 20 per cent reserve. This ₦200,000 can be taken care of through this 20 per cent reserve. Furthermore, under Supplementary Appropriation, the ₦200,000 can be taken care of during the appropriation of the Second Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Thank you.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, let us put the question on the Amendment straightaway.

Amendments put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumes the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the progress is that we have been able to approve the report of the Committee on Public Complaints Commission and we have also approved that the sum of money allocated to the Commission which is ₦3,578,000 in Head 46 should form part of the Bill. We have also received a report from the Committee on National Planning. The debate on the report will continue tomorrow. That is the progress so far.

Hon. Members, you will notice that for us to be able to finish this Budget it will be necessary for us to work longer hours. For this purpose I will have a meeting with the Party Leaders immediately after this sitting to agree on how long we would work, that is starting from tomorrow.

Hon. Members, I have a very short announcement to make. The authorities managing Tafawa Balewa Square have agreed that Members and Officials of the National Assembly should park their cars in the open space inside Tafawa Balewa Square. This arrangement takes immediate effect. Drivers who bring Members into the premises of the National Assembly will be permitted to come in, but must take the cars to the new car park immediately they drop hon. Members. The co-operation of all hon.

Members will be appreciated. This will reduce our problem of parking over here.

An hon. Member : What about security?

Mr Speaker : It is being looked after.

And it being 1 o'clock Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 6th May, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

We shall now go to the Order Paper for today.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE
REPORT

Committee on Internal Affairs

Presentation of Report on Appropriation Bill, 1980, in respect of the Draft Estimates for the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs—Head 39, Head 23 for Police, Head 24 for Police Service Commission, of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker : The Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs should table the report.

Mr Hassan Mohammed (Jama'are/Disina) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, before I move the Motion, I want to add here that the Committee on Internal Affairs considered more than one Head. In fact the Committee considered Heads 23, 24 and 39. If you would allow me to read the Motion as amended, it should read like this :

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs in respect of the 1980 Draft Estimates for the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs—Heads 39, Head 23 for Police, Head 24 for Police Service Commission, of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, what Mr Hassan Mohammed is saying in effect is that the Committee on Internal Affairs considered three Heads and not only one Head. The Committee considered Heads 39, 23 and 24, but unfortunately on the Order Paper, only Head 39 is mentioned. So, hon. Members, when you get your own copies of the Report you should amend them to read Heads 39, 23 and 24.

Yes, Mr Mohammed you may now lay your Report on the Table.

Mr Mohammed : Hon. Members, I beg to lay my Report before this honourable House.

Mr Speaker : Yes, is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr I. U. Chima (Ezza) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : I hope hon. Members have got copies of the Report.

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : I think the Question may now be put.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Members should now go home and read the Report. The Clerk of the House of Representatives should make sure that the report is listed for debate.

An hon. Member : Point of explanation.

Mr Speaker : Is it on this Report ?

An hon. Member : It is on the Budget Proposal.

Mr Speaker : Let me have an idea of what you are going to say.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Chairman of Committee on Internal Affairs.

Mr Mohammed : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of hon. Members who have received their copies of the Report to some corrections in the Report.

On the last page, that is, page 6, it should read Prison Training College at Kirikiri, Sub-head 426 ; not Sub-head 063.

Again under *Recommendation Quantified*, it should be, (a) Police Accommodation, 20 States including Abuja—20 units for each State at ₦12,000. The total should read ₦4,800,000. Item (b) should read Prison Accommodation, 250 units for all States at ₦8,000 each.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! I do not think it is the mistake of the Chairman.

Mr Mohammed : It is a typographical error, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, I know it is the mistake of the typist. We may now go to the Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill, 1980 (HLR. 11)

(2nd Allotted Day)

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

HEAD 31—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
PLANNING

Adjourned Debate on Question (5th May, 1980).

Question again proposed, That ₦24,630,000 for Head 31—Federal Ministry of National Planning—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Nwandison : Rose

The Chairman : The question you answered yesterday in respect of deducting some amount from the Estimate itself. You satisfied us as to where that money would come from, but the problem is that you did not go on to amend the Estimate itself.

Mr F. N. C. Nwandison (Oji River/Agwu South) : I amended it.

The Chairman : Just a minute. You did not amend the Estimate itself to show that that money was in fact deducted from one of the places you stated in your reply to the question of the hon. Member for Ethiope South. (*Chief P. A. Gbinije*)

Mr Nwandison : Well, Mr Chairman, I think I have not gone to that extent.

The Chairman : You are still coming down.

Mr Nwandison : Yes.

The Chairman : All right, let us see what happens by the end of the day. Go on.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, before defending the Budget recommendations of my Committee in respect of the Ministry of National Planning, I seek your indulgence and that of hon. Members to refresh your minds on the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of National Planning. In doing so, I would like to refer you to page 3 of my appendix. There, you will see that the responsibilities of the Ministry were clearly spelt out and they include ; census excluding population census, co-ordination between Ministries in economic matters, co-ordination and presentation of applications for external technical assistance, economic intelligence, economic planning and development, inter-governmental co-operation in economic matters, national manpower board, statistics, relationship with the following bodies :—

A. Commonwealth Economic Committee.

B. Council for Management Education and Training.

C. Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U.

D. ECOWAS.

E. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

F. Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER).

G. United Nations—

The Chairman : These things are not in my Report. (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member : You are reading what we cannot find in your report. Where are you reading from ?

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am giving you the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry. (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member : Are they in the report ?

Mr Nwandison : No, they are not in the report. (*Interruptions*) It is page 3 of one of our Minutes. It is not in the report. This Minute was distributed to all hon. Members, I have said that it is not part of the report. (*Interruptions*) in doing so, Mr Chairman,—

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! The Chairman of the Committee on National Planning, please, tell us what is in the report.

Mr Nwandison : All right. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have distributed this report. The only few points I want to raise is that when you look at page 3 of my report, you will see that the Committee was strictly guided in reaching its conclusion by the following objectives. We have national interest in mind, we have the initial responsibility and work load, we have workers welfare and fringe benefits in mind. Further more, in page 4 of our report, you will see where we said that it is of paramount importance to know that in this stage of our development, a greater attention must be given to good management of our resources. Since the Ministry of National Planning is largely a co-ordinating Ministry in the area of domestic economic activities of Government and external economic relations with foreign governments, and as the 4th National Development Plan starts soon, the Committee on National Planning considers it essential to give all necessary assistance to this Ministry.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer hon. Members to the blue-print guidelines for the 4th National Development Plan. These are the guidelines under which we reached our conclusions in recommending that amount for the Ministry. Under the objectives—

An hon. Member : Where are you reading ?

Mr Nwandison : It is a new document. (*Interruption*)

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Please, let him finish and then you can say whatever you like. Yes, go on.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, what I am trying to do is to give the hon. Members the reasons and resources under which we arrived at recommending this amount for the Ministry of National Planning. Apart from what you have seen in my report, which has gone round, I read out to you the objectives which the Government has outlined under the 4th National Development Plan, because before you approve any money, you must know for what reasons this money is going to be spent.

An hon. Member : Point of order !

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Ojukwu Idemili : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am raising Order 27 (5) and I read :

Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is my humble submission that there are too many unseemly interruptions.

The Chairman : Yes, please, hon. Members let the Chairman present his Report. Each and every-one of you will have an opportunity to say something.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, I think I had better read my report having earlier circulated it.

The Chairman : No. We have got the Report. We can read it. Just tell us briefly what you have in it.

Mr Nwandison : Go to page 2. You will see, under Personal Emoluments, we recommended increases in the personnel establishment of the various sections of the Ministry. These were noted and the Committee considers such increase necessary due to the fact that the Ministry is now assuming an autonomous role.

Mr Chairman, these are the explanatory notes from the Minister, and when you go through these explanatory notes, you will see that they are all backed by each officer's responsibilities. So, we do not recommend this increase in personal emoluments off-head. It is supported by explanatory notes.

The Chairman : The problem, Mr Chairman of the National Planning, is where will you get the money for that increase ?

Several hon. Members : That is right.

Mr Nwandison : It is an increase as embodied in the ministerial budget.

The Chairman : Hold on. The problem is that the nation has got a lump sum of money to spend based on a particular revenue, so if you make an increase, where will you get the money ?

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, the only place we are making an increase is in the amendment of yesterday—that is the only place, no other.

The Chairman : Where will you get the money for that increase of yesterday ?

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, under the increase of yesterday—

The Chairman : Hold on. Order ! Order !

Mr Nwandison : Let me tell you where the money of yesterday will come from. When you go to page 199 of the Ministry of National Planning, Personal Emoluments, you will see that the total emoluments is ₦10 million.

The Chairman : Just a moment. Let me get it.

Mr Nwandison : You will see that the total emolument is ₦10,896,320. Then you will see less Anticipated Savings due to probable under-staffing—₦1 million. From there, we can raise this ₦200,000 to pay the workers.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Have you any other answer to that question ?

Mr Nwandison : Yes. I would like to refer Members also to the Capital Estimates of this Ministry, page 564. When you go to page 564, you will see that you have 20 per cent reservation on many capital projects.

The Chairman : The Chairman, National Planning, this is the point Members are trying to make. If you look at the anticipated savings due to probable under-staffing, that is about ₦1 million, but we are not sure yet whether the department will be under-staffed or not. So, you cannot take out that money from that amount. Do you get the point ?

Mr Nwandison : I do.

The Chairman : Otherwise, you will create problems ; and already, the President said that we will be in deficit to the tune of about two billion naira. I think the best thing you will do is to withdraw your Amendment.

Mr Nwandison : All right, I withdraw the Amendment.

The Chairman : The Chairman, National Planning, please, bring a Motion to rescind the Amendment.

Mr Nwandison : I think you have to suspend the Standing Order. Please, suspend the Standing Order and then I will move it.

The Chairman : Please, do it right away.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I wish to withdraw my proposed amendment of yesterday in which I sought an extra ₦200,000 under Other Charges for the payment of transport and leave allowances of the staff of the Ministry of National Planning.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, he is moving a Motion to withdraw the Amendment that he made yesterday. We have already suspended the Standing Orders. Yes, anybody seconding the Motion. Yes, the hon. Member for Gwer West. (*Mr P. O. Awuna*)

Mr P. O. Awuna (Gwer West) : After seconding the Motion, may I suggest that he should go back and write—

The Chairman : Are you not seconding the Motion ?

Mr Awuna : Yes, I am.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the Question is that the Chairman of National Planning Committee do withdraw the Amendment he proposed yesterday which was carried by the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman : Go on.

Mr Nwandison : Mr Chairman, on this note the Budget proposal recommendation of my Committee reads as follows :

Personal Emoluments—₦9,855,000.

Other charges—₦13,138,000—after removing the Amendment.

Then Special Expenditure—₦1,637,000.

Capital Expenditure—₦18,338,000 all come down now to ₦43,168,000. That is the total figure for National Planning. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I think that the National Planning Committee have done a good job but I think what is wrong, as they say, is not in our stars but in ourselves. Mr Chairman, I think that the root products of what appears to be apparent confusion in the Amendment being proposed and withdrawn stem from what the Chairman observed that was not properly planned for and he was trying to help, and I think we should sympathise with him on this score.

There is no doubt that National Planning is one of our most vital Ministries if we are to make any progress, and everything done to it should be encouraged.

Talking about planning, Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to contribute to the on-going Debate on the 1980 Draft Budget submitted by the President for our consideration, particularly, as they affect effective, purposeful and co-ordinated sectoral planning and targetting.

While I congratulate Mr President for pulling out a quick budget, first of its kind in a civilian government under the Presidential Executive System, I must draw the attention of the House to the inconsistency and shallowness of the Budget as affects planning.

GROWTH RATE : The Planners have failed to tell the Nation the anticipated growth rate for the economy as allocated to the budgetary period under consideration. In other words, in planning terms, this nation will be treated to another galaxy of political and imprecise political promises. I respectfully suggest—

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Point of order, Mr Chairman. Hon. Members will recall that the President was here and if the hon. Members from Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*) reads the President's speech, the President talked of *growth* in his speech. Furthermore the fiscal measure that go *pari-pasu* with the Budget takes care of what he is talking about. My order is number 26 (2).

The Chairman : It is all right. The hon. Member from Isoko, please, confine yourself to the substance of the subject matter. We are dealing with National Planning.

Mr Egbuwoku : Therefore, Mr Chairman, I respectfully suggest that Nigeria has passed this level of glib-talking or political cajoling.

ANTI-INFLATIONARY PRACTICE PLANNING : I submit most respectfully that the cancerous problem of inflation has been woefully undermined by the vague promises of the so-called *Green Revolution* planned for this Budget and the so-called *Great Industrial Revolution*. The Industrial Planning, as contained in the Budget, is, to say the least, piecemeal and unsynchronised.

The Chairman : Remember you have five minutes.

Mr Egbuwoku : It is neither horizontal nor vertical in its orientation. Equally, we are not told how many acres of land will be put under cultivation during this period and the expected yield and what is to be produced both for home and for foreign consumption and the left-over for storage. I believe to insist on the purchase of tractors and fertilisers before replanning and redirecting our fertile arable lands is, to say the least, to put the cart before the horse. Even the so-called housing bonanza targets being promised by the President, we all know, are day dreams because it is quite clear the present government lacks the political will, plan and vision necessary to implement such far-reaching gigantic programmes.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Time please.

Mr Egbuwoku : I therefore, submit that this Budget has no soul.

Alhaji Inuwa Ali (Jos North) : Mr Chairman, before I express my support for the report of the Committee on National Planning, I want only one clarification from the Chairman of the Committee. The clarification is on page 197 item 115 of the Amended Draft Budget. Mr Chairman, my question is, what is the necessity of large increase of assistant enumerators from 300 in 1979-80 to 1,000 in 1980, and the expenditure of ₦300,000 in 1979-80 raised to ₦1,381,500 for only nine months in 1980. Mr Chairman, I think the difference is too great. Therefore, I think we deserve some explanation for this, Mr Chairman.

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the debate on this Report, I want to say that this honourable House should not work on sentiments. In planning for a nation, we should not expect any magic to be worked overnight. The President has emphasized on Green Revolution in this country. Now, we do not expect what we read in those days in the *Methodist Queen's Primer* about magic beans growing overnight.

In agriculture, it takes some time to produce. We are planning and it is too early to expect any agricultural project to yield any dividend, just within two, three or six months. You see, that is the mistake we are making here. We have given a programme for the development of our agriculture, we have to give it time to grow. For you to come now within six months to say that—

The Chairman : Hon. Member, we are dealing with National Planning.

Mr Giadom : Yes, but Agriculture is one of the planning. On page 3 of the Report, there is reference to agricultural planning. I am saying now that we have to give time to this Agricultural planning to develop and to grow. For us to come here and think that within six months, you can expect a thing like cocoa to yield to a national programme is unfair.

Secondly, I want to draw your attention to page 2 of the Report, where we have the Enumerators. I wish the Ministry will try to see that, in co-ordinating their work in the rural areas, the farmers are properly educated, so that when they see the enumerators, they will not run as if they are tax collectors. With proper education, I think the farmers will be properly enlightened and they will be able to co-operate with this Ministry to give us the result of what we are planning.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I think the National Planning is well handle and the President is doing his best to see that the nation progresses, so, we should accept the Report.

Mr Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Ekiti) : Mr Chairman, Sir, before I make my comments on the Report, I shall appeal to hon. Members that when we are discussing this Budget, we should talk to the honourable House and not to the press which was the way the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*) did. We are discussing the Budget. *(Interruptions)*

[MR OGBOBE]

Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall start by congratulating the Chairman and Members of the Committee on National Planning for a well written Report. Nevertheless, there is one area of the Report where I have serious misgivings, and that is on the allocation to the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. I do not see the justification for the allocation to the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER). I notice that the Committee, at first, rightly questioned this huge allocation but later on accepted the Minister's Explanation. Judging from the Report the Minister did not actually give any cogent explanation. We are not told, for instance, what NISER has achieved. NISER is one of those establishments which specialise in producing reports completely unrelated to the realities of our economy. In fact, I expected the Committee to start the process of phasing out this white elephant. NISER is now a Ministry within a Ministry. It may have been relevant in the past when there was no Ministry of National Planning, but now that we have Ministry of National Planning, NISER is redundant.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in my view, the Central Planning Division of the Ministry of National Planning should be strengthened and the functions of NISER transferred to it. To this end, I suggest that only one-quarter of the allocation to NISER should actually be allowed for it, and the remaining three-quarters transferred to the Central Planning Division of the Ministry of National Planning.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in my contribution to the Debate on the Budget in respect of the Ministry of National Planning, I wish to make the following comments.

For the first time, Sir, in our history, the President is now coming with plans whereby this country will be grateful to him in that we are going to have records—economic records. Records are very meaningful in every planning stage.

On the Personal Emolument side, regarding Enumerators, hon. Members have spoken about the increase in this number. This is intended to get accurate records of the market situation, economic situation, the consumer index and every other thing that is necessary for national growth and planning.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say at this point that everything is in order ; but if I were a member of the Committee on National Planning, I would have been in a position to ask those concerned where they anticipate the savings in respect of Personal Emolument, this amounts to ₦1.041 million. It is necessary to

know in which area they intend to make the savings. The total savings have now been taken care of in the totals column for the Ministry. This is why the Committee Chairman had to rescind yesterday's resolution which was passed in respect of additions to two other Sub-heads. If they had been able to ask those officials concerned, they would have got explanation in respect of where they anticipated savings.

So, in this respect, Sir, my opinion is that the Committee's Report is lacking in so many grounds and this is as a result of the House mood, we were not

able to have a Budget Committee, otherwise, this type of Report should have been amended in greater detail before it comes to this House. We are all learning, we are all freshers in this Assembly, and it is necessary to learn in the process. I will therefore, recommend, Sir, that this Report should be re-written and presented at another appropriate time, otherwise, posterity will say, we have bungled in this regard. Thank you, very much.

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : I have gone through the report and I do not feel it is very satisfactory.

The report is really based on what the Civil Servants have told them, and I could see a collection of figures from one end to another only as a guess-work.

The work of NISER has not really been reflected here and NISER should really be abolished. We cannot be paying NISER and at the same time paying Foreign Consultants. I could see this as just a viaduct of wasting public funds. We could see that it is not a spade job that has been done. It is just an interview between the Committee and the Chairman and that has formed the basic grand norm of what really they speculated.

The whole of this is just a speculation ; it is not a National planning. (*Laughter*)! In taking into consideration the welfare of the States, the whole of the Benue, Plateau, central region of Nigeria have a lot of water. Hydrological and seismographic survey has shown that there is a great density of water there, with submersive pump aggressors there, so that you do not need to build dams. You could have water which would do the irrigation up to Sokoto, up to Maiduguri and the rest of them. These things were not taken care of and then people are telling us they are doing National planning for us.

Again, you have at ports at Opobo, Eket, Oron and part of Bonny where you could develop good harbours to take care of the palm produce when the Green Revolution takes effect.

The inland water ways at Oguta, Onitsha and Lokoja should be developed. Calabar and Port Harcourt harbours must be expanded to take the whole bulk of trade that comes out to that zone. This is not here reflected.

Are Imo and Anambra States not part of Nigeria ? There are no roads, no infra-structures, no industrialisation, nothing there. (*Prolonged Interruptions*)

Several Members : Fire ! Fire !!

Mr Echetabu : We have to be told whether we are part of Nigeria or not. These places have been neglected for the past eighteen years. There are no infrastructures. The Oji electric scheme, after the war, has not been commissioned again, and it has not been expanded. It is the same thing with Afam electric works. There are no roads. Hon. Members will no doubt feel abashed to know that the Vice-President cannot reach even his own village because there are no roads. (*Interruptions*) I was there when the President came for election, he only stopped at

[MR ECHETABU]

Enugu. (*Interruptions*) Even Mr Speaker has no road to go to his home-town. (*Prolonged Interruptions*) The Deputy Governor of Anambra State has no road to go to his home town and yet we are here. (*Interruptions*)

Mr B. A. Chaha (Katsina-Ala): Mr Chairman, I think the job of Budget Estimate is a very difficult one and I want to appeal to this honourable House to appreciate the fact that some of us have not come in contact with a business like this before. This is the first time, and we are bound to make mistakes.

But our own conviction is that we have some people who are well-experienced in this job and therefore, instead of destroying the Budget, they should try and build those of us who do not know how to handle this job.

Mr Chairman, I have two questions. One is on page 202 and I have a very short explanation embodied on page 4 of the report. It is Item 3101—*Data processing machine*. Mr Chairman, I think there are certain areas in this report, as well as the Estimates, under this department that are not quite clear.

This Data Processing machine had an allocation last year of ₦1.3 million. According to the explanation in the report here, this money was not used, it was not meant for any project but to buy a computer and this department could not buy this computer. The explanation here is that they would like to have a bigger computer. But looking at the Estimates you would find that the same amount is put down here. So, to me, this is not clear. Why the machine was not bought is not stated in the Budget, nor in the report here. The only answer is that they are trying to buy a bigger computer. Then, the money should have been more, but this is not stated.

Another thing, Mr Chairman, is on page 200 where you have *staff and personal Emoluments* and under other charges you have ₦.13 million for *local transport and travelling*.

On the other page, you have under *Federal Office of Statistics*, ₦.5 million. This is unbelievable. Which is which is not clear here as it is put. In which case, this department has nearly ₦1 million for local transport and travelling. One would like to ask this question: is it hiring vehicles or what is it? If it is a matter of hiring, why not use this money to buy brand new vehicles for the job. Instead, we have nearly ₦1 million here. I think, this is unbelievable. This is an area where you find people criticising things like this and saying that it can be termed as corruption.

If you cannot answer any question as regards the money allocated here, the next thing is to be suspected of corruption. I feel sure that such allocations are not checked. They are there, and the department is making use of this money without checking to know exactly why this money is there.

So, Mr Chairman, this is my own observation and I think it is improper.

Mr A. U. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II): I rise to support this report, not only as a Member of that Committee but also—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Chairman, first of all, as the report has indicated, we did quite a lot of work which we think will satisfy this House, as you can see from the report.

I want to explain two things: a Member has raised the question of the increase of Assistant Enumerators from three hundred to one thousand. The position is that the Government has decided to make permanent, all temporary employees. So, those who have been serving all these years in the Federal Office of Statistics are now being converted to permanent establishment. I think that should not be a question.

On the question of Local Transport and Travelling about which a Member has just spoken, the sum of ₦500,000 (five hundred thousand Naira) is actually meant for those going on leave and it is for the payment of leave claims. As the Chairman of the Committee has tried to say, the Ministry considers that this is still inadequate to relieve them of the frustration that has gripped members of staff who have not gone on leave for several years now, particularly the junior staff. So, the ₦500,000 which is meant for leave claims, is in fact, inadequate and we consider that it should have been increased.

Regarding the issue of computer, the computer is meant for the Office of Statistics; in actual fact, they have a small computer which does not satisfy their needs. To buy a computer of the size they now need is not something they would simply go to Jankara market and pick up. They have to specify their need and place an order. This is the reason why a new computer had not been bought during the previous years. The Ministry satisfied the Committee that they were almost completing arrangements for the purchase of this computer which would satisfy their needs and so, the Committee approved of it. Mr Chairman, I must say that, in fact, this Ministry did a lot of work by sending us briefs on every item, and we went into every item of the Budget. All I can say is that what, in fact, the Ministry is asking for and what has been approved for it is an under-estimation of what it really requires. If we want that Ministry which plays so important a role to discharge functions effectively, we should approve its estimates.

On the question of NISER, the Committee was satisfied that the Ministry was in fact, thinking the same way as this House that NISER was not playing its role. It has already dissolved the Board of NISER preparatory to reorganising the institution. We felt that we are only lucky to be able to give the Ministry a chance of reorganising NISER by approving its present vote.

Mr Martin Godwin Alo Nwokocho (Abakaliki East-Central): I want to observe that the way I see the Report of the Committee on National Planning, it would have been good for any time before 1960. It does not qualify in any sense to be presented as a Report by a National Planning Committee for Nigeria in 1980.

We have problems in this country which that Committee is supposed to think about. There are the climatic extremities in Nigeria; we have drought in the North and flood in the South. The Committee

[MR NWOKOCHA]

has not told us how these yearly problems can be solved. It has only told us how workers in the Ministries are going to be bettered and anybody can do that. Everyday, we talk about the problem of rural/urban migration. What has this Committee brought up by way of solving this problem once and for all? We have recently had the problem of oil spillage; what are we going to do to stop it? Why can the Committee not propose a quarantine law? There are so many things I expect the Committee to think about and bring up. They should be the mother of other Committees and we should go to them to obtain drafts of what to do. It is not enough to discuss how much is to be paid to a man when he is going on leave. This is not the way I see it. Thank you.

Mr E. N. Kanu (Ikwano Umuahia): I would like to digress a little bit and go straight to the Budget which is the subject-matter. If you look at page 195 of the Draft Budget,—item 9 (a)—you will find that there is a provision made for one Legal Adviser. It is my opinion that the appropriation here is duplicated because if you look at page 323 of the same amended draft estimate for the Ministry of Justice, you will find that there are several provisions made for Legal Advisers and State Counsel. We had the same experience in our Committee and when we asked the Minister in our own industry, he confirmed that it is a duplication, and that the provision is funded by the Ministry of Justice. I feel that the same mistake has also been made here and so, that figure should be deleted from the estimates.

The Chairman: You do not want lawyers to have jobs?

Mr Kanu: The second point I would like to comment upon is the accuracy of the Estimates so far. The minimum wage operative now is one hundred Naira per month for the ordinary worker. You will also find on page 195 of the Estimates that this has not been reflected for Grade levels 01 to 06. I feel that the Committee did not examine this area very well, and it is my submission that it should go back and review the Estimates properly and bring it back.

Mr Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa): I have some observations regarding this Ministry of National Planning, and I would wish to make two or three points. The decision we have just taken reverting our earlier decision of yesterday puzzles my brain. This is because if each and every one of us goes to any Ministry, it will be clear and definite to him that the junior workers are suffering. They go on leave, come back and wait for six months without receiving their leave grants. Are we here to solve this kind of problem, or are we just to approve the Estimates as they are presented? This is the point I am making. We are here to alleviate the sufferings of the people of this country. This is a fact. It is also true that if you go to any Ministry and confront the ordinary worker, he will complain and tell you that he is suffering. Even the boss in the Ministry will confront you that they stopped him from going on leave simply because they do not have enough provision to pay his leave grant. What are we going to do about that?

My next port of call is this. In principle, I do not appreciate the activities of the Ministry of National Planning. Firstly, it stands in the way of the State governments a great deal. On many occasions, State Governments would have their money ready, having made proposals for the happiness of their people. In the name of National Planning, a counter advice would be given to the States and they would continue to wait and wait for the master-Plan which would never appear. This has been happening.

It is my hope that this element will be removed from the activities of this Ministry.

Secondly, I am a layman but I often wonder how someone will take electricity from Kainji to Maiduguri but skipping quite a number of large towns. Are they not Nigerian citizens? How do you plan taking electricity from Kainji to Maiduguri but jumping so many towns that need electricity and there are Nigerian citizens living there? What kind of planning is this?

Another thing with this Ministry of Planning, Mr Chairman, is that it is the same thing with the telephones. It is the same thing in their plan for dams. You will find a dam and you will find the pipes taking water to a bigger city jumping the small villages on the way. They do not get the water. So, honestly speaking, I do not know what kind of planning they are making.

Left to me, I would say that Ministry should be completely closed and we use consultants who would be better.

Thank you, very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the provisions for the Ministry of National Planning and in my view, while it is necessary to approve these provisions to enable the Ministry to exist, I regard them as purely their own domestic house keeping financing.

As far as I am concerned, I would like the new Ministry of National Planning to be based on a solid foundation from the beginning. It is the first time we are having a Ministry of National Planning and we should get it right from the beginning, I see this Ministry as very important in that there is no country that can make any progress under the stern competition of modern world without proper planning. It does not happen any more. You cannot get what you want by chance. So, the Ministry, I believe, ought to be what they describe as a super Ministry. In other word, it should have a controlling influence on areas of development, not on general expenditure of government, but areas of development capital projects, so that this Ministry will be able to influence what other Ministries do. As presently constituted, the Ministry is just one of the ordinary Ministries and it has not got even a Minister with the type of weight and capacity that can influence other Ministers and allow them to—

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Wanganga: Well, I have a right of free speech and I will complete my comments.

The Chairman: Please, go on.

Mr Wanganga : What I am saying is that the Ministry of National Planning, in order to have the type of importance that this country should attach to it, should be under the Vice-President, because already the Vice-President is the Chairman of the National Economic Council, and it is important that a Ministry that controls all planning should be highly regarded. People are saying No ! No ! they are all important, but you never regard it as important as the Ministry of Finance, or the Ministry of Works or the Ministry of Agriculture. You regard these probably as more important Ministries ; but this one of Planning is by far more important if you look at the future of this country rather than the present situation.

Therefore, I would expect the Committee on National Planning to address itself to areas like ensuring that National Planning ceases to be partisan. As of now, National Plans are drawn up by governments in power. As a result, whichever government comes into power, it tries to change this plan to suit its own programme. There should be a concerted effort to bring an All-Party National Plan, not a single Party National Plan, so that whichever Party is in power has a moral duty and obligation to execute those plans as a national objective, so that Nigeria can grow steadily rather than a topsy turvy affair, up and down, according to whichever Party is in power.

Mr A. B. Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget Proposal presented to this august House. For one thing, Mr Chairman, it is a Ministry that is vital to the necessity of this House, and also of the whole nation. What I want hon. Members to understand, however, is that as we are working with tight hands because we have, as at now, withdrawn the amendment given, so also the National Planning Ministry has tight hands. They have to remain and control much of their planning according to the general framework of the country. As such, I want the whole House to accept this report as a reference point. We have just come in and the Executive, too, has just come in, and I think that this is the spirit, in which, personally, I would like us to take the whole Budget for this year as a reference point. Next year, by January, it will be a different thing altogether. We will be able to look more critically into the things that have been done in these nine months and the things that are expected to be done in the following year. So, I would pray the House to accept this Proposal as presented to the House.

Thank you, very much. (*Applause*)

Mr E. D. N. Uwandu (Mbaitoli) : Mr Chairman, Sir, before I go on to say something on these proposals by the Committee on National Planning, I wish to give some background of the aims of this Ministry. The aim of this Ministry, as I see it, is to organise planned development for attack on poverty, disease and ignorance, and for balanced development in this country. Another important objective of this Ministry is to plan the economy in co-operation with other Ministries to spread the benefits of economic development so that the average Nigerian would appreciate or experience a marked improvement in his standard of living. In other words, I would

like to point out that the creation of National Planning body is for the betterment of the whole country.

But how far has the National Planning succeeded ? We still experience inflation, disease and poverty since 1971 when the Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction was established. Now, the Ministry of National Planning has taken over the job of this Ministry. If we watch the report of the Committee, I congratulate them however for the work done, but the research being conducted by NISER is a complete waste. Have they gone to the rural areas as they have said ? Did the Chairman of the Committee invite the Board of NISER to explain to him what they have done in the last few years so that we can appraise the work they have done ? This is a question I would like to be answered in this House through the Chairman.

If you look at the Estimates of the Capital Expenditure at page 564, in 1979-80 they had ₦15,500,000 which they said was for expansion and development.

They used this money throughout twelve months and we want to give them again three million, five hundred thousand naira for expansion and development. Do they expand every year ? The answer is no. In the Recurrent Expenditure they are given one million naira. So, I am saying, with due respect to the Chairman and hon. Members, that we should scrap the ₦3.5 million for expansion.

Mr C. H. Obihara (Owerri South) : From what was said by the last Member who spoke, it is obvious that the Ministry of National Planning fills a very important position in the scheme of planning for this country. Whatever we may represent here, whatever Committees we may be in, whatever our interests, it all hinges really on the work done by the Ministry of National Planning. This Ministry is not really new. It was called last year Economic Development and Reconstruction. This year its name was changed to National Planning. This unit has been working for quite some time.

In the past ten years, looking at it, there have been two development plans for this country. When you look at those plans, one thing which strikes you is firstly the thing appears to be planless. Nigeria really is not moving very fast. In spite of the oil boom, this country is still poor. Our people have no water to drink ; our people have not got enough food to eat ; there are no roads to many parts of this country ; there is still disease and poverty ; and there is massive inflation. One of the aims of planning is to achieve even development.

In the past ten years planning seems to have been so geared that only some areas of this country have any development. About a quarter of this country is never touched by planning. The planners seem to have avoided the Eastern States in all they have done in the last ten years. We find that there is not one single Government project in Imo State. The Federal Government has not got one single project in Imo State in the past ten years. Plans have, in fact, been so made as to avoid developing this area. This has to change. Planning has to be universal and even.

Take another thing like agriculture. Agriculture is a very important subject. All we find so far is lip service to agriculture. The last Administration introduced the OFN which was a cynical propaganda stunt devised not to develop agriculture but just talk about it, and give the impression of doing something. The OFN has no record of achievement and did nothing for agriculture. That is not planning. Planning must be so geared that you can see real development as time goes on.

Mr G. O. Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : I wish to associate myself with the hon. Members who actually emphasised the importance of the Ministry of National Planning. We have always complained of our priorities not being properly placed. To my mind, I think, the Ministry of National Planning bears the brunt of this. If the priorities are misplaced or any particular important one not emphasised, I think it is this Ministry that is responsible. So, I do not share the views of those who say it should be scrapped, call it NISER or anything. If we must actually progress in this country, there must be a body responsible for the planning, placing our priorities right and laying emphasis on such areas that so demand it.

Mr Chairman, I also know that this Budget is purely on Personal Emoluments. There is one thing in vogue : that civil servants always protect themselves. Some good ideas will emanate from somewhere but when some of them see that it does not favour them, they will begin to lobby and do all sorts of things to counteract such good measures. This is why I say that National Planning needs to take its stance, a very serious stance, and refuse to accept such lobbies that are self-seeking only to protect personal interests.

Dr G. J. Idang (Etinan II) First of all, I would like to sympathise with the Members of this particular Committee because it is a feature that affects all Members of this House in the sense that we have no facilities and, perhaps, we have not yet acquired the necessary experience to consider the Budget of the Ministry in any meaningful manner. Therefore, we tend to move to a situation where important functionaries from various Ministries, perhaps, come to lecture rather than explain what should be in the Budget.

I find the Report of this Committee extremely vague and inconsistent ; and while it may not be necessary to send the Report back for share waste of time, we may have to make something out of this Report to save time.

I have one problem with the whole question NISER and the National Planning Institute. I stated here that the National Planning Institute supposed to be an Institution to train planning also, in the case of NISER, it has been conducting various types of researches that it is really guided to provide the basic information for National Planning. I feel that the Committee could have done more intensive work in trying to justify the Estimates of these particular two Institutions. Is it not possible to combine the two Institutes, that is, to have the institutes of National Planning together with the

NISER to really serve ? Or is it really necessary to have the two ? In the case of the computer where the Department of Statistics now wants it, I wonder whether we have really exhausted using the computer facilities we have in this country. I have in mind, perhaps, the computer centres at Ibadan and Lagos. I do not know whether we have really exhausted these facilities or whether we just want to duplicate these facilities. It is not easy to establish computer centres without the necessary manpower.

In conclusion, I would appeal to Members, perhaps, to accept this Report just because we do not have enough time and we just would like to pass this Budget. Other than that, I think, the Report is vague.

Mr M. B. Mele (Matchina) : I rise to associate myself with the hon. Members who have shown great sympathy for this Ministry more especially in this period of our development. Mr Chairman, Sir, in this period of our development, there is the need for a careful, good and effective management of our resources in order to achieve a radical and progressive social and economic transformation of Nigeria.

In pursuance of this aspiration, Mr Chairman, it is the duty of this honourable House and all patriotic Nigerians to give all necessary assistance to any organisation or institutions whose duty is to plan this country's economy. The planning of our economy is the responsibility of the Ministry of National Planning.

With the 4th National Development Plan coming out soon, or not far ahead, and with our desire to have an agricultural and industrial boost in this country, and with our objective of creating or having all necessary infrastructures in the rural areas for the benefit of the masses, there is no doubt, Mr Chairman, that it is the sole responsibility of this honourable House not only to approve the Estimate in respect of the Ministry but also to develop ways and means of giving more funds for this Ministry.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to sit.

Mr Kalah Isyaku (Minjibir) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in associating myself with the comments made by my hon. Colleagues, I should like to call upon the Chairman of the National Planning Committee to this paragraph ; with your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to read page 4 of the Report :

We further recommend that a division of Rural planning and development be established in the Ministry of National Planning. This division, if and when established, should among other things carry out Rural Planning survey and recommend a planned and systematic guidelines for Rural development as part of our National Policy. The Federal Government should fund this plan up to at least 40 per cent of the total cost. The State and Local Governments will share the remaining 60 per cent.

To this, Mr Chairman, I say no, because the Federal Government is supposed to finance, at least, 75 per cent. of the planned projects in this country.

All our Local Governments are just taking off. So, it would be suicidal if we ask them to contribute something to the development. At least, we should start them off, then after some years of experimenting this planning we can start leaving it gradually to the Local Governments. After all the Local Governments do not get enough fund from the Federal Government nor from the State Governments. When the Federal Government sends this money to the State Governments they will divert it to other projects, leaving the Local Governments unfinanced. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I think, the Committee should work on this aspect again.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : I wish to give general support to the recommendations of the National Planning Committee in respect of the extension Head of the Estimates relating to the Federal Ministry of National Planning. However, I have a few observations to make in respect of specific recommendations contained in their Report. Now, at page 4, the last paragraph but two of the Committee's Report, it is stated that :

The Committee further recommends that definite efforts should be made to complete the so-called on going projects so that the next budget calendar will pursue new projects which would be more evenly located throughout the country.

I think that, quite frankly, it is a matter for regret that we have had to inherit the spill-over from the Military Government. It would appear from this that no new projects whatsoever are planned by the Ministry of National Planning, and one would have expected that in order to reflect the mood of the nation, which is that this country should be developed rapidly and evenly, some new projects should have been recommended by the Ministry of National Planning. To that extent, I am afraid, I do not quite buy the idea of Federal Ministry of Planning.

Now, the other point I wish to draw attention to is at the bottom of page 4 and at the top of page 5, to which the hon. Member who spoke last had referred, that is the establishment of a Division of Rural Planning. My idea about this is that since the Federal Government finances the entire operations of the Federal Ministry of Planning, the Federal Government should, in fact, shoulder the full responsibility for financing such a division, if created. At this stage it would be premature to load the State Governments and the Local Governments with the responsibility of financing this aspect of the national plan.

Speaking still on page 5, the Committee did recommend, and I agree with them, that the emphasis now should be shifted in respect of banking and industrial activities from the urban areas to the rural areas. For so long the rural areas in this country have been neglected and we all know that the majority of the population, particularly the voting population, resides in the rural areas. It is as well that the Federal Military Government should encourage the banking institutions to establish branches in the rural areas and also that industries should be sited in the rural areas.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a further point to make in respect of page 4 of the Appendix to the Report. The Committee said that *A Comprehensive Report has been submitted to Government on building up this section and the Americans were asked to finance it*—that is the Data Processing Section. One would have thought that other nationalities should be invited. Why not Japan, Britain, West Germany and so on? Why America alone? As a matter of fact, I regard this as a sort of stop gap arrangement. My idea is that the solution to this problem is to embark on a vigorous training programme of Nigerian so that in the end Nigerians themselves would perform this functions and not foreigners.

The Chairman : That is all right, thank you. Chief Oduntan.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I would like to refer you to page 201 of the amended draft, Item 22—Local Transport and Travelling—the amount is ₦500,000. I would like to say that, if we are to help this country we must adopt a sort of austerity measure, and I would say that if we are to adopt such a measure the sum of ₦500,000 for Local Transport and Travelling is too much. I would suggest that the Committee should re-consider cutting down this amount so that money could be made available for other which are very essential for the economic development of this country.

The second point I want to make is this. I do not know what our roles are as Members of the National Assembly : whether we have the right to increase or decrease because yesterday, the Chairman introduced the question of increasing the sum of ₦200,000 but this morning, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House asked him to withdraw the amendment. I feel that maybe we are shirking our responsibilities. We have to examine our roles properly otherwise many things that we would want this country to do to make sure that she progresses, we may not be able to do them if we have no means of increasing budgets like the one we are considering this morning. Mr Chairman, with these few words, I want to say that we have to re-examine our role properly.

The Chairman : Yes, Chief Oduntan, we have the right to, but where do we find the money? We have to find the money. If we have the money down, then, we increase everything.

Mr M. O. Effiong (Oron III) : I rise to say that from my own observation, it is clear to me that the Committee on National Planning has not lived up to expectation. However, I was in the Planning Section in the Ministry of Agriculture, and I know that without planning, you cannot do any effective job. We cannot say that this report should be returned to the Committee. We can decide and take a judicious decision and see what we can do. It is most unfortunate that this Committee upheld both the Other Charges and the Special Expenditure as submitted by the Ministry without taking pains to request the Ministry to produce the actual Expenditure of 1978-79. They could have done this at least for the sake of comparison.

[MR EFFIONG]

So, I am suggesting that Other Charges and Special Expenditure should be cut down. We have no money. Already, the country is very sick financially. Therefore, we should not send back this report to the Committee. Planning is very important in any national development. We should endeavour to decentralise it ; it should not be confined to Lagos. I am saying that we should not send back this report to the Committee, but we should take a judicious decision to see what we can do about it.

Mr J. A. Abiona (Ifelodun East) : Mr Chairman, speaking on the report as submitted by the Committee on the Federal Ministry of National Planning, I should like to call the attention of hon. Members to Items 70-86 of the Draft Budget. That is the only Section that actually reflects the functions of the Federal Ministry of National Planning, that is, the Central Planning Office. In other words, the Federal Ministry of National Planning is a glorified centre for compilation of various statistical data. This singular function of the Ministry of National Planning is adequately taken care of by the individual Ministries. You will discover that every Ministry has a section for collection of data for its own use. It is not only that ; it becomes clear that the Federal Ministry of National Planning is a superfluous creation.

I want to agree with those who suggest that this Ministry should be wound up. In the light of all this, there is no justification for sinking as much as ₦227,000.00 on rent of office accommodation for that Ministry. In effect, what should be done is to wind up that Ministry of Economic Planning because its function is already taken care of. It is a mere duplication.

I also want to call your attention to certain sections on page 564 of the Draft particularly the following items. You have agricultural census, a sum of ₦320,000.00 is supposed to be spent for that. You also have special Economic Investigations ₦1,000,000. It is not that alone—Rural Consumption Enquiry ₦1,700,000.00 What is really important to Rural population is not the enquiry into what they consume, but they really need the consumer goods which are in short supply. With this, I want to suggest that the money that would be so spent should rather be spent in providing consumer goods for the rural economy. Thank you.

Mr T. O. Akinbode (Owo) : The Ministry of National Planning is an important Ministry. Therefore, I do not support that it should be scrapped. But, I feel that as it is right now, it seems that it is a planning division without a plan. At least, something has to be done to make it work well. Until Imo and Anambra States declared themselves disaster areas, that Ministry did not think that they should plan for them. I think something has to be done. If I have to take the Ministries one by one, you will see that in the past there was no planning before the government took a decision. Let us take education for example. You have the Federal Advanced Teachers' Training Colleges. There are six in the whole of Nigeria. They have only one in the whole of the South and that is at Abeokuta. They have five in the North—Katsina, Gongola, Okene, Pankshin

and Yola. There is none in the East and yet they talk of plan.

If you look at the intake of these Advanced Teacher's Training Colleges, the Ministry says that they should take 30 per cent from the State in which they are located, and the remaining 70 per cent from the whole of other States. It would mean that if there had been planning, there should have been three of such Colleges in the North, and three in the South.

Again, if you look at the Military era, you will see that they planned to suit individuals. If I am in the government, I will plan for my State. They do not think of other people who are not in government. I hope the present NPN government would not take everything to their areas.

I will go to the planning of the roads. I will speak on this when we come to the Ministry of Works. They did not plan before they made the Estimate. If I am not a big man in the NPN, they will never think of me. Let us take roads for example. When Ore road was bad the people from the East had to pass through Ondo State. It is the only place to the East. Ore was bad, and they diverted to Ido-Ani and Ikare road to go to the East. All those roads were so bad that it took people about two weeks before they could get to the East. If there had been National planning they would know that there should be good road in Ondo State to make them pass to the East.

Mr A. Afonja (Oyo Central) : I am sorry, I spoke yesterday quite all right, but this has to do with my Committee. A few points have been made by Members which I think I should be able to clear up.

One of the points has to do with NISER. The Minister explained to us that the money allocated to NISER previously was not spent, and the new extension which they intended to carry on was not done, so, they are going to do it in the coming financial year. On the question of these enumerators, part of the problem arose from the fact that the Third National Development Plan had some money allocated for this kind of exercise, and some of the staff who had to be re-absorbed would need to be paid better than they were paid before and, therefore, that is why there is increase in allocation of this money to them.

On the question of whether the Ministry of Planning had planned sufficiently or not, there is not much we can do in this financial year because if we remember, much of these plans started in May last year. I do not have to be the Chairman, honourable Members. (*Interruptions*) When there is truth to tell, I do not think it is necessary for us to hide it. Therefore, what I think should happen this year is this. This does not have to do with the Ministry of Planning alone it has to do with whole Budget itself. If you look at the Budget itself, you will find that it is a carry over from the Military regime, and if it is a carry over from the Military regime and there is no real way of radically changing it, all we have to do is to monitor what is going on this year so that we can have a reasonable Budget next year. Please, Sir, I want hon. Members to note that government is not the Executive alone.

The Chairman : Let us take one more Member.

Mr B. J. Abegunde (Ekiti East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to contribute to the Motion on National Planning and I associate myself with the previous speakers on the need to approve the Budget of forty-three million, one hundred and sixty-eight thousand naira for this Ministry. I have the following reasons to support this.

We must set up proper statistical advisory services to help us plan for years ahead. Secondly, we need to explore new areas of revenue earning to off-set the trends from oil sector. Thirdly, the need has now arisen more than ever before to besiege the rural areas of this country with development programmes such as banking facilities and small-scale industries

On rural planning, the tempo of rural banking policy should be intensified whereby more branches should be opened in all parts of the country. The statistical advisory services should be based in Nigeria and not in foreign countries, so that it could have accurate statistics which will go a long way to help our planning system in areas such as communication, electricity and the rest.

Finally, it is observed with regret, however, that under capital expenditure estimates and general administration, no provision has been made for any planning projects relating to oil producing areas and agricultural areas. I feel, having regard to the pre-eminent position which oil and agriculture are playing in the national revenue, a survey should be carried out in these specific areas, so that the oil producing areas and the agricultural areas are catered for, and in this regard, Bendel and Ondo States deserve special attention.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr Jimo Damisa (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to. ₦42,968,000 for Head 31—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 29—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Question proposed, That ₦1,003,000 for Head 29—Federal Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Mike Ugwu (Udi) : Appropriation Bill, 1980, Head 29, Federal Ministry of Communications. I think they did not put in the capital expenditure which should be five hundred and seventy-one million, four hundred and sixty-three naira and, of course, the Recurrent Expenditure of one million, three hundred thousand naira. I beg to submit.

The Chairman : You have already tabled this report and Members have all got copies, you should now go on with your report. You cannot just say it so briefly.

Mr Ugwu : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like hon. Members to look at the report on the Ministry of Communications objectively. I am appealing to Members, in fact, not to politicise the Budget on the Ministry because—

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Hon. Member, we are here for politics. That is what we are here for. This is not a church. (*Laughter*)

Mr Ugwu : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. If you look at the items on the self-sufficiency of the Posts and Telecommunications which is the first Heading, we know that the Posts and Telecommunications is supposed to be a self-generating quasi-department of the Ministry that ought to generate its own funds to pay its own way. But, as we know that Posts and Telecommunications is purely a utility service, it is not possible for it to pay its way, hence, the government normally gives a kind of subsidy. If you look at the Capital Estimates, Sub-heads 130 and 148, page 154, there is a mistake whereby there was RIE shown against 130. Of course, we believe that this is a mistake and we have asked that this should be removed.

Of course, after looking at the proposals of the Ministry, my Committee did not recommend any increase on the Budget as proposed by the Ministry of Communications, even though we believe that there is need for it. We decided that both the House and the Executive do believe that our telephone systems and telephone services need to be revamped. But you see, Nigeria, of course, is a little bit impatient with Posts and Telecommunications because a lot of money has been sunk into it and the generality of the public would want to know how and for what exactly this money was being spent. But the unfortunate thing is that post and telecommunication is purely a technical subject, whereby if certain things are done and other things are not done we will not have any meaningful service.

There is what I would call the primary network and secondary network in Posts and Telecommunications. You have the telephone exchange, and of course, you have the career room ; and if you do not have repeaters in the middle, if you build a career room, the telephone exchange will not, of course, operate. Even though you invest billions of Naira in one and you find that the network joint cables are not laid, the equipment will lie idle until there is a connection between them. I think that this is very important because we have network all over the country. As you know, modern switching systems with subscriber Trunk Dialing facilities have been provided in Ado Ekiti, Abeokuta, Bauchi, Enugu, Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Maiduguri, Minna, Ondo, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Zaria and efforts are being made for this to go round the whole country.

When the Minister of Communication came here my Committee wanted to know what is being done in order to reflect the Federal character of decentralisation of the equipment like Post Offices and Telephone services.

This Government, of course, inherited this project from the Military government, and of course the Military government did not realise the technicalities involved in telecommunication when they embarked on it. It is just like moving this National Assembly to Surulere tomorrow morning, you will find that it is impossible. They wanted to bring Nigeria into a modern standard of telephone systems, but they found that these things are too

[MR. UGWU]

technical and too expensive, that they had to go very slowly.

The Ministry of Communications inherited this project and my Committee wanted to know exactly what has transpired in the past. We have found out that the Ministry needed money, but we have refused them an increase, taking into cognisance the fact that about ₦211 million Supplementary Appropriation was approved by the National Assembly recently. It is important for us as Members of this House to show that we are really representing the interest of this country. For that reason, we decided that we should barely approve what is in the Budget even though we know that it is not enough, so that maybe within the next nine months my Committee would have familiarised itself with the activities of the Posts and Telecommunications, and if we think that it is necessary to make recommendations for more, that the House must have felt that we have done our job properly.

Mr Chairman, I beg to submit the report.

Mr J. K. Ugo (Gwer East) : Mr Chairman, in my own contribution, I want to talk about postal services in the rural areas. On page 2, the Committee said that there has been a slow growth in postal services in the rural areas. This I agree with. In most of the rural areas, one has to travel about thirty to forty miles to post a letter, and it takes a lot of time for a letter posted in urban areas to reach our rural areas. I recommend that there should be one post office for each rural constituency, so that there will be a quick delivery of postal matters.

In their own report we expected them to say something about delivery of mails. As we all know it takes a lot of time for a letter posted in Lagos to get to Maiduguri or to Makurdi. Sometimes it takes more than one month. We expected them to make some recommendations as to how to improve speedy delivery of postal matters, but this they have not done. It is my suggestion that the Ministry should buy more postal vans to be stationed in each post office so as to deliver letters to their destinations. In far away places like Maiduguri, Sokoto, Makurdi, we recommend that they should enter into contracts with the Nigeria Airways to deliver their mails. If we do this I think the postal services will be improved to the advantage of all of us.

Mr Stephen I. Alete (Ikwerre Etche I) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I would like to make my humble contribution on the debate on the Budget of the Ministry of Communications I overheard the Chairman of this Committee saying that, in fact, the Committee has found out that that Ministry needed a lot more money than what was provided in the Budget, and he said that the Committee went ahead to approve only the bare amount they needed but ignored the rest of the Amount which will be sufficient. I am not impressed by this, because if a department or a Ministry like the Posts and Telegraphs which needed more money is understaffed how are we sure that the money we are going to vote will be utilised. I have to maintain that in any establishment which needed finance, if it is under-financed, then the one we put in will be a waste. I would have wanted to know from the

Chairman what the P & T told them as to why our telephones do not work. Why is it that we cannot post a letter from Lagos to, say, Port Harcourt and it gets there within a day or two. A letter from Lagos to Port Harcourt will take about a month or more. Also, why is it that if we send a telegram from, say, Port Harcourt to Kaduna or Lagos or Kano, if you post an ordinary letter, the letter will get there before a telegram. What happened to the contract to ITT where we were promised that after that contract all telephones of this country will be automatic. Nothing was told us about all these, and yet we say that we are going to approve a budget for such a Ministry.

I think the draw-back in this country today is posts and telegraphs because without communications we cannot effectively operate any economic projects in this country. Because of the laxity in the P and T, operations of businesses and everything cost more than they should normally cost. When you can easily obtain information through the telephone in the course of your work, you would have to make a journey before you can get such information. Much valuable time is wasted in traffic jams, and so on. We cannot progress economically with the P and T being in the position it is now.

If we want to do an honest job for those who elected us, we have got to look into the Ministry of Communications very seriously and make sure that that Ministry functions properly.

I would have thought that the Committee handling such a Ministry should have examined very critically their needs in order to make that Ministry function.

With these few words, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) ; Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Report with all the recommendations that the able Chairman of the Committee of Communications has presented.

I think hon. Members did not listen properly to what the Chairman of that Committee explained. The Committee did not only take a lot of time to investigate how the Ministry of Communications can be improved, but the Committee went on tour of Lagos State and visited many postal districts. The Committee came to the conclusion that there is no need for disrecommending what the Ministry has put down, but rather to appeal to this honourable House to agree that the Ministry actually needs a lot of money to improve its services.

One hon. Member mentioned that he would expect the Committee on Communications to recommend a post office for every constituency, and this means lot of money. The Chairman has already explained that his Committee is going to scrutinise the spending of the present estimates so that by the next financial year, beginning in January, the Committee will come up with a very useful recommendation for which this House will actually be grateful to the Committee and to the entire Ministry.

Mr Abdulmumini Mafara (T/Mafara) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the Report on the Appropriation Bill, I would like to speak on Communications.

[MR MAFARA]

When you talk of communication, I would like to state here that all the telephone lines in Sokoto State are dead. For many years, the lines in the whole of Sokoto State have not been functioning. I would suggest that modern post offices and telephone lines should be installed in all big cities of this country. I would also wish that all local government headquarters and all major towns all over the Federation of Nigeria should be linked with telephone lines in this financial year.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Report. Thank you.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Report of the Committee on Communications in respect of the Appropriation Bill, 1980.

In doing so, I would like to draw the attention of this House, and in support of the submission of the last speaker, to the inadequacies in telephone facilities. Just before the House started debate on the Appropriation Bill, I had filed a Motion, which later lapsed, calling on this honourable House to direct the Committee on Communications to examine the possibility of establishing automatic telephone facilities in every local government headquarters.

While supporting this Report, I would like to urge the Committee on Communications to commune with the Ministry of Communications to lay great emphasis on the importance of telephone links, to enable us communicate with our constituencies and with our people throughout the Federation.

I would not like to take my five minutes, but I would say, with all emphasis, that the Report of the Committee on Communications was a very well-written Report. I have gone through it. It is well set out. The conclusions were rational and most reasonable. I urge all Members of this august House to give their full support to the Report. We do not have to waste much time on this type of Report. We should approve it straightaway. Thank you.

Mr Michael J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I seize this opportunity to commend the Committee for the most excellent work it has done on the Budget as it affects the Ministry of Communications. May I further commend the Chairman of that Committee for the explanations he has given to this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am really aware of the enormous responsibilities with which the Ministry of Communications is saddled if it has to meet the demand of the masses of this country. I would like to say that it is a shameful state of affairs that this great nation, about twenty years after independence, has not been able to reach a standard, in communications, that would give joy to the masses of this country.

I have in mind the telephone system particularly. There are some places in this country that have not seen telephones at all. In fact, it is really difficult even now for most of the Members of this House to have contact with their relations in their respective constituencies. I would appeal to the Committee on Communications that, when the time is due, it should consider the need to at least up-grade most of

the postal agencies in rural areas, and to establish post offices in each of the Federal constituencies in this country.

May I mention, Sir, that some post offices in this country had been in existence for over thirty years, and up till now, they have not had telephone communication.

I have in mind Post Offices like the one at Abak. It is a very old Post Office in this country. I have in mind also Post Offices like the one in Uyo, a very old Post Office in this country. Up till this moment, Mr Chairman, nothing has been done about the contract that was awarded for the building of automatic exchange in that particular Post Office.

I appeal to the Committee on Communications to really investigate and find out those contracts that have been awarded for the building of automatic telephone exchange in most of the Post Offices in this country.

The Chairman : Time ! Time !

Alhaji Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in my contribution to the Report on the Estimates for the Ministry of Communications, I have the following comments. In the first place, I do not see communications as a priority in a country like Nigeria where a greater proportion of its population is dying and suffering from hunger and disease. (*Applause*)

I do not see the reason why we should continue to invest a lot of money on this Ministry that is not serving the purpose. With the lot of money that has been spent on this, you still find that there are some places that have been connected with this automatic exchange to which you cannot speak. For example, you cannot get through to Kano, you can hardly get through to Kaduna, not to talk of Sokoto and so many other places. So, in fact, I feel it is high time we stopped wasting much time on Ministries like the Ministry of Communications that does not serve the purpose. We have more areas to pay our attention to but we neglect these areas and pay attention to Ministries that are not all that essential.

In the Budget, it is most unfortunate, but I would have expected some amendments in some areas of the Estimates for the Ministry of Communications. For example, in the—

The Chairman : Time ! Time !

Ahaji Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama (Aliyo/Kaugama) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in associating myself with the Draft Estimates before us on Communications, I have to oppose the Estimates presented by the hon. Chairman of the Committee because P&T proves itself to be one of the sick babies of the country. For example, you can easily get a number in any overseas country whereas in near-by Northern part of the country or Eastern part of the country, for the first three months you cannot dial a number and get it through. This is a shameful thing for the Nigerian P&T as at now, because they do not justify whatever amount is given to them let alone to talk of increase on what is supposed to be given to them.

[ALHAJI KAUGAMA]

Another thing, Mr Chairman, is that the P&T projects are concentrated in certain areas, while certain areas of the country are neglected, such that you find one-quarter of all the Telephone lines being concentrated in Lagos alone. This is a shameful thing for the P&T.

Another point, Mr Chairman, is that there is a poor control of the P&T building projects such that the buildings are not strong enough to carry the weight of the machinery being used in those buildings.

The Chairman, another thing is that the poor control of the building projects is one of the many factors that consume all the monies that have been allocated to the P&T. Such monies go to individual pockets in negotiating contracts for these poor quality projects and other things. So, Mr Chairman, I do not see any justification in increasing or giving any sum to that Ministry.

The Chairman : Time ! Time !

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiya Central) : Mr Chairman, the hon. Members of this august Assembly, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Committee sitting on the Draft Estimates in respect of the Ministry of Communications. Probably, this is the first time I will be supporting a Motion on the Floor of this honourable House, or a Bill. I decided to do this when I read through all the work done by the Committee and I felt that it is worthy of note that somebody must stand up here to congratulate that Committee for the work well-done.

Mr Chairman, and my hon. Colleagues, since a colossal amount of money of, say, about half a billion Naira is going into the coffers of this Ministry, it is then right that those of us sitting here must have to examine the work done by the same Ministry. I must admit, at this stage, that I congratulate the Ministry for the work done with regard to the NET because in the NET it is very easy now to get through to the capitals of all the countries of the world. *(Interruptions)*

I am coming, Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I must admit that Telecommunications infrastructures, so far as the internal ones are concerned, are fairly poor in this country. I will give an instance with regard to my home town. In my home town, you can only get through, probably, to Oshogbo ; you cannot get through to Ibadan which is the State capital of my own State. Since I have been a Member of this Assembly, I have been trying to get through to my home town, but I could not get through. With all these in my mind, I am saying that—

The Chairman : Time ! Time !

Mr Gbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : The Budget for the Ministry of Communications under discussion needs some specific analysis in all the items. I want to suggest two positive ways of improving the Ministry of Communications in respect of letter distribution, and on this, I want to refer to page 147, the third item code no. 002900200044 which is Motor Vehicles and Running Cost. During the years past, or in the early forties, when the J. C. Ojukwu Transport used to distribute letters for the P&T, you could see that letters travelled from Lagos to Onitsha to Benin and to almost all parts of Nigeria very quickly. Later, that system was changed and you have to go through either one of these State Transport Organisations like the Bendel and all others. But now when you have the letters packed in the G.P.O. in Lagos, it will be awaiting the Daily Times vehicles to transport them to different parts of Nigeria, and I think this is not good enough.

The letters may stay for three or four days at the General Post Office and the Daily Times at their own convenient time take them to different parts of Nigeria. You will see that they are delayed on the way either because their vehicles break down or because of other reasons. Therefore, my suggestion is that that item, as from next year, should be increased in such a way that we will have vehicles running from Lagos to Benin every day, from Lagos to Kotangora, from Lagos to Sokoto and they will bring back all letters that are meant for towns on the way. Another point is that the postmen we had in the days of old used to be people who are experts in their own vicinities. It is the order of the day in the P&T now that they transfer all these postmen indiscriminately. They could transfer one from Lagos to Sokoto, and before he knows what is happening in Sokoto, knowing the streets and the places, he is transferred again to Kaduna and he will be unable to give effective service.

The Chairman : Time up. Yes, the hon. Member for Okehi Adavbi. *(Mr Jimoh Damisa)*

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Chairman Sir, hon. Members I beg that the question be now put.

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

₦572,439,000 for Head 29—Federal Ministry of Communications—ordered to stand part of the schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

And it being 1.00 p.m., the Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 7th May, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday the 6th May, 1980 and they reflect the correct things that transpired in the House yesterday and have, therefore, been approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker : There are only one or two announcements this morning.

Resignation of an Hon. Member

The Deputy Speaker : We have received a letter of resignation from an hon. Member of this House, Mr P. K. C. Atuwu, and the letter reads as follows :

Dear Mr Speaker,

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In recent times, my people have increasingly impressed upon me to attend to urgent duty calls at my home State—Rivers—duties they consider will be of greater value to them than my membership of the National Assembly. After long consideration, I have decided to abide by their wishes.

This is therefore to resign my membership of the House of Representatives forthwith and wish to thank you immensely for your co-operation and understanding during my tenure as a Legislator. I have no doubt you will continue to give your usual co-operation and understanding to the Rivers State Group of which I was the leader.

Wishing the National Assembly continued success.

Yours faithfully,

HON. P. K. C. ATUWO

Members Victoria Island Flats

The second announcement, hon. Members, is that I think the time has come for us to call the House Committee to Order. There is no Committee of the National Assembly that is supreme than this very august House and whatever decision that is to be taken by any Committee must be ratified by this House. Please, hon. Members, I have seen that the Chairman of the House Committee has just walked in. As I was saying, it is time that the House Committee is called to order.

The allocation of flats, the award of contract for the supply of drinks or whatever it is, the conversion of flats for discoteque, whatever is going on must be a resolution or motion of this House. Whatever decision taken in the House Committee must be passed to us for our approval ; but a lot of Members have been put into a lot of embarrassment by what they have been reading on the pages of newspapers. *(Interruptions)* Hon. Members, I would like you to please restrain yourselves because you cannot pronounce somebody guilty until you hear from him. Let him defend himself. I give room to the Chairman of the House Committee to explain himself to the House and I would let one or two other Members make comments on whatever he says.

Mr F. C. Adigwe (Awka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have heard the comments from Mr Speaker and the general comments from hon. Members of this great House. Well, I saw the publication yesterday from *Punch* and today's publication. I want to put it to Members here that the House Committee has not given flats to any particular fellow or department for discoteque or anything. We are still planning the facilities our Members require in Victoria Island Flats. I want to let this House know that in the process of trying to provide some basic facilities, this common idea was revealed through the Committee Clerks. Take it from me that it was a calculated attempt by the Staff of the National Assembly to stop us from making use of these flats as specified by the House Committee. The publication of yesterday was not mine neither was it that of the House Committee, and today's publication was not mine and neither was it that of the House Committee. It was a well calculated publication to embarrass the House Committee and the Members of the National Assembly. Yesterday I refused to make any comments on this issue.

On the question of beer allocation to Members, I intend to bring in a formal explanation of the plans by the entire House Committee. *(Prolonged Interruptions)* Hon. Members I am so sorry, please, I believe by next week you will get a full report of our activities from the House Committee.

Thank you.

Mr Olatinwo Otegbeye (Lagelu North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I happen to be a Member of the House Committee. The publication in the *Punch* is highly disturbing. It was my son who first read it and called my attention to it yesterday and I became much worried. The first thing I did when I got to the House was to call on Mr Adigwe who happens to be the Chairman. I have to say this categorically that the allocation of the surplus flats at Victoria Island to anybody outside the decision of the Committee is a one man show, and also the question of beer allocation which Nation-wide has undertaken since October to supply Members at 60 kobo per bottle is between himself and the Committee Chairman Mr Charles Adigwe.

In the House Committee, we have quarrelled several times with Mr Adigwe about his role with Nation-wide and also every Member of the Committee disagreed with him and wanted to remove him several times, but we have no such power to do so. I am

[MR OTEGBEYE]
completely sick of the Committee. I also want to say that up till now, until I saw a letter written by the Nigerian Breweries yesterday. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Member, please, I have not used this forum to allow a Member of that Committee to dissociate himself from actions that had been taken in the past, because if things were going wrong, as a responsible Member of this House, he should have brought that to the notice of this House. Therefore, hon. Member, I have to rule you out of order.

Please, hon. Members, I want to know if Representative D. M. Onwuzulike, Representative Yakubu Aliyu, Representative Sule Lamido, Representative Apagu Waba and Representative Amos Sunday are here. These five Members have circulated a notice of Motion on Peugeot 505 cars. Now, I would like one of the five Members to simply take this matter on a point of explanation now.

An hon. Member : This is not on the Order Paper.

The Deputy Speaker : I know it is not on the Order Paper but I am not taking it as a Motion. (*Interruptions*) Please, Mr Onwuzulike, will you tell your other four Members to see me in the office after this session please.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, hon. Representative Onwuzulike, you know that your Motion is not on the Order Paper for today.

Mr D. M. Onwuzulike (Aguata North-West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I was going to ask for your leave.

The Deputy Speaker : You were going to ask for what ? Hon. Members allow him to speak, please. (*Interruptions*)

This matter is going to be properly listed on the Order Paper. Mr Onwuzulike is a Member of the Business Committee. You are a Member of the Business Committee and it is your responsibility to see that you get it properly inserted on the Order Paper.

Nationwide Strike of P&T Technologists

Mr M. O. Ugwu (Udi) : I would like to inform the House that my Committee received a copy of the petition from the Technologists on the 8th of April and another one on the 29th January, 1980, the letter which they wrote to the Minister for Communications stipulating their grievances and threatening to take strike action. I regret to inform the House that the second letter, in fact, was not even signed by anybody. Recently and throughout the week, the whole telecommunication system in the country has been paralysed.

Even if we realise that the system we are operating is STD system which, in fact, means we do not need operators before one can get Kano or Sokoto, the Technologists are working to rule. They go into the transmitting equipment and remove the cards, in fact jamming the stations and making it impossible for anybody to get outside Lagos.

I feel, Sir, personally, that among the reasons for the poor performance of Post and Telecommunication is the staff structure of that department, and my Committee has been delegated by this House on the 10th of December, 1979 to investigate the causes of inadequacies.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, when he addressed us at the joint Session on the Budget, did make a comment that his administration would pay a lot of attention to the problems of that Ministry, which means therefore that both the Executive and the Legislature do agree that something must be done in that department.

The way that the Technologists carried on with their strike action is a discredit to the majority and a sense of national service and utter disregard to the exigency of our economic situation, and paralysing our under-developed telecommunication system, is unbearable action against the nation that only unpatriotic Nigerians would support whole-heartedly.

I appeal to the Technologists, through the National Assembly, to go back to work immediately. My Committee intends to devote its attention to some of the problems and the causes of inadequacies in that department with a view to finding solutions to their problems. But my Committee cannot work with the Technologists paralysing the telecommunication system of our country, as we know that the Communication is based on the national security.

I appeal to hon. Members to persuade the Technologists, whether they are inspired by those who wanted this Government to fail or not—

Several hon. Members : No ! No ! (*Interruptions*)

Mr Ugwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am under your protection. I am not trying to make a specific mention of anybody, but if anybody is guilty of inspiring, then I am referring to him. (*Applause*)

So, Sir, I do appeal to the National Assembly, through its Members, to appeal to the Technologists to return to work.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Commerce

Presentation of Report on Appropriation Bill, 1980, in respect of the Draft Estimates for the Federal Ministry of Commerce—Heads 48 and 228 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates respectively.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I want to move the Motion standing in my name—

That the honourable House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce in respect of the 1980 Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Commerce.—Heads 8 and 228 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr F. C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee Meetings

The Deputy Speaker : You will go ahead with your Committee meetings immediately after this sitting. The Committees should not wait until 1.30 p.m.

The Finance Committee is to meet at 11.00 a.m. in Committee Room 3 which is the new extension. The other Committees are Water Resources, Appropriation, Internal Affairs, Industries, External Affairs, Mines and Power, Veteran and Special House Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Speaker, I move that the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Chief Stephen Alete (Ikwerre/Etche I) : I rise to second the Motion.

Ero Local Government : A Disaster Area

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : I rise to speak on Motion for Adjournment particularly on my constituency, Ero Local Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Ero Local Government Area is an area with a population of about half a million people, but unfortunately over the years, successive governments have been leaving this constituency without care. I regret to tell you this morning that there is no single Federal Project in Ero Local Government, my constituency.

I, therefore, through you, appeal to Mr President to please, confirm his wishes and his promises when he visited my constituency during his electioneering campaign tours at which he promised that all constituencies would be looked after. I dare challenge that the new government should not forget Ero Local Government area where roads are not good, no agriculture, no industries, no schools, no hospitals no water and so on and so forth. I take this opportunity to call it a disaster area and at the same time, appeal to you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that Ero Local Government area should be given priority in all aspects of human endeavours to ensure that we live as a part of Nigeria. We are Nigerians and we should not be brushed aside without being looked after.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to you that the Omuaran-Ado-Ekiti-Akure road which has not been rehabilitated over the years should please be reconstructed in the interest of commerce, industry, agriculture and what you can think of. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to appeal through you, once more, that now that the Third National Development Plan is coming to an end, every effort should be made to see that we benefit from the efforts of the new Administration. I do appeal to you that Mr President should realise that Ero Local Government area was one of his

constituencies when he was campaigning to become the President. We are, therefore, looking up to him for all he can do to make us live like other Nigerians.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Bad Roads and Poor Electricity Supply in Ile-Ife

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiyan Central) : Mr Speaker, I seize this opportunity, on the Motion for Adjournment, to mention a few facts to this august Assembly. I think that in this country, we are getting our priorities wrong. There are certain things we should give topmost priority and one of them relates to roads that are very important to us. Roads provides a network whereby one can go from one place to the other. Our roads are extremely bad. For example, the roads in my constituency are extremely bad ; they are horrible and constitute death-traps. I believe that many of these roads are Trunk 'A' roads. The Federal Government has responsibility for these roads and should do something about the roads in my constituency. Apart from the need to develop these roads, we are cut-off from the rest of the Federation. There is no good telecommunications network in Ife. We need a good telephone system to enable us get in contact directly with the State capitals as well as the Federal capital. This must be done and done forthwith.

Besides, the staff of the Ministry of Communications are not willing to work at all. They have not got anything like job satisfaction, and I do not know what is responsible for this. I do not even think that increasing their salaries would give them job satisfaction. What I, therefore, want the government to do is to set up an avenue whereby government machineries would have contacts with the workers in order to obtain maximum production from them. This is an aspect I want this Assembly to look into.

There is again the issue of electricity supply which is very poor. I hardly like to go to Ile-Ife because every night electricity supply is cut-off, and sometimes for a whole week, Ile-Ife goes without electricity, and Ile-Ife is the cradle of all humanities. We should all do our best to promote the comfort of this area, because if we do this, we would not only be promoting the comfort of the whole country, but that of the whole world at large.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I 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 House do adjourn till 10.0 a.m., tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.15 a.m.

Mr Jumoh Damisa (Okehi Adavbi) : I beg to second the Motion. Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may borrow few vocabularies from the respected Member from Ankpa South, I will describe this Motion as a momentous one. I implore Members to cast away sentiments consider this Motion and give it the consideration and backing it deserves. Your verdict on this Motion will go a long way to lead millions of Nigerians to re-appraise the integrity of Legislators in this country into whose hands they have willingly and voluntarily given their votes at the polls. Your verdict on this Motion will portray Legislators, particularly those of us in the House of Representatives, either as selfless, honest, dedicated conscientious, worthy Legislators, or in the alternative, selfish opportunist, selfish hawks, which the Press has tried to depict us to be.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is abundantly clear that this Motion entrusts on this House the responsibility to control the economy of this nation, in view of the present state of the economy of this nation as provided in Section 16 (1) (a) of the Constitution which with your permission, I may read :

Economic Objectives :

The State shall, within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this Constitution—(a) control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice, equality of status and opportunity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few points, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! Order ! Is anybody having a contrary view ? (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member : There must be a thorough debate of this Motion. We are trying to restore the lost glory of this House. (*Prolonged Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! Order ! Members, would you please take your seats ?

We are operating a democracy. I know the feelings of Members as far as this particular Motion is concerned. It has taken a lot of consideration before this Motion came on the Order Paper. We have to exercise a lot of caution and restraint. In exercising this caution and restraint, the leadership is not by any way trying to suppress the opinion of Members of this august gathering. The only thing I would like to go on record for the information of hon. Members is that from the feelings of what happened yesterday, we knew that the majority of Members are in support of this Motion.

In my own judgment, I will suggest, for democracy, that you allow the other Movers of the Motion to finish their contributions and those that have any contrary view should be given the chance to speak. I call on Mr Agwana Waba.

Mr Agwana Apagu Waba (Askira Uba) : I am moved, on principle, to state the case. On principle, we have known the squandermania of the past regimes, and we have known of ostentatious living while the masses of this country live in abject poverty.

There were hues and cries throughout the length and breadth of this country and in an effort to salvage the situation the last Military regime embarked on what they called *low profile*. This was a half-hearted attempt. Even though it was a half-hearted attempt, we the masses welcomed it. We thought it was going to be implemented fully.

In fact, on assumption of office, I have heard in this august Assembly time and time again from many hon. Members that :

- (i) they are the watch-dog of public interest ;
- (ii) they are the keepers of public conscience.

But recent developments in this honourable House make me to wonder whether we are not all a pack of hypocrites. I owe no apology and I do not think that is not a parliamentary language.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my apposition to the recent development is based on those principles I have enumerated above. I have seen that the National Assembly has embarked on the path of squandermania, the very cankerworm that has eaten into the fabric of public officers. What are the facts of the case ? Mr Speaker, Sir, the case is that the National Assembly bought ten sets of Audi GLF cars. Some of these cars are still lying idle across here, between the Restaurant and this National Assembly. From what I gathered, some officials have refused to ride in these cars. Then came the purchase of 20 Peugeot 505 cars. We have heard rumours in this honourable House ; even yesterday I heard a rumour from a very big official. Yesterday, it was said that these 20 sets of cars were given by the Executive. It is a lie. These 20 cars were bought with the money from the National Assembly at the cost of ₦250,000.00. As for the allocation, hon. Members, you may wish to know that the President of the Senate has three of these cars allocated to him ; the Speaker of this House has two of them ; Party Leaders have one each. There is a move in this National Assembly to provide chauffeur-driven cars to Chief Whips, Committee Chairmen and what-have-you. We do not think that this Assembly can afford to embark on that path of squandermania.

Before I sit down, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk on an issue. My quarrel is also with Peugeot Automobiles. The Peugeot Automobiles of Nigeria has circulated some letters creating some impression that the government has given consent to the use of these 505 cars. From all indications, from the circular from the Head of Civil Service, and it was even reported in the newspapers, and from what I gathered from those who are very close to the President of this country, these cars have been banned. Even the officials are not allowed to use these cars.

The President of this country rides in 504. The Head of the Civil Service has issued a circular letter asking the Ministry officials not to use these cars for official duties. It may interest hon. Members to know that the capacity of this 505 car is actually the same as the GL 504. What I am quarrelling with is the cost. While we can go to the market and buy Peugeot 504 car at ₦9,000.00, we are now spending

[MR WABA]

₦15,000.00 to put these 505 cars on the road. We cannot afford to waste our money. This is my contribution.

Mr Sule Lamido (Birnin Kudu): Before contributing to the people's Motion, I would like to make some categorical statements. This motion is not directed against the personality of our Leaders. It is a Motion to an institution which is the Legislature. It is the perennial institution, an institution on which the future history of Nigeria will be recorded. Therefore, it is essential that the right representatives of the people are here. Six months ago we were going about shouting that we were going to provide water, we were going to provide food, we were going to provide shelter. This was barely six months ago, because African Leaders do not recon on history, we are here to arrogate the powers of those we disgraced. I think it is a shame on us. Therefore, we should get these points straight.

The Motion is not against our Leaders in persons, but it is directed to restore sanity, respect, integrity and loyalty of fellow Nigerians whom we represent in this place. There are some other matters I would not have said under these circumstances, but because there has been such a massive lobbying around that these cars were a gift by the Executive, I think I am going to reveal everything and take the bull by the horns.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as we are concerned, the leadership of this House is for all of us. Therefore, nobody under this leadership has the right to arrogate himself the thinking of this House. Therefore, whatever is going to be done in future has got to be through a normal procedure and resolution in this House. The money voted for all expenditure of the National Assembly should be brought to this House so that whatever we want to do should be by resolutions which should be communicated to the Clerk to effect. In future, no Leader, whatsoever, has the right to go and say *give me this, give me that*. I am trying to say all these to restore the dignity of this honourable House.

It is a pity and I feel like weeping for our Speaker to demand ₦100,000 entertainment allowance. This is on record. I know what I am talking. I have my facts and figures. I do not mind being prosecuted. I had wanted to get the gallery cleared because the whole thing here boils on one thing, on this House. I am not here to slight or destroy the dignity of this House.

The Deputy Speaker: Alhaji Lamido, I have to call you to order. (*Interruptions*) Order! Order!

Alhaji Lamido: Sir, I am prepared to be taken up on this matter.

The Deputy Speaker: Alhaji Sule Lamido, whatever you see in this Budget is a draft and it does not become operative until it is approved by this House. Therefore, if there is any amount of money allocated on this Budget that you are against, it is your prerogative to go and make an amendment accordingly.

Alhaji Lamido: With all due respect, Sir, when the leadership of this House has connived with all the Party Chairmen, all the Party Whips, all the Party Leaders and they are now the House,

who am I, an ordinary mass man to complain? They have already usurped our power. (*Applause*) This is the point. If they connived to erode the integrity of this House, all of us here are toothless bull-dogs. That is why we are going to restore sanity to this House. (*Applause*) Mr Speaker Sir— (*Applause*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. D. Princewill.

Mr D. Princewill (Degema I): Point of order. We are talking about Peugeot 505, Order 26 (2). (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to call the hon. Member to Order. We are talking about Peugeot 505 and not leaders. (*Interruptions*) What is happening in this House is terrible. We do not like our leaders, and we are doing everything to—

Alhaji Lamido: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, any slight or any mark of disrespect on our leaders also affects me because they are also my leaders. Therefore, there is no doubt that I will do everything to defend our leaders but naturally where they go wrong, we part our ways, because we are here on principles and we will insist on retaining these principles whatever are the reactionary elements within the House here. Therefore, Mr Speaker, for us to be here, giving all our leaders, all our Chief Whips, all our Chairmen and maybe the other lobbyists 505 chauffeur driven, whereas our various State Governments do not have enough money to give people of our rural communities water to drink, I think, is callous. It is also criminal.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I would like to reiterate that, as far as we are concerned, this Motion is to restore the glory of this institution, which is the perennial institution in Nigeria, on which Nigeria's history will be recorded. Therefore, we shall not sit down and see people dragging the name of this House into the mud. The National Assembly Selfish Service (NASS) must go. Thank you, very much. (*Applause*)

Mr Yakubu B. Aliyu: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in my contribution to this Motion, I would want the hon. Speaker, the Leaders of the five Parties, and those who think that what the five Party Leaders and the Speaker did was right, to know that what they did was wrong. May I appeal to the Leaders that if we drag the name of this House into the mud, we are all to blame. (*Applause*) None of the parties will be blamed but the whole National Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before we came to power, there was a government which we campaigned against that was going wrong, and instead of us to come here and be a corrective government of former governments, we start to indulge ourselves in doing worse things than the former regime. (*Applause*) Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, if this House fails, the whole politic as a body fails. That is what I am going to draw the attention of the House to. If we fail, the whole politic as a body fails, because every leader in this House has a hand in the purchase of these costly-for-nothing cars. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know why the Speaker and the Leaders usurped the power of the National Assembly by taking it upon themselves to spend public money without bringing it here into the House for us to discuss. (*Applause*) Rumour has it that it is a presidential gesture. All right, if it is a Presidential gesture, we want the Clerk of the House or one of the Leaders to stand and tell us here that it is a Presidential gesture. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not like the name of the Chief Executive of this country being dragged into this House falsely just in order to escape with the loot. (*Applause*) Mr Speaker, Sir, after all, we all in this House, after being elected by the masses of the poor people, took Oath here to protect the interest of the poor and the interest of everybody in this country. So, please, I beg you our Leaders and the Speaker, that you should not be aggressive to anyone of us moving this Motion. We move this Motion to correct you. (*Applause*)

With that, Mr Speaker, we are now only protesting to you, our Leaders, to put us in the right way. If we correct you, I do not think we are doing anything bad. So, please, I beg the hon. Members to support this Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, before I call on the next speaker, I would like to announce the presence in this august House of one of the professional Governors, (*Applause*) the former Governor of the Central Bank, who is again a Governor in the Cross River State in the person of Dr Clement Isong, who is here with us this morning.

Your Excellency, you meet us very well. (*Applause*) You could see democracy at work in that the Members of the National Assembly today are purging themselves. Therefore, tomorrow, if you hear us purging the Executive or any other person you should not be surprised whatsoever. (*Prolonged Applause*)

Mr Amos Sunday (Song) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I call this NASS Affairs second to NNPC Affairs. (*Applause*) Mr Speaker, Sir, one wonders how come these cars were bought without the knowledge of the hon. Members of this august House. It is very shameful. We have been forming Committees to probe Ministries, Corporations, *et cetera*. I am asking this honourable House to set up a Committee to probe the National Assembly. There are many irregularities perpetrated by some Members of the National Assembly without the knowledge of other Members. We have all come here as representatives of our people. We have not come here to be second Members to other members. So, I will suggest that any kobo to be spent in respect of the National Assembly must be in the knowledge of the whole House.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to sit. I do not want to say much.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, with due respect, to Mr Amos Sunday, in the world today, no matter what you are, you move in the form of a pyramid. You start with the wide base and you end up with an apex at the top. We cannot under

any circumstances, all be the President or the Speaker and so on. Some other people have to occupy that position and they occupy the position with your confidence. It does not mean, in anyway, that the Leaders arrogate powers to themselves and consider you as a second rate citizen. I do not accept that.

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, before I comment on the absurdity involved in this 505 car issue, I would like to make some general comments which I hope will interest Members of this august Assembly. First of all I would like to offer a prayer to the whole country. My prayer is this, that by the Grace of God and by the Grace of Allah, the civilian administration and the Shagari Government will succeed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will recall that sometime ago I raised this particular issue under Motion for Adjournment, but at that time, people thought I was talking nonsense, and after some time, people now reason with me that the issue at stake is a very serious one. The principle motivating this Motion is that, first of all, we want to avoid double standard in the country—double standard in the sense that when we arrived here, every effort was made to ensure that we make life more convenient for the entire working population of the country with particular reference to the car loan issue and basic allowance. On the one hand, the Government insisted that workers will not be given direct loan and at the same time, particularly those on grade level 08 and above, will not be given basic allowance. Now, it is a contradiction. Mr Speaker, Sir, I find it difficult—

The Deputy Speaker : An hon. Member has a point of order to raise.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : My point of order is 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. We are talking about 505 cars in the National Assembly. We are not talking about workers' car loans and allowances. He should restrict himself to what we are talking about. He should stop playing to the gallery. I know that the hon. Member was one of the Union Leaders before he resigned and entered the National Assembly, so he should not bring workers business here. We are discussing 505, that is all.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Rotimi, confine yourself to the subject under discussion.

Mr Rotimi : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not in the interest of any Member here or of the entire National Assembly for anybody to deep his hands into the coffers of the government to buy such a luxurious car as 505 for official use. Secondly, as hon. Members have said, it is even illegal for anybody to spend the money without the prior approval of the National Assembly. Some people say the issue at stake is not just the capacity of the car but the cost. I emphasise that what bothers most of us is the cost of this car. If the majority of our Members here could go for 504 as their own private cars, for somebody to spend government money to the tune of fourteen thousand naira on a car as official car, I think, to me, is criminal.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is about time that our party leaders should realise one thing.

[MR ROTIMI]

They are there to protect not only the interest of their party Members, but also the interest of the generality of Nigerians in this country. Having said that, I think they should also realise that any issue that affects the National Assembly should be brought before the general Assembly for prior approval. It would appear to me that right from the time some of these party leaders got their posh offices, they seem not to care for their fellow Members any more.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I will go further to warn our foreign investors, particularly motor manufacturers, not to use Nigeria as a dumping ground. It would appear that some foreign firms would like to use some highly placed Nigerians in order to make business in Nigeria and this is why this 505 cars found their way to the Nigerian market. I am glad that the President has issued a directive that importation of 505 cars should be banned from this country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, just a point of information. You are in receipt of the fiscal measures of the Federal Government. It is the fiscal measure of the Federal Government that any car that is assembled in Nigeria will be charged forty *per cent* custom duty ; and to protect the local Industry, on any car that is imported from outside Nigeria there is a duty of a hundred *per cent*. This is just a point of information because you should know. The difference in the price of a Peugeot 504 GL and Peugeot 505 is that, on Peugeot 504 GL you pay forty *per cent*. custom duty, and on the 505 you pay a hundred *per cent*. So, that duty goes back to the Government, not to a private individual.

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jama'a North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion standing in my name. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this is nothing but pure economic sabotage. It is an economic sabotage that has been endorsed by Members of this National Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, when we arrived at this National Assembly, by collective agreement we elected leaders amongst ourselves. It appears now that these leaders have formed a caucus of power within themselves. The recent happenings in this House are highly intriguing. The other day they brought a Motion to this House about a Budget Committee which was formed within the same caucus of the same people. Today again the question of Peugeot 505 is in this House. Peugeot 505 costs fifteen thousand naira, that is, including insurance. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this National Assembly could buy twenty of these cars with purely public money at a time when consideration of how to spend public money is before us, if five people out of 449 will sit down and take this selfish decision among themselves, then it is a shame on them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree with you when you said that Peugeot 505, when imported into this country, attracts a hundred *per cent* duty. That is true but that is an economic sabotage on our foreign economic policy. As far as the Nigerian government has invested sixty per cent shares in the Peugeot Automobile Industry, I cannot see any reason why we should not utilise the present Peugeot we have in this country.

The importation of these 505 cars is now a precedent we have set to the public that anybody can import anything he wants. The last time we had the African Economic Summit here, it was said here that Africa should not be taken as a ground where foreign goods should be dumped. Nigeria, no doubt, is the eye of Africa, but the Nigerian National Assembly, the supreme legislative body in the country has set a precedent that is not in the interest of the electorate who brought us here. I cannot but say that these leaders should give us the assurance that they would surrender the keys of these cars today as soon as we leave this House. I will now give a price for these cars. These cars should be sold to the public at the rate of fourteen thousand naira because they have already been used. Anybody who wants to buy them can buy them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been given twelve thousand naira car advances and everybody has a right to collect the twelve thousand naira. We have taken the twelve thousand naira and I see no reason why we should not utilise this money, instead of buying 505 cars for the leaders with public money. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not against the leaders using official cars but Peugeot 504 is enough for them. The importation of 505 cars for them is pure stealing, economic fraud, and economic sabotage to this country.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members I believe that His Excellency the Governor of Cross River State is taking leave of us now. He too is here for a meeting but he came in to watch our deliberations. We look forward to receiving you another time, Your Excellency. (*Applause*)

Mr Zubairu : Mr Speaker, Sir, we have to take a decision at this material time because—

The Deputy Speaker : You have finished.

Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shame !

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale Waja North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, democracy allows me to talk just as others were allowed to talk. (*Interruptions*)

I rise to state here that the fact that the Leaders bought vehicles without the authority of this House is very sad. (*Interruptions*) I want your protection, Mr Speaker, if this House has respect for you.

Mr B. A. Chaha (Katsina-Ala) : Point of order !

The Deputy Speaker : What is your point of order ?

Mr Chaha : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is order No. 28 (5) which says :

Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, continue, Mr Nuhu Poloma.

Mr Poloma : Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying earlier on, the *low profile* came into being in this country as a result of ruse by the Military to deceive this country. We had so many thousands and thousands of Mercedes Benz cars being used by the Federal Government of Nigeria ; but when these

people knew they were going away, they devised a thing called *low profile* so that those cars would eventually be sold to them. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, they returned all those Mercedes Benz cars to their bases, ordered for 504 cars, and eventually sold these Mercedes Benz cars to themselves, their wives and their children. (*Interruptions*)

Dr Onwuka O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Point of order !

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, what is your point of order ?

Dr Oreh : My point of order is Order No. 26 (2). We are discussing the National Assembly's purchase of cars, not what happened to the last Military regime.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, continue, Mr Poloma.

Mr Nuhu Poloma : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Coming to the fact that we are using 504 cars at all levels of government in this country, I say here, without reservation, that it has been a thing of disgrace to a great country like Nigeria to see our President using 504 car in the midst of other African Heads of State.

We in this country are fond of hypocrisy and we cannot allow it to continue any longer. The use of 505 cars by our Leaders in this House has my blessing. I, Nuhu Poloma, stand by it. (*Interruptions*) I would say here, without reservation, that this House should also call on the Executive to stop using 504 cars ; instead, the Executive should use Mercedes automatic, bullet-proof and the rest of them. That is the only type of car that the President of Nigeria can use in order to protect himself against any attack from outside.

With these few points, I beg to sit down, Sir.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we are made to understand in this honourable House that there are some people who are socialists and who like socialism. Their practice of socialism means that there is no leadership. (*Interruptions*) There is leadership everywhere in the world. Anyone who does not respect the Constitution—

Mr Mathew Olubode Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : Point of order !

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, what is your point of order ?

Mr Olubode Oni : Mr Speaker, my point of order is Order 26 (6) which says :

No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.

The hon. Member who was speaking was imputing improper motives.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, continue, Mr Princewill.

Mr Princewill : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for protecting me. Looking at the Motion itself, I am opposing the Motion on these grounds. If this honourable House feels very strongly about our Leaders driving 505 cars, then I must be for the totality of the Leaders and not for a few of them. (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member : The hon. Member, Mr Princewill has vested interest in this matter because he is a Committee Chairman. Therefore he cannot contribute.

Mr Princewill : If we look at the Motion of today, and, if it is passed, we shall be setting a dangerous standard in this House. If on the generality of the whole thing, we in this House are opposed to the use of 505 then we shall condemn any person who drives 505, car, be he the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or any other person. (*Interruptions*) If we can allow some Leaders to drive 505, then all our Leaders must be equally respected and they should also drive 505.

A very good friend of mine told me that the reason for his opposition is, *Why should Mabrama Jen be driving 505 ?* (*Interruptions*) We have got Leaders in this House. If a Leader is not respected by his own Party, we, the generality of Members of this House, respect every Party Leader be he from UPN, NPN, NPP, GNPP or PRP.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba-Alake) : I wish to refer the hon. Speaker on the Floor of the House to Order 26 (5) :

It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.

Hon. Mabrama Jen is the Leader of the UPN in this House. It is improper for any hon. Member to pass insulting words on his person and the party he represents in this House. Hon. Mabrama Jen is a Leader who should be respected by all shades of opinion in this House. For any hon. Member to single him out for attack is an insult and, please, the hon. Member for Degema I (*Mr Dagogo Princewill*) should be warned.

Thank you (*Applause.*)

The Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member for Degema I (*Mr Dagogo Princewill*), have you finished ?

Mr Princewill : I have not, Sir, I am concluding. Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my contention that if 505 is offensive to all of us in this House, then, this Motion should not be carried. We should throw it away. No Leader in this House should ride 505.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, having discussed this Motion extensively, I now move that the Question be put. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, please, is the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Col. P. C. Amadi*) or any of the Party Leaders here ? (*Interruptions*)

Col. P. C. Amadi (Owerri North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, by the Grace of God, I am the Leader of that great Party, that solid Party, that strong Party, that Party that believes in the unity of this country, that Party that has maintained the solidarity of this nation, that Party whose Leader is the great foundation of what is called Nigeria. With this key note of address, I would now like to make my contribution.

An hon. Member : What is the name of the Party?

Col. Amadi : The name of the Party is NPP. *(Interruptions)*

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member for Bende (*Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe*), what is your point of order?

Mr Ogwe : I am raising a constitutional point of order and my constitutional point of order derives its strength from Schedule 5 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The person who was speaking before I rose up on my point of order is one of the Leaders, and the relevant section which I shall read, with your permission, Sir, says :

A public officer shall not put himself in a position where his personal interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities.

As far as the Leader is one of those who are concerned with the assignment of 505 cars, he is not constitutionally right to speak. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, you should realise, as I have said earlier on, that we are operating a Democracy and you cannot be the judge and the jury at the same time. Any person you castigate has a right to defend himself. *(Interruptions)*

You have made an accusation on the Party Leaders and it is only fair that the Party Leaders are allowed to say something on this issue. *(Interruptions)*

Col. Amadi : Hon. Members, you must hear me in silence and absolute silence, too.

The Deputy Speaker : Would hon. Members please take their seats?

Col. Amadi : I think you should listen. Mr Speaker, you must hear what I have to say. What I have to say may be in your own interest. I did not originally want to talk. We are not necessarily here to kill any Motion, but you must hear me.

The Deputy Speaker : Is it the wish of this House that the Question be now put?

Col. Amadi : I want to make it abundantly clear that I do not want to express any opinion on this issue. All right, bye-bye.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I am putting the Question. The hon. Member for Yola Constituency (*Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud*), please move that the Question be now put.

Alhaji Mahmud : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, after discussing this Motion extensively, I now move that the Question be put.

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

Mian Question, accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That pursuant to Section 16 (1) (a) of the Constitution and in view of the present state

of the Nation's economy, this House hereby resolves as follows :

(i) Only the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the Leader of the House of Representatives shall be specifically allocated official cars ;

(ii) The use of Peugeot 505 cars as official cars by the Party Leaders or any officials of the National Assembly shall stop forthwith ;

(iii) The House of Representatives shall operate a common pool of vehicles to be used by Committees for official duties ;

(iv) All further purchases of cars for the use of the National Assembly shall be in the category of Peugeot 504 model.

River Basins Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill 1980

A Bill for an Act to make provision for the Re-Constitution of the Membership of the 11 River Basins Development Authorities in Nigeria.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : I now move that the House do resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House for consideration of the Report on River Basins Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill 1980.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member for Yola Constituency (*Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud*), please move the Motion for Adjournment.

Alhaji Mahmud : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, after having been defeated on my first Motion, I now move that the House do adjourn until Monday morning by 10.00 o'clock.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : I rise to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody speaking on Motion for Adjournment?

Several hon. Members : No !

Alhaji Mahmud : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I now move that the Question be put.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until Monday morning at 10.00 o'clock.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 12th May, 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have only one announcement, and that is, that there is a letter from the French National Assembly. The letter reads as follows :

*Franco-Nigeria Friendship Group
French National Assembly
28th April, 1980*

Mr Speaker,

I have recently had the pleasure of visiting your country and on that occasion I was able to establish contacts with your parliament. As you know, I am the President of the Franco-Nigeria Friendship Group within the French National Assembly and in this capacity I am pleased to invite a delegation of five Nigerian members of Parliament together with a Parliamentary official to visit France from Friday, 24th October to Friday, 31st October if these dates are suitable. I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible the name and professions of the delegates and also points of interest to them which could be brought up during their stay.

Your visit would start by a few days in my own Region of Lyon and continue in Paris but any suggestions you may have would be welcome.

The French Embassy in Lagos would, of course, act as intermediary. Awaiting your reply which I hope would be favourable, I assure you of my highest consideration.

*President,
Pierre-Bernard Couste*

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the Clerk of the House of Representatives will write a letter expressing our appreciation for this kind gesture.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Committee on Health

Presentation of Report on the Appropriation Bill, 1980, in respect of the budget proposals for Federal Ministry of Health—Head 36 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

Mr Sanusi Iman (Kankiya) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I stand to move the Motion in my name—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee of Health, in respect of the budget proposals for the Federal Ministry of Health—Head 36 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

I beg to submit.

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akamkpa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Water Resources

Presentation of Report on the Appropriation Bill 1980, in respect of the draft budget for the Federal Ministry of Water Resources—Heads 50 and 238 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates respectively of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

Dr Eze O. A. Nwala (Ikwerre/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Water Resources in respect of the Draft budget for the Federal Ministry of Water Resources—Heads 50 and 238 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates respectively of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Science and Technology

Presentation of Report on the Appropriation Bill 1980, in respect of the draft budget for Federal Ministry of Science and Technology—Head 44 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

Mr Sam. O. Alu (Afikpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion in my name—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology in respect of the Draft budget for the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology—Head 44 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Public Service Matters

Presentation of Report of the Committee on Public Service Matters in respect of the National Assembly Service Commission Bill (brought from the Senate as Bill No. S1-80E and referred to this Committee on 25-3-80).

Mr David Attah (Okpokwu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion Standing in my name—

That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Service Matters in respect of the National Assembly Service Commission Bill (S1-80E).

I beg to move.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : The Clerk should please note that it is important that this particular National Assembly Service Commission Bill is listed for debate because it is holding up employment of staff here.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Message of Condolence

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, the Motion standing in my name is :

That a message of condolence be sent to his Excellency Draza Markovic, the President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, tendering to His Excellency and the entire Members of the Assembly the deep sympathy of National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the loss they had sustained by the death of the President Josip Broz Tito.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Prince Sangha.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to Second the Motion.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the debate on this Motion. The late President Tito represented a political phenomenon in the history of World's Socialism.

The late President Tito will be remembered for many things in his struggles to improve the status of Man, not only in Europe, but throughout the whole world. We remember, Sir, that Josip Tito came into prominence during the Second World War, and because of his commitment to the course of human dignity, to the course of freedom, and to the course of his people's freedom, he was able to rally his people against the fascist forces of Hitler and together with others, he was able to defeat fascism in Eastern Europe and in fact, in all parts of Europe and as a result, the Second World War ended in favour of humanity.

As a result of this great victory, Sir, he propounded his own theory in the relation of his country with other nations of the world. He felt that for a nation to live in freedom, to enjoy its own independence, it was imperative that it should choose its own path to development ; and that was why the late President Tito came up with the idea of non-alignment and positive neutrality in international relations.

President Tito, Sir, was a committed socialist. He believed in his own concept of socialism. He believed in what he practised quite unlike those who preach socialism in other parts of the world but practise capitalism in their own four walls. As a socialist myself, (*interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the late President Tito's concept of socialism was the most authentic concept of socialism that all the struggling peoples of the developing world should follow, because his concept of socialism was a positive attempt to liberate the Third World that had chosen the path of socialism from the menacing activities of pseudo-socialist phenomenon in Eastern Europe.

President Tito, Sir, has his own contemporaries in people like Dr Sukarno of Indonesia who propounded his own concept based on non-confrontation because he felt, through the policy of non-confrontation, his own country would survive as a sovereign nation. We also remember people like Pandit Nehru who also believed in the philosophy of non-violence as his own approach to the survival of India as a sub-continent. There were many instances that one could cite in history.

Coming down to Africa, Sir, we have great men like Osagyefo, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, who also emulated the path, the great path, of Josip Tito. And here in Nigeria, we are all committed to a philosophy of egalitarianism as a concept of socialism, and in the policy of the great party to which I belong, the National Party of Nigeria, which believes in authentic concept of socialism, which does not play politics with socialism, I want to say, Sir, that those who pretend to be socialists in this country are mere hypocrites. Today, I saw in the pages of some newspapers (*interruptions*) a leader of a national political party who claims to be a socialist, buying over a whole land. How do we reconcile this concept of socialism ?

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order. Yes.

Dr Oladele Ogunsiji (Egbado North) : My point of order is 28 (3), if I may read :

Members shall not read newspapers in their places and shall only read such books and letters as may be connected with the business under debate.

I am saying that it is a very dangerous precedent on the part of the hon. Members on the Floor, as we are debating the death of a great leader and we should not play politics with it.

Mr Speaker : That is all right, yes, please round up.

Mr Etienam : Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, Mr Speaker, Marxism-Leninism is a mere guide to action, and not an end in itself. The late President Tito lived and died a servant of his people. He never owned any private property in the means of production.

All elements in the means of production in Socialist Yugoslavia, Sir, belong to the people.

Finally, I want to say, Sir that those of us in this country who want to become socialists who preach socialism from everywhere should try to practise what they preach.

President Tito owned no land, but today somebody who claims to be a socialist is buying over the whole of Lagos simply because we are moving to Abuja.

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to make this contribution.

Mr A. Afonja (Oyo Central) : In contributing to the debate on this Message of Condolence to the people of the Republic of Yugoslavia, I would like to say that the greatness of the late President Tito is a foregone conclusion. We all know that each one thinks of his own method of running a government as the best for his people. But some people extend this to mean that their own form of government is the best for all people.

The late President Tito believed that if there was anything for others to copy in the way he managed his own country, it was the business of such people, and that was the origin of his own idea of positive neutralism.

There are others who believe that they must export their own brand of Socialism to other parts of the world, Tito did not belong to this class and I think that is where his greatness lies. Whether he had private property or not we do not know. (Laughter) But it is very important that at this time when we are sending a Message of Condolence, we should not introduce childish and puerile concepts into the memory of a great man. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think late President Tito was a man worthy of example. He was a great example, not only to International Socialists, not only to Socialists in his own country, but also an example of tribal blindness in the sense that as a leader, he took all the people of Yugoslavia as his own people. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, Sir, his major interest was the welfare of his people, no matter what tribe they belonged to, and because of this, the nature of his own socialism and his policies were such as would reach everybody who lived in Yugoslavia. Because of this, Mr Speaker, we all can sing his praises today, and he was one of those very few people who was able to have a lot of protaphs instead of epitaphs.

He was able to realise the worth of his own greatness as appreciated by people all over the world in his own life time. I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is an example that all of us, especially in this House, should take to heart, whether we call ourselves socialists, or capitalists or social-capitalists. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware that there are a lot of people in this House whom I will term social-capitalists. They call themselves capitalists in name, but they do not have the kind of commitment that President Tito had. I am sure that it was not the

intention of the President Tito that a capitalist should be a poor man or that a socialist should be a poor man. Socialism does not mean poverty.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, to all aspiring socialists, I would say that if you can attain the position of financial security, you can still preach socialism.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by those who have sent a Message of Condolence.

Dr Junaid S. Mohammed (Kano West Ward) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in associating myself with the Motion standing in the name of the Leader of the House, I wish to make a few observations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, issues like Messages of Condolence to any country on the death of any leader, especially a leader of the timber and calibre of the late President Josip Tito should not be used for mud-slinging in this House or to score cheap political points. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not also believe that the occasion is necessarily fit to start exposing the values, if there are any, of socialism *per se*. I think the issue at stake is one of Nationalism, because first and foremost, President Josip Tito was a nationalist. It was as a nationalist that he fought for his own brand of socialism. It was as a nationalist he started the non-aligned movement. It was as a nationalist that he stood against both Stalin and the West and succeeded in carving an image for his own country. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, in talking about Tito, we must first talk about Tito the nationalist, not Tito the socialist.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is not an occasion for us to start on the theoretical merit of socialism *vis-a-vis* capitalism because I can see the capitalists on the other side shouting at socialism. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, men and societies and nations have their own destinies in their hands. It is entirely up to those individuals, up to those communities and societies to make or unmake their countries. Many leaders in many countries have been presented with an opportunity to make or unmake their countries. Some nations and some leaders stood to the challenge and made it. Others fell by the way side. Tito belonged to that category of great men who were born simple but who made the grade through sheer hard work.

President Tito was the son of a metal worker, the son of a commoner, who rose as a leader and welded a society that is multi-religious and multi-ethnic group and forged a modern Yugoslavia that is a pride not only to his own countrymen, but a pride to the entire Third World.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Tito's path to his own brand of nationalistic socialism has not been an easy one and for those of us who want to see a socialist Nigeria, I think they should realise that it is not going to be an easy path.

I buy the argument of those who say that one thing socialism does not preach is poverty. Socialism

[DR MOHAMMED]

is not synonymous with poverty. Another thing socialism does not preach is hypocrisy. I think land owners, bourgeois—Compradors and other clique of property sharks and what have you have no right to claim socialism. (*Applause*)

If anything, the death of late President Tito and the way it was taken by the people of Yugoslavia in spite of their religious and ethnic differences ought to have taught some of us in this country a lesson, that not all moments are meant for politics, not all moments are meant for mudslinging. There are occasions when a nation must speak with one voice.

I think that an occasion like the last OAU Economic Summit which some leaders used to call a bogus Press conference and started mud-slinging at other people simply because they are not in authority is a disgrace to us. Mr Speaker, a nation is made great, not by the gods from above, but by the people through their own sense of tolerance, and their own determination to work and forge a new social order that befits them and befits their own social conditions.

Mr Hassan Tafawa-Balewa (Tafawa-Balewa) : Mr Speaker, in contributing to this debate, I would like to enumerate a few of the many things President Tito did and which are worth emulating by everyone of us today. Firstly, Yugoslavia which Tito led until his death, consists of many nationalities which, before his accession to power, were opposed to one another. But, through Tito's selflessness and genius, he welded together those nationalities into one nation and steered them to success.

Secondly, as one of the founders of the Non-aligned Movement, Tito contributed tremendously to world peace. The non-aligned movement or the non-aligned nations now, act as a fulcrum around which world peace revolves today. Tito, therefore, contributed not only to the peace and unity of his country but to world peace at large. During the last summit of the non-aligned nations in Cuba, Castro tried to portray the Socialist Republic of Soviet Union as a natural friend of the non-aligned nations ; it was Tito who stood up and blasted the notorious Castro for attempting to lure the non-aligned nations into the communist orbit. Because of this, Tito's death is not only a loss to his own country, not only a loss to the non-aligned nations, but a great loss to the world at large.

Thank you.

Mr Hamza Nganjiwa (Biu North) : I wish to associate myself with the Members of this honourable House that a Message of condolence be sent to the people of Yugoslavia on the death of their leader, President Josip Tito.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we should look at the passing away of this great world leader in two perspectives : firstly, at the international level, he was a towering figure in the world politics of non-alignment which has kept world peace since the end of the Second World War. For this, he distinguished himself as an international leader. In fact, at his burial, you must have heard over the News, how world leaders

cutting across all political ideologies, socialist, communist and what have you, gathered in the capital of Bulgaria to witness the passing away of this great international leader.

At the home level, Mr Speaker, President Tito was the bed-rock upon which the Federation of Yugoslavia was built, sustained and maintained until he passed away a few days ago. President Tito, during his life, kept the Federation of Yugoslavia which is made up of different nationalities : Slavs, the Servs and what have you each having its own identity within a Federation, similar to the Nigerian Federation. Mr Speaker, this is a great lesson to us ; the peculiarities of Federations are one and the same all over the world. For one man, President Tito, to have kept a Federation for thirty years in peace is a great lesson to Nigeria. We should learn from Tito to produce within the diversities of our communities in this country, a leader whose qualities will transcend parochialism, sectionalism, ethnicity and will also transcend all the facets of diversities that are pulling us apart in this country. We should get a bed-rock similar to that of Yugoslavia.

Tito's death, therefore, should be regarded by all and sundry in this country as a great lesson ; his death should teach us that in unity there is peace and stability ; his death should teach us that in peace we will live together ; in a Federation we will live in peace and not in pieces, especially as some of our leaders are today trying to pull us apart. Mr Speaker, his death should serve as a warning to these leaders who are seeking cheap popularity and at the same time raising false alarms to bring this country to another disastrous situation. Mr Speaker, President Tito's death should teach all and sundry in this country that we have had enough of instability and that we should now come together and learn to live together forever in peace, forever in stability, for the economic and political harmony of this great country we all cherish to live in.

Chief S. Alete (Ikwere/Etche I) : I stand to associate myself by expressing my deepest sympathy for the passing away of a great man, Tito. May I borrow the words of Mark Anthony : *we have come to bury Caesar not to praise him.*

Previous speakers had spent time praising Tito but I will say one thing and that is to express my sympathy for his death. On this basis, I would like to pray to God to help the people of Yugoslavia and give them the wisdom to be able to elect a successor who will do better than Tito. In that respect, I will also pray that God should assist them in electing a successor who will not only have the economic interest of Yugoslavia in his mind, but that of Nigeria as well.

In this regard, I want to say that most Members are always talking of capitalism, socialism and what have you. I will have to warn that we should be very careful the way we condemn one system as against the other. This is because Nigeria as yet, has not taken a stand whether she is going capitalist or socialist. Until we have done so, we will not be able to take a stand and know what to say about these

[CHIEF ALETE]

two systems. I would like to say that individuals are shouting their heads off one way or the other. Some say capitalism, some socialism while some even say mixed-grill. I will say that until Nigeria as a nation takes a stand on one system or the other, it is only then we would know where we are going. I would like to say that we have just left the Parliamentary system of government which is a capitalist system, we have also gone over to the Presidential system which is another capitalist system.

An hon. Member : We have taken a stand.

Mr Alete : The stand you are talking about is just a stand taken by an individual Nigerian. We have to take a stand as a nation and until then we will be able to decide what economic system will suit us best.

Having said this, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, thank you very much for listening to me.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That a message of condolence be sent to his Excellency Draza Markovic, the President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, tendering to His Excellency and the entire Members of the Assembly the deep sympathy of National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the loss they had sustained by the death of the President Josip Broz Tito.

Appropriation Bill, 1980 (H.R. 11)

Considered in Committee of the Whole House

HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That ₦6,947,000 for the Expenditure of Head 39—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Hassan Mohammed (Kafin/Hausa/Salangu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members before I say anything on the Ministry of Internal Affairs I would like to draw your attention, as I did last time, to the fact that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has three different Heads, not only Head 39. That was corrected last time when it was tabled before this House.

In the Committee on Internal Affairs we have Head 23—Police, Head 24—Police Service Commission and Head 39—Ministry of Internal Affairs. This was what I told you the other day.

I would like to register my thanks to the Members of the Committee for their indefatigable performance during the deliberations of the Committee's assignment. I would like to thank the officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Police for their mutual co-operation during the deliberations at the Committee meetings. My thanks also go to you, in particular, Mr Chairman, for the ultimatum given to us without which perhaps, we would not have reported on time.

The Ministries that come under my Committee, I dare say, are unique in the sense that they render services to the community. I am afraid to say that had it not been for their performances, perhaps, most of us would not have been here. Security, safety, protection of life and property, maintenance of law and order are their main primary duties. Take a policeman for example. When you are asleep, a policeman is awake. When you are awake, the policeman is vigilant keeping an eye on you. Apart from that, the Ministry is also revenue earning, needless to mention the security aspect of immigration, emigration, deportation, and the welfare of ex-servicemen, fire services, censorship of cinematograph films, to mention a few. They are also responsible for the issue of Identity Cards and seamen cards, public holidays, Medals, National Flags and badges, registration of marriages and of aliens. These aspects are so important to us and are not to be forgotten.

Coming to the Estimates, as I have already distributed to you, you will find that we have diaganised the Estimates like a Doctor will do. By asking questions, we came to know the history of the working of the Ministry, that is, we diaganised the whole Ministry. We came to know of the Personal Emoluments, Other Charges, Special Expenditure, and Captial Expenditure. Our prescription, therefore, is divided into three parts and I would like to draw your attention to them in the report. One of the prescriptions is very urgent, that is, we should like it to be included in this Financial Year, that is 1980. The urgent one should be incorporated in the next development plan, and the optional is the one which may either be taken in the next Development plan or as the case may be. For these, gentlemen, I would like to draw your attention to the report.

You might have seen that we have given at page four of the last report our general observations. These are very important and should not be neglected. We have said that officials are placed on appropriate grade levels, promotion aspects taken care of, no redundancy or over-staffing noted. Under Prison, in particular, many junior staff, Warders and Warderesses, are stagnated from four to eleven years without promotion. Prison staff are very bitter about their present scale which has not been on the same grade with their counterparts in the Police and in the Army. They complain of the hazards they face and the stigma attached to their posts which require special compensation by way of allowance.

Both Police and Prisons are in desperate need of accommodation. The Committee noted with great dismay that the total provision for 1980 is ₦3,122, while the total short-fall for 1975-80 is ₦45,356 which means the balance of ₦42,233, has to be carried forward to the next Plan period. The Prisons is equally badly affected in that only fifty-eight out of three hundred and fifty in the Plan period were accommodated. The capacity in executing projects by the Ministry of Works is discouraging. In the case of the Police which has pioneer squad that executes its building programmes, requires extensive training in different trades to effectively execute

[ALHAJI MUHAMMEND]

their projects. There is need to have more vehicles in the Police department for effective mobility. Consultants, bureaucratic redtape from the Ministry of Works and Ministry of Finance, delay the take off of projects on scheduled time. This calls for additional training for more Architects, Quantity Surveyors, etc. These are our observations.

If you look at the last page, the recommendation is divided into two. The first are those projects which have not completely taken off the ground. As regards these we have come to a conclusion that the Prison Training College at Kirikiri should be removed to Abuja. Prisons and Immigration Complex Headquarters should be removed to Abuja. Immigration Training School at Badagry should be moved to Abuja.

If you look at the Draft Estimates, Gentlemen, you might have seen that these projects have not completely taken off the ground. So, these we recommend should be taken to Abuja.

Perhaps, what would interest you most or perhaps call for some sympathetic consideration from you is the accommodation for Police and Prisons. This is just a beginning. You know very well that you have given us assignment for improving the Prisons and the Police. For the meantime we are seeking your co-operation and approval of these two items only. For this accommodation we require twenty units in each State. We have already quantified the amount. It will cost four million eight thousand naira. The other one is Prison accommodation two hundred and fifty units for all the States at eight thousand naira each, and that will cost two million naira. Members may ask from where are we going to have this money? This is simple. We have not increased a single naira over and above what is in the Estimates. But through discussion, through mutual understanding, going through the D.V. book, the Third Development Plan, we have found out that under Sub-head 445 we are going to have that money for Police accommodation and it will not harm them.

Under Prisons we have found, out another suitable Sub-head which will not harm them any more because there is an allocation of two million naira for this financial year, one million is going to be utilised for building two hundred and fifty unit for the Prisons. Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to stop here for the meantime.

The Chairman : Are there any comments hon. Members ?

Chief OkonIkpeme (Akamkpa): I am, Mr Chairman supporting this report and I request this honourable House to do same without much debate. I support the report in that they have done a very good job. I, have gone through their interviews with the officers of the Ministry. I have also seen the path of their arguments with the Ministers and all others concerned. They did not just swallow or report to us a sort of verbatim report of their interviews. They expressed their opinion and argued out their case before submitting the report.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the area which has attracted me most is Head 23, the Police. We have seen that there is not much in the Budget to improve the standard of our Police Services and we sincerely hope that when the Executive brings up their next suggestion and draft, they will take a few of these into consideration. We are very much concerned about our security.

For quite some time now we have been adopting the American system in trying to solve our problems. The American system of security is very simplified and workable and can also succeed in this country. In fact, what we feel will help our Police is not very much the use of sophisticated weapons but communication equipment. We find that when the Police, in the past, were placed on beat duty with their batons, they were able to scare away offenders but this time when technology has placed in most of our hands those weapons that can help us do anything we like, the Police are still left with their batons.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another aspect is that we continue to have the same number of recruits every year. We have not been told if they are never promoted, like we see in the Prisons where people work for eleven years without being promoted. We feel this is very frustrating and care should be taken in order to safeguard our property and lives.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few suggestions I beg to take my seat.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : I want to thank the Chairman and hon. Members of the Committee for a job well done, but I am not satisfied with the Budget itself. We have often said that the Police in this country are corrupt whereas they are not corrupt. Looking into the conditions of service of the Nigerian Police, recently I discovered that a Police Constable has been in the Police Force for twenty-five years and still on salary level 04. Well, how can we reconcile this? How do you expect efficiency and productivity from these poor Policemen in Nigeria ?

When we were under colonial administration we called one weapon Mark 2 or Mark 4 ; they are still using them while armed robbers have machine guns in this country. How do you think somebody with Mark 4 can fight somebody with machine gun ? Therefore, I think, I condemn the whole affair. Those who prepared the Police Budget are not ready to save this country from chaos and anarchy.

As an hon. Friend had earlier said, I think, in the next budget some of us would bring our own Appropriation Bill for the Police to improve their condition of service. I am happy the Labour Committee, of which I am a Member, will have to take this initiative. We cannot see this type of odds. Our Police Services, from the colonial days, are still the same, no improvement. How can we expect efficiency? Lives and property are always going into the hands of reckless crooks and careerist armed robbers.

Nevertheless we have to accept this Appropriation Bill since it is only for nine months; I hope we would initiate our own Budget next financial year.

Mr Mohammed G. Shamaki (Katagum West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, may I please give my warm thanks to the Internal Affairs Committee for a very good work. I am very happy, Mr Chairman, to note that the Committees have started to stop any new projects being carried out in Lagos as the capital of the country. In fact, this is very nice.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on the question of accommodation for the Police and the Prisons, this is very important because at any time a Policeman from Maiduguri could be called to move or could be transferred from Maiduguri to Benue on the same duties. On the other hand any staff from the Prisons Department may be transferred from Lagos to Kano. If they do not have accommodation or where they could put up for the first time, they would be stranded. Mr Chairman, Sir, so I feel this aspect is very important, and I hope the other Committees will try to copy stopping new projects in Lagos for the time being. They should, on the other hand, recommend some accommodation for their staff so that whenever they are transferred they and their families would not be stranded. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, may I draw the attention of hon. Members to page 551 of the amended Draft Estimates. Under Capital Expenditure, Police Barracks and Staff Quarters, I discover under that head Rivers State has about ₦1.2 million for Police Barracks and Staff Quarters. Mr Chairman, Sir, with all humility I am saying that even with the nine months we have for this budget that is very inadequate. For example, in BOLGA, Bori Local Government Authority area, we have the Police making use of the old N.A., Native Administration, buildings at Eleme, Taaba and Gokana/Kpor since after the war till now. I would like the Ministry to take note that we are going to send bills for rentage of these quarters to the Federal Government for payment.

In providing these barracks, I think, it is time we give priority to areas like these because it is inconveniencing the people over there very much. Sometimes when the Magistrate Courts have to be held there, they are inconvenient. They have no place to hold the court because the Police is using that place which is meant for the old N.A. Court. That is a point I want this House to take note of. We can tolerate this for these nine months. But in the next Budget, I want this House to take note that places like these must be adequately covered.

In the case of Prisons, the same thing applies. A lot of things happen to accused persons when they are being taken from Bori to Port Harcourt to face trial. In fact, it is very unfortunate when you see the plight of these people awaiting trial going from Bori down to Port-Harcourt. There is no proper provision made for them. They are human beings and we would like this Ministry to give priority to areas like this and not the already developed areas that they are now giving much attention to.

With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I would like us to give assent to the Bill.

Mr A. M. Mafara (T/Mafara) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, first I would like to congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Internal Affairs for producing a comprehensive report and for a job well done.

In contributing to the debate on the Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs, I would like to make the following comments in respect of the Police affairs. As everybody in this country knows, the strength of our Police Force is grossly inadequate and as a result, no citizen of this country is safe. The remuneration of the Poilce is low with very poor conditions of service which would not attract the right men into the Force. I, therefore, recommend that more sophisticated training should be given to the Police. Modern equipment to fight crime should also be provided for them. Conditions under which the Police live and work must be improved. Promotions in the Police Force should also be accelerated.

Finally, I would like to suggest that more Police Posts should be established in all the remote and rural areas of the Federation with a population of two thousand and above.

With this submission, Mr Chairman, I support the Report being adopted.

Thank you.

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East) : In contributing to the Report on the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to associate myself with the views expressed by some hon. Members. In fact, Mr Chairman, the condition of Prisons in this country is deplorable. There are some buildings that have been standing before the colonial era on which we still continue to spend money for their maintenance. I wish to appeal that the Ministry of Internal Affairs should put more efforts to get better accommodation for the prisoners and the Warders. For instance, Mr Chairman, if you go to Gboko where the Prison yard has been standing for over fifty years, you would still see some thatched houses where the prisoners and Prison Warders are staying.

I would also like to say that the Prison Warders should be careful. They look upon themselves as prisoners because they stay continuously in the prison yard, and many a time you see them in very wonderful dresses. From the dresses they put on, you cannot differentiate them from the prisoners. I would also like to see that the uniform given to prisoners should be modernised. Mr Chairman, everyone of us here is not above the prison. Any one of us can go to prison any time.

The Chairman No, no. (*Interruptions*)
Order ! Order ! Hon. Member for Benue State, please withdraw that language.

Mr Uyeh : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am talking from past experience, and we are—

The Chairman : Please withdraw the language. It is an unparliamentary language.

Mr Uyeh : Mr Chairman, I crave your indulgence to withdraw the statement.

I want to appeal to this honourable House that money voted for the Prisons Department is not sufficient. I was not present to table my Amendment. I would have asked that money voted for the Prisons and the Police should also be increased so that the Prison Yards could be modernised.

In preparing next year's Budget, that is after nine months, we shall have a bill that will emerge from this House. We should not depend on the Ministry of Internal Affairs to bring a Bill or to propose money that will be spent on the Prisons.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to associate myself with the views expressed by hon. Members. Thank you, Sir.

Mr J. L. Laven (Langtang) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to associate myself with the Committee's Report but I have a few observations to make. I am going to be fast since I have only five minutes.

In the first place, I notice that even in the Estimates, Plateau and Benue States are left out. I would say categorically here that if at all there are worst prisons anywhere in the world, you will find them in the Plateau State. I would quote an example. I know four registered and recognised Prison yards in Plateau State at Washi, Pankshin, Shendam and Keffi, which should not be regarded as prison yards, compared with what I saw in Lagos and other places, although some are maximum securities. These are not prison yards in the following regard. There are no buildings, no walls, no beds and no social amenities whatsoever. Anyone of us going there will just be sorry for the convicts. The fact that these people are convicted does not mean that they go there to die. Some of them are in poor health due to malnutrition. Therefore, I would call on the Prisons Department to see that these four prisons I have mentioned at Keffi, Pankshin, Shendam and Washi are looked into. Washi, in particular, is the worst of all. People sleep there on the bare ground, not even on mats. I am not exaggerating, I have been there.

On the Police, Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know if this honourable House has noticed some kind of a fallen standard in the Police training. You find that in the past, a Class Seven school leaver would go for six months training. During the war, there was a mass crash programme. These boys went for what they called crash programme training for three months. They were supposed to come back and go for the actual training, but they did not. After the end of the war, I saw some illiterate soldiers being drafted into the Police Force. They do not know how to approach you. They will just come and say, *You are arrested*. They do not know the method of approach. They do not know how to write. They are stark illiterates and yet they are in the Police Force. How could they successfully investigate cases?

The Chairman : Round up.

Mr Laven : Thank you.

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for recognising me. Mr Chairman, before I give my little contribution I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Internal Affairs Committee for a job well done.

First of all, I would like to comment on the Police affairs. As one of my Colleagues over there said, in this country we say that the Police is corrupt but they are not corrupt at all. You need to see their conditions of service. Believe me sincerely, a police man is earning only ₦78 a month in Lagos. How can somebody earning ₦78 a month find an opportunity to get ₦2 from somebody and refuses to take it? He must get it, I am telling you. Therefore, Mr Chairman, we are appealing to the Federal Government to give the Police better conditions of service during the life of our administration.

Secondly, on page 551, we have Building of Police Barracks. It is very surprising and wonderful that we propose to build a ₦7 million naira police barracks in Lagos but a one million naira Police Barracks in Kano. It is very surprising to us. If you consider the strength of the Police in Lagos and Kano, that of Kano is more than that of Lagos. I do not know how they voted ₦7 million naira for Lagos, Why? If you consider Bauchi, Gongola and Bornu States, only ₦2 million is provided for the building of barracks there, while Lagos is ₦7 million. Mr Chairman, I oppose this a hundred *per cent*. So, Mr Chairman Sir, I am still appealing to the Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs to look into this matter.

My next point is about the Prisons. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is high time that Nigeria built barracks for her immigration staff at all the borders of Nigeria. I visited one border station and I saw how they are suffering. There were some Immigration Officers posted to my Constituency near Garuwa in Cameroun Republic. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am telling you in the name of Allah, they are sleeping on the tree. This is very bad. I went through the Estimates of the Internal Affairs, I could not find where they have made provision for the building of barracks for our immigration staff.

The Chairman : Hon. Member it is time. I like the policy of your party, you always appeal to Allah. (*Laughter*)

Alhaji Dikko : Mr Chairman The third one is the building of barracks for warders. Now in Nigeria, it is high time for every local government head-quarter to get a prison yard, but in these Estimates, no provision has been made for that. So, we are appealing to the Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee to look into this matter. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr Sidi H. Ali (Danbatta) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it has always been said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, until, of course, recently, when the NSO was set up, is the most important Ministry because of the internal security of this country.

[MR ALI]

Therefore, when we come to discuss this Ministry, we should not just get up and congratulate the Committee for work well done when there are many important things ignored. Mr Chairman, Sir, when we come to the Police, it is absolutely unbelievable that for the past eleven days, about one hundred and nine Nigerians were murdered in Sokoto State at the Balokori Dam and nobody has said a word up till now. Mr Chairman, Sir, we think the Police in this country is the worst organisation in every sense of the word.

Several Members : No! No !

The Chairman : Order! Order !

Mr Ali : Sir, in contributing, I am sure nobody among us belongs to the Auditor-General's Department. The report before us showing the millions of naira stolen from the Police Headquarters is enough to tell us whether we are ready to work in the interest of this country or we are interested to come and shout *Shame* where there is no necessity for it.

We are interested in the security of this country. We want peace. One of the hon. Members mentioned rampant theft, armed robbery and the sophisticated weapons they use, and so on. There is a sabotage. For example, these are the use of private ports to bring arms into this country which the Police, in every sense of the word, should be able to know and prevent, but we have problems. There have been some appointments in the Police Force that should not have been made. For example, Sir, during the Governorship of Governor Faruk in Sokoto State in 1974, a Police Officer whose rank was Chief Superintendent of Police was removed from Sokoto because he had mental sickness and this man was later appointed Commissioner and sent to Kano and that was Muhammed Danmadami. Everybody knows this. Mr Chairman, we have such people in this very important Force who will sit down and see the murder of people and yet ignore it. We have cases, where two people were shot dead in Kano State and the Police under Danmadami claimed they were hit by a hit and run vehicle. So, Mr Chairman, I think, it is high time we sat down ignore personal sentiment, ignore political alignment and solve this problem of the Police. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Chairman, we come now to the development of barracks and other places. Now I assure you, recently in my Constituency of Danbatta, Kano State in fact, there is almost no barracks, it is a local government house that we gave to the police. There are cases where riots take place in some areas, but there is only one police van which the DPO uses, and it is almost impossible for the police there to move from one place to the other. We have this problem. Recently the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, was removed when we were all satisfied that this man had been doing fantastic job. At least, he has been doing some good things. He was removed just because somebody wanted another man to take his place. It is high time, Sir, that we should look at issues from a proper point of view.

The Chairman : Time.

Alhaji M. Mustapha (Ringim Gado) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in my contribution, I would like to draw attention to the recruitment policy of the Police. I would like to talk about the Police. The Police is the most important agent for the maintenance of law and order and, I feel, this is the appropriate time to let the Ministry of Internal Affairs know that, at least, in the rural areas, the personnel of the police should reflect the Federal character of this country. I mean there are many Police Colleges established but they are not filled with indigenes of the State where they are set up. This should be done so that the Police would be able to communicate with the people in the rural areas very satisfactorily and effectively. Without proper communication I do not believe the Police will be able to give out just treatment to the people in the rural areas.

For example, recently we read a petition sent to all Members from somebody in Bendel State who was complaining of a very gross abuse of his right as a citizen, with the connivance of senior Police Officers, by a Company Manager who treated him very badly. Now, I feel the Police should adopt a recruitment policy whereby they would get people from all sections of the country in the Police Force both in the senior cadres as well as in the rank and file. That is as far as recruitment policy is concerned.

The next thing I would like to talk about is the education of the Police themselves. A Member just a few minutes ago mentioned that some of them are actually illiterate, and with this type of Constitution we are practising now where the right of the citizen as enunciated in the Constitution is paramount the Police should know the basic stipulations of the Constitution about human rights. They should know all about the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the Directive Principle, so that they do not arrest people arbitrarily and when they do arrest, they do not detain people illegally as they like. This is more rampant in the rural areas. I think the Ministry should look into it and in training the Police they should be educated enough about the Constitutional rights of citizens.

Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat.

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Chairman I would like to say that, of all the reports so far submitted to this House, the least I have so much been impressed by is this one. The Committee has not done its work as thoroughly as it should. Be that as it may, I want to discuss the report on these three broadlines. In the first instance I want to say that I accept the importance of internal security for this country. Secondly, I also want to state that I accept the need for efficiency on the part of all those charged with internal affairs of this country. Thirdly, I want to submit that in discussing this report I would like it to be put on record that if eventually we approve the report the allocations made must be used in such a way to carry out the legal functions of the people of this country.

[MR ADESINA]

Now, to the main report. On the Immigration Services and Prisons, I want to state that our immigration services in this country are not yet efficient. If you go through the report you would find that they tell us there that thousands of aliens have been entering this country illegally and there is an increase in the allocation made to this immigration services in this Estimate. I hope the increases will be justified. Secondly, on the National Civic Registration Centre, it is also hoped that the increase in the number of staff will be justified. Thirdly, on the Prisons, I notice that a large sum of money has been appropriated for this. For example, there is a phenomenal increase of 2.5 million to feed the prisoners. I hope that this money which has been increased to feed prisoners will not find its way into the contractors' purses. Furthermore, I also find in the report that about 1 million has been allocated to make uniforms. There is no explanation as to the type of uniforms to be made, whether they are for the prisoners or for the staff there. This is not there. For passports, it is my hope that the large sum of money which has been allocated to passports will make us have passports in this country without tears.

For the Police, Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to say that I am for a very efficient, incorruptible and very sound Police Force and towards this end I support any measure taken to improve the condition of the Police Force. Also, there is another allocation under Police which carries 1.197 million, which they call Information. We do not know the type of Information they want to use this money for. This is not there. I hope this money will not be used for CIA activities in this country.

Then on Police Service Commission, I want to submit that I support the recommendations made, provided of course, that the Police Service Commission will do its duties more efficiently than before. There are several cases of Police officers who are either suspended, or dismissed or interdicted before the Police Service Commission today which have not been treated.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I want to end by saying that whatever it needs to make the internal security of this country superb I am for it. But I want it to be recorded that in supporting this particular report and the allocations made, care must be taken to ensure that we do not use the Police Force in this country against innocent citizens of this country. Secondly, I also want to submit, Mr Chairman, that we should never terrorise. We should not use the Immigration officials to terrorise, to victimise or to carry out unconstitutional arrests in this country.

Mr Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) : I must say, Mr Chairman, without fear of contradiction that the Committee on Internal Affairs has done its best, but its best needs improvement. Mr Chairman, I want to take things item by item. First of all, I want to talk of the Police. There is a general agreement, in all corners of this House, that the Policemen of today are frustrated. Let us take the bull by the horn. We must be very sincere with ourselves. The Policemen are not treated well, salary wise and in other areas of benefits. I therefore, recommend, Mr

Chairman, that the good government of this country should please make the minimum salary of the policeman Grade Level 07.

Now, Mr Chairman, I very strongly appeal to the Police Service Commission to please give us more Policemen in Ibadan. There are so many areas in Ibadan which are not properly policed and several applications have gone to the Police Commissioner to give Policemen to so many areas in Ibadan but the appeals have not been considered. There are certain other matters. For instance, where the Policemen are posted to specific stations they are not catered for at all. Proper stations and accommodations are not provided ; they are not taken proper care of and you expect these men to work as hard as possible. No vehicles are given to these Policemen. This is very wrong ; it is very bad. It was the frustration of the Police that led to the Black Maria incident. This should be stopped.

I would now deal with the Immigration Officers. Mr Chairman, Sir, unless we want to deceive ourselves, the Immigration Officers are internal terrorists. The other day they went to Ibadan, and instead of guarding our borders, they went to Dugbe market, Gbagi and other areas looking for things that were not there. They shot and beat up people. These Immigration Officers are terrorists ; they are thugs in uniform.

The other time too, the Immigration Officers went to Jankara market here in Lagos and beat up men and women. They damaged the cars of hon. Members.

An hon. Member : It was the Customs Officials.

Mr Niyi Adelu : What is the difference, whether they were Custom Officials or Immigration Officials? Was it not the Immigration Officers who went into the house of an hon. Member and stole this man out of the country? That was Shugaba.

The Chairman : Your time is up. Yes, Mr Ononokpono.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I do not dissociate myself from the contents and the ideas of the Report submitted by the Committee, I would like to say that we have left undone those things we ought to have done, and have done those things that we ought not to have done.

During the military era, the Military Governor of a State once said that the mortuary should be expanded while the cost of drugs for the hospitals should be cut down.

The Chairman : Are you on the Ministry of Health ?

Mr Ononokpono : I was making an analogy. While contributing to this debate, I would like to say that the Policemen in this country are operating under the hardest working conditions ever known by any group of workers. I would rather support an idea where we have smaller prison yards and increase the quality and quantity of the equipment used by the Policemen to curb the excessive crimes in our society.

I also want to point out the problem of our insecure borders. We have Immigration men who are not guarding our borders because they are not enough in number. I would like to see a situation where the cells in which suspects are kept are enlarged, so that when eventually these suspects are freed, perhaps because they are found to be innocent, then they would come out untortured and humanely treated.

I am of the opinion that the Prisons in this country are really too small for the number of people who stay in them. We believe that prisoners should go in to be corrected and not to come out tortured and become really hardened criminals. There are some people who are imprisoned by some acts of omission on the part of the investigators of crimes. These people come out of prison yards worse than they were before they were imprisoned.

With these few words, I beg to sit down.

Mr Edet B. Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make just one or two brief observations on three items which I have noticed in this particular Report ; namely, the Police, the Prisons and the Immigration.

There is no point re-emphasising the importance of Immigration as a security organisation in this country. To that extent, I think the Immigration Department deserves to be adequately catered for.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : There is a point of order.

The Chairman : Yes, what is your point of order ?

Mr Adeagbo : Mr Chairman, Sir, with all respect to you, and with all respect to your high office, I implore you to allow other Members of this House to speak, and not to allow an individual to dominate the Floor. I object seriously to hon. Mr Etienam standing up to speak on this Budget as at now. He is a Chairman of a Committee.

The Chairman : Yes, you may continue, Mr Etienam.

Mr Etienam : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. As I was saying, the importance of Immigration Department in this country cannot be over-emphasized. It is only proper that this Department should be adequately provided for in these Estimates.

There is one point I would like to make here, Sir. It is to the effect that the responsibility for the issue of passports has been transferred since last year to the Immigration Department. But, up till now, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has not transferred this responsibility to the passport Office of the Immigration Department. I would like the Committee to take note of this.

The other point is on the Prisons. Normally the Prisons are supposed to serve as Rehabilitation Centres, not as punitive centres. Therefore, I would suggest that conditions in the Prison yards should be improved. In particular, I want to invite the attention of this House to something in the Cross River State. There is a Prison yard which has been

sited right in the centre of Ikot Ekpene. This has caused a lot of inconvenience to the people of that area. The people of that area have made several representations to the Government to remove the Prison yard from that place. It appears that the only Federal industry which the people of Ikot Ekpene have in that place is that Prison yard.

So, I would appeal, through this House, to the prisons authorities to remove this Prison yard from the centre to a remote area of that place.

The last point is on the Police Department. I would like to associate myself with the view expressed about the Police Department.

The Police Department is grossly understaffed and the personnel grossly underpaid and overworked. I think that the police should be increased so that they could cope with the increasing incidence of Crimes in this country. Finally, I want to—

The Chairman : Yes, Mr J. C. Ojukwu.

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Chairman, Sir, although this Budget is for nine months, I think we should advise ourselves not to be carried away by this oft-repeated warning that it is only for nine months' period. This is because if we gloss over everything now, perhaps next year somebody is going to remind us that we have only three more years to go and, so, we should also gloss over everything.

In any case, I want to talk about the accommodation of the Police and their communication equipment. The area that needs improvement most is improving the effectiveness of their communication system. That also includes their mobility.

Now, coming to the Prisons, I do not agree with the Committee that the Committee accepted the explanation of the Permanent Secretary with regard to the money voted for the purchase of rations, firewoods, *et cetera*. One hopes that some Members of the Prisons Department, perhaps a representative of the Director of Prisons, would take note of this. There are several Prisoners who are starving. It is not enough to tell us that money has been increased in the Prison. I am speaking quite truthfully ; you have to bribe in order to get your ration ; you have to bribe in order to be properly clothed ; you have to bribe before you are given a blanket. One must take note of these things so that if we are approving some increases in these areas, then, one hopes that the money will be properly utilised.

There is another incident where a new Prison kitchen was built and gas was to be used in that place, but because the contractor who had hitherto been supplying firewood was opposed to this, this modern kitchen was left to lie waste so that the woman contractor will continue to supply fire wood. So, these are the things one must take note of. It is not enough for us to say that they need improvement, the important thing is to know where and how the money is being used.

[Mr Ojukwu]

So, I am appealing to this honourable House to, please, take note of this for future Budgets. Unless we do something and let the people who are going to execute these programmes know that there are representatives of the people here watching; unless we do that, all we do here is that we just speak English and go home and nothing happens.

The Chairman : Wind up, please.

Mr Ojukwu : So, in supporting this Budget, I am appealing to the Prisons Department to note these points. Thank you.

Mr Ambrose N. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like, in thanking the Members and in fact the Chairman of this very important Committee, to make a few comments in support of the excellent job they have actually done. Well done ! Please, allow me to comment on the following headlines.

Firstly, Immigration—Very recently, we learnt that the smuggling of human beings from across our western border has become a business unit. Incidentally, the Immigration Department has confirmed its inability to cope with the expertise of these professional smugglers of human beings. It is clear that even in our residences here at Victoria Island, aliens are the most available hands to help us. Agreed that they may come from the ECOWAS countries, agreed we also may look at the aspects of their being more or less some kind of a liability, I am very sure that some of you here are putting up with quite a number of some of them who have virtually no means of living. They are found in the streets and even in Lagos you find aliens from Tchad and Niger Republics paramulating everywhere begging.

An hon. Member : Professional beggars.

Mr Gapsuk : In fact, the Ghanaian hands are even stronger, and we find them very dependable labour force. I must say that the Immigration Department must be helped to be able to meet up with the control of our borders. It reminds me also of the ugly incident which we have always been putting up with in our nerves, that we are unable to deport aliens but we are able to deport our brothers. This is very condemnable. *(Interruptions)*

I would say here that the Immigration Department should direct its attention on these very aliens that we do not need. Secondly—

The Chairman : Round up, please.

Mr Gapsuk : Excuse me, Mr Chairman, give me just a few more minutes.

Secondly, I now go to Prisons. If you take a look at page 549—*Reconstruction of Lockups in four Northern States*. Unfortunately, there is no amount indicated, and I was just conversing with a few Prisons Staff who complained seriously of the lack of Lockups.

I think that the attention of the Committee should be drawn to this, and in fact, I will appeal to hon. Members to see whether we can add more money for the completion of these Lockups. If you look at compensation for Local Authority Prisons

taken over by the Federal Government on the same page, nothing was earmarked there. I am aware of the Prison yard in my own home, Shendam, which was taken over without any compensation, like the Television Houses that we have been crying about for compensation. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, having discussed these comprehensive Report on Internal Affairs by the hon. Members, I now move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

The provisions under Head 23 Police ; Head 24, Police Service Commission and Head 39, Ministry of Internal Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

HAED 48—FEDERAL MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE

Question proposed, That ₦11,883,800 for the Recurrent Expenditure and ₦1,615,000 for the Capital Expenditure of Head 48—Federal Ministry of Commerce—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : I know when presenting my Report, I definitely ask the indulgence of hon. Members because it is not a controversial Report, but there are one or two items that I would like to appeal to hon. Members to see how we can assist. Unlike other Committees, this time I am appealing to the hon. Members to see in some of the Committees where they can be able to find some money to assist my Committee.

I have no sub-head where I will be able to appropriate this amount. Although I have made some suggestions, I am hoping that some Committee Chairmen who might have had enough in their sub-heads will take note and then assist me in granting me the amount I have been asking for. I am asking this in respect of page 389—that is, Tourist Board. The Tourist Board, Mr Chairman I have already distributed my Report to you, is an organisation which is worthy of getting assistance if at all we mean it to be in business. They have not had any opportunity of taking off. Last year, the Federal Military Government gave the sum of ₦1 million to each of the 19 states so that the Tourist Board of their states could take off. Unfortunately, all the ₦1 million each that was to the states were diverted by the states to other businesses such as hotels, payment of teacher's salaries, etc.

It is definitely important that this organisation takes off. They have been assisted by the International Labour Organisation which proposed to give them 1,607,444 dollars, but that is not going to be in cash, but in kind and services. Without taking off they cannot attract that amount from the International Labour Organisation. At the moment, they are even indebted to the tune of ₦160,000 with regard to their 1979-80 rental of their accommodation. As such, we feel it is essential that at least we should assist them and in order not to lose the assistance

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given them by the International Labour Organisation, we must propose some amount of money to be given to them so that they can take off.

If you look at the Order Paper, there are some amounts. There is a little bit of mistake. If you look at (c) in page 289, item 732, the amount of ₦700,000 should be ₦200,000 so because we are asking the honourable House to grant us ₦200,000 that we can—

An hon. Member : Who are the we ?

Alhaji Mahmud : I am begging on behalf of the Committee. I am not spending. Well, it is to give to the Committee. I, as that Chairman of the Committee, if I say to give us, I think I am right. I am not asking for myself. I am asking for the Committee. The Amendment there is ₦200,000 instead of ₦700,000 as provided, so that for the Recurrent Expenditure, we are asking for the sum of ₦200,000 to be allocated to us wherever we find that some of the Ministries have excesses. So, it is just a question of taking note. We are not going to insert it, but I am just drawing the attention of the House to it, so that where you can find money, you can give us the amount, but I am not making Amendment in such a way that it should be inserted.

The Chairman : Thank you.

Alhaji Mahmud : In item 506 at the same time, I am asking under Capital Expenditure the sum of ₦500,000, that is a total of ₦700,000 altogether. As I have already informed the hon. Members, we are not able to appropriate it and we have nowhere to find this money and as such I cannot propose an Amendment except that I want the honourable House to note it so that wherever we find some excesses you can give us that amount of money.

Now, I want you to refer to page 389 and I am proposing an Amendment to the draft of the Recurrent Estimates (i) To leave out the following :—

Item	Subject-matter	Provision
601	International Co-operative Allowance : annual contribution	11,700
619	I.C.A. Regional Office : running expenses	11,700
627	National Advisory Council : running expenses	10,000
600	Local Contribution to U.N.D.P. Exports	10 e
643	National Co-operative Credit Union of Nigeria : subvention	50,000
650	Co-operative Federation of Nigeria : subvention	40,000
668	Maintenance of Students	32,000
676	Staff Welfare	4,000
684	Book Allowance for Federal Government Students	1,200
692	Upkeep of Kitchen Equipment	20,000
707	Co-operation Development Project	40,000
715	Practical Field Work (Operative School)	37,000

These items should be transferred to Ministry of Labour, and this represents the sum of ₦225,350. When deducted from the total of ₦3,722,420, the balance will now be ₦3,467,070.

Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. If I may call my hon. Colleague to order, it seems as if he is just moving an Amendment, not presenting his Committee's report. He is now asking us to transfer certain items from one head to the others, which is not in the Report.

The Chairman : No. He is making a report. After the report he would move a formal Amendment. Let him just present his report first. He will go to the Amendment later.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud : Mr Chairman, Sir, as I have already indicated, there was a request at certain a time from the Ministry of External Affairs requesting this honourable House to approve establishing a Commercial Attache at Harare. The Permanent Secretary had written us and during the President's visit to Zimbabwe it became apparent that Nigeria wanted to have a Diplomatic Office there. As such they had informed the Ministry of External Affairs which informed the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, to see how we can open an office there. The Permanent Secretary had already discussed with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance though they have not given us the Head under which we can transfer this amount but there is a formal agreement within the Ministry of Finance granting them this amount of money. I wonder at the end whether or not it would be proper to insert the amount because on the pipe-line it has been agreed that that amount would be granted. The amount under Personal Emolument is ₦13,710 and under Other Charges ₦28,100 making a total of ₦41,800. If this request is granted, it means it will alter a lot of things. But before I suggest the Amendments, I would now ask this honourable House to consider the request of my Committee in respect of the Tourist Board.

With these few comments I submit.

The Chairman : Alhaji Mahmud, I think it would be in your interest to go on with the Amendments so that we can take all of them straight away. Move your Amendments formally, get somebody to second it and you let us know why the Amendments are necessary.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud : Mr Chairman, Sir, I now want to move an Amendment on the Order Paper standing in my name, that—

(a) In page 389 (of Amended Draft of the Recurrent Estimates)

(i) To leave out the followings :—

Item	Subject-matter	Provision
601	International Co-operative Allowance : annual contribution	11,700
619	I.C.A. Regional Officer : running expenses	11,700
627	National Advisory Council : running expenses	10,000
600	Local Contribution to U.N.D.P. Exports	10 e

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643	National Co-operative Credit Union of Nigeria : subvention	50,000
650	Co-operative Federation of Nigeria : subvention	40,000
668	Maintenance of Students	32,000
676	Staff Welfare	4,000
684	Book Allowance for Federal Government Students	1,200
692	Upkeep of Kitchen Equipment	20,000
707	Co-operation Development Project	40,000
715	Practical Field Work (Operative School)	34,740

(ii) To leave out the figure ₦3,722,420 and to insert the figure ₦3,467,070, instead thereof.

(b) In page 319, last line, to leave out the figure ₦11,364,000 and to insert the figure "₦11,108,650," instead thereof.

(c) In page 389, item 732—(Nigeria Tourist Board running expenses).—to insert additional figure of ₦700,000.

(d) In page 380 to insert provision of ₦41,810 for ZIMBABWE (under foreign trade (foreign Based)).

(e) In page 503 (of Amended Draft of the Capital Estimates)

(i) Item 506—Nigeria Tourist Board—Research and Feasibility studies for Tourist Development—to increase the amount of ₦600,000 to ₦9,000,000.

I am doing this for the simple reason that they belong to the Ministry of Labour. So, they do not belong to the Ministry of Commerce, it is a typographical error. The amount involved at the same time amounts to ₦255,350. So, when transferring the Heads you will transfer the amount at the same time.

I beg to move.

Mr F. C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, you have seen the Amendments. Alhaji Mahmud, have you further explanation? You are asking for these subjects to be removed from the Ministry of Commerce?

Alhaji Mahmud : They are not the staff of the Ministry of Commerce. The offices do not belong to the Ministry of Commerce. They belong to the Ministry of Labour.

The Chairman : How do you know ?

Alhaji Mahmud : The Minister has informed us about that and we wrote a letter to the Minister asking him to contact the Ministry of Finance to amend it on this very copy. Unfortunately, it has not been amended.

The Chairman : Has Ministry of Labour confirmed that these items belong to it?

Alhaji Mahmud : Yes.

The Chairman : Where is the Chairman, Labour Committee? Alhaji Abutu is here. He is the Deputy Chairman.

Alhaji A. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, as regards these items mentioned by the Chairman, Committee on Commerce, it is true that the items belong to the Ministry of Labour. So, he is perfectly correct.

The Chairman : All right, let us vote. Before then, any comment?

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Yes, Mr Chairman hon. Members, I think it is going to be a very dangerous precedent. We are right now faced with a Draft Budget which is an amended copy of that Draft Budget and our authority is this Draft Budget. This House is guided by the contents of this Draft Budget. The submission of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and the contribution made by the hon. Member for Ankpa South (Alhaji A. Abutu), the Deputy Chairman on Labour, are not in any way binding on us. We cannot, act on this hearsay information and I am making a very powerful submission that it is proper that we have something on paper, so that it will be authoritative and binding. Thank you.

The Chairman : Let us hear the Chairman of the Committee.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, if you have followed the proceedings of our committee meetings, you would notice that we mentioned that during our interview with the Minister. So, it would appear that some people have not been doing their job one way or the other, otherwise we have already mentioned this and that has been circulated long ago. So we are now covered, because the Minister has already informed us in writing, and we have circulated the paper with the Report.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would agree with the Chairman of the Committee because, if we look at page 339 of the Amended Draft we will see that some of the items which the Chairman is asking us to transfer to the Ministry of Labour are also contained on pages 338 to 339. I would feel that it would be a duplication if we have to approve it under Commerce and again approve it under Ministry of Labour.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, do you get his argument? He is saying that if we go to pages 338 and 339, we will see that those items that the Chairman, Committee on Commerce, is asking to be removed are already contained in the Ministry of Labour's Estimates.

An hon. Member : Are they the same ?

The Chairman : Check up now !

the Chairman has ordered, I would say that the right word then would not be *transfer* because transfer will mean duplicating it. If it is already provided for here and then we transfer it from Ministry of Commerce, to the Ministry of Labour, it would serve no useful purpose. So, I would say that the right word should be *delete* from that side. This is my suggestion.

Apart from that, I am inclined to agree with the hon. Member who spoke from the other Side that we are bound by this. All the same, I agree with the Chairman's explanation provided he agrees to be bound by it, because I would not want this House to be misled by a mistake, an unintended mistake from any Chairman. I am not casting any aspersion but anybody can make a mistake. So, far, this is the only document we have in hand, and the Government has not told us that they have made another mistake on this, that they are wrong again the second time. So, if there is any cause for us to deviate from the contents of this Amended Draft, there must be a very good reason. So, I would say, Sir, that if it is confirmed that it is already provided for, then the Chairman should use a proper word and not *transfer*; it should either be *delete* or any other word like that. This is my contribution, Sir.

The Chairman : We are using the wrong word. It is not *transfer*, it is *deletion*.

Mr Frank Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, First of all, I do not subscribe to the suggestion by the hon. Member, that we should use the word *delete*. We are saying transfer because these are items under sub-heads which belong to a Ministry, and I think that this committee should be praised to have been able to discover this duplication. It is now for the Ministry of Labour to either say that these items are necessary for them or not. It is not our duty to delete it but it is our duty to point it out, and let the Members know that there is a duplication, and that it belongs to this particular Ministry. I am thinking that we should be praised for being able to discover this.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : I stand to praise the Committee on Commerce for detecting that error.

An hon. Member : Point of explanation, Sir !

The Chairman : It is wrong to observe here, go to the Committee and tell them. This place is not for observation; we are debating the Report here. If you have spotted any mistake in the figures, go to the Committee and discuss it, that is the purpose of Committees, otherwise, we will spend the whole year talking about observation.

Hon. Members, let us take a vote. Hon. Members, the Amendment before us is to leave out, not *transfer*, the following items : 601, 619, 627, 600, 643, 650, 668, 676, 689, 692, 707 and 715.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Yes, Alhaji Mahmud.

Alhaji A. Mahmud (Yola) : The second Amendment is to leave out the figure ₦3,722,420 and to *insert* the figure ₦3,467,070, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Will you tell us why you are making that Amendment ?

Alhaji Mahmud : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was asking this honourable House to give me some money, but I think I have to withdraw my second Amendment.

The Chairman : Are you withdrawing Amendment number two ?

Alhaji Mahmud : Yes, Amendment number two asking for more money is withdrawn.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr Isyaku Gumawa (Gabasawa) : Point of order. Order 47 (3) says :—

Any amendments proposed to the bill either in committee of the whole House or in a standing or select committee of which notice has not been given shall be handed to the chairman in writing.

Mr Chairman : This is in writing; it is not in words. (*Interruptions*) What about (ii) (c), Mr Aliyu Mahmud ?

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud : (ii) (a) stands except that the amount is ₦200,000 instead of ₦700,000.

Mr Chairman : Do you amend the amount ?

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud : It was a typographical error.

Mr Chairman : Members, the time now is one o'clock. You may move that I report progress.

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale Waja South) : Mr Chairman Sir, Hon. Members, I move that the Chairman report progress.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, it is now one o'clock and according to the Standing Orders, this House do suspend sitting till three o'clock this afternoon.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.05 p.m.

Alhaji Mahmud : Hon. Members, I now move that the House resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House.

Mr Okon Eddy (Ikot-Ekpene I) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud : I beg to move that the Amendments as contained in paragraphs (ii) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (i) be withdrawn.

Mr Francis Ugwu (Nsukka) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : In contributing for the first time to the on-going debate on the Budget for 1980, I would like to comment and to say that the Ministry of Commerce is the regulator of Nigerian trading activities. For this reason, I will implore Mr Chairman, to allow much more debate on the Ministry. I would also like to commend the painstaking manner in which the Committee has carried out its assignment. My first observation about the Ministry is that it is too prone to taking sweeping Executive actions without first consulting with the private sector as to likely repercussions. I have in mind, for example, the notorious Form 'M' although the President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has promised a review but we think that this should be done urgently.

Secondly, on the indigenisation exercise, some foreign media have black-listed Nigeria as being too prone to nationalisation. As a result of this, the indigenisation programme was carried out haphazardly and some foreign companies have been unwilling to come to Nigeria and take part in the development we need so much in our economy in terms of technology, capital and management. The Ministry should have mounted information campaign to counteract the Western media on this issue so as to educate foreign investors on the purpose of the indigenisation exercise. If I may say, I think that it is just to ensure fair treatment, fair share for Nigerians and fair share for the foreign investors. The aim is not that foreign investors should dominate our economy. I think the Committee on Commerce has a lot of work to do in this respect.

Having said that, I would like to note that our trade relationship with the United States of America and the West is another area which this Committee should examine. Although the United States of America has replaced Britain as Nigeria's trading partner because of that country's demand for our oil, Britain still remains the leading suppliers of Nigeria's imports holding about twenty-two *per cent* of the market compared with West Germany's sixteen *per cent*, America's eleven *per cent*, Japan's nine *per cent* and France's 7.5 *per cent*. My quarrel is that if the United States of America can take so much of our oil, they should have the confidence to invest in our economy ; they should come here and invest without adopting the play-safe attitude. One can count the United States of America's investments in Nigeria whereas to remove Britain's investments in Nigeria out of the country is to cripple our economy.

Mr Chairman, I would like to talk about the stock-exchange. Since the Federal Government's approval that State Governments could raise finance from the stock-exchange, I want to know how many States in the federation have taken advantage offered by the Federal Government. If I may say, only one State has taken advantage of this.

developing a State. This is because a State government cannot depend solely on the Federal Government for the funds it requires to prosecute its projects.

Talking about the Committee's Report, I would like us to address our minds to the issue of licences to import scarce commodities into the country. Mr Chairman, it is with regret that I say that the attitude under Section 14 of the Constitution is that the federal character should be reflected in all services and in everything. The issue of licences to import scarce commodities into the country is discriminatory. My latest information is that no one was issued with a licence in Ogun State. I think this is unfair. Ogun State should be represented. My quarrel again is that the attitude of discrimination is responsible for this situation and I think the Committee should look into this and cause the federal character of the country to be reflected in the issuing of licences. Thank you.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : I rise to comment on the Motion in respect of the Ministry of Commerce. I hereby say that I give it my total support and I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee on Commerce for a job well done.

While commenting on this Motion, I like to draw their attention to the Indigenisation Decree. I feel that this has been omitted in respect of schedules 1, 2 and 3. I remember that sometime ago, I brought a Motion before this House requesting that ten *per cent* equity shares should be formally allocated to workers in the industries. I regret to say that as at this morning, I received a letter from an applicant in a metal company in Lagos asking for protection. The letter would want the applicant to be given an opportunity to have ten *per cent* equity shares. I regard this as an opportunity to increase the welfare of workers by way of earnings at the end of each year in return for their services. Mr Chairman, I still like to appeal that the Indigenisation Decree, if well implemented, as I said earlier, our brothers in the Eastern States who were not opportuned to have businesses during the earlier years of 1970-71 due to financial crisis and due to the fact that the country was emerging from a civil war, would once more have the chance for a control of our economy. As we said earlier, the idea of having the Federal Character will not be a one-man show. All the tribes will be involved in owing businesses, all over the frontiers of this Country.

I would like to talk about the appointment of distributors in this country. It is regrettable to note that a number of distributors are distributors for all our locally manufactured goods and at the same time, they are the overlords, the mighty lords controlling the importation of all essential commodities. I now have the opportunity to tell you that licences which are granted to Nigerians should not be only for the rich few. Once more, I want to take this opportunity and this forum to call on our Government to look into this area and see what best it can do.

which have their sister companies here in Nigeria for example, UAC, GBO, John Holt, *et cetera*. As at now, we have what I can call *massa massa* voices and hands of these multi-million companies overseas directing the manufacture of essential commodities in this country. If you look at one of today's newspapers, you will find that the beer industry is facing a crisis, the flour industry has been facing a crisis for well over three weeks, and if I may add, the cement industry is not left alone. I am appealing to you, Mr Chairman, that we should be able to call on these multi-million companies to really diversify their economies; in other words, to re-invest in this country and I call on the Committee on Commerce that in the next Budget, we would like to see areas of development whereby our schedule of activities in relation to the private sector could be better encouraged.

Mr Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to air my views.

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the views expressed by the two hon. Members who spoke last, and to commend the Committee on Commerce for a job well done. However, there is a glaring omission which I feel should be brought to the notice of this House and I sincerely hope that the Committee will take note of it to ensure that in the next Budget, adequate provision is made for it. I have in mind, the issue of Real Madras, that is not manufactured to my knowledge, in Nigeria. Other items like lace and things like that are manufactured by several factories around, though the quality still differs to some extent, but it is a good start.

As far as Real Madras is concerned, this is a dress worn largely by people in the delta areas of Bendel, Imo, Anambra, Rivers and Cross River States and a large chunk of the Northern States. With no factory available to produce this thing in this country and the people in these areas having accepted it as their mode of dressing, I think it is only wise and fair to expect the government, in the interim, to place it on licence rather than ban it, until such a time that factories are available that could produce these things locally. As it is now, if the present ban continues to remain, then the smuggling which is the way people are trying to get them in now, will continue and only the rich few who can go abroad and buy some for their personal use, can bring them in.

I wish the Committee to take note of this and take the issue up with the Department of Commerce. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I commend the job done by the House Committee on Commerce and praise them for a job well done. Before I try to comment on certain issues, I want to make the House Committee on Commerce understand that mere calculation of figures on the Budget is not a very necessary thing for this honourable House and for the Committee. The Committee on Commerce should have made it possible for the House to debate on the fiscal measures on certain

items that are meant to be removed from or to be put under licence. But this idea of debating the fiscal measures were not done but the Minister of Finance actually did the job for the National Assembly.

To help the Committee, I would suggest that in the next Budget they should make sure that the fiscal measures on Commerce concerning the importation of goods and certain stringent measures to make sure that our economy is standard, should be brought into this House. It is our business to find out what people who voted us in want and what they do not want, and what is disturbing them in their day-to-day life. We should debate that in the House first before the Minister takes up the microphone to talk to the Press about what is removed from licence and what is placed under licence. I should suggest through the Chairman that we shall deliberate the next Budget on the fiscal measures as they concern the entire nation rather than having it done by the Executive alone. Thank you very much.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to commend the Committee on Commerce, but in doing so I have some observations to make. Mr Chairman, Sir, after going through this report, I discovered that Commerce being a very sensitive area of any economy, we should try to be sincere and be detailed in our dealings with this Committee. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like us to view our tax system as it affects Commerce in this Country. It appears that the taxation system has not been very fair to some businessmen who are interested in boosting the economy of this nation and again, Sir, the Committee on Commerce as the hon. Members who spoke last has said, failed in their report to tell us in detail things that are placed on licence, things that are free for Nigerians to import. With these materials we can effectively defend or criticise the Committee's report, but without this, and again as Members of this honourable House, we have the mandate of the people about what they want and how they want to prosper. Without these materials we cannot at this stage contribute effectively. But, for a start, I would say that the Committee has done a good job and I hope that the Committee will be the watchdog for the public in seeing that the Ministry carries out its objectives within this nine months period of the Estimates. With this, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr Sani Dambare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to comment on the proposals of the Ministry of Commerce. First of all, let us take a look at the manufacturers of our goods. The quality of goods manufactured in this country is very low, therefore, I am advising our Committee on Commerce that they should come up with an idea that will bring the standard of our manufactured goods both in quality and quantity to a high level. Now, if you want to buy a very good *riga*, a responsible *riga*, some would say that they would go to Cotonou or to Tchad. We have places here in Nigeria. Let us see what is good for Nigeria so that we can manufacture the same thing as in other places. People go to buy from Cotonou because the standard of that manufactured in Nigeria is very

[MR KALGO]

low. If you buy it, within a month the colour will wash away. Why is it so? Mr Chairman, Sir, the Committee should take note of this because it is very important.

Another thing is custom duty. Our present rate of imposing custom duty is very high, and that is why imported things are so costly. If something sells for ten kobo in another country once it is brought into Nigeria it will cost thirty kobo because of the system of our custom duty. Our Committee on Commerce should take note of these things. With these two points, Mr Chairman, I beg to support the proposal.

Dr Emmanuel Utande (Obudu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members it seems to me that it is fashionable to flatter every Committee. Unfortunately I am not in the mood to do that. This particular report is embarrassingly sub-standard. (*Applause*)

We have got to call a spade a spade. This is a Committee. This is the only opportunity we have to take a hard look at whatever is presented. I am sorry to say that, but I have no apology though. The Committee ought to have done a little more work. We are left with very little option but to debate whatever is presented here.

I would like to draw your attention to page 2 of the report. It deals with tourism, sub-head 732. We have a lot of opportunities in this country to generate enough income, enough money, to finance quite a number of other projects. Very often, some wealthy Nigerians would rather go to Las Vegas, Honolulu and a host of other European Holiday Resorts, whereas we have Yankari Reserve here. We have the Obudu Cattle Ranch, an international holiday resort which ought to be patronised. There is no provision to simulate tourism in this regard, and I had thought that the Committee would make a very strong recommendation for that kind of undertaking. It would be a huge of saving in terms of foreign exchange if we encourage fellow Nigerians to visit other parts of the country where they have pleasant surroundings and healthy climatic conditions to spend their holiday or leave. Even the members of the honourable House should patronise this holiday resort. That is one source that the country can earn even foreign exchange. Other Africans can be encouraged to visit these areas. So, I had thought that the Committee would come up with a positive recommendation in this regard.

The next thing is the National Supply Company. So much has been talked about it, and so much has been discussed and there is nothing in the report to show that the National Supply Company has not been performing its duties. There is nothing in this House to really deliberate on, and that is why I am critical of this report. Commerce is supposed to be the nerve centre of our economy. The small traders, the big traders, everybody seems to fall

With these, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my sit.

Mr E. O. Chukwu (Okigwe North) : Mr Chairman, I rise to commend the efforts made by the Committee on Commerce, and in doing so I would like to draw the attention of Members to the fact that we are more or less new to the system. Any effort made by any group should be acknowledged. Mr Chairman, I would like to add to the recommendations made by the Committee that in future the Committee should do all its best to make sure that the economy of the nation is not concentrated on few hands. If you watch in Nigeria today, you would see that the people who get import licences are those who have been enjoying it for long years and efforts should be made to distribute the import licences to reflect the federal character.

Mr Chairman, I can say with certainty that no person from my Constituency in Okigwe North has so far got import licence throughout this year. This is really bad. We have really applied but none was given to us. Mr Chairman, in this regard also, I would like to point out that in future goods under licence, as one of the hon. Members pointed out, should be specified and those prohibited should also be specified so that the Members would have the privilege of knowing the goods that are unnecessarily prohibited so that appropriate action could be taken.

Also, Mr Chairman, on the Tourist Board, I would ask the Board not to restrict its activities to certain areas. A place like the source of the Imo River which is in Okigwe should be looked into. The boys should go there and find out what is happening in the source. I know we have a lot of games there. You have so many servicemen and so on. If they go there they will find that this is a very suitable place for having a tourist centre. Such places should be encouraged, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, on the question of the Indigenisation Decree, a lot has got to be done in order to give Nigerians the opportunity of achieving the objectives of that decree. So many foreigners are still handling some of the jobs that should be handled by Nigerians. This is bad. Mr Chairman, I am saying that the Committee in their next Budget recommendation should look into all these areas and give to this House something that will help us, more so that we could be really in control of any aspect of our economy, in such a way that the economy should not be concentrated in a few hands.

With these, Mr Chairman, I support the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr M. A. Jega (Jega) : I rise to support the report of the Committee on Commerce which, to me, is sound and comprehensive. Both the Chairman and the Members of this Committee deserve a great credit, a great credit in the sense that those who served on that Committee will have the support of all

suitable and good economical incentive throughout the Federation, the amount recommended by this Committee should be considered and accepted by this honourable House. Page 2 of the report says that the Committee really has done very well because they even found out in page 389 of the Draft Budget what belongs to the Ministry of Labour. The Committee without hesitation directed the Minister to contact the Minister of Finance to rectify the error. This is very important.

Although I have said that the report is comprehensive and sound, it does not mean that there is no corner of the report to criticise.

The Committee, in their Report, requires the House to approve ₦900,000 against the Budget of the Nigerian Tourist Board, whereas in the Draft Budget ₦200,000 was provided in Sub-head 506 at page 503. The Committee in short does not agree with the explanation by the Acting Director-General of the Nigerian Tourist Board. Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not understand why the Committee failed to insert the full explanation made by the Acting Director in the Report. I know that misunderstanding is never settled by argument but by tact, diplomacy, conciliation and some other desired person's view point, that is why I would like the Chairman of this Committee to explain before this honourable House the explanation made by the Committee in order to know whether that amount required by the Committee will be according to expectation or whether the explanation of the Director-General would prove that an additional amount of ₦700,000 would be right and reasonable.

With these few comments, I beg to support the Report.

Mr Audu Mbicho (Gwoza): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Committee for bringing up such a comprehensive Report. In doing so, I would like also to comment on two divisions of this Ministry, they are Weights and Measures and Commodity Boards. Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know whether or not the Committee is aware of the existence of these two divisions, especially the Commodity Board.

As for the Weights and Measures Board Division to me, long ago, I do not see the need for the existence of such a division because I have never seen a staff of that division around the northern area visiting any of the gazetted premises where produce are bought. I do not know what type of reports they submit to their headquarters, Mr Chairman.

Coming to Commodity Boards, Mr Chairman, the downfall of agricultural development in this country is caused by this division and I can assure this honourable House, from experience, that this division is responsible for all the activities of the Commodity Boards. Our local farmers are cheated at the gazetted premises where produce are bought of them. Because these people are not experienced workers they collaborate with the privileged few who are given licences to buy produce and they cheat them. Even the money given to these produce buyers, Mr Chairman, is not used for the purchase of

produce, instead they direct the money into other businesses. Therefore, these divisions, if I am to recommend, it is time that something was done about them.

Mr A. A. Inoh (Ikot Abasi II): Mr Chairman, in contributing to this debate, I would like to mention that it is quite clear that the economy of this country is reflected to special areas whereas some areas, like the Eastern States and the Cross River State, have no opportunity. For instance, this year, I am not sure we have up to two people who have Import Licences. Some time ago, the mass media was carrying the news that the Calabar Port had no job to be done there, this is because we have no Import Licence. I would feel that it would be proper if, by the next Budget Session, this Committee could make a recommendation such that Import Licences would be given to different States accordingly and not to deter some States while other States are enjoying enormously. If this is done, I am sure nobody would be crying of being cheated in one way or the other. But if this continues to be so then Cross River State and other Eastern States would continue to raise outcries. So, Mr Chairman, I would plead that this should be done in the next financial year.

Alhaji Aliyu Isa (Makarfi): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support the Report. The Report is very comprehensive and good. The only grievance I have with the Ministry is that most of the departments are not even known and they do not serve the masses of this country so their expenses are not justified. Departments like Weights and Measures, Commodity and Supply and the rest are not doing their job to justify their existence.

I would only want to pass a message through this honourable House that the Government should be advised to make these Boards effective.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr A. Muhammadu T. Wada (Waje): Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the Report before the House on Committee on Commerce, I would like to make the following general comments. First of all, Mr Chairman, I think, it is important we express to the Ministry of Commerce and to draw the attention of the Chairman and hon. Members of the Committee on Commerce to understand the great importance of harmonising our international trading activities with our international politics.

Mr Chairman, just like we have stated here, commerce actually goes to show the involvement of a country on foreign and international trade and it is important for us to understand that there is a very important confluence between our involvement in international trade and our international politics. Some time ago, we read in the papers about the intention of the Federal Government to normalise relations with South Korea and we were made to understand that the decisions stemmed from growing trade between Nigeria and South Korea. Earlier than that, Mr Chairman, there was no relationship between Nigeria and South Korea because Nigeria had maintained a stand on the two Koreas, that is the recognition of only one Korea.

[MR WADA]

Before the indication of intention to open diplomatic relations, trade was going on between Nigeria and that country. It would appear to me Mr Chairman, very questionable how the Ministry of Commerce would encourage trade link between Nigeria and any country with whom we have no relationship whatsoever. So, it is very important for the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Commerce to take note of this thing. It is important that we harmonise our international politics with our international trade.

Mr J. Opakanmi (Iwo North) : On page 2 of the report and on sub-head 732, one finds that in the last financial year, a sum of one million naira was granted to each State of Nigeria. To my surprise, many of these States used the money for something else and paid less attention to Tourism for which the money was meant. I hope that the Committee, would, in future make sure that States spend the money allocated to them on this particular project. Tourist attractions are very important and with their existence, we shall stop going abroad and start going to the Tourist centres in our own country. The Committee should see that it goes round these centres and see that each State has its own Tourist attraction.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

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

₦11,883,800 for the Recurrent Expenditure and ₦1,615,000 for the Capital Expenditure of Head 48—Federal Ministry of Commerce—ordered to stand part of the Schedule subject to the Amendment made by the Committee of the whole House.

(Mr Speak resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House stands adjourned until tomorrow 10.00 a.m.

Mr S. A. Adekunle (Iseyin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Tourist Attraction at Abuja

Mr O. Akinboro (Oke-Ona/Owu/Gbagura) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that the Committee on Commerce do recommend to the Minister that in order to promote Tourist Attraction in this country, a Zoo be establish or be provided for at Abuja where we propose to move to very shortly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also say that parks be provided for in the State Capitals. You will recollect,

Mr Speaker, that in Europe, not only England but in all parts of Europe, parks are provided. Even in places where Land is very scarce, you find that in each locality, a park is provided but here in Nigeria, it appears that this sort of thing does not interest us and yet we say we want to promote Tourism. I would suggest, Sir, that each State Government should provide Parks and when they are making their so-called planning, they should make provision for Parks. Lagos here, which for all I know, is the Federal Capital as at today, has only one Park at Ikoyi and I am not too sure if some people will not one day, think of developing it and making it into Land again. So, I will appeal through this House that Parks be provided for each Local Government area.

The second thing I would like to say, Sir, is that I do not know when the Government intends to lift the ban on the importation of Champagne. I know a lot of gentlemen here love it. Last year, it was banned. We really ought to know if it is going to remain banned or whether the ban is going to be lifted.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support the Motion.

Tourism in Nigeria

Mr S. A. Shiyambola (Ede South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that I could not contribute to the Motion when we were in the Committee but in fully supporting the report of those people, I also want to talk a little on—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : If you are going to speak on that, there is a point of order.

Mr Shiyambola : While on Motion for Adjournment, I want to talk about the importance of Tourism. I wish that in future, we would put more money into Tourism. There are two things that I want to mention about Tourism in Nigeria. First, we should make sure that—(Interruptions)

Now, it is part of Tourism that on highways, we should always have resting periods. If we do, people who are travelling long distances such as people going to Enugu, Owerri, Yola, Kano, Sokoto and so on from Lagos will have enough time to rest on the way. This will reduce accidents on the way because people would always have some rest.

In developing Tourism, we should always have more Parks to attract Nigerians to be able to move from one place to another.

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do adjourn till 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 13th May, 1980
The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, let us go straight to the Order paper. Today is Tuesday, 13th May, 1980.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : It is a common knowledge and it is within the knowledge of everyone that a big scandal has arisen and the public is really very annoyed to note that in a country where there is a policy of one man one plot, one individual and a leader of a very big Party bought with one million naira 360 plots, and this is a Party that believes in leading the eighty million Nigerians into a path of Socialism. I will really let you know that members of the public—(Interruptions). Sit down my Friend ; sit down Mr Ogwe—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Let us do the business of the day ; when we come to Motion for Adjournment you can raise your point of explanation.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Mines and Power

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill, 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power—Head 43 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Engr. S. O. Alu (Afikpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I believe the Chairman would be very happy to see me submit this Report of my Committee on Appropriation Bill 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, Head 43 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr E. N. Kanu (Ikwuano/Umuahia) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, we have not received the Report so it cannot be presented.

Mr Speaker : I thought you were seconding. Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Appropriation Bill, 1980 (H.R. 11)

(4th Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of
the Whole House

HEAD 47—FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed, That ₦3,822,000 for Head 47—Federal Civil Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr David Atta (Ikpokwu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, my task is to defend before this honourable House the Draft Budget in respect of the Federal Civil Service Commission, Head 47. I do hope that hon. Members have copies of the report. What I am going to do is to briefly recapitulate with hon. Members the highlights of the report to enable you perceive vividly the basis upon which our conclusions and recommendations have been made.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in carrying out our responsibility in this connection we tried to work out some principles and budgetary considerations. This is contained in page 1 of the report. We deemed it necessary to do this because we did not receive any guidelines. The Committees were merely asked to go and examine the various proposals in respect of Ministries and other departments of Government. Some of the principles are as follows :

(a) Prudence in public expenditure and public accountability.

(b) The need to provide the Federal Civil Service Commission with the basic tools it requires in terms of manpower and equipment to enable it to carry out its functions in the most efficient and effective manner.

(c) The need to maximise the use of limited resources. In this respect we were very conscious of the financial constraints of the Federal Government and hence our close scrutiny of the budget in order to meet this objective.

(d) We were guided by the need to offer suggestions and recommendation designed to make Government operations more efficient and effective. We were also guided by the need to ensure that all studies such as cost benefit analysis are adequate for analysing costs and benefits of alternative approaches.

(e) Finally, we were guided by the need to ensure that the information and other data furnished by the Commission are sufficiently adequate to enable the Committee make sound decisions.

Then, in the main we took our general bearing from the policy objectives submitted by the Commission. We thought this is necessary in order to appraise ourselves of what the Commission is set up to achieve, and to see in specific details what organisation has been established by the same Commission to enable it carry out these objectives. I invite the attention of hon. Members to page 2 of the report.

[MR ATTA]

In the main, the Federal Civil Service Commission is set up to employ adequate and sufficient manpower to man the different Ministries and departments of the Federal Civil Service; and see to the advancement of officers in the Federal Civil Service by way of promotion and to bring to book erring or offending serving officers through an efficient disciplinary procedure. Having done that we went to consider the rationale and justification for the proposals that were submitted for our scrutiny. The Chairman of the Commission prepared for us a position paper in which he tried to justify the Commission's demands which were closely tied to our national goals. He informed the Committee that the slow pace of change within the Commission was attributed to the lack of funds and a passionate appeal was made to us for more investment on the work of the Federal Civil Service Commission. In order to further buttress his case, we were called upon to carry out a critical re-examination of the functions of the service itself. Your Committee was satisfied with this.

Page 3. In order to make available further details, we called for explanatory notes from the Commission, and your Committee received these in detail showing the proposals, the analyses and break-downs of the proposed expenditure on personal emoluments other charges and special expenditure. In addition, the Commission submitted information showing the organisational structure and job descriptions of each serving officer of the Commission. Some of our conclusions and recommendations were based on these data.

From here we decided to have special session with the Chairman and his team, and on this day he came with the Chief Executive of the Commission, the under-secretary, the Principal Accountant and the Personnel Assistant to the Chairman himself. This special session afforded your Committee the opportunity to ask questions in order to clarify some areas in the Draft Budget. The Committee queried the necessity for staff increases as contained in pages 69 to 70 of the budget. Your Committee also observed that the proposed increases were limited to Grade Level 14 and asked for explanation as to why this is so. The Chairman of the Commission informed us that the increase was as a result of rapid expansion of the work of the Commission. On the question of Grade Level 15 and above the Secretary of the Commission explained the limitations of the Commission in up-grading officers at that level, but further presented a convincing case for the need to up-grade the post of the Chief Executive of the Commission to commensurate with his heavy responsibility. We noted this and we asked for a special report which we have received and we have made a specific recommendation to this honourable House in respect of this.

Your Committee was rather critical of sub-heads 26, 42, 67, 83 and 91 dealing with other charges, 228 dealing with the recruitment

reservations, your Committee accepted the explanations of the Chairman of the Commission, but urged the Commission to introduce some remedial measures in order to induce qualified Nigerians home.

The following are our special findings. Exclusive Office Accommodation. The Commission made a very strong case to the Committee for an exclusive office accommodation. At the moment the Commission is sandwiched amidst other Federal Ministries and departments. We found that this does not make for confidentiality and security of most of the Commission's classified documents and other confidential documents.

We seize this golden opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government through this House to give the desire to have an exclusive office accommodation for the Commission, a top priority. Besides, the secretarial facilities that are provided are inferior, especially in terms of work that must be classified as confidential. Office apartments and other amenities are sub-standard and inadequate by comparison with other Ministries under the same roof.

Your Committee is convinced that the Commission cannot function effectively if it is forced to continue to use methods that the rest of the world had abandoned or vastly improved upon, at the cost of very little expenditure.

(b) Physical Plant :

We discover too that the work of the Commission largely depends on prolific documentation and the production of numerous copies of lengthy briefs. For this reason, we feel that Provisions made in the Estimates for some of these essential tools are realistic. These tools are facilities which must be provided without which the Commission becomes an unproductive white elephant. (This is the first time that *white* has been associated with something bad).

7. Summary and Recommendations :

1. We are proud to inform the honourable House that the Commission has made its estimates with realism and restraint. The summary of the estimates is as follows :

	1980	1979-80
Personal Emoluments ..	952,000	1,033,360

You would discover that we claim that these figures are slightly higher, but in reality you can see that the 1980 figures are lower. This is because provisions have only been made for nine months. This is a very well known fact to all of us.

	1980	1979-80
Other charges	2,749,000	2,061,530
Special Expenditure ..	121,000	28,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,822,000	3,157,950

2. Personal Emoluments

There is an increase in the number of staff sought by the Commission for the 1980 financial year. This is due to the increase in responsibilities

Your Committee is quite happy with the provisions and recommends them for your kind approval.

3. Other Charges and Special Expenditure : Prominent in the Commission's other charges and special expenditure votes is the question of passages for officers recruited overseas. The number of candidates to be recruited is no doubt going to be on the increase this year in view of the renewed appeal to bring back as many qualified Nigerians as possible from abroad.

4. Up-grading of the Post of Secretary to the Commission : A very powerful case was made to your Committee to take up the issue with this honourable House to up-grade the post of the Secretary to the Commission to Grade Level 17, to make it comparable with the position of Permanent Secretaries and other equivalent positions in the Government.

In order to make the salary grade of the incumbent commensurate with his heavy responsibilities, we looked at the job descriptions and we looked critically at the schedule of duties of the incumbent, we feel that fair should be fair and that this position should be up-graded.

We invite the honourable House to endorse the Committee's recommendations as they have been made after a very critical analysis and examination.

We really thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Saliu A. Famuyide (Ilesha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the Report brought to the House for our approval, I have a point here which needs some clarification.

If you look at page 373 of the Draft Estimates, under *Other Charges*, you would find for the last item therein, *Accounting Machines (Maintenance)*—₦7,000. If you go further down, under *Special Expenditure*, ₦7,250 is written for the *Accounting Machines*.

This is just a new addition in this column. If the Committee put the amount of ₦7,000 for the maintenance of Accounting Machines, whereas the Accounting Machines themselves cost ₦7,250, then I would like the Chairman of that Committee to make some explanation, so that we could support the Report.

The Chairman : I do not quite get what you are saying. You said that the Accounting Machines cost ₦7,250.

Mr Famuyide : Yes, the amount for maintenance of the Accounting Machines is ₦7,000, whereas the Accounting Machines themselves cost ₦7,250, and these machines are all new machines.

Mr Chairman : I see. Yes, Mr David Atta.

Mr David Atta (Ikpokwu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the point which the hon. Member has made is very valid indeed, but there is an explanation for this.

If you look at it very carefully, you would find that there was no provision for this in the same period for last year. This is a new thing. It has not been in existence before. I said in my presentation that the Commission is grossly handicapped in terms of Plant, Equipment and other necessary facilities.

I do not think that a provision of ₦7,000 is too much for a Commission of that size and given its heavy responsibilities of having to minister in respect of recruitment matters for all the nineteen States of the Federation. In my considered opinion, I think this is tolerable.

Alhaji M. B. Mustapha (Bida North) : Mr Chairman and hon. Members, I rise to give support and to congratulate the Committee on Public Service for a hard work done. In addition to that, I would expect that the Committee would have more responsibilities ahead. Generally, it is my intention to mobilise all resources and to give the Budget before us a first trial, but this Committee particularly, is very important. It is very important in the sense that, today, the machinery of the Public Service is completely out-dated.

The problem facing the public officers is far from asking for increases in salaries. What is wrong with the public service principally, is that the whole scheme of the Public Service today is completely rotten. In this respect, I will urge the Committee to pressurise the President so as to set up a high powered Committee or Commission to review the entire gamut of all categories in the public service.

Mr Chairman, the reason for saying this is that the fault in most of the institutions which are open to public criticism today, like the P & T, NEPA and all the Statutory Bodies, is that the ladder is such that the workers do not go too far in their various grades. For example, if a Nursing Superintendent cannot be promoted to the position of a Chief Medical Officer, I think there is nothing wrong if the scheme of service can be elevated so that the Nursing cadre could reach at least Grade Level 14 since their services are indispensable. The same thing applies if the Technical Officers cannot attain the position of Chief Engineer by virtue of the qualification, I think there is nothing wrong if the level be elevated so that at least they can attain Grade Level 14 or 15.

The Chairman : Time up. The hon. Member for Bende (*Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe*).

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to ventilate my views on this Budget. You will agree with me, if you look at page 371 and know what is happening in the public sector, that is the Public Service, that the Public Service is becoming lopsided in favour of the Administrative Officers. If you check the proposed increases in appointments from Grade Level 14 to what have you, you will see that the Administrative Officers are being pampered and favoured to the exclusion of the junior staff.

[MR OGWE]

Much of the frustration in the Public Service is concentrated on the junior staff. If you see the various hurdles the junior staff have to pass through in order to look human, you will pity them. The rest either stay there indefinitely on grade level 04 or pass the examination after they had stayed in the service for a period of six years. For that examination to be taken, in the first instance, you have to stay three years before you take it and you may not even pass that examination as most people do not pass it. Only very few people pass the examination.

An hon. Member : Point of order.

Mr Ogwe : There is no point of order in this. (Laughter) That is one. What I am saying is that the junior service sector should be given adequate protection so that their morale could be boosted.

Again, there is lack of equipment in the various sectors of the Public Service. In most cases, if you have a letter which has to be posted, some Departments will tell us that there are no stamps, no envelopes and because of these essential needs to make our Public Service function, any amount given to the Public Service to improve the conditions there and to equip it so that it can work with all the modern facilities required for such a service will not be too much. The public service is such an important service that no one can overlook.

The ₦3.8 million which is allocated to the Public Service is not just enough if we consider the modern ways in which the system ought to operate. So, I am asking that, in view of the very nice work done by the Committee on Public Service, of which I commend their effort, all their recommendations should be supported by this honourable House.

The Chairman : Time. The hon. Member for Ikwere/Etche I (*Chief Stephen Ikpoku Alete*).

Chief Stephen Ikpoku Alete (Ikwere/Etche I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to make my humble contribution on the debate on Public Service Commission. If I had to analyse the ills of the Public Service Commission, it might take me more than a year. Therefore, I am only going to—(Interruptions)

Time is against us now, so we have to curtail the interruptions. I will only tackle one little aspect of the Public Service, and that is lack of job description.

In the Public Service, we find that they are not efficient, not because they are not qualified to be efficient. The problem there is the old colonial system which we copied and never even bothered to change. A public servant never knows where his job begins and where it ends. If you look at their correspondence, they are always saying *I am directed* and you never know who is directing who. You would see then that without clear division of labour,

given his job description and allowed to do it. Otherwise, we shall be going round and round a circle as usual and will be unproductive all the time.

I disagree that though the civil servants do not produce goods, they produce services and these can be quantified or measured. But, we cannot do so now because there is no division of labour. At least, there is no clear demarcation between one job or one table from the other, and as a result we do not know who is defaulting and who is not. So, I would appeal that this should be done.

Now, if I take the professional cadre of the Civil Service, it is not a question of how much you pay a civil servant, the problem there is that of frustration. A professional man would like to see himself given a chance to produce what he has learnt, but in the Civil Service he is not allowed to do so. As a result, you find that the Civil Service is suffering from lack of professional men because they are frustrated. With these few words, Sir, I would like to have my seat.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. members, I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill for 1980 as it relates to the Public Service. The job is one that is well done, and the document is presented properly. But my area of contribution lies on the plight of civil servants in this country. For some time, the civil servants of Nigeria have been frustrated so much so that talents and youths that matter had to leave the service for redundant situations. Now, you have obnoxious laws being brought into the Civil Service. For example, civil servants are not allowed to travel to anywhere they like in this world. Nigeria is the only place where such a situation obtains. This beats my imagination. If a civil servant is on leave, I see nothing wrong in allowing him to travel to any place of his choice in this world. This is contravention of Section of the Constitution which gives freedom of movement to every Nigerian. That Section of the Constitution did not say one is free to move with constraints as per foreign exchange.

So, hon. Member, you have to place your position in the place of the civil servants. Some of us were at one time civil servants, and we were frustrated by these obnoxious laws. That was why we all resigned. If everybody had to resign from the civil service, then the Government would be crippled and there would be no activities in the Civil Service sector.

Another aspect here is unnecessary victimization in the Civil Service by people in high places. You have people in high places victimising and intimidating the junior and lower ones, who earn no promotion, but stagnation; whereas these are the best officers you can ever think of.

An hon. Member : Did you suffer that ?

Mr Poloma : Yes, I suffered that greatly. When

Dr P. Egberipou (Yenagoa): In contributing to the debate on this part of the Draft Budget 1980, I would like to congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Committee for a work well done. I believe this is as a result of having a very knowledgeable and competent Chairman as the head of this Public Service Commission Committee. I think that this is a straight-forward thing and there should not be any problem in passing it.

I would only like to make one observation, and that is that some time ago in this House we passed a Motion calling on the President to put into practice employment people in such a manner as to reflect the Federal character of this country. As you will agree with me, whenever we receive our gazettes we go through them and see new appointments everyday, but we find that it is still as lopsided as it had been all through the time Nigeria became a country. I would call on the Chairman of this Committee and its Members to put this down as a very strong recommendation, that future employment exercises must satisfy the Constitution of this country. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg every Member of this House to support and approve this Draft Budget. Thank you.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I rise to support the Report on the Civil Service Matters. Indeed, the Report is one of the best that has been submitted to this House, like that of Committee on Communications. I would like to comment very briefly on one aspect. I was expecting the Committee to strengthen the Civil Service not only by recruiting people overseas, but by recommending that very experienced people from the States can be transferred to the Federal public service, and very experienced people from the Federal can be transferred to the States. It would appear that the last speaker had stolen what I had wanted to say.

What I want to say about *Federal character* is that the Committee on Public Service Matters should have taken it as its responsibility to instil into their recommendations that from now onwards *Federal character* must be maintained in the employment of civil servants.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Members who have congratulated the Chairman of the Committee on Public Service Matters and I do hereby call on hon. Members to support the Report submitted by that Committee.

The only area where I want to make a specific comment is on page 372. There may be some others too. Mr Chairman, Sir, if you go to page 372, Item 38, if you check through the provisions of the 1979-80 Establishments you will see that the welfare of the people on those items starting from 38 to 51 is not taken care of. For example, if you go to item 38 you will see that there are six clerical officers on grade level 05. I am sure that those clerical officers were not employed on the same day. I do not know where this mistake or careless provision came from.

It would either be from the divisional heads of departments or the Chief Executives of the Commission, but I hope and we recommend to the Commission to please do something better for the welfare of the junior workers of the whole Federal Public Service.

The Commission should not only concern itself with the Federal Public Service, but also State Governments and even up to local government Authorities. There is no provision to boost the morale of the junior workers in this section which I apprised you of. I am now begging you and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Service Matters to please take note of this so that in future provisions, this could be sorted out.

Finally, I would like to appeal to both the Chairman of the Public Service Matters Committee and the Chairman of the Committee on Labour to please sit down together and sort out the present scheme of service in order to rescue the welfare of the whole public servants.

With these few comments, Mr Chairman, I beg to sit. Thank you.

Mr Amos Idakula (Keffi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to join the queue this morning in congratulating the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Public Service Matters for a job well done. If one could be allowed to comment on the work, one could say a lot of things because the Civil Service today is perhaps the greatest executive functionary that brings into fruition every Legislative aspect of our work.

So, Mr Chairman, I want to belldown my speech particularly on Permanent Secretaries as they are today. The Permanent Secretaries apparently have not realised their different functions as in the Presidential System. Where this kind of system operates, the Permanent Secretaries are supposed to be people who help the Chief Executives, Ministers and Commissioners in achieving what their Ministries are supposed to do, but it appears to me that the Permanent Secretaries we have as at now seem to over-ride the Executives in whatever they do.

I have heard complaints from several Commissioners and Ministers as to the fact that their Permanent Secretaries want to stay on top of them. I think I should make this reference to the Chairman of the Committee, that the Permanent Secretaries should be where they are supposed to be. They are definitely not the Chief Executives. They are definitely under the Commissioners and Ministers and we would not like to see a Permanent Secretary trying to spread wide over his Chief Executive. In fact, it could have been better that all the Permanent Secretaries be removed especially those who worked under the military regime, and new ones appointed; because as it is now it appears that they have carried over the work they did in the military era into the civilian era. I bet you, Mr Chairman, this is not going to work properly. As such, I want to urge the Chairman and Members of

[MR IDAKULA]

the Committee to look into this very seriously so that the Permanent Secretary would be in a position to function better under the Presidential System.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri): Mr Chairman, hon. Members, my contribution on the Public Service Matters Committee's Report is going to be very brief. The Committee has done very well indeed within a very limited time, but I feel that the Commission itself should be given every encouragement. At the moment, I feel that the Commission is not having a free hand. It is very disappointing to hear that an important arm of the Service like the Federal Public Service Commission has no separate accommodation of their own, more especially as they are the chief co-ordinator of these other Ministries. Their files and other documents are supposed to be confidential, and they are supposed to be absolutely separated from all other branches of the government. In other words, I feel the Commission should be encouraged and given a free hand in all the work they are doing.

On policy matter, I would strongly advise that our future guidelines should be that the Commission should try as far as possible to do less overseas recruitment. There are enough Nigerians in other States that could well occupy these places that these people are going outside to look for. We have Nigerians available who even prefer to come to other States and work, but for one reason or the other, we are not encouraging these Nigerians to come to these places and do the work. I am glad to say that already certain States have taken the right steps. They are encouraging Nigerians from other States qualified for certain jobs to do the jobs. So, as far as possible, the Federal Public Service Commission should try and discourage the overseas trips; qualified people could be obtained in Nigeria.

Finally, about the position of the Secretary, I think already in the Udoji Report there is evaluation of jobs and the gradings of these jobs. If the Public Service Commission, by itself without consultation with the Ministry of Establishments, decides to up-grade the post of the Secretary to the Public Service Commission to Grade Level 17, I think they are creating a dangerous precedent.

By so doing, I hope they are not so selfish, other Ministries would like to up-grade other posts in their Ministries which do not attract the Grade Level 17. As such, I hope that they would re-check that step. I am not totally in favour of that except if real consultation has been done with other Ministries and that also is left with the Ministry of Establishments and Training. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I support the Report.

Mr Mohammed Sha'aibu (Kanam): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Committee on Public Service for bringing this comprehensive

It is a pity to see that Civil Servants are barred from this; Civil Servants are barred from that. The present G.O., what they call General Orders, or their Civil Service Rules are the old ones that had been used during the Colonial Administration. If we want our Civil Service to live up to expectation, we need to revise these Civil Service Rules. I think there is the need to revitalise the Federal Civil Service. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to thank those hon. Members who have so far congratulated us for the comprehensive Report we brought to this honourable House. A lot has been said about the Civil Service, and I believe that if we look into these recommendations and the various advice given by Members of this honourable House, I think we would have a very good and reliable Civil Service in this country.

There is one point that I would like to raise here and that is the question of *federal character* representation in the Civil Service. At least, we have passed two or three Motions, if I could remember, about federal character representation in this House, but we do not know what is being done on these Motions we have so far passed. Here, I would like to advise once more that if at all we want efficiency in the public service as well as in the parastatals and other corporations, and if we want unity in this country and discipline in the Civil Service, I think the question of federal character representation arises here. We must try our best to see that federal character is reflected in the public Civil Service as well as in the parastatals and corporations, because indiscipline arises when somebody feels that he has a brother within the Ministry where he works. He can act in any way he likes because he knows that he cannot be disciplined since he has brothers and sisters within the Ministry who may be the senior officials who can discipline him within that Ministry.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with this short contribution I hope this country would take note of these loopholes with a view to correcting them in the future.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Olu Olofinlade (Ero South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would love to see that the professionals are encouraged into the Civil Service, because we found out that one of the major problems that are facing this country now is that we do not have well-qualified professionals in the Civil Service. The reason is that they are not being encouraged. We are now having shortage of Engineers, Lawyers and all the other professionals. So, these categories of Civil Servants should be encouraged.

When we talk about the *federal character* of the Civil Service, we should also match this with merit and integrity, because if we rely only on federal

Some hon. Members : Fire! Fire!

Mr Olofinlade : So, merit should be taken into consideration. In fact, the super Permanent Secretaries who try to paralyse or to prevent the Executives from prosecuting their proposals would not be able to do so if the Minister is powerful and knows what he is doing. Again, we should be careful and try in this Presidential system to reduce the red-tape of the Civil Service and let them take some initiative particularly at the high-level.

On recruitment overseas, before we go to overseas to recruit officers, we should make sure that we have exhausted the local materials. I am very sure that we have a lot of local materials to use, but before we try to go to overseas to recruit, let us exhaust what we have in Nigeria first. Finally, the question of importing foreigners to come and work in Nigeria where there are qualified Nigerians, should be totally discouraged.

With these, I support that the Civil Service should be encouraged.

Mr Mathew Olubode Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank those who have spoken before me for their contribution to this very vital sector of our economy. The Civil Service in Nigeria, the way I see it, needs a sort of reorientation.

If you visit any office in Nigeria, you will see that the condition under which our Civil Servants work is so poor that you can never expect any quality job being done. You will discover that the condition of Civil Servants in terms of remuneration is rather too poor ; in terms of equipment, you will see that they have not got adequate equipment to work with. You will see six or eight people work on a single table to the extent that the law of diminishing returns prevails in any office you visit.

It is very necessary to know why the Civil Servants cannot give as much quality work as we would expect them. In the first instance, the quality of man power being recruited can never be improved until the condition of service is improved.

It is very important to compare the quality of work being done by a Nigerian Civil Servant with that of the Civil Servants in any other country. I could remember a time when I was in the American Embassy, I could remember that Nigerian Embassy was procuring information data for all the Embassies in Africa. This Nigerian Embassy remitted information from Nigeria to feed computer in France, and yet there was no delay in information.

I could remember that within three days, information remitted to France had reached USA and under a week we got a feed-back from USA to Nigeria.

In Nigeria, any information collected within one part of the country takes months before it is actually procured. What has contributed to this is primarily lack of equipment and lack of training of our Civil Servants.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : While congratulating the Committee, I would like to refer to page 5 of the report, starting from line 4—the number of candidates to be recruited is no doubt going to be increased this year in view of the renewed appeal to bring back as many qualified Nigerians as possible from abroad.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would have expected the Committee to give us a positive recommendation on how to encourage qualified Nigerians abroad to come home. There are so many Nigerians all over the world who are well qualified to fill the vacant posts which we have in the country. But most of them are inhibited by the fact that there are some laws which prevent them from bringing in the capitals which they have acquired in overseas over a long period of stay.

I would like to cite the case of a student who was recruited from the United States by the Public Service Commission. This student came to Nigeria, he was in the Federal Palace Hotel without his family for about six months, later was chucked out. He brought in his car and had no money to collect it because of the high duty rate imposed.

I would suggest, Sir, that the Public Service Commission, in order to encourage Nigerians abroad, should guarantee them, first of all, a permanent accommodation. When we recruits expatriate Europeans, we usually guarantee them accommodation in a suitable area. In addition to this, they should be given some sort of duty concessions on whatever personal effects they might have got in overseas, like cars.

At present, there is a duty imposition of about one hundred *per cent* or more on certain cars. It is rather ridiculous to expect a student to return from, say, United States to pay five thousand naira duty on his car. These are most of the things that prevent overseas students from coming home.

I would love the Committee on Public Service Affairs to bring in a Bill that will relieve our qualified Nigerians when they come home with whatever personal effects, they might have accumulated overseas, free of duty, if possible.

With these, I would like to support that the Estimates under this provision should be approved.

Mr J. Oyediji Opakanmi (Iwo North) : This Committee is recommending that the Secretary to the Public Service Commission be promoted to Grade Level 17. I raise no objection to this, but I would sound a note of warning, that if we continue to do this, there will be lobbying among the Committee Members for upgrading and promotion in the various cadres of the Civil Service.

So, I would like them to follow the established procedure for upgrading and promotion of workers. This will enable us to be free from lobbying and all sorts of corruption.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : That is what it should be.

Mr Rasheed A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North-Central): In associating myself with the report of the Committee on Public Service Commission, I would like to comment on the role of—

Mr David Okwoche Agi (Oju): I want to direct attention to Order 63, section 3 under the Financial Provisions. Line 17 says:

Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on second reading.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to link this Order with the provisions on page 373 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980.

The Chairman: I think you are raising a point of order.

Mr Agi: Yes.

The Chairman: And your point of order is Order 63 (3).

Mr Agi: Yes. It says:

Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on second reading.

A Member raised this earlier but the Chairman did not give good attention to it.

Page 373 of the Estimates says: *Accounting Machines, maintenance*, and there is a provision of seven thousand naira for this. If you refer to the Special Expenditure, Accounting Machines are still there and there is a provision of seven thousand, two hundred and fifty naira.

The Chairman: What is your order? A point of order is raised when a Member has contravened the rules and you point him to order. What has he done?

Mr Agi: We can also point the proceedings of the House to order. Mr Chairman, allow me to link the two things. What I am saying is that under *Other Charges*, this particular item has no code number and so, does not qualify to become an item on the Appropriation, according to these Financial Provisions. When it is again duplicated under the Special Expenditure, it means that we are allowing for expenditure in two ways.

The Chairman: Mr Shitta-Bey, you can go on. Mr Agi, you should wait for your turn to make your own contributions to the debate. Or do you want to make it through the back door?

Mr Shitta-Bey: In contributing to this debate, I would like to appeal and urge the civil servants to be more interested in the jobs they do. Also, they must, at all times, direct their minds to the hardship of the poor people of this country. I say this because government at one time or the other took certain decisions which are meant for implementation but which have not been implemented up till today because of the red-tape in the Civil Service. I refer to the acquisition of land prior to the Land Use

Mr Shitta-Bey: I would like to say seriously that several citizens of this country have suffered hardship in the hands of the civil servants in this manner. I would like to make a particular reference to the acquisition made in respect of the land at Orile-Agege in 1976. Vast areas of land were acquired by the government and, of course, this was before the Land Use Decree.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West): I am referring my hon. Colleague to Order 26 (2). We are discussing the Budget and not something else.

The Chairman: Please go to the Budget.

Mr Shitta-Bey: I am commenting on the role of the Civil Service *vis-a-vis* the Budget. It is one thing to vote money for use by public servants and it is another thing for us to want them to use such money in the best interest of the people and not to create hardship for the people. I am reminding and I am appealing to civil servants to have at all times the interest of the people at heart. When they are supposed to pay any money or compensation to the public, they should do this promptly.

Lastly, before I take my seat, I would like to refer briefly to the issue of federal character. Some months ago, my Colleague, the hon. Bob-Manuel (Degema II), made some statements in this House. As far as the nation was concerned, his statements were taken very seriously. It is unfortunate that at the time he made these statements, I was not given the opportunity to say that the statements he made and the facts and figures he gave were completely false and I have no doubt in my mind about this. For instance, he said that there are twelve Permanent Secretaries from Lagos State in the federal structure. This is not true, it is only one Permanent Secretary from Lagos State. This is not the right time for me to deal with this issue. I want to go directly to the question of federal structure. Let us even assume that all the hon. Member said were true. I have no doubt in my mind that what he said on that day had influenced the decision of the Head of State in making some of the appointments he has made.

Mr Yusuf Amoka (Okene): I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to Order 26 (2). Let him deal with the Budget and not go from land to employment.

The Chairman: Please wind up.

Mr Shitta-Bey: In winding up, I would like to say that the issue of federal character was not given due consideration when the Head of State made some appointments recently into twelve commercial banks. There were twelve Managers appointed—

Mr Jimoh Damisa (Okehi Adavbi): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Question proposed, That ₦11,824,000 for Head 42, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦1,800,000 for Head 236 Capital Expenditure—Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity—stand part of the Schedule—

Mr Edet Etienam Bassey (Oron II): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am the Chairman of the Committee on Labour. Our intention this morning, for purposes of emphasis, is to amplify some of the highlights of our Committee's Report.

Pursuant to House Resolution No. 121 of March 9, 1980, your Committee on Labour held four plenary sessions on 24-3-80, 26-3-80, 18-4-80 and 21-4-80 to deliberate upon the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Government of Nigeria as proposed for the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity.

Your Committee in their examination of the Draft Budget, as it affects the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity, invited the Minister, Mr Adebisi Ogedengbe, on two occasions for clarification of certain items under the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Budget.

Of the total amount of ₦9,040,000,000 (Nine billion and forty million naira) budgeted for the services of the Federation for the 1980 financial year (April-December) the budget for the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity (Head 42) is ₦13,624,000. This amount is further allocated to the various sub-heads as follows:—

Sub-head 1—Staff and Emoluments, page 337 of the Draft Estimates, ₦6,750,000.

Sub-head 2—Other Charges, page 339 of the Draft Estimates ₦4,243,000.

Sub-head 3—Special Expenditure, page 339, ₦831,000, and finally,

Sub-head 4—Capital Expenditure, page 536, ₦1,800,000.

It may be pertinent, Mr Chairman, Sir, to mention that the merging of the Co-operatives Division of the former Ministry of Co-operatives and Supply with the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity and the consequent absorption of the staff and assets of the former have accounted for the increase in the amount budgeted for the Ministry for the current financial year 1980, that is ₦13,624,000 for 9 months as against ₦10,635,945 budgeted for 12 months for the preceding financial year, April 1979 to March 1980.

Mr Chairman, Sir, your Committee scrutinised the draft contained under both the Capital and Recurrent Estimates of the Ministry in depth, and sought clarification of specific items as reflected in the estimates as follows. You have got the report. You have seen our comments on Personal Emoluments, but I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable House to our recommendations on Other Charges—Sub-head 2, page 333 of the Draft Estimates.

The Committee also sought the reason for the non-provision of monetary reward for the President and members of the National Industrial Court in the 1980 Estimates of the Ministry.

The Minister explained that the Decree No. 7 of 1976 which established the Court had provided that salaries of the President and Judges of the Court should be paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges, a provision he deposed had been overlooked in the past. Appropriate financial provision has therefore, been made in page 466 of the Amended Estimates for this item.

Page 338 Code 384. Financial provision for the Office of the Administrator of the Central Labour Organisation: The Minister explained that this provision was made for the settlement of outstanding claims from Trade Unions who attended the preparatory meetings which led to the inauguration of the Nigerian Labour Congress at various centres (Enugu, Benin, Ibadan and Kaduna). The Committee, after due consideration of the explanation, agreed that the amount budgeted be approved subject to its utilisation this financial year, failure which the said amount would not be allowed to reflect itself in next year's Estimates.

Page 338 Code 368. Maintenance of the Nigeria Labour Office—General.—The Minister explained that the Ministry was seeking financial provision expenses under the sub-head to enable the Ministry settle outstanding claims in respect of expenses incurred by the former office of the Administrator of the Central Labour Organisations. The Committee accepted the Minister's explanation and approved the amount budgeted for this purpose in the Estimates.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES (Head 236 page 536)

In considering the items under this head, your Committee was guided by the Government's policy not to further establish any new Capital projects meant for the Federal Capital in Lagos. Your Committee, therefore, hopes that the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity has no intention to deviate from this policy. Consequently, the items which your Committee called to question under this sub-head were as follows:—

National Industrial Court Building (Code 216).

The Committee strongly recommends that the Court should be built at Abuja, the new Federal Capital and not in Lagos.

Completion of the *Socialist Publishing House* at No. 29 Olajuwon Street, Surulere. (Acquired under *Gazette* Notice No. 56, Vol. 63 of 18th November, 1976) Code No. 273. Your Committee demanded to know the real owner of the building referred to under the sub-head as well as type rationale behind the proposal by the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity to develop the Building into a National Secretariat for the Nigeria Labour Congress. The Minister explained that the building was a *bona fide* property of the Federal Government having been duly acquired for public purposes under Legal Notice No. 1476 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 56 Vol. 63 of 18th November, 1976.

[MR BASSEY]

Mr Chairman, Sir, at this stage, I think, it is relevant that I should read the text of this Legal Notice. The *Gazette* Notice No. 1476 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* No. 56, Vol. 63 of 18th November, 1976, reads *inter alia* :

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Section 2 of the Requisition and other powers Decree No. 39 of 1967 and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, Major-General Oro Esho Obada, of the Nigerian Army and Federal Commissioner for Works in the Federal Ministry of Works, Lagos, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, do hereby requisition absolutely and in perpetuity for public purposes all the entire premises as described and contained in the Schedule, here under annexed.

Take notice that I require possession of the said premises within seven days from this date of the notice. You are, therefore, required to deliver same to me on or before the date above-mentioned.

All claims in respect of this requisition and all documents and/or instruments existing on the premises should be forwarded to the Assistant Director and Chief Federal Lands Officer, Federal Ministry of Works, Independence Buildings, Private Mail Bag 12539, Lagos. All that parcel of land and building thereon, known as No. 29 Olajuwon Street, Surulere, Lagos State.

Dated 15th day of October, 1976.

*Signed : Major-General Oro Esho Obada,
Commissioner for Works*

The Committee also requested information as to whether land had been allocated to the NLC for the construction of their Secretariat. While the Committee expressed satisfaction with the explanation of the Minister in respect of the sum of ₦850,000 budgeted for the completion of the building under the head, the Committee, however, noted with delight that the building, as at the moment, is a Federal Government property and, therefore, warned that its ownership should never be transferred to the Nigeria Labour Congress unless it is so authorised by the National Assembly having regard to the circumstances under which the building was acquired by the previous administration. Your Committee, however, recommended that land should be allocated to the Congress at the new Federal Capital in Abuja to build its own Secretariat.

Code 265 : Construction of residential blocks of flats in 54 Labour Centres in the country. Your Committee welcomed the proposal and advised that Government should build its own houses rather than continue to spend huge sums of money on rents. The Minister agreed that project would be tied to the Federal Government Housing Scheme. The amount budgeted for the project was however, approved.

When you come to page 7 of the report, you

Oji River, more so since the colleges were already functioning. While, therefore, the Committee approved the estimates for the sub-head, it stressed that future Government projects should be geographically spread to reflect the Federal character of the country.

National Institute for Labour Studies (Code No. 184) :

The reason advanced to site the proposed institution in Kwara State was given due consideration by the Committee. The Committee postulated that one of the main reasons given for siting the proposed College in Ilorin was the congested state of Lagos as the Capital of the Federation, and argued that since the Federal Capital would be moving to Abuja, the Institute should also move to Abuja. It buttressed this point by emphasising the centrality and neutrality of Abuja as well as its potentialities for expansion. It was therefore decided that since the proposed National Institute for Labour Studies would be a rallying point for employers of Labour and Labour Leaders and others who would make use of the facilities at the Institute, it should be located in the new Federal Capital at Abuja. Other points advanced by the Committee to strengthen its decision on the matter included the need for proximity between the Institute and other Federal Government Institutions at the Federal Capital. It was also argued that since the Institution would not only be for Nigerians but for foreigners as well, it should be sited at Abuja so that it would adequately carve an international image for Nigeria.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Sir, the Committee also touched on the issue of the National Minimum Wage for Nigerian workers. Mr Chairman, Sir, your Committee wishes to seize this opportunity to report its progress on the issue of the National Minimum Wage which had been mentioned by the President of the Republic, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, in this maiden Budget Address to the National Assembly. Your Committee has received memoranda from various interests both public and private including the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity and the Nigeria Labour Congress on the issue. Without prejudice to the magnanimous award made to the workers in the public sector by the President, your Committee wishes to re-affirm its commitment to the determination of a living Minimum Wage for the Nigerian workers as soon as the Budget exercise is completed. We therefore regard the President's offer of a ₦100 Minimum Wage to the Lowest paid Government employee in the country as an interim award.

Mr Chairman, Sir, your Committee wishes to state that the amounts budgeted for the various services of the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity are modest and realistic and urges that the estimates of the Ministry as reflected in the Budget be approved subject to the observations and recommendations made above.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Members, I have to submit

An hon. Member : The hon. Member speaking is a Member of this Committee. I do not see any reason why he should criticise and quarrel with the report of the Committee.

Mr Oduntan : Mr Chairman, Sir, my quarrel is on the method by which the report was prepared and brought to this House, and I have to say that I participated in all the meetings.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Alhaji Muhammadu A. Kaita (Kaita) : It is just unfortunate. The hon. Member who spoke last is a Member of this Committee. He is a party to this decision.

My point of order is Order 26 (2). It is irrelevant for him to come here and criticise and go against this decision here.

The Chairman : Order! Order! What he is talking about is against the method of presenting the report. Tell us all that you want.

Mr Oduntan : Thank you, Mr Chairman. As I was saying, I participated in all the meetings of this Committee, and I have no cause to say that any of the items is not correct.

The Chairman : The procedure is that if you are a Member of a Committee and you are not happy with the report of the Committee, you first of all dissociate yourself from the report and go on to make your own report.

Mr Oduntan : Mr Chairman, I am not saying that I am not happy with the report. If you listen to me for just one second, you will hear what I am saying. I implore the hon. Members to give me their attention. We all deliberated over the Budget and we requested the Chairman to prepare the draft and call a meeting whereby we would approve the draft, but the Chairman refused. I never saw a copy of the draft until on the floor of this House. It is quite wrong to have done so. That is number one.

Mr Chairman, the second point is that the issue of the National Minimum Wage is not part of the Budget.

The Chairman : Are you dissociating yourself from the report?

Mr Oduntan : I am raising a fundamental issue.

The Chairman : You are not bound to accept the report. If you do not like the report, tell the House that you are dissociating yourself from the report, then you can say whatever you like, but not when you have accepted the report you come round to tell us all these.

Mr Oduntan : Mr Chairman, I had better dissociate myself from the report.

Alhaji Kaita : It is just unfortunate that one of our Members has started to criticise this report. Reading through the report, it is a straight-forward.

report. It is self-explanatory report. Mr Chairman, I would suggest that we just move that the report be accepted.

Mr David Adelu (Ibadan East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would strongly appeal to all Members of this House to accept our report. In accepting this report, I want us also to consider the following points along. It is a sort of appeal. Within that report we have done a lot for the Nigerian Labour Congress. I strongly want to appeal to that august body to please be friendly with Members of this National Assembly. There was a time, Mr Chairman when the President of the Nigerian Labour Congress, went on television and said *those ignorant people*, referring to Members of the National Assembly. In the estimation of cultured Nigerians, this is very bad indeed, and I very much appeal to the Nigerian Labour Congress to please co-operate with the Labour Committee of this House and with Members of the National Assembly. That is one.

Furthermore, I want to appeal to the Federal Government to please take over the organisation of May Day celebrations in this country. The last May Day celebration organisation was a disaster. It was very bad indeed. It was badly organised. May Day, is the only Day when the workers of a country will feel happy, will feel proud, will feel a sense of belonging. That is the only time when the workers know that they are respected, that what they do for their country augurs well for the future and the hope of humanity. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I would appeal very strongly that Governments of the Federation, the Federal Government, the state governments should organise May Days in their respective geographical areas.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to talk again on the treatment of junior workers in this country. It is now apparent that there has not been very good treatment to workers of Nigeria. For example, the case of Vera Ifudu is a good point to make. How can anybody in his good mind, in spite of what the House of Representatives did, how can anybody go behind and sack Vera Ifudu because she has been very honest, very hard-working and she has been a patriotic Nigerian? I say, without any fear of contradiction, that the sack of Vera Ifudu augurs very badly for the hope of working generations. It is really dictatorial, it is really a stupid thing to do. Vera Ifudu must be called back.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, first of all, I have to praise the Chairman of the Labour Committee and the entire Members of the Committee. I sincerely appeal to hon. Members, who are all intellectuals, to kindly accept our Report whole-heartedly. Secondly, I would like to comment on very vital issues. Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make compassionate appeal through this august House to the Trade Union. You can realise that most of the services of the Federal Republic of Nigeria have been paralysed by the NLC affiliated member-union.

[ALHAJI ABUTU]

Take for instance, last week one of the Chairmen of one of the Committees on Communications made a statement here. Since five weeks now, we cannot telephone outside Lagos. This was a sabotage done by the technologists in P & T.

The NLC is aware that we came to office barely six months ago, and we have been working very hard to see that the conditions of service of both higher and junior cadres in the services improve. Since we started this debate, all the Members have been talking of the betterment of the workers; therefore, I am appealing to the NLC to call all its affiliated members to work so that we can look into the conditions of service of the workers.

Mr Cornelius O. Agbor (Obubra I) : Mr Chairman, hon. Colleagues, in my contribution on the Report of the Committee on Labour, I would like to say that this Committee has laid on an honest and good job. It has considered what I might refer to as discrepancies in the Draft Budget because there were fluctuations and contradictions. The Committee has taken pains to explain all these discrepancies Head by Head. And that besides, the recommendations of the Committee in terms of allowing capital development projects which has not taken off to be transferred to Abuja the new capital are very commendable. The Committee's recommendations on the Co-operative Colleges which we have in Ibadan, Kaduna and Anambra States is also commendable. I would like to add that these colleges should be expanded to take in many more persons from all over the Federation.

Secondly, I would suggest that other proposals in connection with these colleges should include extension services as we have in the Ministry of Agriculture because of the emphasis the present Government is placing on the Green Revolution and the forming of co-operative for the production of essential commodities. So, I would like these Co-operative Colleges to run an extension services in order to help propagate the government's information to all the people.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr David O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I think this Committee has done a very thorough job, but the recommendations it has made have very far-reaching effects because some of the major items on the Capital Expenditure Section of the proposals have been recommended to be transferred to Abuja. This is very good, but the Committee has a rather big assignment of monitoring the Ministries so that these recommendations, if finally approved by the House, are implemented. Invariably, the cost of any specific project meant for either Lagos or Kwara or any place for this fiscal year will not remain the same thing when required to be transferred to Abuja, and this is where the functionaries of the Ministries may sit down and fold their hands and say, *well, it is required to be sent to Abuja and the funds one have will not take care of setting this*

appeal to the Chairman and the entire Members of the Committee on Labour to make sure that whatever Estimates can be drawn out of the present estimates for projects required to be transferred to Abuja should be cut according to the appropriate size, and work started with whatever level that can be reached with the amount now approved by the House.

With this, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to sit down. Thank you.

Dr E. A. Utande (Obudu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would first of all like to thank the Committee for a job well done since it is the fashion to flatter Committees here. (Laughter) But, on the other hand, I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to two very important issues. The first has to do with productivity in general. What strategies are we going to adopt to ensure that there is greater productivity in our industrial set-up?

The second thing has to do with attitude towards work generally. The Committee on Labour should do some little bit of home-work in this regard.

Then, of course, the third point has to do with management. From the report, it seems to me that there is a bias in favour of labour. What of the management cadre? What plans have we to improve the management on a higher level? I understand the Federal Government has the Administrative Staff College at Badagry. What plans have we to expand such an institute to make sure that we improve the performance and efficiency of our civil servants as well as workers in the private sector? These are some of the issues that the Committee should look into while considering the next budget of 1981. With this brief remark, thank you Mr, Chairman.

Mr Y. Folorunsho (Asa) : Mr Chairman and Members, I would like to associate myself with the opinion that the Committee has done a nice job. But none-the-less, I have an observation to make, and this is with regard to the recommendation made that Co-operative Colleges should be sited in some places that is, Kaduna and Oji. This, according to the Committee, reflects the geographical spread and Federal character. But at the same time, the Committee recommends, that the National Institute for Labour Studies should be transferred from Kwara State to Abuja. The reason given is not convincing. First, if you look round, there is not any Federal project in that part of the country and I do not see any reason why you should say that all that area should not attract any Federal project. If the Committee bears in mind that all projects should go to Abuja, then, I do not see any reason why that one recommended for Kaduna and Oji should remain. With this observation I beg to differ.

Mr F. N. C. Nwadison (Orji River/Agwu South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to associate my

... on setting up Co-operative Colleges in various areas of the Federation. I will strongly appeal to the Committee on Labour to make sure that all the recommendations they have made in respect of these Co-operative Colleges are implemented within these nine months, because out of experience, some of these Colleges have continued to appear in all the previous years' Budgets but nothing was done. If actual cash has been provided in the current estimates for these Co-operative Colleges, it would be immensely appreciated if the Committee would follow it up and make sure that the money appropriated is properly used for the establishment of the Co-operative Colleges.

The other point I would like to mention is the relationship between the Labour Union and the present Administration. I think it is the duty of the Committee on Labour to go beyond the report they have produced to make sure that there is harmony, peace and understanding between the Labour Union and the present Administration. I have no doubt in my mind that the House will receive the report and give it the sympathy it merits. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr P. C. Okeke (Agwu North/East/West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am a member of this Committee, and I wish to express my disappointment towards the attitude of one of the Members of this Committee in standing up before this honourable House to dissociate himself from the good job done by this Committee. None-the-less, we are 23 and if only one person can tender a minority report, I do not think we have done badly in any case.

Coming to the speech made by a Member about the transfer of the National Institute for Labour Studies to Abuja, the Committee considered many things as we put down here, and seeing that this Institution is the only one in the country, we deemed it wise to build this first one at Abuja, the new Federal Capital. The Member should know that we were not discriminating against any State. But seeing that this is the only one, we have to go to Abuja which is a neutral ground.

My third point, Mr Chairman, is on these rampant industrial actions in the country. I would seize this opportunity to appeal to the Employers of Labour at least to help and curb these industrial actions which we are having nowadays. It is almost a daily occurrence, and one wonders what the Employers of Labour always do within the 21 days ultimatum normally given by workers before proceeding on strike. I would appeal to the Employers of Labour to try and save this country from all these industrial actions, at least by going into meaningful negotiations with these workers who normally give 21 day's ultimatum. When they give the 21 day's ultimatum these employers do not do anything ; and when they go on strike the people that suffer are the common people. In future, we have to interview these Employers of Labour who waste time and do nothing within the 21 days' ultimatum.

Chief F. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to this report, I wish to draw the attention of this House to two sections of the report

on the Estimates. On page 332, items 228 to 255, this deals with Employment Service Division. It may be too late now to request that this section of the Ministry be scrapped, but I am drawing the attention of the Committee to ensure that in the next budget this section be scrapped for the following reasons.

We do not have to come here to finance unproductive sectors of a Ministry, and I also feel that this sector is a duplication of the duties of the Public Service Commission. From my observation in the States, I know that the Ministry of Labour has never helped any school leaver to find a job. That is one.

Secondly, on items 256 to 286, it says it is *trade testing section*. I would also request the Committee to ensure that in the next Budget, this Section is scrapped. Trade test should be the job of the Ministry of Works. Our knowledge shows that the section of the Ministry of Labour that deals with trade tests is a corrupt section. People buy their trade tests certificates without even having the knowledge. You cannot get a trade test simply by your proficiency or by your knowledge. In fact, I have known people who have not trained for a particular trade and they hold a trade test. So, I am asking the Committee to look into this and ensure that in the next Budget this section is scrapped, and leave the question of trade testing to the Ministry of Works.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would urge the Committee on Labour to investigate properly the causes of the present trade disputes which have been too current, and they have not allowed us even a time to start our duties. I have a feeling that there is a likelihood of some sabotage somewhere. So, I am appealing to this Committee to go deep and investigate and ensure that our duties here are not paralysed by some sort of sabotage.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Dr J. E. Eburuche (Agbaja/Uvuru) : Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the Committee for a job fairly well done. However, I want to highlight some of what I consider to be the weaknesses of the Report. There was a serious oversight with regard to the current expenditure. I am referring particularly to the establishment section of the Budget. In the 1979-80 Budget, there was a provision of 3,142 workers ; by 1980, the number has risen to 3,950, representing an increase of 808. This tends to reflect an over-employment which in my opinion, represents disguised unemployment.

Secondly, there appears to be double counting in the Draft Estimates. This is with regard to Other Charges. If you look at the section with the code No. 39—*Office and General*, there is a Budget of ₦109,370, then item 172 says *Maintenance of Office and Residential Buildings*—₦17,500. Item 368—*Maintenance of the Nigerian Labour Office General*—₦35,000. It seems to me that all these things are saying the same thing. They are being renamed here and there but the figures vary. There is an error of duplication.

[DR EBURUCHE]

Then, you also have *Motor Vehicle Maintenance and running cost* and below that you have *Labour*. I do not know whether this is Labour for the maintenance or labour for something else. If by *labour*, they mean workers, I think this is out of the way, because there is a regulation that all temporary staff should be converted to permanent staff.

I refer the House to the Capital Expenditure Section, Code No. 257—*Construction of zonal offices at Enugu, Kaduna and Jos*. There was no allocation for the year 1980, whereas for 1975-80 National Development Plan a sum of ₦2 million was budgeted for that, and for two years running there has been nothing done with that money. Similarly, for construction of residential blocks of flats in 54 labour centres for the 5-year Development Plan, a sum of ₦8,931,000 was allocated but for the two years running no allocation; yet the Ministry is spending about ₦37,730 in rents and this is a period when the Federal Government is emphasising the provision of shelter. I thought that the construction of these 54 residential quarters should be given priority.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with this, I beg to sit.

Mr Audu Mbicho (Gwoza): Mr Chairman, Sir, to comment on the Report of the Committee on Labour, of course, I have no objection. I accept the Report because I know the Committee has done its work on it. I have gone through the Report and I have seen that they have deliberated quite all right, and nothing to argue about there. Mr Chairman, we all know the responsibility of this Ministry, that is the Ministry of Labour. Therefore, it deserves the provision. The provision in the Estimate Budget for the Ministry of Labour and Productivity is adequate to me. Therefore, I do not know how others went through the Report. To me, the Committee has done the work which must be accepted by this honourable House.

Mr Chairman, with this, I thank you very much.

Mr Sidi H. Ali (Dambatta): I fully support and accept the Report presented before this honourable House, but at the same time I think the Committee on Labour has left a lot of vital issues or the Committee has been over-generous to the Ministry or, to the Nigeria Labour Congress. As I am talking now, the Nigeria Airways is on strike. They were on strike only last week. In fact, there seems to be a general labour indiscipline in this country. I do not want to call it a sabotage, but the fact is that the Committee should have had the courage (1) to tell us and to invite the Nigeria Labour Congress to present a paper before them and find out whether the Nigeria Labour Congress really controls workers in this country or it does not have control. (2) Either the Ministry is doing the job it is supposed to do or it is not doing its job.

Last two weeks, there was a transport strike in

cause of that strike but we discovered that the Unions were not even members of the Nigeria Labour Congress. Yet, the authorities did nothing about this. There is a labour law in this country which says no Union can go on strike unless it negotiates, and when it comes to a level where it fails, there is a labour tribunal with a Chairman, on which we are spending a lot of money. Then, how do we sit down for two unions to paralyse two States? What is the reason? Is there political motivation, is there a sabotage or is that the normal labour law? These are the areas we feel the Committee on Labour should have extended its services to find out.

We cannot sit down and fold our arms. We need moral strength in taking vital decisions so that we do not come to waste our time while the whole country is put on fire by certain few leaders whose motivations we do not know.

We need virile labour unions with good leaders to evolve a new social order, a revolutionary transformation of the society, and the emancipation of the oppressed masses and the working class. We should uncover the *pepper soup* revolutionary labour leaders. In fact, Mr Chairman, I blame this Committee to some extent. The Committee has a duty which is moral because it is made up of great labour leaders, people who have been involved with labour movement for many years. The Chairman himself is a veteran labour leader, Mr Abubakar Abutu is a labour leader, Datti Malumfashi is a labour leader. All those on the Committee have been in the labour movement. Why did they not think of getting some sort of rapport with the Labour Congress? If, on the other hand, the Labour Congress does not have control, are we going to leave the Labour Decree as it is or are we going to amend it to allow anybody to form his own union instead of what is there?

Mr Chairman, it is my belief that Nigeria needs today dedicated workers, honest and devoted men and women who would submerge themselves in services to their country and to humanity, who abhor greed and detest vanity.

With these few words, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to sit down.

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure): Mr Chairman, Sir, my observation on the report laid before the House by the Committee for Labour, Employment and Productivity is that, even though the report is very well dressed in very good language, it leaves a very vital point undealt with in great depth.

The point, Mr Chairman, Sir, is the welfare of workers. We cannot expect dedication from workers if workers in this country are not happy. It is observed that the conditions of service of the people at the top have been well catered for, but we seem to believe that we can hold on indefinitely waiting to see improvement in the welfare of the junior workers. There is a limit to human endurance. I am particu-

country will not hold on indefinitely. It is time that we had a definite policy as regards minimum wage.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman, I want to raise two points of order. Order 26 (2). We are not discussing minimum wage but the Budget. We do not want inciting statements or playing to the gallery in this House. We are labour intellectuals and we are going to do good things for the workers.

Mr Fagbamigbe : Mr Chairman, Sir, my comment is in paragraph 6 of page 8 of the report which is laid before the House and therefore, I am in order. It is time we took a definite stand on the minimum wage for workers. We cannot allow workers to accept interim measures indefinitely. It is, therefore, time to award a minimum of ₦200 for workers of this country.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr E. O. Echetafu (Njikoka South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, my point of order is Order 26 (2). It is a shame that the leadership which attacked the National Budget in the NEC, that there was no money, now wants ₦200 for workers. Where will we find the money? Is that not playing to the gallery? That is playing to the gallery.

Mr Fagbamigbe : Mr Chairman, Sir, I cannot see how this country can afford to pay ₦16,000 to some people and be unable to pay a minimum of ₦200 to workers. Afterwards, the workers and the professionals buy from the same market. It is also necessary, Mr Chairman, that we should, right now,

address our minds to the question of security of employment for workers. Many of the workers in this country are just at the mercies of their masters. They can be hired and fired at will.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I believe this report has been exhaustively discussed and Members have enjoyed this discussion. In view of this, I now move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

₦13,624,000 for the Recurrent and Capital Expenditure of Heads 42 and 236, Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumes the Chair)

Committee Report Progress—to sit again Tomorrow

Mr Speaker : Hon Members, the time is now 1 o'clock. I understand that the next item, that is, the Committee on Finance, may not go on today because the Chairman of the Committee is not here. I understand that he is stranded at Enugu Airport. In the circumstance, according to the Standing Orders, this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

And it being 1 o'clock, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 14th May, 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dissolution of the House Committee

Hon. Members, it is a matter of common knowledge that the House Committee of this honourable House has been in the news for some time now and has attracted a lot of rumours. In the circumstances, I think the time has come for this House to take a very serious view. It is necessary that the hon. Members of this House must not only be honourable, but must be seen to be honourable. So, I intend to make suggestions, and if it is the wish of the House, they will be accepted. If it is the wish of the House, we will dissolve this Committee. If it is also the wish of the House, we will appoint an Investigation Panel of five people, and it is also the wish of the House the following people will serve on that Panel—

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please let me mention the names first. You should hear the names first. It is only a suggestion. I am not saying that you must accept them. I am not imposing anything at all. You know I am not a dictator. My suggestion is that Mr Nuhu Poloma will be the Chairman.

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! I am also suggesting that hon. Members Amos Idakula, Mohammed Yelwa, M. A. Olukoya, and Y. Bishi will be members. So, Mr Poloma will—(Interruptions)

Order ! Order ! We shall now require a formal Motion by the Leader of the House firstly to suspend the Standing Order, and secondly to dissolve our House Committee.

Mr I. Mac-Eteli (Brass) : As a point of explanation, I would like to put to the House that instead of dissolving the House Committee right off now, we should have the Investigation Panel go into the affairs of the House Committee up to this time before we dissolve it.

Several hon. Members : No !

Suspension of Order 19

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) :

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Prince A. O. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 19 be suspended

Allegations against House Committee

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in view of the recent happenings in this House and allegations levelled against the House Committee of this House, I move that the House Committee be dissolved forthwith.

Chief P. A. Gbinjije (Ethiopia South) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr A. M. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I only want to bring a very small amendment to the Motion which I am sure, even though I am not a lawyer will have the backing of my Learned Colleagues in this House (*applause*), that the House Committee be suspended not dissolved because there is a technical point involved.

Mr Speaker : What is your reason ? Give your reason.

Mr Gapsuk : My explanation here is that when you dissolve them, you do not have a mandatory right to summon them to appear before you, but if you suspend them they still have responsibility to explain themselves.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, this House has the right to investigate anybody, and we have the right to summon anybody to come and give evidence. I do not think your Amendment is in order

Let us here Mr Uyeh, he has been standing for some time.

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East) : I want to speak on this Motion in support of what the hon. Member for Shendam East (*Mr A. M. Gapsuk*) has said. You cannot suspend the people and then set up an investigation when you have not found them guilty. We have got allegations against this Committee and it still stands to be exonerated from what it has been accused of. So, for this House to take a decision that the Committee be dissolved is absolutely wrong. I am also saying that this Committee should be suspended, and after suspension if the allegations against these people are true and they are found guilty, then the Committee stands dissolved.

With few remark, I move that the Committee be suspended.

Alhaji Datti M. A. Malumfashi (Malumfashi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in support of dissolving the Committee as Mr Speaker and some of my colleagues have said, I want to say that this House has power to invite anybody to come and give evidence before this very House. The going on in the House

We are not only dissolving or terminating the Committee, we are also giving them the opportunity to defend themselves as regards the allegations against them. The activities of this very committee are widely reported in the papers and talked about in this House.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contribution to this matter on the Floor, it is an axiom of the law that a man is deemed innocent until the contrary is proved. Therefore, it is my candid opinion that the question of dissolving the House committee does not come in right now, until these people are properly tried, investigated and found guilty before any action is taken. (*Interruptions*) I have not concluded. What I am saying—

Mr Speaker : Hon. Gapsuk, will you come and move a formal Amendment ?

Mr A. M. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : I rise to Move an Amendment to the Motion on the Floor that, instead of this House dissolving the House Committee, the House Committee be suspended forthwith pending the outcome of the investigating Committee's Report.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Dr Eze Nwala.

Dr Eze O. A. Nwala (Ikwerre/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Another Amendment ? Yes, hon. Member. Please, the Clerk, you should take down the Amendments, so that we vote on them one by one.

Alhaji Moshudi A. Amzart (Ikorodu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my Amendment is that the House Committee be dissolved forthwith and a care-taker Committee of five be appointed in order not to create a vacuum.

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr Speaker : Your Amendment is not seconded. Let us vote on the first Amendment, which is the only Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : We are speaking on the Motion itself now.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : I wanted to make a Motion on the Membership of the Investigated Committee.

Mr Speaker : Speak on the Motion on the Floor ; we have not come to the Membership.

Dr Oreh : I do not want to speak on the Motion.

Mr Speaker : To make it formal, let us vote on the Motion first, and then we shall talk about the Membership, because I do not think anybody is against it. The Leader of the House should move the composition of the Panel.

Alhaji Tunusa Kaltungo (Tangare Waja) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move, that the following hon. Members be appointed Members of the panel of investigation of the activities of the House Committee. The Membership is as follows :—

Mr Speaker : The Motion will run as follows :

That this House do appoint an Investigation Panel to investigate the activities of the House Committee ; that the following people be appointed Members of the said Panel and that the hon. so and so be the Chairman of the Panel.

Alhaji Kaltungo : The names are part of the Motion ?

Mr Speaker : Go on ; say whatever you like, it will be taken down.

Alhaji Kaltungo : That the following Members be appointed on the special Panel to investigate the activities of the House Committee : Mr Nuhu Poloma, Mr Amos Idakula, Alhaji Mohammed A, Yelwa, Mr M. A. Olukoya and Alhaji A.Y. Bichi.

I beg to move.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Alhaji Sani Danbare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, let me throw a small light. (*Interruptions*) Order ! Order ! I am coming, please, excuse me. These names were taken, one from every political party and you know the Chairman of the Panel must be from NPN. (*Interruptions*) Order ! Order ! Let us hear from the NPN. Yes, the hon. Member for Brass (*Mr Ingo Mac-Eteli*).

Mr Ingo Mac-Eteli (Brass) : I have an Amendment to the Motion that has just come to the Floor of the honourable House and the Amendment is to substitute another name for the first name which is meant to be the Chairman. Instead of the hon. Member for Tangale- Waja North (*Mr Nuhu Poloma*), it should be the hon. Member for Obubura II (*Mr Lekam Ofem Okoi*). (*Interruptions*)

Mr Mike C. Ugwu (Udi) : I think the Leader of the House has chosen the representative for the NPN and what he is saying is out of order.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, let us put the question. (*Interruptions*) Order ! Order ! Please sit down. Let us leave the question of the membership, we will take it from the parties. Let us take the two questions.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do set up an Investigation Panel to investigate the activities of the House Committee of this House, and that this House set up a Panel of five Members to carry out this investigation.

Committee on External Affairs

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of External Affairs—Head 34 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji Sani Abubakar (Roni) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, and also on behalf of my Committee, that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of External Affairs—Head 34 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Cornelius Okpa Aghor (Obubra I) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Education

Presentation of Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of Education—Heads 32 and 233 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates.

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Before I move the Motion, I wish to inform Members that corrigenda about this Report will be circulated in the next few days. Will Members please insert the necessary corrections because some of the typographical errors alter the meaning of the report in a few cases.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I move that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget Proposals for the Ministry of Education—Heads 32 and 233 of Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Lekam Ofem Okoi (Obubra II) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS**Membership of the Nigerian Coal Corporation (S.5-80E)**

A Bill to make provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Coal Corporation—Brought from the Senate (10th May, 1980)—presented by Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja) : read the First time, referred to the Committee on Mines and Power.

Membership of the Nigerian Mining Corporation (S.6-80E)

A Bill for an Act to make provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigeria Mining Corporation—Brought from the Senate (10th May, 1980)—presented by Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : read the First time, referred to the Committee on Mines and Power.

Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority (S.7-80E)

A Bill for an Act to make provision for the Reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority—Brought from the Senate (10th May, 1980)—presented by Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : read the First time, referred to the Committee on Mines and Power.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**Appropriation Bill, 1980 (H.R. 11)
(5th Alloted Day)**

Considered in Committee of the whole House

HEAD 26—AUDIT ; HEAD 35—MINISTRY OF FINANCE ; AND HEAD 53—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

Question proposed, That ₦3,143,550 for Head 26—Audit ; ₦89,440,000, Recurrent, and ₦159,863,000, Capital, for Head 35—Ministry of Finance ; and ₦3,622,214,722 for Head 53—Consolidated Revenue Fund—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Ralph K. Obioha (Ideato) : Mr Chairman Sir, hon. Members, I am pleased to submit on behalf of the Committee on Finance the report on Budget Estimates on the Committee's assigned Heads 26, 35 and 53.

I welcome this opportunity to inform the Committee of the Whole House that your resolution of Wednesday, 19th March, 1980, had been diligently considered and hope you have studied the report submitted to you. Before discussing the specific Budget requests which we are proposing for 1980, I would like to briefly survey the critical problems which we encountered during our budget consideration.

The principal objective of any budget will be to ensure that national economic growth is incorporated and that relative priority of development is evenly distributed. I would like to first share with you the status of our decisions on the entire areas assigned to us. We considered the provisions item by item and liberally gave the Ministry of Finance the utmost goodwill and benefit of the doubt. This was not necessarily that the budget proposals were exemplary, but we believe that our own contribution in the on-going learning process of the new system imposes on us the highest restraints in allowing the system to work.

In the presidential system, the government yearly audit assumes an important and significant role. It is with this view in mind that we recommend that Head 26—Federal Audit Department be accepted in its entirety and recommend same to be the wish of the House. Concerning Head 35, the Ministry of Finance itself, we have recommended the House acceptance of the entire Recurrent Expenditure. However, in the Capital Expenditure, we are satisfied

[MR OBIOHA] to report to the House that we parted ways with the Ministry in two areas, thus : Under the provision for new Projects—₦56,561,000, the explanation that the provision was for unforeseen projects was unacceptable and we cited Article 77 of the Constitution which called for the establishment of Contingency Fund. This Contingency Fund having been established, the Committee felt that any unforeseen project could derive its funding from the Contingency Fund. This amount reflects the Amendment appearing today on the Order Paper.

During our discussion with the Ministry about the Natural Disasters that continue to threaten the life and peace of our people, they pointed out that the provision under *Rehabilitation of Ecologically Degraded Areas* for the sum of ₦40,000,000 was for the intention of that.

I wish to refer you to Appendix 4 of the report. I was pleased that the issue had been of a major concern to the Executive branch, but I realised that they had no knowledge of the magnitude of the problems and, furthermore, they categorically stated that the ₦40,000,000 was specifically for the Oil Spillage menace. We consider this not only to be inadequate for the oil spillage problem but accepted it in principle.

The Committee recommended that three new sub-heads be provided for the same amount, namely : (i) desert forestation, (ii) soil erosion, (iii) other natural disasters. If these provisions are met, the question would naturally be, *where would the surplus 63 million come from ?* Neither my Committee nor the House has the competence to answer this question. If, however, it is the wish of the House, we have the Constitutional obligation to request that priorities be re-adjusted to meet the requested provisions. I say this with all sincerity and I shall repeat without any fear of contradiction that any development which does not first and foremost remove factors that endanger the lives and properties of our people is a negative development.

Our President said that his vision is for building a new foundation for a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria. The bureaucrats are aware that villages have been dislocated in Sokoto, Kano, Kaduna, and Borno States by the desert encroachment. They are aware that soil erosion has rendered thousands homeless in Cross River, Imo, Bendel, Anambra, Plateau and Ondo States. We are aware that Rivers, Imo, Bendel and Cross River are devastated by the oil spillage and rendered destitutes and our very citizens are rendered destitutes instantly without warning. I recommend these provisions.

Finally, this House should be pressed to know that we cannot be politicians all the time. We can be for some of the time ; and for the other times we should be statesmen, for politicians see things as they are and ask why, but statesmen have visions of things that should be and ask why not. And in the Budget considerations, we should, above all, be statesmen of this Nation. It is our duty to guide over things that should be and see to their realisation.

I take this opportunity to thank Members of my Committee for their co-operation and dedication throughout the Budget consideration. I salute the Chairman for the opportunity given to my Committee to contribute our efforts for the building of our Nation. I am most grateful to the entire hon. Members for the acceptance of our report.

Thank you.

The Chairman : Chairman, do you have an Amendment ?

Mr Obioha : There are certain Amendments proposed :—

In page 568 (of the Amended Draft of the Capital Estimates) to leave out as follows :—

Item	Subject Matter	Provision
024602000325	Provision for New Projects	₦54,561,000

That then will render in page 568, last line, in column 6, ₦159,863,000 to read ₦105,302,000 instead.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : So, you have increased the Estimate ? By how much ?

Mr Obioha : We have deducted now. The next Amendment will be an increase.

The Chairman : There is no other amendment.

Mr Obioha : I notice that it is not in the Order Paper, Sir, but in the report it is there.

The Chairman : What do you want us to do now since it is not in the Order Paper ?

After moving your Amendment and it is seconded, you will then defend the Amendment.

Is anybody seconding his Amendment ?

An hon. Member : I beg to second his amendment.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Chairman, tell us why you want the Estimate to be increased.

Mr Obioha : I am cutting the Budget here.

The Chairman : You are cutting the Budget

Mr Obioha : I am cutting the Budget in this Amendment. There is another amendment increasing it again.

The Chairman : That one is not here before us.

Mr Obioha : It is in the report.

The Chairman : The most important thing is that when you are asking for an increase, you have to satisfy us as to where you are going to bring that money from. The problem is that the country has said that *this is the revenue we are going to collect during the year and within this revenue we are going to spend so much*. If you are going to add any money, you have to tell us where you will get the money from.

[CHAIRMAN]

Mr Obioha, please apply for this to be deferred till tomorrow.

Mr Obioha : Hon. Members, having discovered an error about our Amendments, I ask the House to defer for the correction of the Amendments to appear tomorrow.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Yunusa Folorunsho (Asa) : I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that the discussion on the Report of this Committee be deferred till tomorrow.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the discussion on the Report of the Committee on Finance be deferred till tomorrow.

Further consideration of the Report of the Committee on Finance deferred till tomorrow.

HEAD 36—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed, That ₦116,451,000 for Head 36, Recurrent Expenditure, and ₦110,429,000 for Head 234, Capital Expenditure—Federal Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Engineer Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to present the Report of the Committee on Health on the 1980 Draft Budget of the Federal Ministry of Health on the Appropriation Bill, 1980—Head 36 (₦116,451,000) and Head 234 (₦110,429,000), Federal Ministry of Health.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Report.

Mr Ambrose Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, the Committee on Health has, no doubt, done a good piece of job which requires our appreciation and, in fact, the nation's at large.

In supporting this very Report, I would like to observe that health is wealth, and this country must take health seriously, not the type of free health that we receive here in Lagos. Incidentally, people think that the treatment aspect is the only care that we should have but, I think, the issue of prevention in terms of sanitation, inoculation and other aspects of prevention is what is seriously lacking in this country. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister concerned, through this very honourable House, to consider this very aspect and lay more emphasis on the prevention of health hazards in very difficult situations like the situation we see at Mushin, Ajegunle and Badagry Expressway.

As regards my own constituency, I am appealing, through this honourable House, to the Health Minister to consider expanding the hospital in Shendam where people, at the moment, sleep on the floor. As a matter of fact, throughout the two constituencies of Shendam East and West there is only one Cottage Hospital. I beg to appeal, through this very honourable House, to the Minister.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degeme I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, my contribution to this Motion in respect of health to the nation is as follows:

Some time ago, precisely about two weeks ago, I took a sick Colleague, Dr Sekibo, to the General Hospital, Lagos, and what we saw there was horrifying. The doctor himself, Dr Sekibo, as most hon. Members know, is a Medical Practitioner. We were there for two hours looking for a doctor while there was a doctor around us. When we approached him, he said that he was not a doctor. This happened in the General Hospital here in Lagos. So, after staying there for two hours we had to go away. The thing I saw there, Sir, was terrible. How can we have a General Hospital in the capital of the country, and the doctors there are discriminatory in their treatment of sick people. I wonder what type of thing this is. Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to recommend that the General Hospital, Lagos, be taken over by the Federal Government.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! There is a point of order.

Mr T. Egbuwoku (Isoko) : I want to raise a point of order, and my Order number is 26 (2). I think the hon. Member should not use inciting statements. No doctor can discriminate against any person.

The Chairman : Yes, you can continue.

Mr Princewill : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. This is for the interest of our hon. Members on the other Side of the House too, because if they do not have the money to pay for private medical attention, what they could do is to go to the General Hospital especially in cases of emergency, which I did by carrying an hon. Member to the Lagos General Hospital.

Mr Chairman, it is a matter for regret that this Hospital was owned by the Federal Government some time ago. If we cannot operate it, then we had better close it down. The point is that the hon. Member (Dr Sekibo) was refused any attention because he was not from Lagos State or any of the other UPN controlled States ; because there was a column there which we filled. They told us to get a card ; we obtained a card and after obtaining the card they said that we were from Rivers State, to which I replied, *Yes, we are from Rivers State*. If this is so, Sir, it is horrible for a General Hospital

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members; in contributing to the Report submitted by the House Committee on Health, I want to say that the Committee has done a good job and the Report should be approved. But I note that in the recommendations put forward by the Committee, a very important aspect of Health Service has been left out—this is in the area of Rural Health Service.

You will all agree with me that the Federal Government's presence is not felt in the rural areas in the area of Health Service. There was a time in this honourable House when we passed a Motion praying the Federal Government to

[MR OJOGU]

establish at least one Cottage Hospital in every Federal Constituency I thought that the Committee on Health would come up with a Report containing a recommendation praying the Federal Government to implement this resolution which we took some time ago, but this is not there in the Report.

As you all will remember, in the area of Health Service in the States, it is only the State Governments that establish Hospitals, Dispensaries, Health Centres and Public Clinics. The Federal Government does not come in at all. Rather, the Federal Government tends to concentrate on the building and establishment of Teaching Hospitals to the total neglect of the development of Rural Health Service. As a result, you find people suffering in some of the Federal Constituencies ; and you know that health is wealth like someone mentioned. Without a healthy population there is nothing you can do. You can do all the planning but none of the development plans would take off. So, I would call on the Federal Government to also involve itself in Rural Health Service. In other words, I am asking that the Federal Government should make it as a policy, map out a Health Programme whereby every Federal Constituency should have, at least, one hospital ; and every local Government Ward should have a poly-clinic. If this is done, then, it would go a long way to assist the efforts of the State Governments. If we leave the provision of health service to State Governments alone it would be difficult to provide this vital service to the people of Nigeria.

With these few comments, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat. Thank you very much.

Mr S. E. Asuk (Bonny I) : Mr Chairman, in my contribution on this report, I would humbly point out the fact that on page 285 of the amended Draft Estimate item 562, fourth line from the bottom, Ife University Teaching Hospital was given a subvention of ₦9 million and under Capital project under the same thing, on page 529 the same University is given another ₦1,100,000. I feel, this is a duplication of money. One University alone cannot be given so much to the detriment of others. In fact, there is no provision for Teaching Hospital for Port Harcourt. Indeed, it was planned that Port Harcourt University should have a Teaching Hospital but no provision has been made for it.

To confirm what the hon. Member who spoke last has said, it is regrettable that some areas in the Rivers State, for example, my own Constituency, Bonny I, especially Andoni district, with over one hundred thousand people, has no Health Clinic of any significance . I wish that the Health Minister should take this into consideration in his arrangement for development of Rural Health Scheme. He should take Andoni into consideration. We have not got any hospital. People die of malaria everyday. In fact, we live at the mercy of mosquitoes. We attribute it to witchcraft every time. So, I am humbly asking that the Health Committee should take this into consideration.

Mr Agwana Apagu Waba (Askira Uba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, whilst joining my Colleagues in congratulating the Committee on Health, I would like to appeal, through this House, to the Minister of Health with regard to what many of my Colleagues have already emphasised about the Rural Health Programme. Here, I want to make a specific appeal. Before the Military wound up, they gave some subvention to the States to build Health Clinics. In most of the ten Northern States, there are lots of these Health Clinics that have been completed, but have remained idle for almost two years now. The States have not got money to open up these Health Clinics.

I know, in my Constituency, there are six of these Health Clinics. They are not open and they have been lying idle for two years. In all, in Borno State, there are over 75 of them. They are all lying idle. So, I appeal to the Minister of Health to come to the aid of these States where these Health Centres have been built so that they can be opened and be utilised by the public. This is with specific reference to the purchase of drugs and supply of manpower. What is hindering the opening of these Health Clinics is drugs and manpower. I wonder if they can cut the number of years students spend in their Nursing Schools so that they can train more para-medical staff to open up these Health Centres.

With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

Mr S. D. Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Chairman Sir, hon. Members, I rise to comment on the report on the Ministry of Health. We understand that we have no trained personnel in our hospitals throughout the Federation. We need this because we cannot run our hospitals without enough trained personnel. We understand that most of our present hospitals lack trained personnel. I am advising that the Federal Ministry of Health should help Ministries in the States to build more Training hospitals in the rural areas and not to allow the States alone to take on the responsibility. There are also many dispensaries built in the rural areas but which are left vacant. There are no staff and drugs whatsoever. This is another waste of money. Let us build enough hospitals. Let us have enough trained personnel. Let us have enough equipment. Let us have enough hospitals for our own people. There is no need wasting our money building hospitals without trained personnel. When I say trained personnel, I am talking of true Nigerians. These people should be given the same treatment as given to White Medical personnel in Nigeria. Unequal treatment is always noticed. Once we bring somebody who is White to Nigeria, we give him a special treatment and perhaps he is not better than our Nigerian doctors. Why should he be treated differently ? We should give them the same treatment. We should give Nigerian doctors incentives and encouragement. Let us train our own people, and post them to rural areas where we have the majority of our people so that they can help their own people. We can do that by giving them incentives and very good treatment like expatriates.

When we talk of Ministry of Health, Mr Chairman, we are talking of health in general not only in terms of hospitals. We have these para-medical personnel in our villages. They are very poorly paid. Government should encourage these people who are working in our villages.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr B. A. Chaha (Katsina-Ala) : Mr Chairman, I want to associate myself with the Members who have congratulated the Committee. I want to say that the Committee has done a wonderful job. I thought it was impossible to sort out the figures as they appear on the Estimates. Mr Chairman, looking at the Estimates and the figures as they appear in the Budget, one would understand that the nation is trying very hard to get rid of all forms of diseases. Mr Chairman, it is unfortunate that when we talk of getting rid of diseases in the country, and looking at what is happening, particularly in the rural areas, one would wonder how possible it is for this country to get rid of diseases, as is being intended now.

Mr Chairman, I can say that much attention is being paid to centres in the urban areas, say psychiatric centres and the Teaching Hospitals, forgetting entirely that we have lots of people in the rural areas who are suffering and dying daily of certain diseases. Now, you can find in certain areas that in a whole division, if not constituency, there is no hospital. Even a health centre, is not there; yet, the Estimates are supposed to cover all these areas; yet when you go round you find that these areas are without health centres. I may refer to my own constituency which is supposed to have two constituencies that is Katsina-Ala, there is no single hospital up till now, yet, we are supposed to have these facilities from the Federal Government. It is the intention of this Administration to get rid of diseases, but you need to see what is happening here. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I am suggesting—

The Chairman : Time.

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I associate myself whole-heartedly with what hon. Ojogu had said with regard to rural communities in health facilities. In fact, when we realise the number of people who go outside this country for medical attention, we will understand the inadequacy in health facilities in this country. Just like some other speakers have said, in the rural communities, miles and miles away from various villages, there are no health centres, there are no hospitals and yet these people are very important. If, for example, census is being taken they will always be counted as people who matter, but when it comes to health facilities, the Government denies them these. I am asking the Government to remember that these people form the bulk of our population and they are very important.

I have another area to comment upon, the area of drug shortage. In our various hospitals whenever you go to receive medical attention, if there is any doctor at all to prescribe any medicine, you will only be given what is now popularly

known as *O.S.—Out of stock. Out of stock* cannot give anybody any health. When one views the huge amount allocated for Defence and compares it with amount allocated for Health which is ₦11.8 million and that of Defence ₦466 million, then you know that there is misplacement of priorities in this country. The spending of money for defence of a country which is not anticipating any war even in twenty years time is a waste of public fund. I am suggesting that any amount of money expended to make the health of the population better will be commendable indeed.

There is another area, Sir, and that is the development of our traditional medicine. There is nothing said here about this. We know that African medicine can compete or is even much better than some medicines provided by modern scientific methods.

Mr E. C. Ebo (Mbano East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the previous Governments of this country only succeeded in impairing the health of citizens of this country. We are alive because of the grace of God, not by any act of the Government of this country. We, who are today constituting a new order, a new Government, must begin now to think positively on how to improve the health of the people. The Federal Government should show the light for the States to find their way. Health is a concurrent subject. It is the duty of the Federal Government to establish more health training institutions in the universities, make provision for the training of field staff and doctors, and build more University Teaching Hospitals in order to cope with the challenges of the people's health.

Secondly, Sir, the people have formed very poor health habits for a very long time—defecating everywhere without shame, rubbish heaps are placed here and there, government is watching the stagnant waters all over the place, mosquitoes breed everywhere, and bit the citizens to death, and yet, fantastic amounts were provided to fight mosquitoes. What people learnt in school, they unlearn in their living habits because the Government is not alive to its duties. We are now in a new order, praying the President to launch an attack on rodents, on mosquitoes, on cockroaches, on rats that eat down the health of the people. These are the things you will do by urging the Federal Government to show the light for the States and Local Governments to find their way. There must be public orientation, making people to be alive to their duty and change their habits. We are ashamed. People who come from foreign countries are in fact surprised to see what we do in this country. Our hotels are not cared for. You need to see what many people take in hotels. They take unwholesome food, food prepared under unsanitary conditions. That is why I tell you that only God is keeping us alive. The Government is not very much worried. You find out that there are stinking gutters all over the place and with these gutters around, the people eat their food. Water borne diseases—

The Chairman : Time.

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jema'a North) : Mr Chairman, I am here to contribute to the proposed Budget on Health. People have said that when one is wealthy he is healthy. This is quite true. Mr Chairman, a lot of money has been generated into the economy for the past thirteen years when the Military were in power. By mistake or by human doing they did not take health services in this country into consideration. A civilian regime has come now, which is being represented by Members from different constituencies. Mr Chairman, it is our right, it is our duty here to see that the health of our people is taken care of by us here in this honourable House.

For this reason, Mr Chairman, I have a suggestion to make. I will recommend that every university in this country should have a Teaching Hospital, and every university should have a Medical School. Mr Chairman, if you look at the Budget, it looks like the whole money is centered in Lagos here. I wonder why other areas have nothing to spend out of this Budget.

Mr J. Obasi Iwuagwu (Mbano West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope you will give me more time.

The Chairman : No, it is only five minutes.

Mr Iwuagwu : It is all right. Now, Sir, I want to go straight on to the recommendation of this Committee, and I would urge this House not to accept this recommendation because it is worthless, and wishy-washy. They have not done any job whatsoever.

The Chairman : Please, the language is rather hard.

Mr Iwuagwu : I withdraw the language, but what I am saying is that they have not done any job at all. There is nothing to reflect the resolution of this House asking for cottage hospitals in each of the Federal Constituencies. Now, I believe that the Health Committee has got a Bill which was tabled by an hon. Member of this House asking for Federal Government Specialist Hospitals in each of the Senatorial districts. This has not been reflected in this. There are Psychiatric Hospitals at Enugu and Aba, but there is no mention of them in this Budget and nothing has been done to them.

They said here : *The items were discussed in full details and the Committee inquired into the economic viability, the prudence, the need, the federal structure, the general desire for a good health delivery system for the country.* In fact they have not recommended what should be done to reflect the federal character in the provisions of the Ministry of Health. There is nothing at all in this report. There is nothing at all to recommend it to this House. Therefore, I most humbly urge this House to reject the report of the Health Committee.

Mr David Gbaondo (Takum) : Mr Chairman, first of all, I would like to bring to the notice of this House that this report should be rejected, as an hon. Member has said, because the report has nothing so far to do with our constituencies. All of us know that nothing goes without health. If the health care of this country is only going to be in Lagos or Kaduna or Enugu or Calabar, I believe we are doing nothing here

The second point I would like the Ministry of Health to know is this. In the existing hospitals in this country, people are being maltreated by the staff of these hospitals. This should also be stopped. For example, there was a time we went to see the victims of the Black Maria incident, we saw that some people were just dumped somewhere, nobody took care of them and they were suffering there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this report contains nothing and, I therefore, ask this honourable House to reject it.

Mr Muhammed Mustapha (Rimin Gado) : Mr Chairman, I rise to associate myself with those speakers who have called for the rejection of this report. Mr Chairman, this report did not tell us most of the important facts about health services in this country which we know, and has neglected other important areas even in the printed Estimates. For example, we know there is a comprehensive health services scheme for the whole country which is included in the five years Development Plan, 1975 to 1980 and nothing whatsoever is mentioned about this scheme. As far as this House is aware, this Development Plan has been extended to December 1980. There is no reflection whatsoever either in money provision in the Estimates or in the recommendation or comment from this Committee about Basic Comprehensive Health Services Scheme.

The most important aspect of health services for this country, is preventive medicine. Even professional doctors agree that in our country preventive medicine is what is necessary. I happened to be an administrative officer in the Ministry of Health and I knew we spent months preparing this comprehensive health services scheme for this country, and the government is still attaching importance to it. This Committee is either not aware of this or did not ask the appropriate official or the Minister in their interview with him or deliberately failed in their duty.

Secondly, recently the President announced that five more University Teaching Hospitals are to be established in the country. This is also not reflected in this report. Although this was said to be an Executive directive, but this should be done within the current financial year. Nothing is reflected here in this provision.

In that respect, I would also like to mention that we of the PRP are particularly disappointed in this provision because Kano State which has a full-fledged university has not been provided with a Teaching Hospital. Maiduguri which has a full-fledged university is also neglected. We would like the Committee to pass this to the Minister.

An hon. Member : What about Sokoto?

Mr Mustapha : Sokoto was provided for. It seems to us, and I hope it is not by design, I hope it is an accident, that those states which are not NPN controlled states are neglected in the provision of Teaching Hospitals.

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Mustapha : I said I hope it is an accident, I do not want to think it is by design.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I would like to support the rejection of this report.

Alhaji Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to go along with the hon. Members who have expressed their views to the effect that this Report on the 1980 Draft Budget of the Ministry of Health should be rejected. I go along with them because if you look at the provisions so far made in the Ministry of Health, you will find that so many things were neglected or have not been taken care of. For example, this year the grant being made to the State Governments for the training of nurses, you will find, is zero. No State has been given a kobo to take care of or to train nurses who man the various hospitals in the States. You will find also in the provisions that the greater portion of the money is going to be spent here at the Federal level, and this is where we feel that the eighteen States of the Federation are left with virtually nothing in the Federal Ministry of Health Estimates of 1980.

So, Mr Chairman, I support the hon. Members that expressed the view that the 1980 Budget for the Federal Ministry of Health be rejected.

The Chairman : Thank you. Yes, UPN.

Dr Obatayo Ogunkoya (Ijebu-Remo) : I am a Member of this Committee and I want to explain a few points which some of the hon. Members have raised. A good number of the hon. Members who have spoken have not taken enough trouble to understand the basis of this system. As far as the question of the Teaching Hospitals in all the States are concerned we wrote here that :

Provision must be made in the next financial year for the establishment of Teaching Hospitals in all the remaining seven States of the Federation.

That is telling you that twelve States of the Federation have Teaching Hospitals or Teaching Hospitals which are going to take off within this financial year. That simplifies the problem of Teaching Hospitals of Sokoto, Maiduguri, Kano, *et cetera* which are already in the offspring. There is no question about their existence or about their taking off. It is unfortunate that most hon. Members want to hear that the names of their villages and the names of their constituencies are mentioned. Definitely, no. We have examined the work thoroughly, and we have done a job that is in the interest of every hon. Member of this august Assembly.

Again, in this august House, a Motion was passed asking for a sort of Specialist Hospital or a Hospital in every Federal Constituency of the Federation. Should this Motion take effect at all, it will be a total duplication of the system of Basic Health Scheme which has been organised by the previous Administration. This Basic Health Scheme touches every corner of this Federation. I can tell you that the responsibility of running the Basic Health Scheme has been placed squarely on the shoulders of the State Governments. I should be honest with myself

in telling you that most of the Basic Health Scheme projects are almost, if not totally, completed in all the States of the Federation. This is a matter of fact.

The Chairman : Round up.

Dr Ogunkoya : On the question of subvention to Teaching Hospitals, we know very well, and we asked the Federal Minister of Health why the subventions to some Teaching Hospitals are higher than those of the other Teaching Hospitals of the Federation. It is only reasonable and meticulous to go on the mathematical calculation of the basic facts that the average patient in every Teaching Hospital needs about five workers to himself and every subvention is related to the amount of work done in the Hospitals. Therefore, there is a reasonable ratio of associating the money spent with the volume of the patients in the Teaching Hospitals. One would not expect the Teaching Hospital with forty thousand out-patients per year to earn the same thing with a Teaching Hospital with sixty thousand out-patients per year. Therefore, the mathematical equation is fully accepted as explained by the Federal Minister of Health.

The last point is that the money that we asked for is, unfortunately, not enough, but we shall accept, as we saw it, that the money subvented for this particular financial year is quite reasonable while we stand to fight for bigger money in the next financial budget. Thank you.

Mr Bisi Olanrewaju (Oranmiyan North) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to congratulate and to thank the hon. Minister and the hon. Members of the Health Committee for the work well done especially as it affects the Ife University Teaching Hospital Complex. (*Applause*)

The Minister has voted ₦9 million for the services of the Teaching Hospital. As at present, the condition of the Hospital is deplorable and the people in this area regard the Teaching Hospital more or less as a Cottage Hospital. The clinical services in this Hospital is so appalling that patients prefer to go to Ibadan or elsewhere for treatment. The Radiographic Section of the Hospital lacks equipment and, as a result, accident victims find it very difficult to take X-rays there. The out-patients section of the Teaching Hospital Complex has only two doctors to thousands of patients who go there daily and drugs are supplied three or four days after the doctors have prescribed them. The accommodation for the doctors working in this Hospital Complex is a problem because doctors live as far as ten to fourteen kilometres away from the hospital. So, we thank the Minister and the Members of the Committee for the work well done.

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : I represent the constituency where the Premier Teaching Hospital, UCH, is built. Now, I rise, Mr Chairman, to join the hon. Members in opposing the acceptance of this Report. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I must associate myself with the previous speakers that the Members of this Committee have not done any thorough work at all.

[MR AKANDE]

They have taken no trouble to go into the details, as they should have. All that they have done is just to look at the Estimates and write a general view that it should be accepted.

Mr Chairman, let me particularise.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if you look at page 529, you will see under item 0234 on Development of new Teaching Hospitals—₦45,000,000. If you turn to the next page 530 you will also see—

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South): Point of order.

The Chairman: There is a point of order.

Chief Gbinije: The hon. Member has taken the Floor for more than five minutes. He is expected to speak for only five minutes.

Several hon. Members: No.

Chief Gbinije: Yes, that is true.

Mr Akande: Now, Sir, Mr Chairman, if we look at page 531 we see under *National Basic Health Scheme*, ₦40,000,000 and under *Establishment of Diagnostic Centres* ₦2,000,000. What we would have expected the Committee to do is to find out from the Minister or his Permanent Secretary where these new developments are going to be placed and to present them in the report to us.

Now, Sir, you will also see that when these things are said to be unspecified and you do not tell us where you are going to establish these hospitals, it leaves too much in the hands of the government of the day to take them to the corners where they can win votes.

Finally Sir, I would like to say very seriously that the allocations on 285 to the Teaching Hospitals are very small. We all agree that when we have serious cases of illness people are taken overseas. This is because we do not have enough Specialists and we do not have enough equipment in our Hospitals. So, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the acceptance of this report.

The Chairman: Time up. Please let us hear the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr Sanusi Imam (Kankiya): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Colleagues, firstly I must apologise to the House for not being here to present the report. There have been so many arguments about the report of this Committee, but let me assure you that if you have read the report conscientiously together with the amended draft, you would have found out that this Committee has been a very mature and sensible Committee in that—(Interruptions)

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Imam: Yes, that is quite true. The Committee sat down with the Minister, and all the departmental Heads of the Ministry and discussed the items one by one, and satisfied itself as to what and what should be done as far as health matters are concerned. Now, you have been talking about National Basic Health Scheme for the country.

This was what took the time of the Committee because every Member of the Committee was interested and committed to his own constituency. For that reason, we asked the Minister to justify the expenditure of ₦40,000,000 as against this National Basic Health Scheme. For this, we have a brake-down whereby it is the policy of the government that National Basic Health Scheme should be taken up by the States.

It is the duty of the Federal Ministry of Health to give subvention to various States to carry out this project. Now, unless you are interested in doing otherwise, the only alternative we have is for the National Assembly to make legislation against that set-up. As far as we are concerned, we are interested in what we have now and what the Ministry is going to do in the next nine months, and for that matter, we have gone to the extent of asking the Ministry to give us details of each place where this project has been sited. We have taken it upon ourselves that we are going to inspect every little project of the Ministry immediately after this Budget in preparation for the next one.

Again people have been talking about Psychiatric hospitals, Orthopaedic hospitals and Teaching hospitals. We must be reasonable with ourselves. A Teaching hospital, a Psychiatric hospital and an Orthopaedic hospital cannot be built overnight. It takes time, and this Budget would last for only nine months, not nine years. Therefore, our Committee has recommended that every future Development budget in this country, as far as health is concerned, must make provision for Teaching Hospitals in all States, for Orthopaedic hospitals to be spread all over the country and for Psychiatric hospitals to be spread all over the country rather than what obtains now, which is neither the making of this government nor that of this National Assembly. If you are interested, Gentlemen, I can now read to you—

Mr Chairman: Time! Time! Let us hear the hon. Member for Nsukka constituency (Mr Frank Ugwu).

Mr Frank Ugwu (Nsukka): Mr Chairman, talking seriously I do not think that it is mandatory on this House to accept any report whether it is good or bad. We have to request Members of this Committee to kindly go back and do their home work. With the calibre of the membership, Mr Chairman, I am definitely sure that if they actually met, and if this report was not only written by the Secretary, they could have produced a good job. Now, I want to take your minds to specific areas in the provision for health. The Ministry of Health is being provided with ₦110,629,000 and out of this, ₦87,100,000 has been mapped out for unspecified projects. These are development of new Teaching Hospitals, National Institute of Public Health and Information, National Public Health Scheme and the Establishment of Diagnostic Centres.

Mr Chairman: Time up.

Mr Mike Ugwu (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I think the problem here is that the hon. Members have definitely something against the Report, hence, some Members do not even want to

read the contents. I would like to say one thing, that even in the Constitution, you must remember that health is a concurrent subject. The Federal and the State Governments both legislate on the subject.

I would like to add, too, that the problem about the Report is that you must remember there is a Decree which banned private practice in this country, and I would like to tell hon. Members that what is wrong with our health services here is the fact that we have very small number of doctors compared with the population of the nation. Secondly, the Federal Ministry of Health—(Interruptions). Mr Chairman, I would like you to protect me.

Several hon. Members : Go and sit down.

Mr Ugwu : You do not want to listen to me ?

Mr Sanusi Imam : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move that we should withdraw the Report for further deliberations.

The Chairman : Are you withdrawing the Report ?

Mr Imam : Yes.

Report by leave withdrawn.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

The Speaker : The Committee on Commerce will meet at 1.30 p.m.

The Acting Leader of the House should move a Motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : In the absence of the Leader—

Several Members : The Leader is here.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order. Sorry, I did not hear you.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : My point of order is that there is a place—

Several Members : What Order ?

Chief Oduntan : My point of Order is that there is a place allocated to Brother Etienam, and he is not speaking from his place ; he should go back and speak from his place.

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr E. N. Nweke (Nkanu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Construction of an Airport in Akure

Mr O. Fagbamigbe (Akure) : In supporting the Motion for adjournment, I want to appeal to the Federal Government to come to the aid of the Government of my State, Ondo State, for the speedy construction of the airport in Akure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you know that Akure is an important State Capital and a centre for every active commercial life. It is one of the few States in which there is no Airport. The Military Regime started an Airport in Akure but up till now, the Federal Government has not given the required funds to the Airport, the government will be helping in no small measure to promote Tourist Trade in this country and in addition, it will also help to facilitate easy communication of people and ideas.

Ondo State is a very big agricultural centre, and of course, is now an oil producing State. So it is therefore, of prime necessity that we have a very good Airport in that State. I, therefore, appeal to the Federal Government to come to the aid of Ondo State and take over the construction of that Airport.

Need for a University in Imo State

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this is an appeal to the President of Nigeria, to establish a University in Imo State, and action to this effect is really over-due.

We have waited on the Federal Government to come to the aid of many candidates from Imo State origin who qualify for university education every year but without any university to admit them. Only a very few of them, Mr Speaker, could find places in Nigerian Universities. The rest are left to roam about the streets. Mr Speaker, Sir, Imo State deserves a University by all means. It is surprising that the Federal Government has not seen it fit up till this time to establish a University in Imo State. This beats the imagination of everybody.

It is not out of place to say that Imo State has the greatest need for a University more than any other State in this Federation. It has more Secondary School leavers every year. It has more University aspirants. One could not see the reason why it should be denied a University.

Imo State is part of this great country called Nigeria. The people of Imo State do fulfil their civic obligations as good citizens of Nigeria. They pay their taxes, and make many other sacrifices which other states do make.

I do not see the reason, Mr Speaker, why the Federal Government could not establish a University in Imo State. Do we take it that it is a well calculated attempt on the part of the Federal Government to beat the Imo State down educationally, or do we infer that it is an attempt somewhere by the Federal Government to see that Imo State does not progress?

I, therefore, Mr Speaker, sincerely appeal to the President of this Federation to use his good offices to establish a University in Imo State. The need is very urgent and very important. We do know that, if established, the University will be for the whole country. The existence of a University in Imo State, will go a long way to alleviate the feeling of dejection, frustration and, may even restore, the lost sense of belonging to the people of Imo State.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Why Lolomari for NNPC ?

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Unfortunately, I am not a socialist millionaire, and I have not yet collected my ₦30,000.00 to buy a Mercedes Benz car. (*Applause*)

On a serious Note, I believe it is being alleged in government circles that certain elements are trying to thwart the efforts of the Federal Government. But it is sad still to note that certain elements too, even within the Government are trying to bring the government down. On this note, I think, we should be very careful.

I am trying to make a point by drawing the attention of the Government to an appointment made not too long ago of Mr Lolomari as the Acting Managing Director of the NNPC. Mr Lolomari was found guilty by a Commission of Inquiry set up by the Federal Government and he was reprimanded, down-graded and fined at the material time. Yet, this same Lolomari was brought in to become the Acting Managing Director over and above those of them who were his seniors in the NNPC. (*Interruptions*)

If you are in doubt, go and collect the reports of the Committee set up in 1977. (*Applause*) In the interest of justice and fairplay, the Government should, with immediate effect, look into this anomaly and make just corrections.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Speedy Aid Disaster Areas

Prince J. S. Sangha (Borji I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to say something about natural hazards especially with reference to the oil spillage that happened in the Rivers and Bendel States a couple of months ago.

I think, the whole world in general and Rivers State in particular, was elated when we read in the newspapers that the sum of two million naira has been voted for the relief of the victims of the oil hazards in parts of Rivers State and Bendel State.

Surprisingly Sir, we discovered that the contracts for the purchase of relief materials to these areas were given here in Lagos. These areas of disaster are themselves major food producing areas. Why do you look for aircraft to lift *gari* to the oil affected areas when *gari* is produced in these area? Why should the victims of oil spillage have to be affected by industrial action in the Ministry of Aviation?

I think, in the future, it would be in the interest of this nation to spend money intended for relief materials in the areas where these people are affected, especially when the transportation network is so bad and so poor. Like if you brought all the materials from Lagos, you would still have to dump them at Port Harcourt looking for canoes, for onward transportation. And as I am telling you now, Gentlemen not one *kobo* of Federal Relief materials has really got to the people.

Everyday, they continue to suffer. They are looking for what to do in order to transport these things to the affected areas. I think, this is a poor arrangement.

Secondly, the question of Lolomari is not subject to debate in this House. Let us face it. If we want all our appointments to reflect the federal character of this country, we have got to be realistic. You do not get experience until you are allowed to work on a job.

I can assure you that in the Nigeria Refinery at Eneme, on the ladder, there are from one up to fifteen people from one particular area. (*Interruptions*)

Menace of Customs Officials in Imo State

Mr Oke U. Oke (Ohafia) : In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to bring the attention of the hon. Members here to the recent harassment in Aba by the Customs Officials. It is these customs people who allow the illegal importation of goods coming into this country through the air, sea or by land through the borders. But these same customs people now go to the poor masses, the poor traders in the markets, mostly in Imo State to harass them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, not quite long ago, when these very Customs people attacked market people in Lagos here, shooting guns and doing all sorts of things, the Lagos State House of Assembly condemned their atrocities, and they did not harass the market people any longer. Now, I think they have taken to going to suburbs like Aba and some other places Onitsha where they can find the traders whom they know very well they can maltreat and get away with it. I plead with this House to take note of this harassment to the poor traders. Thank you, very much.

Discrimination against Suburban Areas

Chief Godwin Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this House is very much aware of the position of this country regarding apartheid in South Africa. We have taken a stand to fight apartheid and we must succeed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is surprising indeed to find out that we are practising apartheid in Nigeria. The brand of apartheid here is different. It is apartheid against the suburbs in favour of the urban areas. I want to make this clear, and it is in this wise. We all know that Afam in the Rivers State generates electricity which is by gas turbine and the generation there is fed into the national electricity grid, which means that the power is tapped to supply all urban areas. Mr Speaker, Sir, tell me what is apartheid if Afam would not have electricity which is generated from there ?

Mr Speaker : We shall refer your question to the Committee on Mines and Power.

Chief Wodi : Afam has no light. The people there are still burning paraffin and here is electricity generated just in the midst of them there. I think this is the worst apartheid we can ever think of. Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another point that is actually nauseating to some of us who see this gas being burnt away everyday.

This nation is in short supply of electricity. We have a very simple, natural means of generating electricity, particularly in the oil producing areas. Take Port Harcourt for example, it is only NAOC (National Agip Oil Company) that is using gas for domestic supply of light and what have you, and here is Shell which has been there long before Agip still using the short supplied electricity generated in this country, instead of simply tapping gas which is nearer to them there than it is to Agip, in generating electricity for their large residential as well as industrial areas. They take delight in importing giant generating plants which they instal in the residential and industrial areas to take over immediately NEPA takes off light. I think this is cheating this country only to promote the sales of generators from their own country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would want cognisance to be taken of these anomalies and efforts made to stop them as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Foreigners as Confidential Secretaries in our Embassies

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity given to me to speak. I have a point which I should have raised yesterday when we were discussing the Public Service Commission, but I was not given opportunity. I want to seize this opportunity to mention this to hon. Members.

I would like to call upon this august House, at least, to take pains and go to some Embassies in this country and see what type of people are working in these Embassies. I was privileged some time ago, to visit some of our Embassies abroad, and what I saw in these Embassies is what I would like to call upon this honourable House to look into. Mr Speaker, Sir, in many Embassies belonging to Nigeria, most of the Private Secretaries to our High Commissioners and Ambassadors are foreigners. I cannot imagine how our security and our privacy can be protected. If you go into any of the Embassies in this country, most of their Private Secretaries are their own nationals. Why should this be a different case with Nigeria.

I would also call upon the President of this country that the presidential system we are now practising should take effect immediately. By this, I mean there are people who have been serving in the former military regime for about 13 years in key posts. These people have to be removed and new ones have to be appointed. They are the people who are trying to subvert the efforts of this government. I would also like to inform the President that so many people in the foreign service and in this country who are holding key posts are the main setbacks to our government.

I am urging this honourable House to view these few things that I have just mentioned very seriously.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Lack of Co-operation by some Members of the Committees

Alhaji Sanda Konduga (Konduga): Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion on Adjournment, I have something to say about the position of the House of Representatives' Committees. Chairmanship of Committees is not the concern of my Party, but it is my concern as a Member of this House. The Chairmanship of Committee by design or otherwise is constituted, not according to disciplines. As a result the Committees are being hampered in their proceedings by some of the Members in those disciplines. Take a look at Committee on Education, for instance. You may find, that perhaps, the Chairman there may be a medical doctor or a lawyer. You may find some educationists in that Committee. They will feel themselves not duty bound to obey that particular Chairman who is not of that discipline. At the same time, you may find some medical doctors in the Committee on Health but unfortunately the Chairman may not be a medical doctor. He may be an educationist or he may be a business administrator. As such, the medical doctors who are in that Committee are not at all contributing because someone who is not of that discipline is heading them. But, unfortunately, it is our moral duty to give our own honest support to whoever is being appointed Chairman of any Committee for the meantime, whether he is of our discipline or not. Let us give them our support and let us work out something which is very beneficial and which will improve the lots of our nation. We should not sit down and become envious of positions and say, *I am an educationist or I am a medical officer, why should I serve under a lawyer or under an administrator instead of me being the Chairman of that Committee?* In the interest of the nation, I am imploring you on the Floor of this House to please convince those Members of Committees in disciplines, whereby, the Chairmen of the Committees are not of their disciplines, to give their co-operation in the interest of the nation and to please produce us a good report on this Budget for us to speed up our work.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Security at Members' Residential Flats

Alhaji Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity on Motion for Adjournment to express our concern about our security. Although the House Committee has been suspended, our security at the residential flats is at stake. A lot of irregularities are happening as at now.

The Police are not taking care and the Security men employed by the management are not taking care. Yesterday at 6 p.m. a Member's car was taken away. Things have been happening there. A lot of things have been removed. Last week there was a sign of children kidnapping but the Police arrested the situation in that one. So, since things are getting out of hand, either we are allowed to protect ourselves so that if we see strange faces we can fight them, or the Police and the Security men take a more vigilant action.

[ALHAJI GAYA]

Secondly, we have been suffering in those quarters silently. We were asked to report any damage to the flats, but if you go to the officials of the Ministry of Works and report to them they would not take any action. You may find a Member going there every morning at least, for up to a week reporting some damages or requesting missing things in his house to be replaced and nothing would be done. Mr Speaker, I would like to implore that you use your personality and that of this House to put an end to these laxities. We should not be suffering in silence.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : If I may just say something. This is a very important matter. I understand a Member's car was stolen last night. Security of Members is the work of the House Committee. Instead of doing this, they were doing other things. This is the reason why I suggested that the House Committee should be dissolved so that we set up a new one right now. Because of the resolution we took this morning, we cannot set up a new one unless we finish with the inquiry.

Please, Party Leaders, send in the names of your nominees for the investigation Panel so that they start work tomorrow or if possible today. If I can get the nominations today, they will start work immediately.

Alhaji Gaya : Thirdly, regarding the Nigeria Airways, I do not see why Nigerians cannot take on the responsibility of the Nigeria Airways. People who have been awarded the contract to run the affairs of the Nigeria Airways are trying to fail us. I am suggesting that this matter should be looked into. Thank you.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.59 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 15th May, 1980

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the Votes and Proceedings for yesterday are not yet ready, but will be ready before 12 o'clock.

A Member lost his key for the Victoria Island Flat. It is 715 but he did not indicate whether it is B, C, or D.

Appointment of Temporary House
Committee

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel there is a need to appoint a temporary Committee for Housing in view of the importance of that Committee, now that the Standing Committee is suspended. There are so many functions that this Committee performs. For example, this morning we had no water supply in most of the apartments, and if such a Committee is in existence they can perform a lot of functions. I appeal to you and the Whole House to have a temporary Committee until such a time that we will get a permanent one.

The second issue I wish to mention is that though my party still insists that I remain the Chairman of the investigation panel, in view of the fact that a large number of the Members of this House felt that I should not be one, in respecting democracy, I hereby bow out in accordance with their wishes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, although these Members were not given the opportunity to say why they did not want me there, information reaching me confirms that some of them are involved in the deals.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Nuhu Poloma, please the Floor of the House should not be used for other purposes except for matters of Legislation.

Mr Poloma : Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw the statement. I feel this panel has been pre-judged and whatever report will come out, it might not be acceptable to this House.

Mr Speaker : It is all right.

Mr Poloma : I withdraw, Sir, from the Chairmanship of the Committee.

Mr Speaker : How can you say that the Committee set up by this honourable House will not produce results ? This is a House of honour.

Hon. Members, there is something that happened this morning in respect of our parking space there. I have always forgotten to mention it to Members that arrangements have been made for Members to park their cars over there in the Tafawa Balewa Square.

The reason is very simple (i) to avoid congestion in front of the National Assembly, (ii) in the event of anything happening so that at least Members' cars will be safe. Please it is in our own interest, when you come, even if the Police say that you would not enter, please do not argue. I even trekked in from that place to here. If they say *do not come in*, do not argue, just park your car at Tafawa Balewa Square and come in as an hon. Member. Do not argue with the Police.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Committee on Federal Capital Development

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Capital Territory—Head 33 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr A. B. Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Capital Territory—Head 33 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding ?

Mr E. N. Nweke (Nkanu) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Please, ensure that the Report is circulated to Members. Everybody must get a copy.

Committee on Veteran Affairs, Social
Development, Youth, Sports and
Culture

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture—Head 38 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr M. D. Shuaibu (Kanam) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture—Head 38 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr P. U. Chukwu (Ohaji Egbema Oguta) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : The Chairman should ensure that everybody gets a copy.

Committee on Defence

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of Draft Budget for the Ministry of Defence—Heads 30 and 245 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates respectively.

Mr John L. Laven (Langtang) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, before I move the Motion standing in my name, I would like to appeal to this honourable House that in respect of the Reports submitted to you, you will find that the first one is a sort of preamble which covers a bit of the Amendments proposed by the Committee. You will find that the second one is restricted. Hon. Members, we are all here on earth, and the Committee suggested that anything marked *Restricted* should be treated as such. You will find that the whole thing is sort of involving the country in one way or the other. When you read the last two pages or so, you will find that such information need not go about or else a weak country may even know our strength.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—

That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of Defence—Heads 30 and 245 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move, Sir.

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jema'a North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Public Works

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of Works and Surveys—Heads 51, 229, 239, 241 and part of 246 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates.

Mr Isidore O. Obasi (Ahiazu Mbaise) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move this Motion standing in my name and that of my Committee—

That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of Budget proposals for the Ministry of Works and Surveys—Heads 51, 229, 239, 241 and part of 264 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill, 1980 (6th Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of the Whole House

HEAD 26—AUDIT ; HEAD 35—MINISTRY
OF FINANCE ; AND HEAD 53—CONSOLIDATED
REVENUE FUND

Adjourned Debate on Question (14th May, 1980)

Question again proposed, That ₦3,143,550 for Head 26—Audit ; ₦89,440,000, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦159,863,000, Capital

Expenditure for Head 35—Ministry of Finance ; and ₦3,622,214,722 for Head 53—Consolidated Revenue Fund—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Ralph K. Obioha (Ideato) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, yesterday I gave you the Report on the areas assigned to my Committee. Unfortunately, the Amendments we requested were not reflected in the Order Paper, but those corrections have been made this morning. I wish to make further explanations on some of the items.

On page 568 of the amended Draft Estimates, you are aware that we completely eliminated the Sub-head 024602000325 which is provision for new projects. We did that for the following reasons :

1. It is unconventional in budgetary planning to plan for unforeseen new projects which is more consonant with military fiat and this novelty was introduced by the Military Administration and should have no place in a constituted Government.
2. The National Assembly's constitutional powers shall be infringed if such an unspecified provision is authorised.
3. If for any reason an emergency project is to be funded, such could be derived from the Contingency Fund, which is constitutionally allowed to be established vide Section 77 of the Constitution.

Even the Ministry's explanation was not convincing to authorise such provision vide Appendix 4 of our Report. So, my Committee unanimously agreed that this provision should be eliminated and I recommend that the House see it the way we did.

On the same page 568, you will see certain Amendments which actually was for Sub-head 024602000325. We added another three Sub-heads there. The Committee has requested firstly, for an increase in the areas of ecologically degraded areas and secondly specifying and creating the appreciable Sub-heads. As representatives of our people, and recalling the remarks I made yesterday, the requested increases do not, in anyway, reflect sufficient funds required to arrest the calamity created by the desert encroachment, oil spillage or soil erosion, but the provisions we have requested are to signal to the nation our commitments to remedy the past and to direct attention to the greatest threat to our people's lives and property.

At the Committee level, we were aware that we shall have to explain where the fund could be derived. Firstly, by scrapping provision for new projects, we have created a fund availability of ₦54,561,000. We have requested an increase of ₦120,000,000 creating a shortfall of ₦65,439,000. Professionally, my answer is that the Budget Directorate be informed of the House resolution accepting the need to provide for these priority areas. As this House is aware that the amended Estimates were re-adjusted, so also will our resolution here create the final re-adjustment that would be made for the final Budget which will, hence-forth be referred simply as Budget and not draft Estimates.

Simply put, the Budget Directorate should find the provisions if it is, of course, the wish of the House and I plead that it should be the wish of this House.

Finally, on Head 53 that was assigned to us, many of my colleagues have asked what explanation I would have and that we did not make much comment on it. Look at the Constitution, Article 272, and with your permission I shall read. My Committee's hands were tied in that area. There was nothing we could do. I will read that relevant section—

System of Revenue Allocation :

Pending any Act of the National Assembly for the provision of a system of revenue allocation between the Federation and the States, among the States, between the States and local government councils and among the local government councils in the States, the system of revenue allocation in existence for the financial year beginning from 1st April, 1978 and ending on 31st March, 1979 shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and as from the date when this section comes into force, continue to apply.

We have checked the figures and it did apply per the Constitutional requirement. Thank you very much.

The Chairman : Yes, anybody making a comment? Let us hear Dr Sekibo.

Dr J. T. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to this Report I would like to draw the attention of the Members of the Committee on a very important issue which they well may have omitted unknowingly. They talked of oil pollution, desert encroachment and soil erosion as major hazards for which they should provide funds. Unfortunately, no mention was made of sea encroachment which, I believe many Members will agree, is menacing the coastal areas of this country, including the Bar Beach. If you go to many towns in the Rivers State particularly Opobo, Bonny, Brass, and in Bendel State as well, and other places you will see what I am talking about, that the sea encroachment is as serious as soil erosion. So, I would plead that the House considers this aspect of these hazards in the country. Thank you very much.

Mr T. Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Point of order.

The Chairman : What is your point of order?

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Chairman, I want to raise a constitutional point of order, Section 272 of the Constitution. The Chairman of the Committee has just read that, so I do not think I need to read it again because members have heard it.

The Chairman : Read it. It is your point of order.

Mr Egbuwoku : Section 272 of the Constitution says :

Pending any Act of the National Assembly for the provision of a system of revenue allocation between the Federation and the States, among the States, between the States and local government councils and among the local government councils in the States, the

system of revenue allocation in existence for the financial year beginning from 1st April, 1978 and ending on 31st March, 1979 shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and as from the date when this section comes into force, continue to apply.

What I want to raise, Sir, is that if you look at the ratio the Chairman has used, the constitutional point of order is that the ratio is wrong.

The Chairman : Look, when you raise a point of order, it means two things—first, either that a Member who is speaking has contravened either our rules or the Constitution ; or the procedure of the House is wrong or has contravened the Constitution. Which one are you raising ?

Mr Egbuwoku : What I am raising now is that the Report by the Committee in which they used 50% of Revenue Allocation is wrong. (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman : You can put the matter to argument when you are going to make your own contribution.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to comment on the Report submitted by the Committee on Finance and my point of comment is on the proposed Amendment by this Committee. I think it would not be of help to us to add more deficit to our Estimates as was stated before. We have all heard that these Estimates are under deficit and we are now trying to create more deficit in them by increasing them by another ₦120,000,000.

The item in question is item 323—the Rehabilitation of ecologically degraded areas. It makes no mention of, say, oil spillage, desert encroachment, or river encroachment areas, or whatever the case may be. Since we have got a reserve of at least ₦54,000,000, to be added on that amount of ₦40,000,000 to make it ₦94,000,000 it will be better for us to leave that sum for the rehabilitation of ecologically degraded areas, as specified in the Draft Budget, rather than mention specific areas where the amount is going to be spent. On this principle, Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Amendment.

The Chairman : There are Amendments here to the budget, so let us handle the Amendments one by one so that when we finish with the Amendments we can debate the Report itself. The Chairman should please come and move the first Amendment.

Mr K. R. Obioha (Ideato) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, the first amendment is on page 568 to leave out as follows:

Item	Subject Matter	Provision
024602000325	Provision for New Projects	₦54,561,000

The Chairman : Anybody seconding him?

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Obioha : Hon. Members, I shall give you again the reasons why we requested for this Amendment. The reasons are, it is unconventional in budgetary planning to plan for unforeseen new projects. When we had an interview with the Ministry of Finance about this provision, the explanation they gave us was that this provision is a provision made for unforeseen projects. We asked them—

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Mr Obioha : We asked them to cite examples of these unforeseen projects. It may be pertinent to inform you that one of the examples they gave us was the furnishing of our Victoria Island Flats. We believe that such unforeseen projects are more consonant with Military fiat and this novelty was introduced by Military administration and should have no place in a constituted Government like ours. The National Assembly constitutional powers shall be infringed if such an unspecified provision is authorised.

If for any reason, an emergency project is to be funded, such could be derived from the contingency fund which is constitutionally allowed to be established under Section 77 of the Constitution. I believe, with these reasons, this House shall see the need to scrap this provision.

The Chairman : Alhaji Kaltungo, please move that the Question be put.

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to. (Interruptions)

The Chairman : Order! Order! Please sit down. This is an Amendment. We just want to know whether it will form part of the schedule or not. It is an amendment and not the substantive Motion.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Obioha : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, on page 568, having considered a provision I thought I would save to take care of my second Amendment and having lost it on the Floor of this House this morning, with all humility, I am forced against my inclination to withdraw the second Amendment and leave the entire budget that was assigned to us to stand as reflected in the amended draft budget.

The Chairman : Order! Order! There is a point of order.

Mr Abiodun Afonja (Oyo Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the point of order I want to raise is procedural and it is Order 38 (1)—

If the opinion of Mr Speaker, or in committee of the whole House the Chairman, as to the decision of a question is challenged, Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall direct that the lobbies be cleared, and on such direction being given, the door at the south end of each lobby shall be locked, and the division bells shall be rung for one minute.

The Chairman : You are correct. Yes, hon. Member for Oyo State, you have read the right Order, but you would recollect it says : *If the opinion of Mr Speaker, or in committee of the*

whole House the Chairman, as to the decision of a question is challenged. It is in my opinion.

Several hon. Members : No !

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I commend the work of the Committee on Finance and praise them for doing a very nice job.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr E. O. Chukwu (Okigwi North) : Order 26 (2). The Committee on Finance has withdrawn their report, Sir.

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Bob-Manuel : They have done a very nice job. It is the Amendments to their report they have withdrawn. I am commenting on the entire report on Finance. The job is well done, but I am only trying to make a correction not in the Committee's Report, but to point out some errors made by the printers on the entire draft. As I was saying under the Ministry on Finance, item 0333, Rehabilitation of Ecologically Degraded Areas—

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Order 26 (2) says : *A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.* Hon. Bob-Manuel is introducing irrelevancies in this issue. Do not waste our precious time.

Mr Bob-Manuel : On page 568, item 0333, the words written there—*Ecologically Degraded Areas of the Country*—as far as this honourable House is concerned, no area in this country is ecologically degraded, and those words—*ecologically degraded* I would expect the Chairman of the Committee on Finance to amend, and not the figure inserted alongside it. No area is ecologically degraded. The only area which is ecologically degraded is the area that produces seven billion naira of the finance we want to disburse here.

There is no other ecologically degraded area.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in budgeting, one would have the ability to look into and consider the past, the present and the future. If you do not have the ability to look into the future you cannot effectively plan for the future. It would appear, that most of our Members have not fully grasped the work done by the Committee on Finance.

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Princewill : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not a degrading speech about Members. An amendment has just come. I said that they have not fully realised the need for the Amendment. We realise that—

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : The hon. Member for Degema I is speaking on an issue that has been

overruled in this House, the question of Amendment. He should confine himself to the Report.

The Chairman : Please confine yourself to the report. Do not go to matters that have already been concluded.

Mr Princewill : Mr Chairman, Sir, the point is that your Committee considered that we have to place our priorities in such a way that we would get the greatest maximum result for the greatest number of people in the country. We realise that some of the items on the expenditure are legacies left and spilled over from the Military regime to the present civilian regime. We considered too that it was necessary to re-arrange the priorities and give them meaningful names, instead of putting and lumping certain funds as Contingencies as well as unforeseen expenditures. We accepted contingencies, but as to unforeseen expenditures, we thought otherwise and so we recommended.

If you cannot have the ability to look into the future to know exactly what type of expenditure or problems you are likely to encounter, then you are not doing good budgeting. With this in mind, we made this recommendation. But, as you will see, Mr Chairman, our recommendation has not been accepted. If our Committees sat for several occasions trying to turn out a good job which shall be dismissed in the twinkling of an eye in the Assembly, if we are to do this, then it is not necessary for our Committees to do well. Mr Chairman, Sir, there are some other Amendments by the Committees that I have served, and if we shall look into this matter—

The Chairman : Time !

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to make a brief contribution to the Report submitted by the Committee on Finance. I find, as was earlier pointed out to us, that an increase of ₦120 million is being recommended for certain projects. We should not on the Floor of this House consider a single item or a single Head in the Draft Budget without looking back at the totality of what has been presented before us.

We have before us various sub-heads. Mention has briefly been made of contingencies. Very many have not even thought about the contributions to the development fund. If we take these two and take a closer look at them for those who have bothered to do serious work on it, we will find that this recommendation to increase the deficit was completely unnecessary and uncalled for. Adequate provisions have been made in the Draft Budget placed before us for all such emergencies and if we wanted, in future Budgets, to have them under a separate Head, we could put that proposal firmly down. Desert forestation could be taken care of from contribution to the development fund. The other things fall easily under the contingencies.

So, I find, therefore, that it is unnecessary to have this, and I would suggest that in approving the paper laid before us by the Committee on Finance, that aspect of the suggested increase in the deficit should be completely deleted. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Dr Emmanuel Atanu (Idah South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the debate on this Report and in particular to the Amendment under discussion, I want to say that we must not create the impression that we do not recognise that soil erosion and other natural calamities are things that should be cared for. In receiving explanations from the Ministry of Finance over that provision of ₦40 million for ecologically degraded areas, they specifically mentioned that it is to be applied to oil spillage. I think it is necessary, in withdrawing the second Amendment, that we emphasise to the Ministry to apply the amount of ₦40 million to, not only oil spillage, but to these other natural disasters. It is necessary to tell them that otherwise they will have no—(Interruptions)

The Chairman : Yes, go on.

Dr Atanu : Secondly, Mr Chairman, I believe that we have run into some problems because of the piece-meal nature in which we are considering the Budget, otherwise if we were to make a saving from one area we can vire it into another area of greater priority. If we save ₦54 million in one area, we could have notified the Budget Authority or Spending Authority to use it to implement certain resolutions passed on the Floor of this House. But, since we are considering them Ministry by Ministry, it seems that we are overlooking this particular advantage which we have but which we are not using at the moment. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Emmanuel Obidi Echetabu (Njikoka South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Gentlemen, it is a pity that a very good work by the Committee on Finance has just been cast aside out of sheer sentiment and myopic considerations of interested parties. As a matter of fact, the last person attacked spelling out the ecologically degraded areas. I think they have done very well by specifying the ecologically degraded areas into three forums, that is—desert forestation, soil erosion and oil spillage. In fact, Item 02460200336 should come to the other Item 02460200333 for oil spillage. Presently, there are three areas of ecological degradation in Nigeria, but the House has rejected this Amendment. In order that many millions of Nigerians may benefit from this Budget, well, it is quite imperative that we should have seventy per cent of the total revenue of the country going back to the Local Governments and the States *pari passu*, and leaving thirty per cent to the Federal. The idea of lumping out sums of money to the Federal gives them the scope of spending money for projects known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen, and for a land deal of ₦1 million for 360 plots. (Interruptions)

So, if we are not able to itemise our priorities as prerequisite to the requirements of the ordinary citizens of this country, there is no need for our lumping a block sum to the Federal Expenditure.

Mr E. D. N. Uwandu (Mbaitoi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I venture to say that the Committee has done a very good job. As a matter of fact, this is one of the best Reports we have ever received in this honourable House. (Applause) On the other hand, I have to speak on the constitutional issue of the Contingencies

[MR UWANDU]

We have to make sure that we leave something for the generation to come—prosperity. Under the new Constitution which we are operating, the Executive cannot budget for contingencies. At page 470 of the Budget, they are budgeting ₦150 million for contingencies. Under Section 77 of the Constitution which the Chairman ably quoted, it is said:

The National Assembly may by law make provisions for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund for the Federation and for authorising the President, if satisfied that is, if the House is satisfied, that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from the Fund to meet the need.

Now, this is bringing this Act through the backdoor. If there are any points that affect the country either through erosion or new projects coming up, or ecologically degraded areas, all these things come under contingencies. We cannot foresee natural disasters. That is why, immediately they start happening, the President can come here and ask us for money. If he wants ₦2 billion, we can give it to him, and later on we pass a supplementary Estimate under Section 77 (2). So, Mr Chairman, Sir, even though we have skipped these things, I am saying that in future we have to take cognisance of all these.

Another point is under the Agricultural Credit Scheme which comes under the Ministry of Finance. I have looked through that thing. Fifteen million naira was contributed out of ₦100 million and out of this ₦15 million, they gave ₦11 million out, and most of these funds given out were not done on the Federal character basis. Loans guaranteed under the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund by States; 1978 (this is in the annual report ending 1978), Gongola State has nothing. Does it mean that there is nobody who can farm in Gongola State? (Laughter) Anambra State had only ₦247,000, while Bauchi State had over ₦1 million. Now, Kwara State had ₦2,043,000 and Ogun State had ₦772,000. (Interruptions)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the purpose of my speech on this Guarantee Board is that the farmers pay interests, and we have been complaining that food is very costly. If the government wants the farmers not to charge extra money, they should give them free loans without asking for any interest. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jemaia North): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is one of the best Reports that have been presented in this House since we started the debate on the Budget. The Committee has taken care of desert encroachment, soil erosion and other disasters, but it is a pity that this House has taken a different view over the whole thing. Mr Chairman, Sir, political sentiment is the fundamental issue in this House up till now and up to date.

We have been sent by our people to come and defend them in this House. There are many areas which I can quote, for desert encroachment in the North, you go to Katsina area, Sokoto and other

areas where, for the past 13 years they have not enjoyed more than ₦300,000. Today, they have elected Members to come and defend their interests in this House, and this Committee has decided to enlighten the House that this is exactly what we have done, but it is unfortunate that people are motivated by political sentiments because their states are not affected.

People are saying that the ₦150 million contingencies can be spent on these disasters. We know how Contingency Funds are spent in this country. Contingency Funds are spent in this country for holding parties. Right from the past 13 years of the Military Regime contingency funds have been used for calling other countries to come and do certain dances or certain things in this country. The same ₦150 million is going to be spent in the same way between now and the next financial year when we come back to this House to debate another Budget. In fact, we will not blame ourselves here, the Committee will not blame itself, but those people who have come out and condemned the Report of the Committee. We had wanted people to look at this Report vividly, but people have not read this Report. When the Chairman presented his own Report, people started criticizing the whole Report. It is unfortunate, Mr Chairman.

Another thing is the Bank of Commerce which comes under our own Ministry. People have been cheated. You find out that it has become a vicious circle in Nigeria that if you are rich, you will continue to be rich and if you are poor, you will continue to be poor. Mr Chairman, Sir, within these four years, we should take a resolution within ourselves that the interest of the nation should come first before the interest of any other party. We have ₦40 million allocated for this thing, and we must make sure that this thing reflects the federal character of our representation in this House, otherwise if it goes the way it has always gone, it will be very unfortunate for a developing country like ours, where the system of capitalism has become so vicious and concentrated within one per cent of the 80 million.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg that the House should consider this amendment again and approve the amendment on soil erosion.

The Chairman: Time!

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba): I wish to congratulate the Committee on Finance for a job well done. The Report is a good one, but apparently, we did not have enough time to read it and appreciate the points they intended. I hope that people will have time to read properly all the other reports submitted to us.

Now, I must sound a note of caution that we are laying a dangerous precedent by giving the Executive blank cheque. I am inviting all hon. Members to please look through the other votes for items of Contingencies and unspecified allocations. We should delete these so that the Executive will be dependent on the Legislature. If you keep providing them with money they need now and money they need in

[MR WANGANGA]

future which has not been specified, it means that they can do without you. So, I am suggesting that these spurious insertions called contingencies or what have you should be deleted from this Budget and make the Executive dependent on the Legislature for all the money they need.

Another point I wish to make, Mr Chairman, is that the Minister of Finance has a lot of job to do. In reading through his statement on the Fiscal Measures, I am not yet satisfied with the extent of liberal import policy he has introduced, because in this country now, people are exploiting others simply because they happen to produce a few of the things that are available. As you ban importation, you give them the chance to become billionaires by exploiting the people. I am sure the essence of fiscal policy is not to penalise the common man.

I will give you a small example of the ordinary zinc sheets which every household buys to cover the roof. In some parts of Nigeria, it costs as much as ₦40 for a bundle of 20, something that used to cost ₦19 before the ban on importations. Yet, the Minister of Finance, in his fiscal measure statement, said that to get zinc licence, you have to submit and show that there is a release document, which means it is virtually total ban. Zinc is not the only item.

So, I am saying that the ban on importation should be liberalized. This government has yet to make an impact on the common man, and it is through such gestures that the government is able to make an impact on the common man, because building our houses and Green Revolution take a long gestation period to materialize. Therefore, the people may not feel the impact immediately, but liberalizing import is one way the government's impact can be felt by the common man.

I would also like to plead with hon. Members to go through the entire Votes for the 1980 fiscal year and look for Imo and Anambra in particular. I am making a request. You will find that the discrimination has continued unabated; the discrimination which was built in by the Civil Service has continued. This country belongs to all of us, and we only want a fair deal. We are being discriminated against, and it is wrong for us to belong to a government that discriminates against us.

Mr Maina Ma'aji (Kukawa South-East): Mr Chairman, in contributing to the Report of the Finance Committee of this House, it is most unfortunate that adequate consideration has not been given to the Amendments proposed by the Committee.

The Chairman: We have finished with the Amendments.

Mr Ma'aji: Yes, I am just registering that it is most unfortunate that adequate consideration has not been given. Somebody has just mentioned the imbalance in resource allocations to various projects, and in this respect, I would like to make mention of the ecologically degraded areas which the Minister of Finance clearly told us specifically means oil spillage. I do not see how ecologically degraded areas could only be oil spillage. As a matter of fact this head

should not in any way be directed to oil spillage because it is something not continuously coming up; it is something not foreseen. It, therefore, directly falls under contingencies and emergencies as provided for.

The Committee in breaking it down to various sub-heads felt that *ecologically degraded areas* are those areas which continuously undergo some form of deformation either due to weather or some natural disasters which are foreseen, and it was on the basis of that that the breaking down into three sub-heads was made. For whatever reason, this House was not allowed to debate this issue thoroughly, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on the question of the fifty-four million naira for unforeseen projects, it is most unfortunate how you could allocate fifty-four million naira for unforeseen projects for a nine-month period. I think, I have to say this makes nonsense of the whole planning process. If we cannot plan how can we say we are presenting a budget? There must have been some preliminary planning and projections and, if, we cannot foresee what we can do even for nine months and make provision of 54 million naira for some projects which are absolutely unforeseen in nine months, it is, in fact, a nonsense of the whole planning process, Mr Chairman.

Thank you.

The Chairman: Yes, GNPP.

Mr Audu Mbicho (Gwoza): Mr Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Committee for bringing such a Report and a special congratulation to the Chairman of the Committee for withdrawing such unnecessary Amendments.

The provision for ecologically degraded areas is highly welcome because *ecologically degraded area* does not mean a particular natural disaster. It does not mean oil spillage. It does not mean erosion or other geographical aspect; it embraces all. Therefore, this provision for ecologically degraded areas, is welcome because there are other disasters which are not known to most of us. For example, just to mention one, there are people who settle on the top of hills where some of the development cannot reach them because there are no roads, or other means of bringing such development to such areas. This is also a natural disaster. Therefore, let us not talk of oil spillage all the time. There are so many natural disasters in this country. The reflection need not only be on oil spillage areas.

Mr Chairman, still congratulating the Committee, they should please in future, press on the Ministry to give a special attention to other areas which are suffering from this sort of disasters. Desert encroachment in Borno State is very serious.

Thank you very much.

Alhaji Gambo (Gujba): Mr Chairman, Sir, while commenting on the Report under discussion, I would like to call on the Committee on Finance to recommend through this honourable House to

[ALHAJI GAMBO]

the Federal Audit Department, the possibility of producing their Audit Report, six months after the end of each financial year, Private sectors, for example, produce their audited accounts' report barely two or three months after the end of the financial year. The government should now do likewise in order to stop misappropriations and other malpractices in the government departments. If the audited reports are produced six months after each financial year, all those malpractices would be revealed.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Head 35 of the Draft Estimates contained in this Report. I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the fact that this Head was allocated to the Committee on Banking and Currency to deliberate upon. The Report, I think, was submitted to this honourable House yesterday. So, when this Budget is going to be passed, this Head 53 should be removed from this Report since it has already been allocated to the Committee on Banking and Currency. I think our Chairman should take note of this.

Thank you very much.

The Chairman: Yes PRP, Alhaji Adamu.

Alhaji Sarki Adamu (Dawakin-Kudu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the Report submitted by the Committee on Finance, I wish to make a general statement. I am appealing to every Member of this House to please note because, I am sure one day you will say, I have told you this. This is very important. I am going to tell the House about my impression generally as regards the Budget. Most of the items in the Budget are not clear, they are vague. They have not stated everything clearly, like the two items here : *Provision for Few Projects*, which shows nothing. This is never done in any budget in the world. At least we should know what projects they are. How many projects are they ? Where are they going to be located ? There has never been such a thing in the world. The second one, *Rehabilitation of Ecologically Degraded Areas*, what are the areas ? Why can we not know ? Mr Chairman, this is very important. We are sufficiently being fooled. This is not going to result in any peaceful economic development of the whole country. Consequently, I think it is going to be disastrous, because I am sure most of us especially, those who have come from some States in the North are really feeling cheated about the whole Budgets generally.

I have critically gone through the Budget and at last, came up with a figure, that shows me that the Northern States have got only one-tenth of what the Southern States have got. I do not like to discriminate but I am going to be vocal and whether you agree or not, whether you support it or not, you will see it. This is not going to be all right for the country in general. We have to sit down and critically examine this Budget. We have to write everything out clearly. We should not be wasting our time here approving things blindly without knowing what they are.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Dr Jinaidu Mohammed (West Ward) : Mr Chairman, in contributing my little quota on the report of the Finance Committee ably presented to the House by my distinguished Colleague from Ideato (*Hon. K. R. Obioha*), I would like to make a few observation.

Firstly, we all need to note that the Budget we are speaking about was colated in a hurry because we came here as a Government on the 1st of October, 1979.

It is a matter of both common sense and a basic principle of financial regulations that money unspent cannot be carried over whilst projects uncompleted have got to be completed even if the money for the financial year has expired.

So, Mr Chairman, it is in this light, I would wish this House to assess the Budget, to appreciate the difficulties we both have and which the Executive has been experiencing in trying to make available a hurried budget in a changed financial year, giving the new and ever-changing financial circumstances.

It is only logical for us to admit that is obvious. I do not believe that one can shut one's eyes to what the Committee and the Government vaguely or rightly defined as *Ecologically Degraded Areas*. There is no better term. The fact of the matter is that there is oil spillage in other areas where oil is being drilled. There is land destruction in those areas where tin is being mined and there is a great danger we are facing in certain parts of the country where both the desert is encroaching on our land and the sea and rivers are doing a lot of damage.

I do not think it does us any good to sit down here and waste time to say whether ecologically degraded areas have been properly defined or not. We know what is ecological damage and we know this is a reality. Those people who come from those areas do realise that this is a problem.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, I am not happy at some of the inflammatory tones and speeches delivered on the Floor of this House. I do not buy the idea that some people are being rejected, neither do I buy the idea that the North is placed at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* the south. I think, these are words we should try to avoid in the interest of this nation. We have to be very careful. I have heard people saying that they are not being considered as part and parcel of Nigeria. But only last week, Imo and Anambra States were given ten million naira for soil erosion. Some of the most vociferous critics of the money for ecologically degraded areas, the noise makers, have come from these areas.

When Aba was declared a disaster area and money was sent out, nobody complained. So, Mr Chairman, Sir, we are not doing this country any good by talking about what the North is getting and what the South is getting or that certain states of this country are considered as part of the country while other States are not.

I want to talk a little about revenue allocation. Many people have been talking about how much they have been getting. But the President, in addressing the National Assembly, made it clear that he was taking liberty of the relevant section of the Constitution which said, that until a new revenue allocation formula is adopted, he had no alternative but to follow the previous revenue allocation formula and the allocation formula was clearcut. Fifty per cent was on the basis of equality of States and fifty per cent was on population. There was no hide-and-seek about it. It was clear, everybody knew and everybody referred to the section of the Constitution when the President was addressing the National Assembly. For people to come now and say that Kano got this and Kaduna, or Imo, or Anambra got that, I think, its absolutely out of the question. We should watch our language.

Thank you, Sir. (Applause)

Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Mr Chairman, Sir, despite the fact that I am a Member of that Committee, I believe that the Report, so far submitted to this House by the Committee contains a lot of irrelevancies.

It is quite unfortunate that a whole Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria cannot particularly ascertain where a certain area of the Government or a Department draws its fund. I am making particular reference to the Nigerian Security Organisation, NSO. Their personal emoluments were completely omitted, capital projects were not there, likewise the so-called liaison officers appointed by the Executive. (Applause) They have to tell us how much they are going to pay them because this is going to come from the coffers of the Government. We have to ascertain the validity or otherwise of this office so as to, at least, give a go-ahead on this issue.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I believe, the whole debate on this issue should be suspended henceforth. (Interruptions)

Mr David Adelu (Ibadan East) : The Finance Committee of the House of Representatives in its report has shown dedication, efficiency, penetrating insight and faultless patriotism.

In the report, for instance, the Committee rejected the provision for new projects which is ₦54 million, because Article 77 of the Constitution provided for the establishment of Contingency Funds from which unforeseen projects could be funded.

The Committee also put up a gallant fight against the provision of ₦40 million meant for rehabilitation of ecologically degraded areas. Although the Committee accepted the Minister's explanation on this provision, I strongly feel that the Ministry of Finance has not told the Committee the whole truth. It seems to me that the Executive is feeling shy of approaching the National Assembly each time it intends to get money out of the Consolidated

Revenue Fund. The Executive is, therefore, hiding the country's revenue under bogus nomenclatures such as :

- (i) Margin for increased cost .. ₦60 million
- (ii) Provision for new projects .. ₦54 million
- (iii) Rehabilitation of ecologically degraded areas ₦40 million.

These are being hidden under spurious names. Since these moneys are not meant for available services, they should be sent back to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The National Assembly is fully prepared to approve—(Interruptions)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Committee did a fine job in fighting for increased Statutory Allocation to States and Local Governments under Head 53. The Report says *inter alia* and I quote : *The Committee felt that the Government's views where projects should be sited are wrong. The Local Governments know best the needs of the people. The State Governments are still closer to the people, therefore, they should get more money and that the Committee was surprised to note that only 19 per cent of the total Government revenue was allocated to States.* So, for the Federal Government to retain a large sum of 75 per cent of the nation's revenue where a comparatively very small amount of 24 per cent is allowed for spending by all the States and the Local Governments collectively is certainly an unhealthy financial arrangement.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a pity that some of our Friends here come from degraded areas and most of us are, in particular, from rural areas. I wish to say that this Budget is an elitist Budget. It is not a budget for the common people. For example, You will see that ₦2,000,000 is for the personal emolument for the staff in the Ministry of Finance. The payment for demurrage for cement suppliers is ₦2.2 million. These cement suppliers are overseas. They are not Nigerians. Most of our local people prefer Ewekoro or Nkalagu cement. Why do we not use this money to improve our Industries in Nigeria.

I will say with respect, Mr Chairman, that the common people, the farmers have nothing. Nothing is given to them. They ought to be given money through the Local Councils and this we should tell the Appropriation Committee when the time comes to try and improve on what they want to give them.

The government also has to give licences to those willing to set up Industries in Nigeria, especially where the Federal Government has the monopoly that is in Motor Assembly cases.

I would want to support my learned Friend and Member for Mbatoli (Mr E. N. D. Uwandu) in respect of Section 77 (1 and 2) of this Constitution. I will say that the amount of ₦150,000,000 put under Contingency ought not to be there. An amount shown on 10e, ought to be the figure that should be provided for Contingencies because we do not know what the Contingencies will be. Instead of using this money for other sources we have come to put the money under

[MR AKINBINSEHIN]
Contingencies. In any case, the question of Contingencies can only come when the occasion arises that is to say, if there is any disaster or anything like that. Section 77 (2) of the Constitution says :

Where any advance is made in accordance with the provisions of this section, a Supplementary Estimate shall be presented and a Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall be introduced as soon as possible for the purpose of replacing the amount so advanced.

By this advanced money, I refer to Section 77 (1) of the Constitution and it also reads :

The National Assembly may by law make provisions for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund for the Federation and for authorising the President, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from the Fund to meet the need.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the emphasis is on need.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in allocating funds to the different strata of governments in the country, I think what should be taken into consideration is the constitutional responsibilities of the Federal Government and the lower governments, that is the States and the Local Governments. Mr Chairman, Sir, you will realise that before we took over the government from the military chaps—

An hon. Member : We did not take over. It was handed over.

Mr Ononokpono : Before we were given back the power as a constitutional body, most of the responsibilities had been concentrated in the Federal Government, in which case the Federal Government or the military oligarchy here in Lagos, had to decide on everything before the States and the Local Governments could execute. But after the handling over to the civilians, we realise that the constitutional responsibilities of the States and Local Government Councils have increased and the concentration of powers in Lagos has also decreased. Therefore, more funds should have been given to the lower governments to be able to execute their constitutional responsibilities.

In distributing the funds I would have thought that with the increase in disasters like we have heard here about desert encroachment, the oil spillage, the Aba disaster and what have you, that the people who are directly involved with the execution of such disasters should have more funds than the aristocrats, including our humble selves, in executing these projects. Again, Mr Chairman, I would say that the Minister of Finance in spelling out his fiscal measures, did not do his homework well. There is no point one having to say lace should not be imported, whereas, lace is a very essential item. I am only taking this as a typical example. We have not got sufficient quantity to go round, then there is a complete ban. In which case, a few people who have the lace will skyrocket the prices and we have inflation, and the burden of it will go to the masses who are not able to get these things and even the funds to buy them.

In appropriating funds, Mr Chairman, I would have thought that the Legislature should be able to handle the power that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has given to us. I see it as a rubber stamp sort of exercise that the Executive sends in a Budget or Estimate and we just rubber stamp. A good Committee like the Committee on Finance has deleted something which is an unknown issue. Yet there are projects all about abandoned and yet we are appropriating money for projects yet unknown and unseen. This is a situation where, I think, we are not making use of the power and immunity that is accorded us.

Mr Olatinwo Otegbeye (Lagelu North) : Mr Chairman, Sir—

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Point of order!

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Dr Emekekwe : Mr Chairman, Sir, I stand on a constitutional point of order which is the Constitution Section 77 (1), which reads :

The National Assembly may by law make provisions for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund for the Federation and for authorising the President, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from the fund to meet the need.

Have we ever, Mr Chairman, in this House made such a law? If the answer is no, I say, on a constitutional point of order that wherever in the Current Estimate, the word contingencies exists, it should be deleted. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Thank you very much, but you will appreciate that the Bill itself on passing through the National Assembly, becomes Law. If the Bill contains contingencies provision and if all of them pass through the National Assembly they become law.

Mr O. Otegbeye (Lagelu North) : I implore the Committee on Finance and the entire Members of the House to bear in mind that the Draft Budget submitted to the National Assembly is a Deficit Budget. It is disheartening to note that Nigeria is the only oil producing country that cannot live within the scope of its earnings. As a result of this, Nigeria has to go a-borrowing. It is the duty of the National Assembly to re-examine the Estimates and readjust the Estimates where need be to suit the immediate needs of the people of this country. In that respect, I see the provision under classification on page 568 classification code 5325 and 333 as a duplication of the Contingencies Fund of which ₦150,000,000 has been in the Draft Estimates. In as much as ₦150,000,000 has been provided in the Draft Estimates as Contingencies Fund, I see no reason why we should allow the provision under 325 and 333. I equally rest my argument on the provision of Sections 77 (1) and 77 (2) of the Constitution. With the permission of the Chairman, I will read. Section 77 (1) stipulates :

Mr Atta : Supplementary-Interpretation : I am now on Section 9. Subsection 2 of the original Bill was deleted by the Senate. It read :

Other expressions used in this Act shall have the meaning assigned thereto by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Its retention is unnecessary and nothing is lost by deleting it. So, we agree.

Schedule : *Policy and Management*—The Senate included Parliamentary Aide and we support this.

Official Report : No amendment.

Department of Sergeant-at arms : *Commissionaire* was included by the Senate and we support this.

Accounts Department : No amendment.

Legal Drafting Department : Legal Counsel and Assistant Legal Counsel were included by the Senate and your Committee supports.

Press Liaison Office : No amendment.

Publication Section : No amendment.

Internal Audit Section : No amendment.

Technical Section : No amendment.

Protocol Section : No amendment.

Catering Section : No amendment.

Transport Section : No amendment.

Housing : I would want, hon. Members, to state this. We are withdrawing our amendment here.

Clinical Section : The Senate amendment reflects the following structure—Chief Medical Officer, Medical Officer, Nurses, Pharmacists, Laboratory Assistant, Ambulance Driver, Attendant. Your Committee deems it necessary to include the following : Record Officers, typists, Clerks and Messengers. This is to ensure an integrated and a smooth functioning system.

Primary School Section : May I pause a little bit here because this has generated considerable controversy. We are not asking for anything special, be it in respect of medical or school. All we are asking is that a school, should be provided for our children, and this is an addition by your Committee following an amendment received from an hon. Member. The following structure was therefore recommended : Headmaster/Headmistress, Assistant Headmaster/Headmistress, Class Teachers, Clerical Officers/Accounts Clerks, Typists, Messengers, Security men. You can see that there is nothing special about this. Your Committee is convinced about the desirability for Members to have a school for their children in the light of the serious problems of finding schools for them coupled with the problems of transporting them to distant schools.

Acknowledgment : We thank all those hon. Members who sent in proposed amendment to the various clauses of the Bill. Their ideas and suggestions were very helpful. Some of them were incorporated in our amendment. We are really grateful for their immense contributions. We thank in particular

Dr E. C. Emekekwe, Mr Adeyinka Mako, Mr S. O. Olowu and Mr David Afaiyo and all other unknown names, we give them our sincere thanks.

Conclusions and Recommendations : We invite hon. Members to examine critically our amendments clause by clause and approve them as recommended. In the same token, we request the honourable House to arrange as soon as possible, a conference of both Houses of the National Assembly to resolve the few discrepancies as required by law.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

The Chairman : Thank you hon. Mr Atta. It is a job well done.

Hon. Members, we take the Amendments one by one.

Commencement—ordered to stand part of the Bill Clause 1.—(ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2.—MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Mr Atta : In the light of the foregoing presentation I move as follows—On page C 2 lines 7 and 8 insert as follows :

(2) *The Clerk of the National Assembly shall be a Member of the Commission with no voting right.*

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Yunusa Folorunsho (Asa) : I beg to second the Amendment.

The Chairman : Any comments on that amendment hon. Members ?

Mr M. A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, on this Amendment where the House of Representatives Committee says the Clerk of the National Assembly should be a Member with no voting right—I personally associate myself with the recommendation of the Senate. I think, here, the Clerk to the National Assembly should be the Secretary of the Commission but not a Member, just like the Public Service Commission whereby the Secretary to the Commission is not a Member of the Commission. In order words, I support the amendment of the Senate whereby the National Assembly Clerk is not a Member of the Commission but a Secretary and in so doing he will be able to co-ordinate all the works and functions that are required. These are my comments, Sir.

The Chairman : Yes, any other comments?

Mr G. Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : I really find it difficult to see how the Secretary of a body, a Commission like that of the National Assembly, will not co-ordinate or provide the continuity required in the functions of such a body. I am prone to accepting the idea of having the Clerk of the National Assembly as the Secretary of that body because this permanently provides the continuity of the life of the Commission.

Alhaji Y. Nadabo (Gaya North) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support what Mr Yelwa has said that the Clerk of the National Assembly should be the Clerk of the Commission but not a Member of that Commission, because if we agree to this, sooner or later we are coming back to a situation where we will have to seek for another Bill to amend it. Therefore, to save ourselves from any trouble, the Clerk of the National Assembly should be the Secretary of the Commission and not a Member of that Commission. Thank you.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Chairman, I am inclined to think that the Amendment proposed by Committee on Civil Service matters is perfectly in order in the light of other Public Service Commissions. I could not see how in any way the Clerk of the National Assembly can effectively carry out the assignment of this type of Commission. I think we require a permanent secretary as it is the case with other Service Commissions. So, I subscribe in entirety that he should be an ordinary Member without a voting right so that he can make available to the Commission a lot of information. I think that is why he is needed. The amendment is in order, Sir.

Mr David Akpan Ukpogon (Itu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I very much disagree with the Amendments proposed by the Committee. This is not the first time we have passed Bills of similar nature. In fact, the Clerk of the National Assembly occupies the same position as a Permanent Secretary in any Ministry, and as we have been passing Bills of this nature, we have made the Permanent Secretary to be the Secretary and not a Member. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the Clerk of the National Assembly should as well be the Secretary of this Commission and not a Member. Therefore, I oppose it.

The Chairman : Please if we can hear the Chairman of the Committee. What is the Senate's amendment? The Members have the right to say whatever they like.

Dr S. J. Mohammed (West Ward) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I first would like to commend my distinguished friend, Mr David Atta for doing a marvellous job on this thing, I also support wholeheartedly the stand of this Committee in making sure that the Clerk of the National Assembly is a Member of the Commission without a voting right. Whether we call him, the Secretary of the Commission or he is just there by virtue of his being the Clerk of the National Assembly, I think, is basically a question of semantics. What we do know is that he should be physically present, secondly he has no voting right. That is enough safety valve for anybody to handle the Clerk anyway he likes. I think, it will be dangerous to follow the Senate Amendments, whereby, they laterally and physically excluded the Clerk from attending the sessions of this National Assembly Service Commission. Mr Chairman, Sir, you will recall that there have been occasions at the Leader's meeting, when we had to send for him simply because we needed some vital information which our own Clerk of the House of Representatives

could not give us. I would also like to inform the House, Mr Chairman, Sir, that the Clerk of the National Assembly is the Accounting Officer for the entire National Assembly.

You cannot talk of finance when the man you are going to hold responsible for the finances is not there and we have about ₦89,000,000 we are going to deal with. This man is the man who is supposed to render account to you, the presiding officer in this Chamber and to the President of the Senate. I think common sense and reality demand that for our own administrative prudence, to make sure that what we do is right and that we are properly informed instead of doing one thing only to ridicule ourselves by being told it should be another way, it is only logical that he should be a Member. Whether he is a Secretary or he is not a Secretary is irrelevant. What we say is that he should be there. The Senate said that he should not, but we should say that he should be there, but he has no voting right, pure and simple.

Mr E. O. Iyayi (Okpebo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I just wish to draw the attention of Members to the Schedule on the staff of the National Assembly. The first item there is Clerk to the National Assembly and on No. 7 is Clerk to the National Assembly Service Commission. Besides in the draft Budget for the National Assembly, although that is not yet under consideration, there is a provision for Clerk to the National Assembly G.L. 17 and also Secretary to the National Assembly Service Commission G.L. 15, so, that the framers of this law did it deliberately. As my hon. Colleague has rightly said, it would be improper to exclude the Clerk to the National Assembly from membership of the National Assembly Service Commission.

This cannot be compared with the structure in the Federal Civil Service Commission. They are not at par at all. The intention is that whilst the Secretary to the National Assembly is a non-voting member, to offer advice to ensure continuity and so on, there should be a separate entity, Secretary to the National Assembly Service Commission who is a much lower officer, on G.L. 15.

Mr Yusuf Mohammed (Moro) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I will support that the Clerk should be the Secretary to the Commission but not a Member ; in that wise, if he is a Member either with voting right or without, it implies that he cannot be substituted, that is nobody could represent him as a Member. But if he is a Secretary, he may not be in that meeting, he can delegate anybody. So, we could look at other Commissions maybe they would say, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance or his representative. So, there is still going to be a continuity by being the Secretary of the Commission but not a Member. For him to be a Member either with voting rights or not is not nice.

The Chairman : I think we should vote on this Amendments. Alhaji Kaltungo, please move that the question be put.

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

Clause 2.—MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION— as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 3-5 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6.—STAFF OF ASSEMBLY PRESCRIBED.

Mr David Atta : Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that : In page C5, lines 1 and 2, after the word *appoint*, leave out the words *from time to time* and insert the words *subject to the approved provisions in the Estimates*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Amendment ?

Mr Folorunsho Yunusa (Asa) : I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr David Atta : I move that :

In page C5, leave out the words in lines 9-11.

I beg to move.

Mr S. O. Adoyi (Okpokwu West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 6.—STAFF OF ASSEMBLY PRESCRIBED—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Mr David Atta : Mr Chairman, Amendment number 4 has already been withdrawn.

The Chairman : You have withdrawn number 4 ?

Mr Atta : Yes.

Clauses 7-10 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

SCHEDULE

The Chairman : Hon. Members Amendment number 4 has been withdrawn. Yes, Amendment number 5.

Mr Atta : Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that in page C12 after item 210 insert as follows : *Record Officers, Typists, Clerks, Messengers*. I beg to move.

Mr Paul Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want a clarification from the Chairman on this item when he says he is providing for Primary School, Headmaster/Headmistress and so on.

Several hon. Members : Sit down.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr David Atta : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in page C12 insert the following new section : *PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTION Headmaster/Headmistress, Assistant Headmaster/Headmistress, Class Teachers, Clerical officers/Accounts Clerks Typists, Messengers, Security men*. I beg to move.

Mr David Umeke (Igboeze) : Mr Chairman, I beg to second.

The Chairman : Yes, let the Chairman make comments.

Mr David Atta : Mr Chairman, Sir, Mr Egbuwoku wanted the Chairman to explain the reasons for this particular section. I want to reiterate my earlier point that there is nothing extraordinary about this. We have Army Schools here and there, we have Airforce schools here and there, we have Embassy schools and we have sizeable concentration of our members here. You will concede one point to us that we have come from very distant places and the problem of finding schools for our children is really very serious.

Secondly, if you are lucky in finding a school for your kids, taking them to and from these distant schools can create problems for Members. This notwithstanding, we have an existing structure where we live. The Civil Service are already running a school which they have very kindly allowed our children to make use of, and it is only fair that we should associate ourselves with the development which is already in existence. So, this is nothing controversial.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the Chairman that hon. Members are actually suffering serious hardships with respect to placement of their children in schools, particularly, in Lagos. All I wanted the Chairman to do is to give me this explanation.

Whatever happens, whatever we do in this country we must take into consideration the Constitution. That was why I was trying to ask, this is the National Assembly, whether we have powers to set up our own school. Now, you are trying to say that there is already a structure in that system being run by the civil servants. Mr Chairman, all I am trying to ask you as a very reputable lawyer before you took that Chair is whether or not we have powers to set up a primary school according to the Constitution of this country. Can you answer that question for me before I sit down.

The Chairman : I will answer. Lawyers do not give legal advice without pay. (*Laughter*)

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Chairman, I am prepared to donate ten *per cent* of my annual salary for this advice if it is possible.

Mr Rasheed Adewale Shitta-Bey (Lagos North-Central) : Mr Chairman, all I have to say with regard to this matter is that when you are in Rome you do as the Romans. When my hon. Colleagues left their various places—

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, it is getting to 1 o'clock, I move that the question be now put.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, you know there are Amendments. We have our own Amendments and the Senate also has its own Amendments, so, we will formally move that the Clerk of this House contact the Clerk of the National Assembly to please summon a conference. The Leader of the House, please, move the Motion.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

That this House resolves that the Clerk of this House should inform the Clerk of the National Assembly to convene a conference of the Senate and the House of Representatives to resolve the conflicts in the National Assembly Service Commission Bill.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Alhaji Garba Mohammed Tambari (Maradum) Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Clerk of this House should inform the Clerk of the National Assembly to convene a conference of the Senate and the House of Representatives to resolve the conflicts in the National Assembly Service Commission Bill.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, it is getting to time and the House is accordingly adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

And it being after 1.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 19th May, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Circular from Investigation Panel

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there is a circular here from the Investigation Panel on the House Committee. The circular is written by Mr M. U. Ekong, Secretary to the Panel and it reads as follows.

*Honourable Members of the
House of Representatives,
Through : The Speaker*

Invitation for Submission of Memorandum and/or to give Oral evidence Pursuant to House Resolution No. 144 of 14th May, 1980, the Investigation Panel on the House Committee of the House of Representatives invites Members to submit Memoranda on the activities of the suspended House Committee.

2. Written evidence may include production of correspondence, documents and other materials relating to any transaction between the House Committee or its Chairman, hon. F. Charles Adigwe, and government departments, Corporations, and Companies since the inauguration of the House Committee on 19th October, 1979 until the morning of 14th May, 1980, just before the Committee was suspended. Such Memoranda should be submitted in six copies, addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, National Assembly, Lagos, and marked for the attention of the Secretary to the Investigation Panel on the House Committee. Members who wish to give oral evidence should also submit their names to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

3. The deadline for submission of written evidence is 21st May, 1980 and Public hearings will be held to take oral evidence with effect from Thursday, 22nd May, 1980. Detailed programme of this Committee's work will be announced later.

4. The venue for the Committee's meetings is Committee Room C1.

(Sgd.) M. U. Ekong,
Secretary,

for Chairman, Investigation Panel on House
Committee

So, hon. Members, please try to co-operate as much as possible with the Committee. My only objection is that this six copy memorandum is rather too much. Why can Members not submit one copy, then the Committee will make out as many copies as possible because I do not think Members will have time to write six copies.

Some hon. Members : Who is the Chairman ?

Mr Speaker : Do not worry about the Chairman.

Do not worry, gentlemen.

Meeting of all hon. Members

Hon. Members, we are going to hold a very important meeting of all the Members. It is not a meeting of Party Leaders. It is a meeting of all the Members and it is going to be held here immediately after today's session. When we hold the meeting, the gallery will be cleared, our reporters will go, our staff will also go, so that we all come down around the table here and then hold the meeting on matters relating to us personally. So, as soon as the House is over, please everybody will go and we will sit down here and talk to ourselves.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday and they are in order.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Special House Committee

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the National Assembly—Head 20 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The report is being presented on behalf of the suspended House Committee by Mr E. Kanu.

Mr E. Kanu (Ikwuano Umuahia) : I rise this morning and humbly move the Motion standing in my name that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill, 1980 in respect of the Draft Budget for the National Assembly—Head 20 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr K. R. Obioha (Ideato) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill 1980 (H.R. 11)

(7th Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of the Whole House

HEAD 50.—MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

Question proposed, that ₦3,723,000 for Head 50, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦538,029,000 for Head 238, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Water Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr Eze O. Nwala (Ikwerre/Etche II) : My responsibility this morning is to present the Report of the Committee on Water Resources with regard to the proposals of the Ministry of Water Resources as contained in the Appropriation Bill 1980. In this respect, we are concerned with two aspects of the Appropriation Bill : The Recurrent and Capital Votes contained in Heads 50 and 238.

[Dr NWALA]

Head 50 deals with the Recurrent Expenditure and I want to refer Members to page 411 through 416, while the Capital Votes are contained on pages 539 through 541.

My Committee, in arriving at decisions, was guided by the mood of this honourable House as it relates to healthy programming of our natural resources and the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for all Nigerians as enunciated in some of our resolutions and decisions taken in this House. With that type of rationale behind our minds, we had to deliberate on the Proposals brought before us by the Ministry of Water Resources. I will say that, initially, my committee had a lot of difficulties in trying to take decisions or trying to critically analyse the proposals before us in the sense that we had a lot of problems. There were, no explanatory notes provided by the Ministry so we were compelled to request the Minister and his officials to offer explanations item by item on the Budget. Not only that, we also invited them and we had about five meetings before the Committee retired to deliberate.

Now, on page 411, Head 50, dealing with recurrent expenditure, the Recurrent Expenditure is divided into three parts, namely: Personal Emoluments, Other Charges and Special Charges. These three parts together carry a total expenditure of ₦3,723,000 for the period of nine months. We had to compare the recurrent proposals of the Ministry of Water Resources with those of other Ministries and as we indicate in our Report, you will find that the Recurrent Expenditure of this Ministry is about the lowest. The reason is that it is a very new Ministry and it is yet to take off soundly. In the last fiscal year, the Ministry of Water Resources formed an integral part of the Ministry of Agriculture, so it has only been in existence for a year.

Personal Emoluments:—When you compare the number of staff position for the fiscal year 1980 *vis-a-vis* that of 1979 you will find that there are some noticeable increases in the number of establishments. This increased staff position is explainable by the fact that, in the previous year, the Ministry of Water Resources formed an integral part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Consequently, the sudden increases in the staff positions of certain items for the fiscal year 1980 are justifiable. There are no significant changes or reductions recommended by your Committee. The Committee, however, wondered why Item 117, Allowances, should form an integral part of Personal Emoluments. Well, we tried to find out from the Permanent Secretary why Allowances should form a heading.

On page 413 you will see that Item 117, Allowances carry a vote of ₦54,000. We thought that it was misplaced, but after explanation by the Minister and his officials, we were satisfied that it should be retained, the reason being that those allowances are used to off-set the over-time allowances of drivers. Now, you will discover that this Ministry is purely a technical Ministry. Therefore, most of the workers here have to work even during the week-ends or sometimes after working hours, so that, many of the Drivers are retained beyond the official time.

So, it was better to place it under personal Emoluments for easy disbursement and accounting. We recommend that this section should receive the approval of this honourable House.

Other Charges :

Now, the next Section of the Recurrent Expenditure deals with Other Charges. Similarly, there are no significant changes in the over-all expenditure pattern of this section. Again, the non-availability of figures for 1979-80 reflects the non-existence of the Ministry as a separate unit last fiscal year. However, some minor corrections and recommendations are suggested. First, item 32, that is under Other Charges—*Office and Travelling* should read *Office and General*. Secondly, item 210, page 415 still, the Committee observed that the amount provided for Consultant Services was rather too small but recommended no increase because of the shortness of the fiscal year in question. However the Committee noted the need to increase this item of the vote in future in order to increase interaction between Government and Nigerian University staff and Graduate Student. Most of the time in this country, we emphasise the need to develop our manpower, and one would expect that this should be reflected within the proposals of the various Ministries, but so far this has been de-emphasised. The Committee is of the view that if we are to build up our manpower, there has to be a systematic programming that will enable us, over the years, to develop the needed manpower resources for this country. So, we are of the opinion that for the next year they have to increase this vote so that it will be possible to support some Graduate training, that is, to train some students at the graduate level in the area of water resources management.

Third, item 358, page 415 should read: *Hire of Rank Xerox and Purchase of related Stationery*. your Committee recommends approval of Other Charges in its present form with the above slight amendments.

The Third Section of the Recurrent Expenditure deals with special expenditure. Here the Committee observes the appearance of *motor vehicles* item 2 on page 416. We noticed that previously in the other charges, we have an item dealing with motor vehicles and we questioned why it should re-occur again. The explanation is that this provision is for the purchase of new vehicles. So, the Committee recommended accordingly that it should read *purchase of motor vehicles*.

Another observation concerns item 6 of the same page—*purchase of 5 water boats*. Members felt that the amount provided for the purchase of each boat was rather too small, and therefore that we should increase the vote so as to enable the Department to acquire durable boats. So, accordingly we recommended a slight increase in the vote.

The sum of five thousand (₦5,000) is recommended for the purchase of each boat. Thus, the total figure for this item of expenditure should read ₦25,000.00 which indicates an increase of ₦11,800.00. The final for total special Expenditure, is therefore

[DR NWALA]

₦178,880. Thus the Grand total for Recurrent Expenditure, Water Resources becomes ₦3,734,880. Given the above slight Amendments and considerations, the Water Resources Committee commends the Recurrent Expenditure as proposed for the fiscal year, 1980, for approval by this honourable House.

I want to deal with the Capital Expenditure Head 238. This is found on page 539. Really the Ministry of Water Resources should have been called the Ministry of Irrigation because most of its activities have to deal with irrigation, the provision of water to the soil in order to achieve an all-year-round agriculture. The total expenditure by the Ministry of Water Resources for the 1980 Fiscal Year is ₦538,029,000.

On page 539, you will find the various River Basin Development Authorities or the various River Basin Projects being carried out by the eleven River Basin Development Authorities.

We have examined these projects item by item. We discovered that, with the type of programmes they have, we cannot abandon any of the projects because most of them really have taken off. If we did that, we would then be disrupting the progress of the various projects.

The Committee has examined the Capital Votes in detail and draws the attention of this honourable House to a serious omission in the budget. This oversight concerns the provision of adequate domestic drinking water to every home in Nigeria more particularly to rural communities, villages and hamlets throughout the country.

You will observe on page 539, Item 422—*Federal Government grants for States, Urban and Rural Water Supply Projects*—that the sum of ₦500,000,000 was projected to be spent between 1975 and 1980. From the information available to us so far, not much of that vote has been expended.

We tried to find out from the Minister and his Permanent Secretary why this sort of behaviour by the Ministry, why they refused spending money to provide water for the rural masses of this country. We were told that the Military abandoned this project without any cogent reason. So, the Committee felt very strongly that the Federal Government should intervene in finding solution to this persistent problem of providing good and clean drinking water for all its citizens.

In fact, the Committee felt that great importance should be attached to this issue of providing good drinking water to every home in this country, and in fact the Committee views this problem in the same light as providing power to every home and providing telephones. The Committee felt that if the Federal Government of Nigeria could intervene in providing telephone communications and building highways to increase the Communication between and among settlements in this country, then, there was no reason why it should neglect the issue of providing drinking water to every home.

The Committee feels that the stage has reached when State Governments can no longer be left alone in the effort to eliminate the persistent shortages of drinkable water throughout the country.

Given these considerations, therefore, the committee on Water Resources recommends that 25% of the Capital Votes for the Ministry of Water Resources should be reallocated to the States for the provision of adequate water supply to the rural areas of Nigeria.

In reaching this decision, we are aware that to date much of the efforts made in providing clean water has been restricted to the urban areas to the neglect and detriment of the rural areas. So, we thought that it is time for us in this country to try to do something for the rural communities, realising of course, that majority of Nigerians reside within the rural areas; and if development within the rural areas is to be accelerated, there is need for us to provide the basic necessities that is, light, water and highways.

So, the Committee thought that since the Executive has failed to think seriously on this issue, what we could conceivably do is to reallocate 25% of the total Budget of this Ministry to the provision of rural water supply.

Thus, a sum of ₦134,507,250 should be approved for Rural Water Supply. Consequently, Item 422 on page 539 *Federal Government Grants for States, Urban and Rural Water Supply Project* should read *Federal Government Grants for States, Rural Water Supply Projects, ₦134,507,250*.

Your Committee observes that this recommendation agrees completely with the House Resolution of February 12, 1980, which empowered it to explore ways and means towards finding solution to domestic water supply problems to rural areas.

General Recommendation : Your Committee, accepting the enormity of the problem recommends that within the fiscal period 1980 an average sum of ₦7,000,000 should be granted to each state within the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the provision of water to the rural areas. It recommends further that as from the fiscal period 1981 efforts should be intensified towards ensuring the supply of regular flow of water for domestic and industrial purposes. Your Committee urges the House, considering this important amendment, to approve the Capital Expenditure of the Ministry of Water Resources for 1980. You will find an attachment which summarises the vote of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I beg to move that this report be approved.

The Chairman : Yes, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr Nwala, you have some Amendments; let us take your Amendments first before we go on to debate the report. Take Amendment number one and tell us why you want that money.

Dr Nwala : Mr Chairman, on Amendment number (1) I beg to move that :

In page 416 (of the Amended Draft Estimates), Under Code 005000303063—purchase of 5 water Boats—to leave out the figure ₦13,120 and to insert the figure ₦25,000, instead thereof.

[DR NWALA]

Well, we looked at the figure ₦13,120 budgeted for the purchase of five boats. We know that this amount is really not adequate. If you divide that amount by 5 you will find that the cost of a boat is ₦2,500 and that is not adequate to purchase a durable boat.

The Chairman : How do you know? Do you sell boats?

Dr Nwala : It is an engine boat. We thought that to assist the River Basin Development Authorities that operate under difficult conditions in the Niger Delta, Benin, Owena and other areas, we should give them sufficient money to purchase durable boats.

An hon. Member : What type of boat?

Dr Nwala : It is an engine boat with a little bit of power attached to it, not a canoe. It is a very common one you see on the Lagoon, a shetland boat. So, I think ₦25,000 will provide 5 shetland boats for the eleven river basins.

The Chairman : Please, hon. Members, I do not know if anybody wants to make a contribution to this particular Amendments?

Mr B. A. Chaaha (Katsina-Ala) : Mr Chairman, it appears that the Amendment, here as it is, is in order. Looking at the Draft Budget and the Estimate for Water Supply in the rural areas you will find that it is empty, there is nothing in it. Right now, though we may not see that, but in our own rural areas you will find that up till now people are running here and there looking for water.

The Chairman : There is a point of order. Yes, hon. Okoi.

Mr L. E. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, my point of order is Order 26 (2). Now, Mr Chairman has drawn the attention of this Honourable House to a specific item, which is the engine boats. The hon. Member speaking is sort of commenting on the plight of the members of the rural areas. So, I am asking this House to confine him to the specific.

The Chairman : We are talking about the value of boats. Do you sell boats? If you do, tell us the value and save us the trouble. All right, hon. Members let us vote.

Some hon. Members : No! No

The Chairman : All right let us hear people without interest.

Chief Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani) : The amendment by the Chairman of the Committee on the cost of 5 water boats from ₦13,120 to ₦25,000 to my mind, is a guess work. He has not been able to give us the type of boats. He is just talking of durable boats. We of the riverine areas know better. If you are buying a speed boat, we know the cost. If you are buying a nine-passenger speed boat it is about ₦13,000. If you are buying an outboard engine which, according to him, with a sort of power attached to it, then ₦13,120 is enough for five. Thank you Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Let us please hear from Bob-Manuel

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Now, referring to the Amendment of five water boats at ₦13,120 to be increased to ₦25,000, I want to say that Nigeria is now developing and people within the riverine areas do not want to travel for 24 hours before they get to where they are going. The water boats are expected to be very fast and if a fast water boat will be used for water resources, since the supply of water is very essential, then we expect boats that can move about 20 or 15 knots. This will cost nearly ₦15,000 for one boat. But double powered five hundred horse power boats cost ₦3,500 each; and two of them, twin, will cost you ₦7,000. Then, the body of boat is about ₦8,000 so, how do you expect an engine boat bought by the Federal Government at one thousand something naira to be good enough for the water. So, the Amendment is very inadequate and should be thrown out.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Otta) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I want to say that we have rivers in Ogun State. Ogun River is one of them. If one goes to P.Z. or a Company that sells boats in Nigeria, one would know the amount of money at which they are sold. I would agree that the increase is proper because the sum of ₦13,000 is not enough to buy five boats. Simple calculation would reveal that it is just about ₦2,000 per boat. This amount would not be adequate, unless you mean to fix only engines on mere canoes, and surely that would not be safe for people to ply on the water. I suggest that the increase to ₦25,000 is adequate to buy five boats and it should be approved.

Mr O. J. Ekpeyong (Uyo I) : I do not want to kick against the Amendment, but I wonder if what we are going to amend, unless we are going to amend the standing orders, is in order. I would draw your attention to Order 63, Subsection 11.

The Chairman : Hon. Mr Ekpeyong, you have not been coming here for some time now. That is why you do not know that that Order has been suspended.

Mr Ekpeyong : Mr Chairman, I have been going for treatment. (Laughter).

Chief B. O. N. Omoruwa (Warri) : It is surprising, in the first place, how the figure of ₦13,120, was arrived at to buy five boats, because we are from the riverine area and we know exactly what it costs to buy a boat. As it is said, unless it is out-board engine which takes one about 24 hours to get to a distance that normally should take about 12 hours, then the amount of ₦13,120 might be able to buy five boats. But, if it is meant to be a fast boat the ₦25,000 in fact which is being asked for now is still insufficient. An engine capacity to carry a boat to do about six knots is more than ₦5,000. If an engine costs more than ₦5,000 to build the boat will cost about three to four thousand naira. We do not know how the Committee arrived at the figure of ₦25,000. We do not know the kind of boat they want to buy. It is my humble contribution that since the Amendment which is being sought is not sufficiently explained it ought to be refused.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori 1): Mr Chairman Sir, I do not see anything very wrong in the Amendment except that those who did this homework have thrown open again public fund without any type of description. He is talking about boat. He is not able to pin-point the type of boat he wants for which this price tag is attached. As the Motion stands, I would ask him to suspend this Amendment, do his home work more thoroughly than this and come back with it later.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think at this stage in this House, I do not see any reason why we should come and say *buy yam* and you do not describe the type of yam you want us to buy. This Amendment should be withdrawn.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South): I move that the question be now put.

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

Amendment put and negatived.

Dr Nwala: Mr Chairman, hon. Members, you will notice that the subsequent Amendments stem from the first one. Since the first Amendment has been rejected, the subsequent Amendments are withdrawn accordingly.

The Chairman: Is there any comment on the report?

Alhaji Garba Musa (Jibiya): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support the Committee on the Appropriation Bill, 1980, Ministry of Water Resources. As a matter of fact, this Budget has opened grand chances to complete or take up proposed work since the former regime up to 1980. These proposed work are mainly to provide the poor people, farmers, traders in districts adequate and good drinking water and to every home including the villages and hamlets throughout the country.

I am sure this honourable House will consider what has been given to those authorities who are to take up the works or to complete some of those that have already been started or to expand them. The authorities are on pages 539 and 540, that is Sokoto-Rima River Development project page 539 item 15, and Chad Basin Development Authority item 23.

If you look at all those projects, some have just been started, some have been designed and some not at all. You can see the desert-affected areas where the means of getting water is a great problem. As for item 636, Kaduna Water Resources Project is to take the proposed Dam of Jibiya and Kaita West, Karaduwa Dam and Ruma Dam in Kaduna State. As for Jibiya Dam, it has been proposed since 1955 and would cost millions of naira but the work has not yet been started. If it is constructed, I am sure it will provide relief to those poor people who are facing a lot of problems in getting water.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make an observation on this Budget. We can see that the financial year has started from April to December but now we have covered nearly two and a half months,

leaving us with barely seven and a half months to the end of the financial year. Therefore, I would like this honourable House to put their ears and eyes to all Ministries, not only Water Resources, so that the various projects will move with progress since we have only a few months left.

Alhaji Saidu Kanti (Hadejia): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to commend the Report of the Committee on Water Resources for a work well done; for creating a new sub-head under the Capital Estimates for assistance to State Governments to get grants for the improvement of rural and urban water supplies.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another thing which I do not agree with is under Item 117 of page 143 of the Draft Estimates which should never appear under Personal Emoluments since it is over-time and night allowances. In any case, only personal and consolidated allowances appear under sub-head items. I am advising the Committee to transfer this item to Other Charges.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Godwin B. Wodi (Port Harcourt II): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to comment on page 415, item 358 which shows *Hire of Rank Xerox machines*. I want to say that this does not augur well for this country for a whole Ministry to hire and pay rent on such equipment. These machines are easily installed everywhere, and I do not see why this Ministry should hire one and pay rent which will be more exorbitant. I also want to refer to River Nun project which shows a very meagre sum granted to it.

There is one thing I want to inform this honourable House about. It is that the Niger Delta has the best fertile land in this country so far. The position there is that the land is already irrigated that we do not need any extra irrigation and is, in fact, capable of producing all the rice we need in this country and also to export. What we actually need in this part of the country is good roads to transport equipment and all you need to do is to clear, plough and cultivate, and get abundant harvest.

It does not seem as if many people know this area and this is why we are talking about it. Those who have had the opportunity of visiting the Niger Delta area particularly Sagbama and Yenogoa areas, will see how fertile these places are and how the whole place is naturally irrigated. So, what we need is just putting in a little capital there to connect the area with roads and be in a position to shift plants and equipment into the place and clear and cultivate.

Please, hon. Gentlemen, I want you to actually visualise what I am trying to talk about. So, more money is required for this River Nun Project in order to make this place yield enough food that we need in this country. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Dr Nwala: Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, you will discover that in the presentation of my Report, we are calling for a major Amendment in the Capital Expenditure to reflect the provision of rural water supply, but apparently this is not shown on the Order Paper. So, at this point in time, I would like the debate on Water Resources to be deferred until tomorrow to enable us insert this Amendment.

[DR NWALA]

Mr Chairman, Sir, I therefore, move that the debate on the Report of Water Resources Committee should be deferred until further notice to enable us insert the necessary Amendments in the Capital Votes.

Mr E. N. D. Uwandu (Mbaitoli) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second this Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Further debate on the Ministry of Water Resources deferred till further notice.

HEAD 53.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND CHARGES

Question proposed, That ₦3,622,214,722 for Head 53—Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is my pleasure on behalf of the Committee, on Banking and Currency to present the Committee Report to this august House. The Committee has gone through Head 53 of the 1980 Estimates which is the Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges and I would like to read the salient sections of this report.

The items of public expenditure which are usually charged to the consolidated revenue fund are essentially those expenditures—the incumbents of which are guaranteed under Sections 78 and 154 of the Constitution, namely the remunerations of certain public officers and payment to States and Local Governments respectively.

To obtain further information on the various sub-heads under the consolidated revenue fund charges, your Committee, through the Clerk of the House of Representatives, sought to obtain explanatory notes from the Ministry of Finance but we regret to say that the Ministry failed to supply such explanatory notes after several requests. In particular, your Committee took note of part 14, Public Debt Charges which is on page 461 of the amended Draft Estimates, whose details appear on appendix D. Again on pages 480-482 your Committee discovered that the interest rate on the loans, the years when the loans were first entered into, and the years when the loans were supposed to have been paid off were not stated in some cases. In order to expedite this work, your Committee had to direct its Chairman to visit the Ministry of Finance to obtain these details, which was done, and you will find there are appendices attached to this report, Appendices X, Y, and Z. These are details of the loans which should be read in conjunction with the provisions on pages 580-582 of the amended Draft Estimates and by reading the two together, you will get a more wholesome picture of the financial indebtedness of the Federal Government to the public and also on external loans.

You will observe that in case of the external loans, they have been categorised into three sectors namely, multi-lateral loans. These are loans where many States have formed a consortium to lend to the borrowing State. The second category is the bilateral loans which are just loans arranged between two States and, of course, the third one is the International Capital Market Loans which are loans usually secured through international banking institutions.

On Sub-head 3, that is part 7—the Presidency, your Committee considered the sum of ₦18,750 salary for the nine months period, which is equivalent to ₦25,000 a year provision for the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, inadequate. It is recommended that the provision be increased by ₦5,000 per annum which is equivalent to ₦3,350 for the nine months period. This would bring the provision to ₦22,500 for the nine months period equivalent to ₦30,000 per annum until such time that the National Assembly is in a position to determine an appropriate salary for the President.

Similarly, the provision of ₦15,750 nine months' salary for the Vice-President is considered inadequate. It is recommended that this provision be increased by ₦2,250 equivalent to an increase of ₦3,000 per annum. This would bring the Vice-Presidential salary for the nine months to ₦18,000, which is equivalent to ₦24,000 per annum until such time that the National Assembly is able to determine an appropriate salary for the Vice-President. The suggested increases of ₦3,750 and ₦2,250 amounting to ₦6,000 should be funded by deduction from Sub-head 530700200 allowances. This would reduce the allowances from ₦55,500 to ₦49,500. Statutory Appropriation to State Governments page 464 : Your Committee considered the Statutory Appropriation to State Governments of the sum of ₦2,541,834,390 inadequate. We calculated that this amounted to about 19 per cent of the total Federal revenue. State Governments are on the front line of the battle to serve the needs of the people. The funds allocated to them under the current budget are insufficient and disproportionate to the increased functions imposed on them by our new Constitution. Your Committee summarise that this under-funding of State Governments had its origins in the unitary mentality of the former Army Administration of the Federal Government which sought to conserve a lion share of Federal Revenue for Central Government's expenditure.

While your Committee could not see its way to recommending an immediate increase in appropriation to State Governments without having to re-write the entire budget, we feel constrained to recommend that State Governments should, in future, be given a minimum statutory allocation of 30 per cent of Federal Revenue.

Statutory Allocation to Local Governments page 464 : Your Committee found it necessary to repeat the foregoing arguments in favour of increased allocation to Local Governments. We, therefore, recommend that future allocation to Local Governments should not be less than 10 per cent of Federal Revenue.

We further recommend that allocation to Local Government should be sent direct to them through the Federal Pay Office in each State. (*Applause*) In the past, State Governments have been guilty of diverting Federal Funds meant for Local Governments, and this practice will be stopped if our recommendation is adopted. Adequate funding of Local Governments would ensure that realisation of the spirit of the provision of Section 7 of the Constitution which guarantees the system of Local Government by democratically elected Local Government

Councils. What can happen if funds are not sent direct to Local Government is that Local Governments will become pawns in the hands of State Governments and those Local Governments whose areas have not been in the good book of the particular State Governments will suffer. Therefore, they must be given a certain amount of strength of independent existence so that political process can be democratically reached without a state expecting that all Local Governments within its jurisdiction must belong to its own political party. (Applause)

Hon. Members, this section on Public Debt Charges External Loans attracted a serious attention of your Committee because this is a section dealing with how foreign loans are raised for this country and how such money is managed. We think it is very important to draw attention of this House to this issue now that the new Administration is just starting off, because the management of National Debt is a very important thing which, if a mistake is made can lead to bankruptcy of a country. Your Committee sought explanation to the astronomical increase in the provision for interest and commitment charges from ₦77,918,210 in the 1979-80 Fiscal year to ₦290,665,545 in 1980 fiscal year. It was explained that the amount of the interest and commitment charges rise with increased drawing from the loan or increased utilisation of the loan facilities.

We recommend that all the Sub-heads dealing with Public Debt Charges amounting to ₦626,714,039 be approved. Now, turning to the management of National Debt, your Committee observed that the total National Debt already incurred by the Federal and State Governments stood at ₦996,076,910 external loans that is foreign loans, and ₦4,201,706, 149 internal loans.

As I said earlier, the burden of National Debt can stand in the way of steady development unless the loans that make up the National Debt are wisely invested and the debts skilfully managed.

Servicing of the National Debt, that is the annual payment of interests and repayment of capital constitute serious demand on our export earnings by the external debt and no current revenue by the internal debt. In the circumstance, your Committee feels obliged to recommend that all Governments of the Federation should strictly adhere to a policy of investing the proceeds of external loans in revenue yielding industries, especially the import substitution industries. This will render the external loans self-liquidating and thus contain their demands on our foreign exchange earnings. Social Economic Infra-structures which are non-revenue yielding should be financed partly from proceeds of internal loans and partly from current revenue, but as far as possible not from external loans.

After careful scrutiny of the provisions of the consolidated revenue fund charges, your Committee found that except for the essential amendment of the salary of the President and the Vice-President, the provision for the under-stated Departments are recommended for approval as they stood. These Departments are listed on page 6 of the Report with a total consolidated revenue fund charges of ₦3,622,214,722.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Thank you hon. S. U. Wanganga. We take your Amendments one by one.

Mr Wanganga : Hon. Members, Amendment No. 1 on page 458 under *President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*, to leave out the figure ₦18,750 and to insert the figure ₦22,500 instead thereof.

This amendment was made after very careful consideration by your Committee. I beg to move.

Chief S. I. Alete (Ikwere/Etche 1) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Amendment.

The Chairman : You can now tell us why you want it.

Mr Wanganga : Hon. Members, this Amendment was made after careful consideration, because as you are all aware, the National Assembly has not been able to fix a salary for the President yet, although this we hope will be done in due course. But your Committee did not wish the National Assembly to lose the initiative in this very important assignment. It is true that a figure of ₦18,750, has been inserted in the Budget which we are trying to amend but this honourable House is being moved to approve the token amendment that we are suggesting in order to uphold a point of fundamental principle of the power of the National Assembly to prescribe the salary and allowances of the President and certain other Public Officers, as enshrined in Section 78 of the Constitution, even if on a temporary basis until the National Assembly has decided on what the salary will be. If the Presidential salary provisions, as contained in the Draft Budget are approved without amendment, it would amount to the President fixing his own salary and asking the National Assembly to endorse it. Even if the Amendment is by one kobo, it is a matter of principle for this House to make it. Such a course of action of allowing the President to fix his salary and merely asking us to endorse it would amount to the National Assembly abdicating a most important constitutional power, an abdication which your Committee feels this honourable House would not undertake.

Thank you, Mr Chairman. (Applause)

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, this Amendment is not controversial at all. My suggestion is that we should not debate this Amendment at all. Therefore, I will say nothing else on it but to support it a hundred per cent.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that in page 458 under *President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*, to leave out the figure ₦18,750 and to insert the figure ₦22,500 instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Amendment number 2. I beg to move that in page 458 under *Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* to leave out the figure ₦15,750 and to insert the figure ₦18,000 instead thereof.

Mr Cornelius Okpa Agbor (Obubra I) : Mr Chairman, I rise to second the Amendment.

The Chairman : Tell us why you want that Amendment.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Chairman, the reason is the same as put forward for the President. Thank you.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that in page 458 under *Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* to leave out the figure ₦15,750 and to insert the figure ₦18,000 instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in page 458 under *Total, Staff and Emoluments* to leave out the figure ₦34,500 and to insert the figure ₦40,500 instead thereof.

Mr David Gbaaondo (Takum) : Mr Chairman, I beg to second.

Mr Wanganga : The reason for this Amendment is purely to amend the figures and bring back the total. That is all. It does not stand on its own. It follows from the other Amendment. We are merely adjusting the figures to correct the final total.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that in page 458 under *Total, Staff and Emoluments*, to leave out the figure ₦34,500 and to insert the figure ₦40,500 instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in page 458 under Head 00530720020—Allowances, to leave out the figure ₦55,000 and to insert the figure ₦49,500 instead thereof.

Mr Adamu Yerima (Dukku West) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, since we deducted the total sum of ₦6,000 from allowances to add on to salaries of the President and Vice-President, we are merely amending the figures to reflect the balance standing under Allowances which is ₦55,500 minus ₦6,000 which leaves us with ₦49,500. That is the explanation.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, my point of order is the order dealing with the debate in this House.

The Chairman : What Order is that ?

Mr Na-Rogo : It is a common sense order. We should debate all issues. Order 47.

The Chairman : Sit down.

Mr Na-Rogo : Order 47.

The Chairman : Listen, hon. Member, you are from Kano State ?

Mr Na-Rogo : Of course, yes.

The Chairman : Do not use that type of language. This is a Parliament. There is nothing like common sense or no common sense here. Please, sit down. Take your seat.

An hon. Member : Put the question.

The Chairman : Yes, we are putting the question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that in page 458 under Head 00530720020—Allowances, to leave out the figure ₦55,000 and to insert the figure ₦49,500 instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in page 458 under Summary, to leave out as follows : *Personal Emoluments*, ₦34,500 and *Other Charges*, ₦55,500 and to insert as follows : *Personal Emoluments*, ₦40,500 and *Other Charges*, ₦47,500. I beg to move.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

Mr Wanganga : This is just the final total. It is a matter of the same arithmetical exercise we have been carrying on. It does not stand on its own. It follows from what we approved before. Thank you.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the question is that under *Summary*, to leave out as follows : *Personal Emoluments*, ₦34,500 and *Other Charges*, ₦55,500 and to insert as follows : *Personal Emoluments*, ₦40,500 and *Other Charges*, ₦47,500.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Yes, hon. Members, you can make your comments. The hon. Member for Okpebho (*Mr F. O. Iyayi*) is to speak.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in my estimation this Committee deserves a pat on the back for producing a good and informative report. Generally, I support its recommendations except one which advocates the ploughing of all external loans into only revenue yielding industries. I shall, of course, come to this point later.

I have some comments to make on two of the many other matters dealt with by the Committee, namely :—

(a) Statutory Appropriations to State Governments and Local Governments, and

(b) External Loans

Statutory Appropriations. According to Section 272 of the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1978-79 Financial year constitutes the base year for determining the system of revenues allocation between the Federation and the State, among the States, between the States and Local Governments and among the local government councils in the States, until that system is changed by an Act of the National Assembly.

My critical and careful examination of the 1978-79 formula and 1980 arrangement reveals the following percentages of share of the statutory allocations :

	1978-79	1980
	%	%
Federal Government ..	71.60	72.00
State Governments ..	28.40	25.60
Local Government Councils	NIL	2.40

The Total is 100 per cent in each case.

It is clear from these percentages that, in 1980, the Federal Government proposes to retain an excess of 0.4%, or roughly ₦47 million, in contravention of the express and unambiguous provisions of Section 272 of the 1979 Constitution.

To remedy the position, therefore, the following ratio should be applied in the sharing of Federally collected revenue in the current financial year :—

	1980 Percentages
	%
Federal Government	71.60
State Governments	25.60
Local Governments	2.80

This is, of course, without prejudice to the outcome of the Okigbo Report.

The effect of this modification, is that the Federal Government's unconstitutional accretion would be passed on to the level of government, that is the Local Government Councils, nearest to our people especially in the rural areas where the need for development is greatest, and especially having regard to the fact that our extent Constitution imposes additional responsibilities on Local government councils under Section 7 (3) of the Constitution and paragraphs 1 (a), Items (i) and (ii) and 2 (a) of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.

Now Federal Loans. The policy of the present Administration, in so far as the 1980 Budget Proposals are concerned would appear to be to complete the extravagant, costly and unfinished jobs inherited from the previous centrally-oriented Military dictatorship which had a flare for ostentatious, prestigious and recklessly wasteful spending sustained in the main by crushing external debts to the detriment of the real development of our depressed, degraded and deprived, underfed, underhoused, uneducated and sick people. It is claimed that because of the Military-generated financial constraints, no new projects could be embarked upon this fiscal year. This is regrettable and unsatisfactory.

It would, therefore, appear opportuned for the Administration to take another hard and critical look at our External Debts with a view to :

- (1) rescheduling the loan repayments ;
- (2) extending the moratorium in each case where relevant or practicable ; and

- (3) significantly reducing the existing debilitating interest rates to a level not exceeding, say, 2 per cent, if the lending countries or international institutions are genuinely interested in the rapid and uninterrupted development of our people and in the political stability of our country.

If these steps are not taken, the cost of servicing the debts could be such that our general development efforts would be seriously hampered. And thereby Africa would then have suffer irreparably economic self-imposed damage of incalculable dimensions all our claims to being the greatest country in black.

According to Appendix D to the amended 1980 Draft Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria pages 580 to 582, our external public debt stood, as at 31st March, 1980, at approximately ₦1,112,753, 895. This does not appear to include an aggregate of ₦512,245,000 to be appropriated in 1980 alone for various capital projects transferred to loans. In this connection, hon. Members should have a look at pages 491, 498, 499, 500, 505, 506, 507, 509 223 and 540 of the amended Draft Estimates 1980.

Nor does the external public debt appear to take account of a total of ₦168,400,000 earmarked this year to meet external financial obligations (otherwise styled Membership Subscription to International Financial Organisations) to such bodies as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (₦11,300,000) International Monetary Fund (₦131,300,000), etc. The original total of such obligations is not revealed in the Estimates Book (see page 570 of the amended Draft Estimates 1980).

I have not here mentioned our internal public debt totalling about 4.2 billion naira which, of course, is not as serious and suffocating in its effect and end-results as the enormous external borrowing with its crushing, oppressive and depressing effects on our economy and people, quite apart from its hidden exploitative undertones.

It is my view, therefore, that all the existing external loans, whether for on-going projects or projects which have not yet taken off, whether the relevant agreements have been signed, sealed and delivered or not, should be re-examined by the Administration in the interest of both our country and the lending countries or overseas institutions. Should any of the lending countries unreasonably refuse to accede to our request or to meet us half way, then consideration should be given to stopping export of our crude oil and other essential raw materials to them until sanity prevails among such countries in their economic and trade relations with us.

Management of Internal Loans : In its report the Committee on Banking and Currency recommends strict adherence by all governments in the Federation to a policy of investing the proceeds of external loans in revenue—yielding industries, especially in the import substitution industries. This is both unrealistic and impracticable, if we are serious in our determination to develop all facts of our economy fairly and evenly with the welfare of our people as our social goal. It is my view that external loans could and should also be

[MR IYAYI]

ploughed into such areas as educational and land transport developments. Although strictly speaking these need not be revenue-yielding and self-sustaining, yet they are socially beneficial in perpetuity in that the present and future generations derive benefits from them and to that extent, also, both generations have a duty to contribute to the liquidation of such loans.

The Chairman : The hon. Member for Okpebho (Mr F. O. Iyayi), it is time.

Mr Iyayi : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Akaninyene Ukanah (Ukanafun II) : Mr Chairman, in contributing to this debate on Banking and Currency, (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman : Order ! Order !

Mr Ukanah : Now, this country is assuming a new lease of life. It has not been unusual, Mr Chairman, for this Nation to set guidelines for banking, but we find that whoever are responsible, whether the Central Bank or the banking houses themselves, have not pursued these guidelines. Now that it is the policy of this Federal Government to extend banking facilities to the rural areas, I strongly, with the support of the hon. Members present in this House, urge the banks through the Central Bank, and through the Federal Government, to set specific and simple guidelines for our rural areas. We know that the commercial banks demand a pound of flesh, but in the rural areas, they will not be able to obtain this pound of flesh. In assisting agriculture, therefore, I want to suggest here, Sir, that the crops be made to be some form of security holdings whereby our farmers in the rural areas will go to the banks and pledge the yield of their crops as security for obtaining loans for furthering agriculture.

I am saying this with particularity because by next month, say, about June 6, banking will go to my own constituency, Ukanafun, for the first time, and it is hoped that they will relax their measures.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, the whole policy of banking in the country, with regard to small scale industries, has not been very favourable.

Although we know, and this honourable House had passed a Motion for the assistance of small-scale industries, I want to suggest here strongly, Sir, and for the acceptance of this House, that the Bank for Commerce and Industry be sited at least, one in each Senatorial District, to assist small-scale industries.

That is my contribution.

The Chairman : Thank you.

Mr Yinusa Paiko (Minna South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw your attention and that of the House to a possible mistake in the calculations contained in this Report. I happen to be the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of this House.

I notice that on page 6 of this Report, there is a list there of institutions whose charges are placed under the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The first one is the Judiciary and the amount listed is

₦8,381,340. I submit that this is a mistake on the part of the Banking and Currency Committee, because the funds actually required to be on the Consolidated Revenue Fund by Section 78 of the Constitution only relate to the Salaries and Allowances of Justices of Courts. It does not relate to the Personal Emoluments, Allowances, Other Charges and special expenditure of the courts themselves.

I refer, Mr Chairman, to page 446 of the amended Budget Estimates. There, we have the properly chargeable amount to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the Supreme Court, the Federal High Court ; and then page 447, we have the Federal Court of Appeal and at the bottom of page 447, we have the total for the Judiciary which should be ₦821,340. Now, what the Banking and Currency Committee has done is to proceed beyond page 447 to page 448 and they were misled by the heading on page 449—Consolidated Revenue Charges. Those charges, properly speaking, should not be on the Consolidated Revenue at all.

I beg to submit.

The Chairman : Yes, thank you.

Mr J. Y. M. Mallo (Akwanga) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to comment on the Committee on Banking and Currency Report and to congratulate the Chairman. I have very serious reservations and I am, therefore, putting across to this hon. House to reject the main Report of the Committee concerned.

Now, the basic function of the Banking and Currency Committee should not be concentrated on expenditure alone. It should also concern itself with monetary and fiscal policies for the remaining nine months. This, the Committee did not do. Is the Chairman of the Committee or is the Committee telling this honourable House that the various monetary and fiscal policies that were announced by the Minister concerned are adequate for the remaining nine months or, is the assumption that the ₦11 billion that will be pumped into the economy this year will not bring about a kind of inflation that will send some of us out of Lagos ? I think this is a very serious issue which the Banking and Currency Committee should have really concerned itself with.

The other area, too, is about the external borrowing. Well, I am not going to give a lecture on the evils of external borrowing as a source of financing our economic projects, but seeing the Draft Budget, it can be seen that external borrowing alone takes about twenty per cent of our money—about 0.996 billion and I think this is very unfair. Normally, when we borrow money from abroad, strings are attached and we cannot really talk of self-reliance when we go to Europe and America and begin to borrow. So, I think that the Banking and Currency Committee should really concern itself with domestic financing, seeing that the areas where we can make money at home should really be given due attention.

So, I feel that the Banking and Currency Committee has not presented a Report convincing enough to be accepted. Lastly, I think the overall objective of this Budget, whether we approve it or not, is really to see that the national interests must be protected and since this Committee has not satisfied this House, I am inclined to say that we should probably ask

the Banking and Currency Committee to go back study the various monetary and fiscal policies, bring them to us and then we can see whether we can approve this Budget or not.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr Eddy N. Nweke (Nkanu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I have two points to make on this Report by this very Committee. First of all, I have to thank them for a job well done for a start. Then, secondly, it seems, Mr Chairman, that the Committee shied away from a part of their job. I quote from their write up, page 4 of their Report, *While your Committee could not see its way to recommending the immediate increase in appropriation to the State Governments without having to re-write the entire Budget, we feel constrained to recommend.* By that, I mean that the Committee has all the powers on earth by the Constitution to recommend that some thirty per cent or more of the revenue should go to the States. Why shying away from that.

To start with, Sir, all of us here come from one state or the other and from one local government or the other. I ask you all the question now : what shall we go home and tell our people ? That the Federal Government has given only 19 per cent of the revenue to the states and kept for itself 81 per cent ? How shall we explain that ? To me, I think that is rather too much for the Federal Government and the Committee could have used the powers invested on them by Section 149 (2) of the Constitution to recommend a sizeable amount of money to the states and the L.G.As to enable them function effectively. Again, Sir, as to the amount of money being left for the Federal Government, how long should we continue with the army regime ? The Budget by the Federal Government looks entirely a military budget, not at all a civilian budget. So, we should critically look at it from that angle. The point I am making here is that the amount of money being kept by the centre is just too much for them. What are they going to do with the money, while the states where we come from and the L.G.As need this money more than the centre ? So, I am still recommending and, of course, Sir, I have proposed a Motion on this very issue that will come up very soon before this House that the Federal Government should not maintain as much as 81 per cent. It is too much for them.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr Maina Ma'aji (Kukawa South-East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I think is necessary for this House to look critically at the Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency. We should not just look at it as a piece-meal aspect of Heads and Sub-heads ; we should look at it in terms of overall economic policies of the Government because it is the fiscal policies of the Government that determine the overall policies and the implementation and direction of the economy of the Government.

In this light, Mr Chairman, the Committee has failed to direct its efforts to even look at, let alone recommend, aspects of increasing local productivity through fiscal measures. That attempt is, in fact,

minimal. The question of import substitution which is still under fiscal measures is not looked into at all because this is a basic policy issue directed by the financial policies of the Government. Thirdly, Mr Chairman, the present banking system itself is absolutely external oriented. That goes also to confirm why the extent of borrowing from the IBDR and IMF have come in.

We have not looked at our resources, whereas we know that these things are existing and we know why they come into our economy, yet we continue to go to them and make provisions for them to come and interfere in our economy.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on the basis of revenue allocation, I must raise a point again. It is absolutely out of place for the Committee to shy away from their responsibilities, as an hon. Member mentioned earlier. To say that nineteen per cent is grossly small, and that we should wait until next year is, in fact, more than shying away from the problem, but in fact it is a criminal offence.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we should reject the whole report.

The Chairman : It is time. Yes, PRP.

Alhaji Sarki Adamu (Dawakin-Kudu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise here to specially give some credits to the Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, hon. Wanganga. I congratulate him on the excellent report he has submitted before the Floor of this House. Mr Wanganga's report should serve as an example to other Committees, because he has actually looked at all the sensitive parts of his Committee's assignment. I would like to draw the attention of this House to Section 149 (2) and (3) of the Constitution which says :

2. *Any amount standing to the credit of the Federation Account shall be distributed among the Federal and State governments, and the local government councils in each State, on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the National Assembly.*

3. *Any amount standing to the credit of the States in the Federation Account shall be distributed among the States on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the National Assembly.*

So, Mr Chairman, I am appealing to the hon. Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency to see that his recommendation be implemented and that 30 per cent of the total revenue would be allocated to the States. Secondly, I would also like to insist that the grants to local governments should be sent direct to the local governments and not through the State governments because as an old councillor, I know the problems associated with grants to Local Governments. I think last year, out of the total 100 per cent grant we were expecting from the State government, due to some problems encountered by the State in getting their allocations from the centre here, we could not even get one-third of what was allocated to the local government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few comments, I wish the Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency—

The Chairman : Yes, it is time.

Mr S. A. Olowu (Ikale) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to join others to congratulate the Committee on Banking and Currency for a job well begun. In particular, they have pointed out an area which affects all of us all over the country, that is, the relationship between the Federal Government and State Governments. At page 3 of their report, they have pointed out a defect in the budget proposals, and this defect is well accepted by all Members. But, the report has become inconclusive by their failure to bring up appropriate Motion to amend the Budget proposals. In the absence of this amendment, we shall be shirking our responsibilities if this report is passed because the 30 per cent recommended by the Committee shall have no place in the Budget proposals.

That is why, Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to appeal to the Committee that this report ought to be withdrawn for them to put in the appropriate amendment, for us to insert this 30 per cent. You will observe that the Federal Government wants a lion share of the revenue but at the same time wants to run away from the responsibilities to our States. All the States in the Federation must feel the impact of the Federal Government and you will agree with me that rural inhabitants deserve to share in the revenue of this country not only the city dwellers. So, Mr Chairman, Sir, I appeal to you and to the Committee to allow us to put up this amendment which is very crucial.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I share some of the views already expressed by my hon. Colleagues particularly in respect of the revenue allocations to State Governments and the local governments, I would first of all like to congratulate the Committee on Banking and Currency for thinking it fit to consider the revenue allocation to local governments. There is no doubt in my mind and I suppose there should be no doubt in anybody's mind, that the local government is the live-wire of most rural communities in this country.

At the moment, it would appear many local governments all over the country are on the verge of folding up because of lack of funds. Now the recommendations or the observations of the Banking and Currency Committee that the Federal Government should increase the allocation to local governments by as much as ten per cent is an idea which I would support and I would go further to recommend or suggest—

Mr Tubo O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I have a constitutional point of order.

Section 272 of the Constitution says :

Pending any Act of the National Assembly for the provisions of a system of revenue allocation between the Federation and the States, among the States, between the States and local government councils and among the local government councils in the States, the system of revenue allocation in existence for the financial year beginning from

1st April, 1978 and ending on 31st March, 1979 shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and as from the date when this section comes into force, continue to apply :

Mr Chairman : I have taken note of the point of order.

Mr Rotimi : I would still like to make the case for the local government, that as much as possible, more revenue should be allocated to the local governments, and incidentally majority of us sitting in this honourable House are from rural areas. I do not see any reason why anybody should raise an eye-brow against the efforts to make more allocation to local governments.

Secondly, Sir, with due respect to the opinion already expressed by one of my hon. Colleagues from the Cross River in respect of rural banking policy, I would like to make a further contribution on this aspect.

Recently, I paid a visit to my Constituency and there is already a policy for loans to farmers at local government areas. What happens is that a lot of conditions laid down for farmers to raise loans are not easily satisfied by these poor farmers. A farmer wants to raise a loan to cultivate a peice of land and you ask him to go and bring a certificate of occupancy or conveyance of land before he can obtain ₦500 loan ? This, to me, sounds very ridiculous, and I think the Committee on Banking and Currency should look into this matter.

Thank you.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beleive that Members have exhausted themselves on this discussion, and in view of this, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 53.—Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges—as amended, ordered to stand part of the schedule.

HEAD 34 AND PART OF HEAD 246—

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIR

Question proposed, That ₦72,845,000 for head 34 and part of Head 246—Federal Ministry of External Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Sanni Abubakar (Roni) : It is my pleasure, on behalf of my Committee, to submit this report to this Honourable House, for debate on External Affairs Ministry under Head 34 and part of Head 246.

Before I introduce this report, as you know very well, External Affairs Ministry is a very sensitive Ministry and also, the amount voted for it is so meagre—₦72,845,000.00

Mr Chairman, Sir, your Committee on External Affairs examined the Budget proposals of the Ministry of External Affairs in Head 0034000008 at pages 225-233 of the Amended Draft Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1980.

[ALHAJI ABUBAKAR]

It is pertinent to say that the foreign policy objectives as contained in Chapter II Article 19 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution are to promote African Unity as well as total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and states and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations.—

The Ministry of External Affairs is the agency of the Federal Government responsible for matters affecting Nigeria's relations with foreign countries. Apart from the fact that it advises the Government on, and contributes to, the formulation of its foreign policy, it executes Government decisions on matters affecting external relations. It co-ordinates arrangements for international conferences in Nigeria. It is responsible for Pilgrimage arrangements, external publicity, relations with the Diplomatic Corps in Nigeria, consular matters, repatriation of destitute Nigerians, and has relations with the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and the Commonwealth Institute.

Before we settled down to consider the budget in detail and item by item, Mr Chairman, Sir, we invited the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Directors of Administration and the Director-General of the Institute of International Affairs, for interview. The general stand of the Ministry on all the items of the budget estimate was to ask for an increase on the overall budget proposals for the Ministry due to expansion and world wide inflation because, they argued, three quarters of the Ministry is spread all over the world. They further argued that the estimates should therefore take into account the inflation in foreign countries so as to facilitate the operation of the Ministry's work.

The Ministry has 79 missions abroad and new Diplomatic missions are being proposed for Manila, Kuwait, Consular-General in Jeddah, Athens, separating Berne from Geneva, Buenos Aires, Caracas and Mexico. At the moment, the Ministry has a staff strength of over 2,000. This will be increased by leaps and bounds when the new missions are opened.

With all said and done, having taken into account the economic condition of the country, we felt unable to recommend any increase over and above the proposal submitted to the House by the Executive which is possessed of more facts about the fiscal position of the country than anybody or group of people. We support the Government's dynamic foreign policy but with caution, that is that, such a policy does not work against the interest of the common man as to impoverish our national economy.

Your Committee examined the details of the Budget and commends same to you for approval for reasons stated below :

1. Personal Emoluments :

You will notice that the total budget under this head for 1979-80 was ₦18,692,530 for 12 months while the Estimate for 9 months for 1980 is ₦19,175,000 which is an increase of ₦482,470 representing 2.58 per cent over and above the 1979-80 figure.

The reason for the increase is due to the fact that most of our missions abroad are manned by relatively junior officers who act as Charge-d'Affaires, because there are not enough officers in External Affairs Grades 1 and 2, G.L. 16 and G.L. 15. The Ministry now intends to bring up the standard of our Charge-d'Affaires by employing 20 in Grades G.L. 16 and 34 in grade G.L. 15 to man the posts and all our missions abroad to be manned by substantive ambassadors in the above grade level.

There is also an increase in Officers grades 3, 4 and 5 to 37 while there are 23 more posts in officers grade 5. The increase is necessary in order to have enough senior and experienced officers who will act as Deputies to substantive Heads of missions when they are away from their posts. Since the deputies are drawn from these grades of staff officers it is necessary to have sufficient number of them for posting to the Missions and Departments at Headquarters.

The increase in Officer grades 6, 7, and 8 as well is necessitated by the general increase in the activities of the Missions and Headquarters. These are middle cadre officers and are necessary to supplement senior officers without which the Ministry might be top heavy. There is an increase of 12, 31 and 28 respectively.

In the Translator/Interpreter cadre there is an increase of 12 posts ; this is necessary for the fact that all departments require Translators/Interpreters as the few posts already in existence are insufficient to cope with the increasing volume of work required to be done in the Ministry.

The increase in the Executive Officers cadre is necessary because officers in this cadre are required to give support to the Branch A officers in all general administrative and executive duties. It is this cadre of officers that are responsible for many of the routine operations at the Headquarters and in the Missions abroad.

The increase in the Secretarial Cadre is necessitated by the fact that the general expansion of the Ministry's work led to the demand for more secretaries—all the departments. The increase in the number of Senior Staff naturally means that more secretaries will be needed to work with senior officers. There is, therefore, an increase of 29 in Confidential Secretary-Grade III, G.L. 06, 6 posts of Confidential Secretary, Grade II, G.L. 07, 15 posts of the Bilingual Secretary, Grade I, G.L. 10, 35 posts of Bilingual Secretary, Grade II, G.L. 09, 50 posts of Bilingual Secretary, Grade III, G.L. 08 and 56 posts of Bilingual Secretary, Grade IV, G.L. 07.

There is an increase of 15 more Senior Clerical Officers, G.L. 05, 37 Clerical Officers, G.L. 04, and 100 Assistant Clerical Officers, G.L. 03. The increase is necessary in order to have enough supporting staff to cope with the increased activities and the expansion of the Ministry.

The setting up of a transport section by the Ministry is supported in order to reduce the difficulty being experienced in the management of and control of drivers.

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The Committee also recommends the setting up of a clinic at the headquarters to reduce truancy and absenteeism due to minor ailments. This is also true for the provision of a staff canteen within the Headquarters, for the staff.

It is our recommendation that all the Ministry's budget on personal emolument and the increase are reasonable, and necessary if the Ministry is to perform its functions effectively. We therefore commend that head of the estimate for your approval. Other Charges : Sub head 003400200001.

Your Committee examined and considered in detail and found as a fact that in 1979-80 the total budget for 12 months under this Head was ₦17,843,500 while the estimate under the same head for 1980 is ₦18,175,000 for 9 months. There is an increase of ₦331,500 representing 1.85 per cent over and above 1979-80 figure.

In spite of the increase we recommend the estimate for your approval as it stands. This is because it is the External Affairs Ministry that is mostly affected by inflation which is now threatening the world economic order and for the fact that the Ministry is spread over the world capitals with different economic situations.

We have picked some of the sub-heads with glaring increases while others have not been touched because we consider the increases reasonable and justified in the circumstances

If we examine this sub-head critically we would note an increase in the estimate proposed over and above the provision for 1979-80 Budget. This is so because it is under this sub-head that our 79 missions and headquarters in Lagos meet their local transport and travelling expenses including payment of overseas duty allowance for officers being posted to man those missions. The increase including payment of oversea duty allowance has also been necessitated as a result of the enormous world wide inflation.

You will note that in 1979-80 the total budget for 12 months under this sub-head was ₦1,300,000 while the estimate under the same sub-head for 1980 is ₦1,500,000 for 9 months. This we considered to be a reasonable increase although the Minister insisted on ₦2,600,000. We therefore recommend to you to approve the estimate of ₦1,500,000 as contained in the Draft Estimate for 1980.

Sub-head 035

We recommend that the increase under this sub-head be approved as costs have gone up and will continue to be so. Furthermore, the vote covers purchase of stationery, cleaning materials, toiletries for headquarters in Lagos and 79 missions abroad, and those also to come soon.

Sub-head 043

This vote is shared by the headquarters in Lagos and the 79 missions abroad. It was argued by the Minister that due to the fact that most of the vehicles abroad are old, the cost of repairs are enormous. We recommend approval for the subhead.

Sub-head 063

We commend that sub-head increase over and above the 1979-80 provision for approval because the vote is for payment of the increasing cost of electricity, water, gas, and other utility services which have to be paid for in respect of Chancery, Ambassadors' residences and staff quarters in our missions abroad. Sub-head 076.

Efforts should be made to ensure that these grades of officers receive their bicycle allowances to make them happy and in order to increase their productivity Sub-head 116.

The Minister argued that this vote is inadequate in view of the fact that most of the present Ambassadors and other top envoys would be recalled home and new ones, including political appointees; sent to our Missions abroad to replace them. We realise that this exercise coupled with the projected opening of new Missions would necessitate an increase in the cost of passages and, we, therefore, commend the sub-head for your approval.

Sub-head 124.

We commend the increase under this sub-head for your approval because with the expanding activities of the Ministry more officers will benefit under the vote.

Sub-heads 132-1007.

We commend the approval of these sub-heads to the House on the ground that the votes are shared between the headquarters in Lagos and the 79 Missions abroad and more to come in future. In addition, it is the External Affairs of all the Ministries that feels more the impact of world inflation. With increase in the activities of our External Affairs Ministry it is imperative that additional cost will be involved which eventually will increase the funding of the Ministry.

On the whole the increases on the estimates, where they occur over and above the 1979-80 provisions, have been considered critically by the Committee and found to be reasonable and justified.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we therefore commend to you for approval both the capital and recurrent estimates as summarised below :

1. Personal Emoluments	..	19,175,000
2. Other Charges	.. ..	18,175,000
3. Special Expenditure	.. ..	1,976,000
		<hr/>
		₦ 38,326,000
		<hr/>
4. Capital Expenditure	.. ..	₦ 33,519,000
		<hr/>
Grand Total	.. ..	₦ 72,845,000

Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to submit. Thank you.

The Chairman : Yes, Mr Etienam, there is a Point of order.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : It is Order 3 (1) and (2) and it reads :

Mr Speaker shall allocate a seat to each Member. A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that Mr Speaker may change the allocation from time to time.

The Chairman : He raised a good point of order. Let me thank the great hon. Member, Chief Oduntan. Chief Oduntan, unfortunately, there is no loudspeaker on the front row. Furthermore, the Leader of the House says that, that is his seat.

Mr Edet Bassey Eteinam (Oron II) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for ruling once and for all on this question of the seat for Comrade Eteinam.

The Chairman : That seat has been allocated to you.

Mr Eteinam : Mr Chairman, I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : There is a Point of order.

Mr M. I. Gumawa (Gabasawa) : It is Order 38. Mr Chairman, I am not satisfied with the way and manner in which Mr Chairman is conducting the Business of the House.

The Chairman : Read the Order.

Mr Gumawa : It is Order 38 (1) and it says :

If in the opinion of Mr Speaker, or in Committee of the whole House the Chairman, as to the decision of a question is challenged, Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall direct that the lobbies be cleared, and on such direction being given the door at the south end of each lobby shall be locked, and the division bells shall be rung for one minute.

Mr Chairman, I am forced to read this Section of the Order because I understand there was a deliberate attempt to force these reports to be going through the House without the agreement of the Members. When the decision of the Chairman is challenged, Mr Chairman, in the interest of democracy and justice, I think, he should allow the Members to express their views freely in this House. Mr Chairman, the *Hansards* are my witness, Mr Chairman. When Members express their views on a Report saying actually their minds and disagreeing with the Report, I cannot see why the Chairman, when the voices of Noes or the Ayes reflect the will of the House, then the Chairman, would say something contrary to the fact. I do not care whatever somebody may say. The fact is this. We are not opposed to the Executive presenting the Budget. This is democracy and the system allows the Members of the National Assembly to either agree or disagree with the proposal. It is just a proposal.

The Chairman : Thank you, the hon. Member from Kano State. You make a point of order when a Member speaking has contravened the rules of the House. From what you have now said, has the Member from Oron II contravened the rules of the House ?

Mr Eteinam : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to say, that the Report of the External Affairs Committee deserves to be supported by all sections of this honourable House because it is very comprehensive, straight to the point, and non-controversial.

I only want to make an observation, Sir, on an aspect of their Report and that is the aspect that affects the role of our Ambassadors representing Nigeria abroad. As we are all aware, Sir, the Foreign Policy position which we inherited from the last

Military Administration was very dynamic, and it is my wish and, in fact, the wish of all reasonable Nigerians that this dynamic posture in our International Relations should be maintained by this Administration.

Consequently, I want to say, Sir, that the role of our Ambassadors who are supposed to be the image makers of this country abroad has not been very impressive. Quite a number of them are not patriotic enough to continue to serve this country in that exalted position. Some of them, it is on record, Sir, are businessmen fronting for the multi-nationals, leaving the job which they are supposed to do, which is to represent the interest of this country. We know them. If I am challenged, I will mention their names.

I am, therefore, suggesting, Sir, that, while supporting the report of this Committee, the Executive should be urged to review the appointments of all the present Ambassadors who are representing this country abroad with a view to ensuring that only patriotic Nigerians, who are not only loyal to this country but to the government of the day, should be kept in our offices abroad.

I want to say, too, that the appointment of Ambassadors in future should reflect the federal character of this country, because, it appears that our foreign service appointments are dominated by people from one section of this country. People who, at the moment, are dominating everything in this country are also dominating the foreign service, while people from the oil producing areas and other areas of this country have been excluded completely from the foreign service.

Mr Mike Ogwu (Udi) : I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the External Affairs Committee. We must remember that foreign service is like National Security, and the contents of our Constitution that this country will, of course, uphold the African Unity is very important. Here again, Nigerian Foreign Policy is focused on Africa. We should remember that the last military regime intervened effectively in Angola to give that country independence and today Nigeria takes credit to that.

There is also the Independence of Zimbabwe. This country, of course, told the Western world that she is going to stop the oil supply to them and then, of course, they took up the BP interest in Nigeria. That of course, forced down the hands of the British government to try to Concede to Zimbabweans what was due to them. This means, therefore, that Nigeria as a leading African country has arrived in foreign relations, especially in African policy.

It is important, I do agree, that the inflationary trend of things in the world makes foreign service very expensive, and it is important, therefore, that this honourable House, without any hesitation do approve the recommendation of the Committee.

The only thing I am trying to quarrel with is that in future Nigeria should divide its foreign countries in zones because opening Embassies in somewhere like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other parts of Asia is,

[Mr OGWU]
in fact, not necessary. The common enemies we have in this world are the world powers. For example, we know that South Africa possesses nuclear weapons sold to them by the Western Germans, and in this country the Western German companies hold a lot of interests in Nigeria and we allow these people to feed fat, sell nuclear weapons to South Africa to come here to kill our people.

If we have to uphold our leadership in Africa, it is important that this nation realises those that are threats to us. That means, therefore, that the President of this country would sit down and map out the Nigerian strategy so that we can move ahead including taking positive action in the United Nations.

With these few words, I appeal to the House to support this report. Thank you, very much.

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member who spoke last that the Committee on External Affairs has done a very good job. However, there are a few missing items which I consider ought to be mentioned so that the Ministry of External Affairs will take note and take adequate precautions to prevent re-occurrences in the future. Our Officers in the foreign service live very well abroad. When they come home, usually, they are not met on return to be collected from the airport. Their ordeal starts immediately they arrive. Accommodation is not provided for them. In reading through this report I do not see anywhere where an arrangement has been made to take care of these people when they return in the form of provision of temporary accommodation where they could put up and live fairly decently until they are allocated other quarters.

Secondly, there is mention of a staff clinic at the Headquarters. If this is done for the Ministry of External Affairs, I am afraid, all other Ministries will also wish staff clinics to be set up for them. This aspect needs to be really looked into.

Thirdly, there is no provision and no mention made in the report as to the absolute inadequacy of funds made available for the maintenance of students who are destitute abroad. In a place like New York and Germany, I am aware that the funds available is less than a thousand naira. Provision ought to have been made for this because, so far, the Embassies are absolutely incapacitated in providing, in any way whatsoever, for students that require any form of aid.

Finally, the need to put up our own buildings in places like New York and Washington was not mentioned. However, I appeal to Members of the House to support the report of the Committee as put forward but to ensure that in subsequent reports these provisions are adequately made. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr M. G. A. Nwokocha (Abakaliki East/Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to associate myself with the report tendered by the Chairman of the External Affairs Committee. They have done a good job all right but I want to mention in particular, that a good attention should be paid to what the British

Government has done in respect of Nigerian Students studying in Britain. Because of Nigeria's stand on the internal affairs of Africa, the British Government has decided overnight to increase the school fees of the people they call the colonial students by a 100 per cent.

This makes the cost of education for Nigerian Students studying in Britain to be far and above what obtains in other countries. This action of the British Government is a counter move to what we did to their BP oil company. I think the External Affairs Committee should look into ways of rectifying this anomaly created by their obnoxious act. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Yelwa M. A. (Yauri) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, two items in the Estimates are what I want an explanation on from the Chairman of the External Affairs Committee. On page 231, item 351,—Contribution to the OAU Budgetary Fund. I find here that the provision of almost 1.2 million Naira is made for nine months while in the previous year the amount was .8 million Naira. I do not know why we have that increase of about 100 per cent.

The second part is on page 232 item 017 which is special expenditure—office furniture and equipment. Here also, we have an allocation of ₦800,000 while last year, it was ₦100,000. Why is there an increase of about 800 per cent? Can we have an explanation please from the Chairman of External Affairs Committee?

The second point which I want to talk about is on the Staff. Though, we have been talking about staffing to reflect the Federal character of the country, we should not, of course, do it to such a degree that seniority in the service and efficiency would be sacrificed. If at all the President wants to reflect Federal Character, it should be on political appointments. I think that one third of the Foreign Ambassadors could be politicians. And where possible, we should also take a leaf from America and other developed countries where these politicians appointed as Ambassadors do not just come from one political party. Experience has shown that Ambassadors belonging to different parties also help in the unity of the country and as such, I hope that that also should be kept in mind.

Finally, Sir, I think there should be a clear demarcation of our policy on foreign aids and foreign scholarships. There should be a clear demarcation of what the functions of the Ministry of External Affairs and those of the Ministry of Education are. At the moment, there are so much conflicts, and I hope that the Committee on Foreign Affairs would do something so that clearly, we know what the functions of the Ministry of External Affairs are. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr A. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Chairman, I want to comment briefly on our foreign policy abroad. The significance of enlarging our Missions abroad is much more, in my consideration, a prestigious exercise rather than those essential functions that a nation should carry out. When we talk about liberation, with particular reference to our involvement in the liberation movement in South

[MR GAPSUK]

Africa, we should reflect our minds on what actually that means to us back home. While we are liberating others, we ourselves are not being liberated. I am aware of what happened to Nigerians in Ghana and in Zaire and yet, our foreign Missions abroad—

An hon. Member : But that is no liberation—

Mr Gapsuk : Well, if you take a look at what happens to our people abroad, it looks as if our Missions abroad are not interacting with the respective governments where they are representing us.

Secondly, you need also to understand that we have to be very careful in our policies with particular reference to the Middle-East and the hot spots countries like Tchad and Afghanistan. In a situation like this, we have got to instruct our Ambassadors on the definite policies of how to interact in order not to have an unfavourable reflection on our nationals abroad.

This being the case, I want to round up by pointing out on page 564 an item that has given me a puzzle. Page 564 on the Draft Estimate, item 361 speaks about construction of permanent Pilgrims Transit Camps in Ikeja and Kano, ₦5,000,000. I wonder if, Mr Chairman through you, the Chairman of this Committee can explain the position of the ₦5,000,000 on page 564. Perhaps, it was an oversight. Let him please explain.

Mr M. S. Kaugama (Aliyo/Kangama) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Committee on External Affairs for a job well done and for what they present before us. Indeed, what is before us is non-controversial at all. But my quarrel, Mr Chairman, is that the Ministry is not living up to our expectation because for one thing, you just cannot go abroad and see the image of Nigeria rightly projected as it should be. Mr Chairman, Sir, it was only yesterday that we were reading a sad news in a newspaper that some Nigerian students are languishing in a Greek prison and nobody is doing anything about that. You just cannot believe it that we have an Ambassador or someone that can just help us there to see that these people are rescued from this unbecoming situation in which they found themselves.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before I round up my speech, I want to draw the attention of the House to page 233 an item that says *purchase of water tankers for staff quarters at the headquarters* which amounted to ₦120,000. Mr Chairman, I want to know how many tankers are to be bought with this ₦120,000 and how many staff are involved in this at the headquarters.

Mr J. Opakanmi (Iwo North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this Committee says that there is a vote for pilgrim arrangement but it appears that they give publicity to Muslim pilgrim arrangement, but not to Christian

pilgrimage. Mr Chairman, many Christians would want to go on Holy pilgrimages, but there is no publicity given to that. So, I am calling upon the, External Affairs Committee and the Press to see that every year, they give due publicity to Christian pilgrimage welfare so that people in the rural areas can go to either Jerusalem or Rome for their Holy pilgrimage. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Z. Momodu (Estako) : Mr Chairman, Sir hon. Members, in contributing to this subject on the Floor, I have to congratulate the Committee Chairman for the duty he has been able to perform. I have to mention here, Mr Chairman, that the laudable job done by our predecessor in foreign affairs, that is the Military Regime, need not be over-emphasised and that has also been taken over by the present regime. So, my congratulation goes to everyone of them. But, nevertheless, I want to know what this country is doing to re-lay the relationship between Israel and Nigeria because we severed our connection with Israel because of the problem with Egypt. Today, Egypt and Israel have already re-laid their relationship. I wonder why this Administration is not prepared to recognise Israel.

Mr Chairman, Sir, most of our other reputable Colleagues have spoken about the activities of our Ambassadors but I want to sound a note of warning here that no Ambassador should take his duty as a his *bone fide* property. Some of them have been there for over fifteen or ten years. Why are they still there? They should be changed. (Applause) Mr Chairman, Sir, I suggest that no Ambassador should reign for more than eight years in foreign affairs.

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

₦39,326,000 for Head 34, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦31,800,000 for part of Head 246, Capital Estimates Ministry of External Affairs—Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members I move that the Chairman now reports progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

And it being after 1 o'clock, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 20th May, 1980

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

UPN Communique on Remunerations
of Assembly Members

Mr E. O. Echetafu (Njikoka South) : I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Punch Publication of today, May 20th at page 10, the communique on the remuneration of political office holders in the Federation, and would like to say that this publication by the Unity Party of Nigeria is so debasing, uncalled for and without any tenets of facts contained therein. I would like to say that instead of these people crying over the spilled milk of their leadership buying one thousand properties and two hundred and ninety properties at Victoria Island, and mismanaging the funds of the constituencies from where they come, they had the impudence of writing and putting the whole Members of our National Assembly, 544 of us, into a great dispute.

For the information of the whole House, there is a sum in the Capital Expenditure, which is only a draft, of ₦48,000,000 for the running of the National Assembly. This is not meant to be private Emoluments to the 544 Members of the National Assembly. I have never seen where such a fantastic sum has been paid to any Assembly in the world. What they did was to divide ₦48,000,000 among Assembly Members and they arrived at ₦118,100 for each Member. That is not the true position. The real sum set aside for Members touring their vicinities and districts and running their offices here, including cost of transportation and other facilities, was only a paltry sum of ₦1.8 million which, if divided, is not up to ₦2,000 per annum per Member, and now they escalated it to be ₦118,100.

This being the situation, this House has carried with a great reserve what I call the plundering of the UPN over the masses of this country. If this party had been in the government, that government would have fallen today barely seven months after election.

On this topic, we are calling on those people, who profess to be socialists, who were purchasing these lands and the rest of them, to really resign and put their facts to shame. I call on the hon. Members of this House to condemn the playing up of the UPN as socialist party without, in fact, carrying out any iota of socialism in their activities. That was not the socialism of Karl Marx when people registered 290 properties in Victoria Island.

Mr Speaker That is all right Time.

Lolomari's Appointment Regular

Dr J. T. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, the criticism of the Presidential appointment of Mr Lolomari as the acting Managing Director of the NNPC by Rep. Chief Yomi Akintola, as contained in the National Assembly debates, Volume 5, No. 18 of 14th May 1980, has necessitated this explanation. While criticising the Presidential appointment, the hon. Member alleged that certain elements within the government are trying to bring the government down, and that by this appointment the President has made Mr Lolomari supersede his senior officers; and besides that, Mr Lolomari has been found guilty by a Federal Government Commission of Inquiry and was accordingly reprimanded, fined and down-graded at the material time.

It is very necessary, Ladies and Gentlemen, for us to get the points straight. In fact, it is not in my position to come and mislead this House, but to place before it only facts. Now, taking the allegations one by one, he accused the President of appointing Mr Lolomari to supersede senior Members of staff, which is not true. I have to tell you that we have to consider the historical facts of the evolution of the NNPC from the Ministry of Mines and Power.

First of all, the most senior officer that was there was Mr Feyide. He was a year ahead of Marinho and Lolomari. Marinho entered the Ministry of Mines and Power on the 20th June, 1960 while Mr Lolomari entered on the 29th September, 1960. The next group of senior officers that entered the Ministry were Mr Akanla who entered on the 27th September, 1962, Akpe entered on 28th January, 1963 and Kufeji entered on 10th May, 1965. The next batch of senior officers that followed them were Adams 15th April, 1974, Kosuno 1st May, 1960.

You can see from here that if Feyide is no longer there and Marinho is not there, definitely it should be Lolomari; so the question of superseding does not occur. Coming back to the question of being found guilty by an Inquiry, it is really sad for us to go back to the bad aspects of the administration before this time. All of us know very well that one of the factors that contributed to the downfall of the first Republic was tribalism. It was no secret that Ministers who were appointed to take up Federal Ministerial positions, for instance, Education, made sure that only people of their ethnic groups were given scholarships. All these contributed to the downfall. We know that. It is therefore necessary to really point out what happened. (*Interruptions*) The next explanation is—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order. Order ! Order ! Please, let us hear Mr Olukoya.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of order is Order 16 and if I may read, Sir, page 15 :

By the indulgence of the House and the leave of Mr Speaker, a Member may make a personal explanation although there be no question before the House but no controversial matter may be brought forward.

Mr Speaker : Go on and come to the point, Dr Sekibo.

Dr Sekibo : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you, very much. It is just natural that issues that were raised should be answered.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Dr Sekibo : It is really unfortunate that people are not ready to appreciate that we are here to make friends, we are here to forge a new system, we are here to ensure that you need me and I need you, and that we should work co-operatively. It is fair for someone who has been accused wrongly to be defended since he is not given the chance. Therefore, I have to go further to the next point. The point is that the so-called inquiry that was constituted was not a judicial commission. Secondly, although the NPRC was a limited liability company managed by its Board of Directors, they appointed a Ministerial Inquiry which was really manipulated to the detriment of Mr Lolomari.

Mr Speaker : Wind up.

Dr Sekibo : The next point is that he was not found guilty because, firstly, the points they used against him were (1) they—

Mr Speaker : Time.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Animal Science

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture—Heads 25 and 221 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr A. E. Ejiga (Oturkpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture—Heads 25 and 221 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates respectively of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr P. U. Chukwu (Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Appropriation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Non-Statutory Appropriation of Revenue—Head 54 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka (Argungu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Non-Statutory Appropriation of Revenue Head 54 of the Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale Waje North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Report on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union Seminar

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, you will remember we sent two people to London to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union Seminar. Our delegates are now back and the Leader of the Delegation the hon. Mr Afolabi will give us a very brief report of the seminar.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, first of all, I am delighted to meet my fellow colleagues very busy in Parliament and I am sure that despite the row about what has been happening in the Press we are all keeping to our responsibilities in the House of Representatives.

I will proceed to give you a brief report about our activities in the United Kingdom. We arrived in Britain slightly behind time owing to the strike of the Traffic Control Towers. We had a very busy, useful and interesting stay during the Commonwealth Parliamentary Visit to Britain. My Colleague, the hon. J. C. Okoli, Member for Ezeagu in Anambra State, and my humble self arrived on early Sunday morning the 4th of May, and proceeded to Middlesbrough in the county of Cleveland, to join other delegates from other Commonwealth countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, Sri-Lanka, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Barbados, Island of Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius and Beslisle.

We were lodged in Middlesbrough at Dragonara Hotel. On Tuesday, 6th of May, we visited Captain Cook Museum, and we were welcomed by the Mayor of Middlesbrough and later visited Industrial establishments in the County of Cleveland. Middlesbrough is in the northern area of the county and is an industrial centre in Britain notably for Petro-chemical and shipping industries. Some of the places we visited included the G.E.C. Telecommunications Limited, the Phillips Petroleum Company where we were taken round the factories to see the mechanics at work drilling oil in the North Sea. We later attended a dinner given by the Mayor of Middlesbrough.

On the 7th of May, we proceeded to York and visited the Castle Museum, York. We had a buffet Lunch at Saint Williams College, College Street and later in the day, we proceeded on coach to Cambridge, arriving in Cambridge by 6.30 p.m. We were lodged at Garden House Hotel. The next day, we went on extensive tour of Cambridge University. By 11.00 a.m. we arrived at the Old Schools and had discussion during coffee time with the University Treasurer, Mr T. C. Gardener.

[MR AFOLABI]

Later, we had a buffet lunch with students at the Cambridge Union Society, Bridge Street and later in the evening, we dined in the colleges as the guests of Masters and Fellows.

On Friday, 9th May, we were guests at lunch given by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and senior members of the University at the University centre. My Colleagues, the hon. Member for Ezeagu (*Mr Joseph C. Okoli*), gave thanks in honour of the Members at that dinner.

Saturday, 10th May, was a free day for Members. On Sunday 11th May, by eleven o'clock, we toured places of historical and contemporary interests in Central London which included the Trafalgar Square, the Buckingham Palace, the White Hall, the Thames Valley and Windsor Park. (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Afolabi : On the 12th of May, we proceeded to visit the Commonwealth Institute Kessington, London, where we were met by the Director of the Institute, Mr J. F. Porter. Later, we had a buffet lunch. After the lunch, we proceeded to the Commonwealth Secretariat where we were shown round the Secretariat by the Director of International Affairs. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*), confine yourself to the very important features of the report. (*Laughter*)

Mr Afolabi : Tuesday, the 13th of May, was a crowded day. We had a discussion on the topic *Commonwealth and World Affairs* which began at 10.30 a.m. and lasted for 3 hours. The Leader speaker was Mr Neil Marten, a Member of Parliament and Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. At this meeting, I asked Britain whether they were sacrificing the interest of Commonwealth by entering Europe. I had the assurance that this was not the case, and that as far as Britain is concerned, they would ensure that the interests of the Commonwealth are adequately protected by Britain.

In the afternoon we attended the Speaker's Procession and the Galleries of the Lords and Commons. Later, we watched the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, answering questions of the Members of Parliament. Later, we had discussions with Members of the House of Lords, High Court Judges and leading Members of both the Labour and Conservative Parties in Parliament.

On Monday, the 14th of May, we assembled at the Westminster Pier and went to the Royal Naval College in Greenwich and met the admiral President, Rear Admiral A. F. Cooke and other officers. Later in the afternoon, we also visited the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory.

On Thursday, 15th of May, we had a discussion on the topic *The Parliamentary System in my Country*. There were speeches by various countries and I took

the opportunity to explain in greater detail our new Presidential system highlighting the prominent features between our system and the Westminster type, particularly the separation of powers in the Presidential system where both the Executive and the Legislative share powers as compared with the Westminster type where there is fusion of powers.

In the afternoon, we also attended again the Galleries of the Lords and Commons and listened to the questions to the Prime Minister in which Mrs M. Thatcher was answering questions put to her by Members of Parliament.

On the 16th of May, two Members of Parliament, hon. Ernest Armstrong (Labour) and Mr Peter Emery (Conservative) were answering Members' questions. There were thought provoking questions as to whether Britain has a specific time for the decolonization of Southern Africa. This question was raised by my humble self and the speakers were able to give us some answers into what they felt should be the programme for the decolonization, but in the main they said they were prepared to work in concert with the O.A.U.

After this, we had a farewell gathering in which the Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom branch, Sir Migel Fisher, presided. He was very happy to welcome back the Nigerian delegation into the fold. We were also extended the invitation to attend the the Parliamentary Conference in Lusaka.

It has been a very useful and interesting experience. One thing that is obvious is that we were all welcome ; that Nigeria is able to join back the fold of the C.P.A., an Association in which she had played a leading role in the sixties. I remember that at that time the late hon. R. A. Njoku was the Chairman of the international Conference.

The impression which I gather is that the standard of our Parliament is very, very high. (*Hear !Hear !*) I am saying, with a due sense of responsibility, having wratched the proceedings in the British Parliament and the way they conduct their affairs, that the proceedings in our own Parliament here have been very, very high and I think this, Sir, is to the credit of Mr Speaker and to all of us who have been able to keep to this standard.

Hon. Members, we are very satisfied that we have been able to attend this conference. I am sure there are more opportunities coming so that hon. Members would be able to attend more of this conferences. Even though we are now running a Presidential system, there are still a lot that we can derive by exchanging views with the delegates from Commonwealth countries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been a useful experience. I thank you for listening to me. This is briefly the report to the Conference. Thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Now, we shall go to the Order Paper.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill, 1980

(8th Alloted Day)

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

HEAD 33.—FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

Question proposed that ₦10,799,000 for Head 33 Recurrent Expenditure and ₦118,000,000 for part of Head 246, Capital Expenditure—Federal Capital Territory—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman: Please, the Chairman of the Business Committee, should allocate a Committee Room immediately to the small Committee we appointed yesterday so that they may start work right away.

Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi): Mr Chairman, it is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you, this morning, and the whole House for approval the Budget as it pertains to the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory. I know, Mr Chairman, Sir, that this is the day that we all had wanted to see, and I believe that everybody here is prepared, as we have always been, to rally round the project that is currently going on in Abuja. We are here, as five political parties, willing to work towards making Nigeria one nation and one destiny. *(Applause)* We all want to put Nigeria well right up; we want to give power and justice to the people. That is the only way we are going to have *Nassara*, and it is because of this that I implore every Member here to support whole-heartedly, the recommendation laid before this honourable House by the Committee on the Federal Capital as I present it to you on their behalf.

Mr Chairman, Sir, pursuant to House Resolution No. 121 of March 19, your Committee met on five plenary Sessions in order to consider the Budget.

The method adopted: Your Committee in their deliberations on the Budget invited the Minister in charge of the Ministry for clarification on some items in the Estimates. The Minister and some officials of the FCDA held two meetings with your Committee. Of the total amount of ₦9,040,000,000 budgeted for Federal Services for the 1980 financial year, the budget for the Federal Capital Territory Head 33 attracts ₦128,799,000. This amount is divided thus.

For Capital Estimates, the Federal Capital Territory has ₦118,000,000 which is found in page 563 under General Administration Code No. 989. There is a special expenditure of ₦10,799,000 and Personal Emoluments totalling ₦333,000, the total being ₦128,799 and that is what your Committee, Sir, wants the House to approve today.

It may be pertinent, Mr Chairman, to mention that the Ministry is a new creation, hence there is a substantial allocation to Other Charges in the Estimates. In one of the sessions which we held with the Minister, your Committee was informed that there was ₦90,000,000 in the deposit, which had been

deposited by the Bank from the last financial year, and it was in cognisance of the deposit of this ₦90,000,000 that the amount of ₦128,000,000 was given.

Mr Chairman, with the addition of ₦90,000,000, plus the ₦5,000,000 additional revenue within the FCT and the GNC which it collected, the Federal Capital Territory has a total of ₦213.8 million for this financial year.

Detailed Consideration: Personal Emoluments—The total sum budgeted was ₦398,000. It may be pertinent, to mention that the Ministry derives its functions from the Federal Government extraordinary notice of 26th October 1979. Prior to this, the Ministry was not in existence. The Ministry was established in order to carry forth the planning and the development of the FCT, the control of the developmental services, the provisions of social services within the FICT the administration of the Federal Capital Territory, the allocation of urban and rural land and its relationship to the FCDA, prior to this time, there was an Authority which was established by Decree No. 6 of 1976 of the 4th March, 1976 establishing the Federal Capital Development Authority and it is this Authority that had prior to the establishment of this Ministry, been running the activities of the Territory. So, this emphasises the newness of the Ministry which in the opinion of your Committee is responsible for the modest amount budgeted for, this Subhead.

Your Committee wishes to stress the need for the recruitment of skilled manpower by the Ministry to enable it supervise the activities of the FCDA. This recommendation is made in view of the intensive constructional activities anticipated in the Territory this year. Your Committee recommends the approval of the amount allocated to this Subhead.

Other Charges: The amount budgeted is ₦10,169,000. Your Committee noted that, of the ₦10,169,000 budgeted under this Subhead, the administration of the FCT takes a lion share of about ₦10,000,000 while the rest is allocated to the Special Charges. It is pertinent for me to make a brief explanation about this Sub Head. It is under the Decree establishing the Federal Capital Territory, that is Decree No. 6 of 1976, that when all arrangements would have been ready, there would be an Authority that would take care of the administration of the Federal Capital city, and it in the process of planning for the general take over of the administration of the capital city that this amount is allocated. So, the administration is going to be virtually the Authority in control of the city and the people who are residing in the city, and that is why the amount of ₦10,000,000 is recommended for this financial year for that administration.

This opinion is further strengthened by the anticipated scope of structural activities and the need to co-ordinate the activities and functions of all agencies in the Territory as well as provided services for the achievement of the national target of 1982 movement to Abuja. Your Committee, therefore, Mr Chairman, recommends the approval of the amount budgeted under this Subhead.

[MR IDAKULA]

Then, we have the Special Expenditure. The amount budgeted is ₦192,000. Your Committee recognises the fact that the Ministry has to be continuously serviced and its equipment and machines kept in functioning condition to enable it perform the enormous tasks of providing a befitting capital for the country. This is the major factor that influenced the recommendations of your Committee for the approval of the amount allocated to this Subhead, and we hereby recommend that his amount be approved.

There is the allocation of ₦118,000,000.00 involved for the Capital Expenditure. Mr Chairman, I want to say here again that the Department of the Board of Federal Capital Development Authority comes under this Subhead. So, the amount of ₦118,000,000 was scrutinized by the Board of the FCDA before presenting it to the Financial Department for onward forwarding to the National Assembly for approval.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in considering the estimates under this Subhead, your Committee was guided by three major factors. One, the absorptive capacity of the Ministry. Two, the National Dead-line and three, the projects earmarked for execution during this financial year.

Absorptive Capacity as earlier on indicated, your Committee is convinced that the Ministry is seriously under-staffed and I say this with the greatest emphasis that the Ministry is seriously under staffed and part of this allocation is to work towards giving contracts to various people in order to see to the fruition of the project. Your Committee's only consolation is that much of the projects which the Ministry intends to execute in the year would be farmed out on contract and this is not likely to stress the manpower strength of the Ministry too taut. But this does not, however, detract from the fact that the Ministry is grossly under-staffed and should increase the pool of its skilled workers to enable it make any appreciable impact in the constructional activities during the year.

At this juncture, I would like to mention that the reason for the Ministry being under-staffed is because the Ministry has a special project to undertake, and the job is a rigorous one which demands special skill and ability and which entails hazards. There are a lot of hazards attached to the job because they are involved in the clearing of wild bush, felling of trees and constructing a completely new city. It is the opinion of your Committee that the Board especially, should be allowed to attach special remuneration to the posts of staff who will work in this area, at least, for a period in which it is necessary in order to attract the needed manpower to Abuja. Secondly, Mr Chairman, there is the need for the appointment of an Executive Secretary. The Decree provides for the appointment of the Executive Secretary, and since the President declared the area a Ministry, the Executive Secretary became the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, and the Authority now does not have an Executive Secretary. It is important that there is a speedy appointment of the Executive Secretary who will take over the job for proper co-ordination and administration.

2. National Deadline : Your Committee considers the target date of 1982-83 for the movement of the first batch of Federal offices to Abuja as a challenge to the Ministry and to your Committee. Your Committee wishes to stress that its recommendation on the capital estimates of the Ministry is largely influenced by the urge to meet the challenge of moving the first batch of Federal Offices to Abuja in 1982. In this regard, therefore, your Committee considers the ₦118,000,000 allocated to the Sub-head very inadequate. Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the additional grants should be made available to the Ministry if and when representation is made for it. If it was in our ability and if we were able, you would have appreciated that, as at now, more money should be made available to the Ministry. But we are recommending, Mr Chairman, that if and when representation is made to the National Assembly for added expenditure in this Financial Year, that the House be kind enough to approve the estimates because your Committee considers this one as very inadequate.

I would like to mention that there are a lot of projects which are earmarked to start this financial year, and these projects include the infrastructural designs and construction of roads. The access roads in the Federal Capital City are, at this time, almost completed. The telecommunications, power distribution, waste disposal, drainage, water supply, airport infrastructures and Administration are part of the capital projects to be executed this year. There are also the building designs, construction and layouts of residential houses of the State House, Vice-President's residence, and of the public buildings which are supposed to commence this year. Also there is an amount earmarked for the resettlement of, and compensation to, the present inhabitants of the Federal Capital Territory. This amount also includes the survey and mapping of the areas.

At this juncture, I would like to mention, that one of the teething problems of the Federal Capital Territory is the question of resettlement of, and compensation to, the people presently living in that place. It is our opinion that the problem would, to some extent, be speedily solved if the Federal Capital Territory has an efficient administration and suitable manpower, so that the progress of the real construction which they have at hand is not hampered by this resettlement issue. In due course, your Committee will consider this problem and bring up a broad-based recommendation which will be tabled before this House for your approval. It would be better that a sub-Committee be set up by the Federal Government in order to take care of the resettlement issue as it is found today in the Federal Capital Territory.

There is also the socio-economic studies, feasibility studies, investments which need to be done in this financial year. Many of you have entertained fears about the disease normally called *River Blindness* in Abuja. There is an amount for the control of *River Blindness* also. (*Interruptions*) It is pertinent for me to mention, that much fears have been shown concerning *River Blindness* in Abuja, but your Committee is happy to

announce that there is more *River Blindness* in many other parts of the country than found in Abuja. So, there is nothing to fear about. In fact, that of Abuja has been in control for more than five to ten years now. It is left for the House to recommend that there should be an extension of the control of *River Blindness* to many other parts of the country than in Abuja. Abuja, as at now, is very safe and I believe that some Members here are from Abuja and they do not wear glasses neither do they look like blind people.

Your Committee is of the opinion that these projects, as earmarked for execution in the year, is a bold step aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of all Nigerians. Your Committee, therefore, recommends the approval of the allocation under this Sub-head subject to the provision that the Ministry will continue to keep the National Assembly abreast of its progress in the execution of the projects. I want to mention that the National Assembly has a duty to perform to the generality of Nigerians in seeing that the projects earmarked for execution in Abuja come to fruition, and it is on that note that I want to strongly recommend that the amount earmarked for this Ministry be approved.

Conclusion and Recommendations : Your Committee wishes to stress that the allocation made to the Ministry, as I have said before, is meagre, considering the magnitude of the assignment which has to be achieved.

Your Committee therefore prays that this honourable House do call on the President, if there can be any money to be allocated to Abuja in this current Budget and to make a stop to the execution of Federal Capital Projects in Lagos. I say this without reservation, with all sincerity of mindness and with all humility, that execution of Federal Government Projects should cease in Lagos. (*Applause*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, if we are to make our speeches and our desires without any contradiction, and if the National Assembly is not supposed to be looked upon as a stooge, I do not see the reason why, in this current Budget, there should be any new Federal Government Projects in Lagos. Your Committee is not in doubt that there is need for maintenance of the projects already executed in Lagos. Nobody is quarrelling with the maintenance of these projects, Mr Chairman, but we strongly recommend that there should be a stop of such projects. A very good example of what I am saying, is found on pages 446, 543, code 4426 where there is an allocation of ₦14,000,000 for the new Federal Government Staff Quarters when, by next year, most of the staff working here would have been transferred to Abuja. I do not see the need for the allocation of this ₦14,000,000 for the construction of new Federal Government Staff Quarters. I strongly recommend that this be transferred to Abuja immediately. (*Applause*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the call for the decongestion of Lagos cannot be more opportune, and all efforts must be made to make the 1982 transfer of the Federal Capital to Abuja a big reality, not a dream.

Your Committee recommends the approval of the Estimates of the Ministry, subject to the recommendations made.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, I beg to lay the report before you for your discussion.

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akamkpa) : Mr Chairman, we all see that the Federal Capital Territory and its Ministry are quite new. That is why it appears the Committee did not write much about it, and we all appreciate the way the hon. Chairman of that Committee presented his report.

I support that report and request that this honourable House kindly do same by approving the Draft Budget for the Ministry.

While I support this report, I am of the opinion that the anticipated savings of ₦31,000 should not be allowed in that this is in respect of understaffing which they think is quite probable, of course.

We all see that our streets are roamed by a lot of people classified as unemployed. Many of them, we know, are skilled workers and, this is an opportunity to bring them in. If we must make our movement to Abuja a reality by 1982, we should increase the pool of our skilled staff for that Ministry.

We wish to point out a few typographical errors in the report and we request that this honourable House accept the presentation by the Chairman and try to correct their papers with what figures and statements he has made.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few notes, I beg to take my seat.

Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : I am speaking in support of the report, but I have a few observations. First of all, I notice that the sum of ₦10,799,000,000 was entered for Other Charges, when in fact it should be ₦10,799,000. That is regarded as an error in typing.

Apart from that, I am aware that the Federal Capital Development Authority was established long ago in 1976 as mentioned by the Chairman. I am also aware that it has since expanded into several departments, the Departments of Administration, Finance and Economic Development, Planning and Architecture, Estate Management and Engineering. But I am surprised that under the personal emoluments of the Ministry which is now almost taking over the functions of the Federal Capital Development Authority, there are no reflections of the emoluments of these other staff. I think, probably because of this omission, the Management has considered it necessary to include the sum of ₦10,000,000 under item of administration of Federal Capital under Other Charges. In so far as I think administration or the function of the Ministry should be administrative and it should not be implied more than Personal Emoluments, Other Charges and special Expenditure, I am of the opinion that that vote of ₦10,000,000 under administration in Other Charges should be transferred to Capital Expenditure.

[PRINCE AWA-Ekpo]

Finally, Mr Chairman, I think, reading in between the lines of the report, there is not much to show that the Capital Territory is ready to take off by way of execution of concrete projects. The way it is put simply appears as if the Ministry is only going to start the work on that Territory, and in fact, this would be very far from the truth.

Taking the question of settlement and compensation of people who are settled there, I am aware that the Federal Government has made several provisions in the past to cover compensation and resettlement which is, in fact, being placed under the respective States bordering that Territory.

In 1977-78 a vote of 71 or nearly ₦72 million was voted for the Capital Territory. In 1978-79,—₦50 million, and in 1979-80—₦35 million. That the Authority was unable to spend this money, but rather made savings of ₦90 million, shows that they were not at all in financial difficulties.

So, the idea of asking for more money for them this year when they have not been able to spend what they had before, to me, does not seem to be advisable.

In any case I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the existence of the Ministry and the Federal Capital Development Authority might be a duplication in terms of staff requirements.

Mr Yunusa Folorunsho (Asa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the feeling that the Committee has done a marvellous job and that the recommendation be accepted and approved. Also, I would like to join the Committee in appealing to the President not to allow any new project to take place in Lagos, although those under construction should be completed. *(Applause)*

At this juncture I would like to appeal to the Minister in charge of Federal Capital Development to take cognisance of African way of living in their establishment of residential areas. Before the advent of the Europeans, Africans used to live together their social and economic status notwithstanding. The present set up where we have Government reserved areas and native towns separately is un-African and very repugnant in taste and mode. In addition this breeds differential treatment to people who are supposed to be one and equal.

Mr Chairman, I would like to urge the Minister in charge of Federal Capital Development to see that residential areas are designed in a way that the rich, the poor, the politicians, the civil servants, the soldiers, the Police and others live together side by side. This, if adopted, will go a long way to bring about the much needed unity to the people of this country. The present trend of having a class society will be arrested and capped.

With these humble contributions I beg to support this recommendation.

The Chairman : Yes, from the NPP side, let us hear from hon. Chukwu.

Mr E. C. Chukwu (Okigwe North) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I would like to associate myself with the recommendations of the Committee, and in so doing I would like to remind Members that the

Federal Capital Territory is a target Ministry. It is a target Ministry in the sense that it has a task that must be completed within a given time. We have to go to Abuja in 1982. If we are to go to Abuja in 1982, every Member is supposed to give his utmost co-operation to that Ministry.

In supporting the recommendation of the Committee, I would like to point out that it is very necessary that an Executive Secretary must be appointed for the Federal Capital Development Authority. This must be done with immediate effect. Earlier on, we had passed a resolution in this House that no single person can handle two jobs at the same time. I feel that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry cannot at the same time be an effective Executive Secretary for the FCDA. So, there is a need for the Executive Secretary to be appointed.

I would like to point out that the Directors of the various departments in that FCDA should be up and doing. The Director of Estate should release without any further delay the application forms for the two thousand Plots of land to be allocated to the members of the public. There is no need delaying the allocations. He should immediately.

The issue of compensation and resettlement must be distinguished. The people in the affected areas should be fully and adequately compensated and then they should be rehabilitated. Mr Chairman, I would also like to point out that, as other hon. Members have said, all new projects involving more than ₦36 million should be transferred to Abuja and none should be sited here in Lagos.

With that, Sir, I beg to support the submission of the Committee.

The Chairman : Yes, hon. Iwuagwu.

Mr J. O. Iwuagwu (Mbano West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Chairman of the Committee gave certain examples of new Capital Projects to be executed in Lagos which he wishes to be transferred to Abuja. I will give further examples. Now, there is here what the civil servants contrive to do—residential quarters for Members of Constituent Assembly ₦1 million. You can find this under Housing at page 543. This should go to Abuja. Residential quarters for Parliamentarians in Lagos ₦5 million. I think, we are well housed. This money should go to Abuja. Federal Government Staff quarters, Lagos ₦16,630,000, and then another one for new Federal Government Staff quarters, Lagos, six hundred units at ₦14, million. This is overbudgeting on the part of the Ministry of Housing.

Let me appeal to Mr Chairman to convey to the President that he should as a matter of urgency instruct—

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Point of order.

The Chairman : Yes, Point of order.

Mr Egbuwoku : Order 26 (2).

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Egbuwoku : This House has the authority, so we are not going to convey anything to the President. If we approve it, it is approved; and if we do not approve it, it dies there. The Member is using unfair tactics.

The Chairman : Yes, go on.

Mr Iwuagwu : Thank you Mr Chairman for protecting me. I was saying that in all sincerity Brazil built Brasilia within four years. Plans for Abuja was made in 1976 and up till today nothing serious has been done. This is either because the Members of the Federal Capital Development Authority are not serious, in which case the President must do something very drastic. A proper house cleaning must go on so that we can really go there in 1982.

Mr D. D. Dafuan (Shendam West) : As much as we appreciate the effort of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory in her bid to urge this House to approve the Budget so that the movement to Abuja could be quickened, I have some observations to make on this Budget. Let us not get ourselves into approving large sums of money for unspecified expenditures. The whole Ministry itself was appointed to administer the Federal Capital Territory. The Chairman, in his explanation, tried to convince us that the Federal Capital Development Authority is still functioning. If this body is still functioning outside the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory, I would suggest that the amount of ₦10,000,000 should be in form of grant to the Federal Capital Development Authority, and not in form of money for the administration of the Federal Capital Territory, since the Ministry itself is responsible for the administration of the Federal Capital Territory. If this ₦10,000,000 is to be given to the Federal Capital Authority, then I would suggest that that particular Authority should also present her Estimates to this honourable House for approval so that we know exactly what is being spent on what for the Federal Capital Territory. This is the suggestion I have.

Dr G. J. Idang (Etienam 11) : I would like to associate myself with all Members and the Chairman of this Committee for the very efficient work they have done, and join them in their appeal to this honourable House to give quick approval to this recommendation.

The whole concept of moving to Abuja in 1982 should be regarded as a national issue, and that everything should be done to move to Abuja in 1982. Therefore, the Ministry should not be given any cause for excuse that they have not got the money. In terms of compensation, I would like to appeal to that Committee to play an active part in the way the compensation is going to be paid to those people living there, and also in the way those people are going to be resettled, because this is an area where there are a lot of loop-holes and where lots and lots of business could be done. So, I think the Committee should take note of that. I also would like them to keep this House informed of the progress so far made in the execution of all the projects so that this honourable House would be assured that by 1982 we shall be moving to Abuja, and we shall be operating from there. With these few comments I would like to take my seat.

Mr O. J. Ekpenyong (Uyo I) : I support the Report already delivered by the Chairman of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory. I do not wish to repeat what others have said, have a few comments to make on the projects being carried out in the present Federal Capital, Lagos. I want to say that in our Committee work, this very thing came up and the Minister explained that if the Federal Government did not spend some money on certain of its functions in Lagos, those functions would suffer because the Federal Government is having certain functions in the Capital. Take for instance, roads. If the Federal Government has anything in Lagos and the Lagos State Government is unable to construct a road in a passable manner, if the Federal Government finds that it is going to affect its efficiency, the Federal Government could go ahead and construct such road.

Secondly, the amounts indicated in the Estimates for projects in Lagos are for on-going projects. Some of them have reached 90 per cent completion stage and should not be abandoned because we are leaving for Abuja in 1982. I think also that in the Constitution, it has been provided that an Authority has been set up to take care of Federal Government Property in Lagos, and so we would not be totally out of Lagos as such. Federal Government's presence would still be felt in Lagos. On some of these projects, Mr Chairman, Sir, I do call upon the Federal Government to continue to give Lagos support where it concerns Federal Government establishments.

Alhaji Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North) : I would like to associate myself with the Report before the House on the Federal Capital Development Ministry. But I would like to make some observations and comments. In the first place, I was thinking that this Committee would have to ask the Ministry to indicate how the National Assembly would be moving to Abuja in 1982 because looking at the Report there is no place that it has been indicated that the National Assembly would definitely move side by side with the Executive in 1983. Secondly, I was thinking that during their first meeting, when the Committee was being inaugurated the Committee was asked to present to this House on-the-spot assessment of the development undertaken at Abuja. They have gone there several times, and they have gone there even with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We were told that we would move by 1982. Nothing has been brought before the House to indicate what sort of development has already taken place there. With regard to the sum of ₦118,000,000, there is a very unsatisfactory explanation as to why that amount was budgeted. We are ready to allocate any money up to the end of 1982 for this Committee and this Agency, but let us have a clear indication on how this money would be spent. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : I would like to support this Motion as well as to thank the Members of the Committee of the Ministry of Federal Capital for a job well done, and I would like to make the following comments. In fact, I would expect this Ministry to be given adequate fund in order to carry out the projects already going on in Abuja, but the fear being entertained here is that when more money

[MR SADIQ]

is voted we look forward to seeing that it is utilised for the purpose it was meant to serve, and the project completed accordingly. The question is : would the job be carried out because we would not like to see some parties or one party at least using the money to build up their party name.

Secondly, another issue I would like to touch is that of security. Here in Lagos, there is no security whatsoever. We can see now that crimes are becoming more rampant in Lagos. In order to make our new Federal Capital crime-free, we must see that enough security or adequate security has been provided in the new Federal Capital.

Thirdly, already work is going on in Abuja, as my hon. Member from Kano State has said earlier on. A Committee on this Federal Capital Territory went to Abuja but we have heard nothing from them ; there was no report whatsoever. We hope that in the near future, all the funds that have been allocated to this Federal Capital Development Authority or Ministry would be checked, and from time to time we would like to have reports so as to acquaint ourselves with what is going on there.

Fourthly, I would like to see that rehabilitation or resettlement of people that are already living there, is justifiably carried out. For example, there are some people living in Abuja already, but now when the new Federal Capital is being built, it is said that these people should be resettled and rehabilitated in a permanent place. This is wrong. These people want to exist they are human beings and as such they deserve all the amenities that each and every other Nigerian deserves. We should give them enough money in terms of compensation and we should allow them to live within the Federal Capital Territory because they are human beings too. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr Rasheed A. Shitta-Bey (Lagos North-Central): Mr Chairman, after listening to the report given to us this morning, I am inclined to believe that the Members of the Committee actually did not, as a group, produce the report but it is a one-man report. The reasons are quite clear. Obviously, to move to Abuja in 1982 is very unrealistic.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Shitta-Bey : There is no report before us of any substantial progress made so far in Abuja. Even assuming that in 1982 the buildings are ready, I can assure you, from what we have been seeing of the Federal Government projects even in Lagos, no one will move to Abuja until 1990. There are many Federal buildings which have been completed in Lagos. There are some on Eric Moore, the buildings are there ; they have completed the buildings for some years now, but nobody has moved in there. So, obviously, nobody is moving to Abuja until 1990.

Now, I would like to say this, the hon. Member indicated that projects should be stopped in Lagos. I am not quite sure whether he is aware of facts that are available to us. For instance, in the United States of America, we have New York, we have

Washington and in Brazil, we have Rio de Janeiro. Obviously, from these instances, I can tell you that forever, Lagos will continue to complement the activities at Abuja. Now, do you want to move the Murtala Mohammed Air Port to Abuja ? Do you want to move the Tin Can Island to Abuja ? Do you want to move NET to Abuja ? Now, have you forgotten that when we have these projects they have got to be maintained, and by maintenance they will have to continue to expand ?

So, I would appeal to hon. Members that we should not be sentimental over the issue of Abuja. I also want to refer to the vote going to the Ministry with regard to Special Remuneration to civil servants going to Abuja. I am not quite sure whether the Members of the Committee are aware that this is against Government order and that this, in fact, will lead to confusion and chaos in civil service system, because there are many civil servants today that are in remote places doing very hardwork, and they are not getting special remuneration. Why do you want to create this unnecessary precedent ?

Notwithstanding that, I would like to say that there is one aspect of the Report which interests me and that is making provision for drainage system in Abuja, water in Abuja. This is quite interesting, but I wonder why the Committee did not even think that right now that we have Lagos as the Capital of Nigeria, the Federal Government should vote money for refuse disposal which is such a menace to us, for water and for drainage.

The Chairman : Time, Time. Thank you, the hon. Member for Lagos State.

Mr Adekunle L. Alli (Lagos South) : I am representing Lagos South Federal Constituency and that is the Constituency which houses this august Assembly. My contribution on this Report, as a member representing this Constituency, is that we are ready whenever the Federal Government is ready to go, to bid them farewell from Lagos. We say this because we in Lagos State regard the movement of the Federal Capital to Abuja as a challenge and a blessing in addition, because so much of the northern part of this country has been closed to us. Abuja will definitely provide a window on the North for many of us to see what is going on in that part of the country.

No longer will a person of my standing pay a visit to the north and end up in jail. No longer will our newspapers be prevented from collecting and disseminating news emanating from that source.

I want to move over to the question of future representation of that place in the National Assembly. Are we going to have Abuja as the 20th State of Nigeria ?

The Chairman : No, the Constitution has settled that one. Leave that one.

Mr Ali : Mr Chairman, the report of this Committee tells us that the amount of ₦118 million voted for Capital Development in that new area is too small, but nowhere in the report did they tell us what was proposed to be done and the amount required for each Head of the expenditure for the

new projected Federal Capital. To this extent, I think we can only give a qualified approval to the work of the Committee on Federal Capital Development. There is also the amount of ₦10 million which some Members have already alluded to which was meant for the administration of the new capital. How can we have an amount as big as ₦10 million for the administration of a place which is yet to take off? I cannot see the rationale behind this at all. So, Mr Chairman, I am moving that the vote for the Federal Capital Development Authority, ₦10 million, be deleted from recurrent expenditure.

In addition, Mr Chairman, we want to know what progress has been made so far. I know for certain that no capital in the world can be built by the government alone. You also require the private enterprise. Are we going to have the Federal Government establishing super markets, shops and what not in the new Federal Capital? I can assure you that by 1982, when the Federal Capital is ready for our occupation, it would be nothing more than the present Members' quarters at Victoria Island where we have to run some kilometres away before we can get many of the essential food stuffs we require. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr S. B. Abodunde (Oyi) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, while I join the others to congratulate the Members of the Capital Territory Committee, I would like to say that it is already agreed by Nigerians that we shall be moving to Abuja and therefore, it is out of the way to continue to beat a dead horse, in that many of us in this National Assembly seem to be sentimental about this issue. I am sure that nobody quarrels with that. It is what we are going to do and, therefore, we should stop being sentimental about it. I would also like to warn that the money we have voted should be committed to the projects for which we have voted them because it is one thing to vote a large sum of money and another thing to get there and see that nothing has been done. This is why I associate myself with the hon. Member who said that the ₦10 million meant for administration should be transferred to the Capital Expenditure so that we can always see that our money is at work.

Most of the roads in Kwara State will be used to move equipment and manpower to that area. Therefore, I wonder why the Committee has not deemed it fit that some of the roads in Kwara State be improved for that purpose. Also, one of us made a point that all projects to be sited in Lagos should stop. I would not support that, because if, by 1982, we are not able to move to Abuja and we stop all development in Lagos, where shall we be? We shall neither be here nor there. Therefore, I would suggest that development should continue in Lagos.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I think that this matter has been exhaustively discussed. I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to. ₦10,799,000 for Head 33, Recurrent Expenditure and part of Head 246 (₦118,000,000), Capital Expenditure-Federal Capital Development—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 44—MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Question proposed, That ₦47,708,000 for Head 44, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦40,500,000 for part of Head 246, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Science and Technology—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. O. Alu (Afikpo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, please permit me these few remarks at the start of my presentation. Your Committee, of which I am the Chairman, sees nothing in this Budget that inspires us or sustains the hopes of millions of Nigerians raised when this new Ministry was created. At the same time, we see clearly the problems of the new Administration and sympathise with the Chief Executive, our President, who has done his very best after inheriting a near empty Treasury.

Having examined the Budget proposals, my Committee has come to the conclusion that this Budget is not really the first civilian budget as it is dubbed, but the budget of transition fractured out of what was left from the 1975-80 five-year plan. Therefore, the original hope raised by the President by creating the new Ministry of Science and Technology must remain buoyed. Hon. Colleagues, it is with this buoyed hope that I choose to regard this new Ministry as a Ministry of hope for this Nation. Today, the Nation remains threatened by total dependency on the importation of goods and services we need including the food we eat.

Our importation of food, manufactured goods continued to grow year by year. The new Ministry of Science and Technology, if adequately funded and properly directed, will play immeasurable role in solving the problem of this nation's dependency on foreign importation. As we stated in the conclusion of our report, South Korea was in a similar dilemma as we are today, but was able to solve her problems in less than twenty years after establishing a new Ministry of Science and Technology. It is the Ministry's mission to facilitate the total development of the country by the application of Science and Technology to the solution of the problem of underdevelopment and improvement of quality of life; to advance the nation's capabilities in Science and Technology and to reform the Nigerian society to one in which Science and Technology forms a fundamental part of the thinking faculty of the average citizen.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in our report we analysed the budgetary needs of the Ministry and set them up into eight important components, as shown in pages 2 and 3 of our report. Now, let us examine the Ministry's budget in detail

1. Ministry Headquarters Recurrent Budget : In respect of the programmes of the Ministry Headquarters, the following Budget Proposals were submitted to the Federal Ministry of Finance for the 1980 fiscal year. Personal Emoluments—₦2.073 million, Other Charges—₦4.98 million, Special Expenditure—₦2.45 million, totalling ₦9.501 million, out of which the Federal Ministry of Finance approved only ₦6.303 million. At the time of submission of the Ministry's Recurrent Budget for the

Headquarters, final Estimates of the partitioning of offices and rehabilitation of the Republic Building Floors 2 and 3 which houses the Ministry was not completed. In the amended Draft Estimates page 355, Sub Head 004400303073, shows this particular requirement as a new vote item.

The Committee recommends that a token figure of 10e be made under this Subhead to enable the Ministry to get the required funding through appropriate Executive action.

2. Research Institute Recurrent Budget.—In respect of the Research Institute programmed for the 23 Research Institutes of the Ministry, the following Recurrent Budget Proposals for the financial year 1980 was submitted to the Federal Ministry of Finance—Personal Emoluments—₦39.86 million; Other Charges—₦25.202 million; Special Expenditure—₦17.76 million totalling ₦88.82 million.

Hon. Colleagues, you will see on page 354, Subhead 004400200295 titled Subvention for Research Institutes, that the amount of ₦41,404,000 approved is almost half of what the Ministry requested and what the Research Institutes need. The total Recurrent Budget Proposal for the Ministry and its Research Institutes submitted to the Federal Ministry of Finance was ₦92.26 million for 1980 financial year. The total provision made to the Ministry and the 23 Research Institutes for the Recurrent Expenditure 1980 is only ₦47,708,000 as shown on page 355 of the amended Draft Estimates. This gives a shortfall of more than ₦44,000,000 in the Recurrent Expenditure alone. The problems set for the Ministry and its Research Institutes by this large short-fall can be seen in the light of what happened at the birth of the new Ministry. The birth of any new baby, as you know, some time is not easy because sometimes there are complications.

After reviewing the problems of the Research Institutes, the Committee recommends that the Ministry should ask for a Supplementary Appropriation some time in the year.

3. Capital Estimates of the Research Institutes—The Capital Estimates of the new Ministry of Science and Technology are indicated under General Administration, page 562 of the Amended Draft Estimate Sub-head 024604000865 titled National Science and Technology Development. The former NSTDA has since been dissolved by the first Act of this National Assembly and its assets and liabilities absorbed by the Ministry. The Capital Estimates under the above Head and Sub-head are the Capital Funds that will be made available through the Ministry to the 23 Research Institutes now under the Ministry. We are asking this honourable House to approve our Amendment that has been submitted in this Order Paper calling for the transfer of this Head and sub-head to a new Capital Head and Sub-head titled Ministry of Science and Technology and Research Institutes Capital Projects respectively. The Capital Estimates Proposals for the Research Institutes were vetted by the Ministry and a total of ₦68.6 million was recommended for the 23 Research Institutes to complete their on-going Projects. The total Provisions in the Draft Estimate is only ₦40½ million made up of ₦19,000,000 outstanding debts, and ₦21.5 million for on-going Projects of the

Research Institutes. This gives a short-fall of ₦28.1 million which is required to complete the priority on-going Projects of the 1975-80 plan period.

The provision of ₦40.5 million is a far cry from the Capital Expenditure needs of the Research Institutes. This is even more so as a lot of them have already utilized over ₦19,000,000 from their Capital Funds for paying staff salaries because of heavy short-falls in the Recurrent Expenditure for the Research Institutes for the periods 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 respectively.

What the Institutes have asked for under Capital Expenditure was the balance of what was left from the approved Capital Expenditure 1975-80, less the capital grants made to them as at now.

Hon. Members, we had hoped to submit, in an addendum, the analysis and indeed the places where some of these institutes are situated, but we were advised by our Secretary that this would require a removal of certain pages, and as a result, you did not get it in the mill. However, after many agonising deliberations and interviews with officials of the Ministry, your Committee felt urged to recommend increases in the Budget but had to settle with the plea for the approval of the Budget as proposed in the Draft Estimates with the Amendments that we have requested.

Your committee has recommended that the Ministry submit its case for further review by the Administration so as to ask for either virement and or supplementary appropriation later in the year. Your committee also recommends that part of the on-going projects such as buildings, equipment needs which have not started be transferred to the next plan period in order to reduce the amount required for virement or supplementary appropriation. Your committee also recommends an increase of five per cent in the reserve column of some of the capital Heads in this Budget so as to make virement from such capital savings possible.

4. Grants for Research Projects in the Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology: Traditionally, the former NSTDA had always made provision for research projects in the Universities and other institutions of higher learning. Your Committee feels that this tradition must continue. Most of the Nation's researchers in the basic sciences such as nuclear physics, atomic physics and other exotic researches are found in these institutions of higher learning. It is therefore necessary for the new Ministry of Science and Technology to maintain a closer relationship with these institutions. In the Draft Estimates, page 354 of the amended draft, the provision for grants for research projects in the institutions of higher learning was left blank. This Committee and indeed the Ministry feel strongly that a token provision figure of 10e be made in the Draft Estimates so that the Ministry can ask for funds by virement or any other means to meet this objective.

Hon. Members, we had hoped that the new Ministry will enjoy generous approval of these increase required or indicated in this report so as to enable us meet our shortfalls, but since there is

[Mr. ALU]
no established medium in this House vested with the responsibility to harmonise this Budget proposals, we are being forced by you to merely ask for the approval of our proposals as submitted.

Mr Chairman, I want to inform this House that my Committee was blessed with the most resource of this House. I am very happy to report to you that I co-operated with most of my Members. (Interruption) Finally, Mr Chairman, Sir, my Committee is recommending the re-organisation of the twenty-three research institutes. We are aware that some of them have not been very effective and productive, but at the same time the Committee is also recommending the creation of new institutes. Such new institutes that we recommend are atomic research institutes, colanut research institutes and other research institutes. Mr Chairman, thank you.

The Chairman: You have forgotten a very important one, Garri Research Institute. (Laughter)

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomoso Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I must congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Science and Technology for this beautiful report. But, in making my little contribution, I would implore the Federal Government to place more emphasis on the improvement of our technological institutions. In the late forties and in the fifties, people noted that we always said that Japanese goods were inferior but due to their improvement in the department of science and technology we note that today Japanese goods are tops. They even lead in terms of cars and electronics. I remember also that during the Nigerian Civil War when the Federal Government prevented goods from getting into the old Eastern Region, the people also produced certain things which, I suppose, if we had diverted some money into, there would have been some improvement. I remember, from what my friends told me, that crude oil at the material time was refined. Also, when they were unable to get arms and ammunitions into their side of the country, they were also able to produce all these things in a place called Awka.

There is no reason why we cannot improve on, probably, their meagre advancement at the material time. What they require is nothing short of funds, and I think the Federal Government should research again into this aspect. I also wish that the Federal Government would look into our building system. You see, in the old days, people used to build with mud, and if you take note, when you go into a house built with mud it is very cool. So, let the Federal Government again put some money into these things and we shall see a difference.

Also in terms of our food, yams, cassava and all the like spoil rather quickly. So, it is important that we research into them too so that we can make our food cheaper. So, Mr Chairman, I beg to contribute. (Applause)

The Chairman: Thank you.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed in the report of the Committee on Science and Technology. The report has been

quite comprehensive but one of the attitudes which our people adopt towards Science and Technology is to deal very extensively with high sounding technological terms which, on the aggregate, we do not implement. We talk of atomic energy, we talk of high sounding energies, but our local needs should be taken into consideration. Take the problem we face in this country today; we talk of imported goods because the local technology developed in our manufactures is inadequate. Take a simple item like the dye for our clothes. The clothes produced and dyed locally soon lose their colours because they are not properly dyed. If technology in this direction is improved upon, I think there will be need to make use of locally produced cotton than we intend to import. Take the food we have here, until only recently cocoa, which is a very important beverage in this country, has very little use to which it was put. Until the manufacture of *chocolate*, *Bournvita* and *Ovaltine* was brought into use, cocoa had very little use.

Take gari which is being prepared here, the preservation of some of our food stuffs is not good enough so that they deteriorate very quickly. We appeal to the Ministry of Science and Technology to deal very extensively in all these small items. I think they will be of more use to the country than thinking of these high sounding terms which we do not make use of.

The Chairman: Time.

Chief Gbinije: Briefly, there are other items but I will say that with these, I support the adoption of this report.

Mr Mike Ugwu (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, and I would like to say that one of the most important achievements of this present Administration is the creation of the Ministry of Science and Technology. (Applause)

I would like to say too that this country wants to take off technologically, but whilst we are trying to do that, we must try to abandon tribalism, because what we want the Minister to do is to go out and recruit Nigerians that are good Engineers, that can contribute to our technological take off. It does not matter where they come from, and encourage them to go ahead.

I would also like to say that this country is being raped economically everyday because of the importation of obsolete equipment that is not, in fact, made for our weather and not, in fact, made for our own consumption. This results in excessive maintenance difficulties and problems. I would like to say that the reason is that this country attaches a lot of importance on mere paper qualifications. For example, in Germany, before one could go into the University to read Engineering, one must have practised in an industry for at least three years. This is the kind of thing we want to do here. We do not want Engineers who will see a screw and call it a spanner, or engineers who will see a spanner and call it a chisel, simply because they go into the university and cram and pass examinations and claim to be engineers. Fire! Fire!

The Chairman : We have engineers here.

Mr Ugwu : I would also want to say that the low profile that we adopted in this country is really an eye-wash, because the Peugeot assembled in Kaduna is purely obsolete parts imported from France. What we do is to make our workers in this industry put these parts together and we call the product home made equipment. It is important, therefore, that we would approve the money for the Ministry of Science and Technology, but this House will demand that after one year, if the Ministry and the Minister are not doing well, we shall demand their abolition. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, NPP.

Dr Chikwe Obihara (Owerri South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would very much like to ask this honourable House to support this programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and to approve the recommendations of the report which has been submitted by the Committee on Science and Technology. As we all know very well, each time we see a plane flying past, our people always say this is white man's magic. In actual fact, there is no such thing as white man's magic. The only difference between us and the white man is that he knows more science than we do, and that he is more advanced technologically. In actual fact, you may remember, that maybe around the Middle Ages or at the end of the Middle Ages, the only universities which existed in the world were in North Africa. People in Europe had no universities, they had to come to North Africa to study Science, and Mathematics in those days. Even earlier before that, if you go back about two thousand years ago, you come to a time when, in Egypt, Science was so advanced, technology was advanced, Europeans were living in caves. These same cave men, these men who lived in caves when Africa was so advanced today are ahead of us. They seem to know everything and we know nothing. The only reason, really, is because they have caught up on Science and Technology.

The vote for this subject in the Estimate is less than one *per cent* of the Budget. It is a very small percentage. In fact, it is not enough, and all we can do is to hope that this vote will increase and that support will be given to Science and Technology in Nigeria.

Nigerian Research Institutes have, in fact, for the past four or five years, been under very severe strains. From 1976 to 1979 very little funds were given to them, if at all. In fact, they could not move about to see their experiments, they could not do any work because they had no equipment. Before that, they were quite fairly well equipped, they were well supported by the Government but from 1976 to 1979, they had no support whatsoever. I do not know why.

I would ask this honourable House, I am sure we all feel the same way, that we should give maximum support to this Ministry, and wish it well, that it may support these Research Institutes we need so much for advancement in this important field. Thank you very much.

Dr John Eburuche (Agbaja/Uvuru) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to support the Motion. The Ministry of Science and Technology, as had been remarked on by previous speakers, is indeed a very important Ministry. I do not share the view expressed by one of the hon. Members who spoke on it, that we should experiment it for a year, and if it does not perform well we let it go. I think that is wrong. We cannot do that because one year you might say is really a gestation period. We have to give it a long period, put it in the test tube and watch it for five or six years and then, if it does not do what we want it to do, then we can phase it out.

Secondly, I would like to observe that in this country there are so many institutions of higher learning; Universities, Colleges of Science and Technology, Federal Schools of Arts and Science, Federal Advanced Teachers Colleges and so on. A grant of ₦41,444,250 is not sufficient for them to undertake the required necessary research in Science and Technology. It must be observed that if you share this among the various institutions, each institution may wind up getting no more than half a million and what is that amount when you consider that one of the watch-words in institutions of higher learning among lecturers and professors is *publish or perish*, and you cannot afford to ignore the discoveries that can be made by these institutions of higher learning. They contribute immensely to technological and scientific discoveries.

Thirdly, I would like to add also that it is not sufficient for anyone, be it an individual or an institution, to discover scientifically and technologically and hide the findings, keeping it to himself. The Ministry of Science and Technology must find a way of disseminating whatever information has been discovered.

Fourthly, the Ministry of Science and Technology is a counterpart, in my opinion, of the Ministry of Education. They should work together. Today, as has been observed in many of our debates some of the States in the Federation have no Universities. In other words, they do not have the various institutions of higher learning that they ought to have as is the case in other States of the Federation. The two Ministries should work together to ensure that each State has a university, a college of science and technology, a Federal Advanced College and so on in States where they do not currently exist.

Fifthly, it is important also to note that there is a tendency among Nigerians to reject things made in Nigeria. The Ministry of Science and Technology must endeavour to make the public accept goods manufactured in Nigeria. Our Science and Technology is of no use if, as a result of the kind of way people think and look at our things, our discoveries produce no fruit. So I am recommending that the Ministry should decide to take a step of changing the moral attitudes towards Nigerians made goods. Mr Chairman, with these, I would like to take my seat.

Mr Chairman : Yes, thank you, very much. Hon. Members, we have in the V.I.P. Box, their Royal Highnesses and Chiefs from the Imo State. (*Applause*) Their Royal Highnesses are led by one

MR CHAIRMAN

of the eminent Nigerians Dr Akanu Ibiam. Their Royal Highnesses came to pay a courtesy call to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

Those in the delegation, in the interest of members, include their leader Dr Francis Akanu Ibiam, Eze Dr B. O. Enweremadu, Eze B. Ugochukwu, Eze J. C. Oguike, Chief J. R. Onyenoho, Eze P. R. Acholonu, Eze Gabriel C. Akomas, Eze Ekuma Nkama, Eze A. A. Ekwebelem and Eze J. G. Ogbonna.

Your Highnesses, you can see we are very busy discussing your Budget and this House is now in a Committee of the whole House. You are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Mr Ibrahim M. Ali (Maiduguri) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, your Highnesses (*Interruptions*). No, it is a Committee of the whole House and I would like to address my guests. Your highnesses, you are welcome and we thank you for the wonderful time you accorded us in Owerri last Saturday in a small publicity we had, and we would like to thank the citizens of Owerri in Imo State. That is for the start.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in my small contribution, I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee. He is a colleague engineer and I would like to say that he has presented a very brilliant report to the House. I would also like to remind one hon. Member who said that the Engineers who went through the University could not recognise the difference between a screw driver and a spanner, but the same engineers are also brilliant enough to come here and present a good political programme for the Nation.

In contributing, Mr Chairman, I would like to stress the fact that the research facilities provided for in the universities here must focus on one of the vital items, which is free in nature, and that is Solar Energy. I think Solar Energy research should be given top priority in the universities and some of the research institutions in this country, because I cannot see the rationale of relying on a very unsophisticated sort of art, that is atomic energy with its hazards, while we are neglecting a free gift of nature, which we can harness properly.

Some Countries, especially Niger Republic, are emphasizing a lot on the development of Solar Energy because we will find out in later stages, that extension of our electricity and some of our facilities to the rural communities cannot be possible because we are going to over-stretch our dependence on fuel for the generation of electricity. Therefore, for the improvement of our rural communities, for the improvement of our agricultural programmes and other things, a research must be conducted to harness Solar energy, and I would like the Chairman and the Minister of Science and Technology to really put emphasis on the development of that particular resource.

On the field of Nuclear Energy, I think it is going to be an expensive adventure for Nigeria to undertake at this moment. We need to train a lot of people ; they must be able to properly service the research

facilities and some of the few things we want to do with this particular institution. Therefore, I would like to caution and call on this House to really intimate the Ministry of Science and Technology on the need for the development or personnel, qualified scientists who could be trained either here or in overseas in co-operation with other foreign countries so that we shall have in the pool qualified people who can undertake operation of this nature.

In all, I think that the Report should be clearly supported and given due consideration by the whole House. Thank you.

The Chairman : Yes, PRP.

Mr Isiaku Gumawa (Gabasawa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Report from the Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology, I wish to congratulate the Chairman and the Members of the Committee for a work well-done.

With this short comment, Mr Chairman, I wish to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to consider the Seed Multiplication and Seed.

The Chairman : Hon. Member for Kano State, we are not dealing with Agriculture ; we are dealing with Science and Technology.

Mr Gumawa : I am sorry, Mr Chairman, maybe I am so carried off by the seed and the impact seed has in the country's economy. I want to say that seed multiplication which has been considered by the Committee is very important and with that, I want to appeal to the Ministry to make sure that groundnut is considered, and that it is made to take its proper position in the economy of the country with this amount provided for the multiplication of seeds.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, UPN, Yes, Lam Adesina.

Mr Lam Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I want to support the Report and in doing so, I would like it to be put on record that the Report has been well presented and this is a testimony to the fact that we have put the right people in the right Committee. (*Applause*) Most of the Members of this Committee are distinguished scientists of no mean order.

Secondly, I would also like to note that there is little one can criticize in this Report particularly when it is a new Ministry.—Ministry of Science and Technology ; but be that as it may, we can still say a few things. I want to note that the subvention to various Research Institutes in Nigeria has not been well spent out by the Committee. One would have wished either the Minister of Science and Technology or the Chairman of that Committee to tell us how much has been allocated to each Research Institute. Then, also, I would like to note that the grants which normally went to the Universities for Research has been denied them this time. One would like to call on the Minister of Science and Technology to bear in mind that universities are centres of research and we should encourage them to actually research into science and technology for us.

[MR ADESINA]

Furthermore, I want to draw from the example of South Korea which ended the Report. We understand that South Korea has achieved a major scientific and technological break through, and this is because South Korea knew the importance of Science and Technology. It is on this note I want to tell the Minister of Science and Technology that science does not actually end with institutions. I think, from the history of war progress, it has been established beyond doubt, Mr Chairman, that major scientific and technological break-throughs have occurred even outside universities and polytechnics, because when you see examples of those who have invented, then you will be able to understand what I mean by this. Therefore, we should encourage local materials, local scientists, budding scientists and engineers.

Finally, Mr Chairman, in spite of the fact that the Report has been well presented, I have something to quarrel with and this is because, this will be the one hundred and eighteenth day, when we first passed a Bill to Law in this House and that is the Bill on Science and Technology. It is to be regretted, and very highly too, that up till today, either the Minister of Science and Technology or somebody or some people somewhere have decided to put this Bill in the cooler. What I am trying to say is that you find the whole lot of people, members who are working in the NSTDA that is, National Science and Technological Development Agency, whose functions have been taken over by the new Ministry of Science and Technology ; all of them have not been absolved. I am speaking with authority now, including the Executive Secretary of that particular Agency a man of the calibre, a man of the stature, a man of the texture of Dr Victor Olunloyo, an eminent Scientist. He is loafing about today ; he has nothing doing, he is jobless, and he has not even been paid his salaries for last month. On this particular note, I would have called on this House, even as a punishment to the Minister, to delay the passage of these allocations so as to show every Minister in the Federation of Nigeria that the National Assembly—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Lam have you finished ? He has finished. Let us hear Professor Ola.

Professor Opeyemi Ola (Ekiti West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Friends and Colleagues, I would like to thank the Chairman for giving me an opportunity to talk on this Motion, and I am very pleased that many of us are present to witness the debate on this Motion, both the hon. Members and our distinguish Chiefs and Kings from Imo State.

Now, in talking about this Report, as hon. Colleagues have said, we have been praising the Chairman, Mr Alu. He is a highly intelligent man, industrious and serious and therefore, it is neat and proper to congratulate him in so far as he and his Committee have tried their best in analysing the Budget as presented to them I think, they have done some hardwork.

But, Mr Chairman, at this particular time, I am not here today to flatter anybody, and Mr Alu will pardon me. I beg to disagree, and to say that I do not agree at all with the Report of the Committee

merely because, the Committee has gone to do superficial job. Looking at the Budget as submitted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Committee has not given us a piece of its own mind, neither a piece of the mind of this National Assembly.

I regret to say that this is the whole way the whole budget has been going. Let me leave that as it may. What I want to say, Sir—(Interruptions)

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Point of order. My point of order is order 26 (2). (Interruptions)

Professor Opeyemi Ola : The first point of my disagreement is this, and it is fundamental. Mr Chairman, you can call me to order. Given a new Ministry like the Ministry of Science and Technology, it is not sufficient to give us figures upon figures of how we are going to spend. The first thing for a new Ministry like this is to give us a new policy, orientation, direction, where Nigeria is going as a technological nation. (Applause) That is the most fundamental.

If the Ministry has not given us, it is left to the National Assembly to submit this ; how Nigeria, as the greatest nation of great Chiefs and great Kings and great people can move into the technological civilisation of today.

We need a plan of how we can undergo scientific and technological transformation and this ought to have been linked, and I know very experienced people like Dr Mbadiwe would agree with me with a plan of scientific education in this country. But because we are rushing let me leave that alone.

The second point is also very fundamental and engineers like Mr Alu, Dr Nwala and Engineer Ugwu would agree with me that in a nation like ours, when you talk of nations that have undergone technological transformation like America, Russia, Japan, China and so on, every year, Sir, it is a policy that a certain percentage of the total national revenue has to be devoted to actual research undertakings.

When you look at it, with a budget of about ten billion to twelve billion Naira at least half a billion Naira ought to be devoted to actual Science Research. But what do we have ? I am not making propaganda. We do not even have fifty billion.

Mr Chairman is a well educated and learned man who knows what I am speaking about. Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in winding up, we need at least half a billion or five hundred million Naira in terms of research. This has not been done. Therefore, I submit to the National Assembly and the Federal Government need total rethinking on how to give this country technological transformation and civilisation. (Applause)

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, you know we have Amendments. Let us take the Amendments one by one. The Chairman of the Committee will move each Amendment and then we shall vote. We do not have to debate the Amendments again because we have already had a debate.

Chairman of the Committee, please move the first amendment. (Interruptions)

[Mr CHAIRMAN]

Hon. Members, if I may with respect inform you, there are Highnesses who have been with us here this afternoon and are preparing to go. I have also mistakenly omitted the names of Eze Ben Obi, Eze S. Nwagbara, Eze Ajilo Ibe and Chief J. O. Dike. These chiefs also form part of this honourable delegation. You are welcome. (*Applause*)

Mr Sam O. Alu (Afikpo) : In page 354 of the Amended Draft Estimates for 1980 under code 004400200301—Grant for Research Projects in the Universities, etc.—to insert a token figure of 10e.

I beg to move.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Sam O. Alu : In page 355, under code 004400303073—Partition of Offices and Rehabilitation of Republic Building Floors, to insert a token figure of 10 e.

I beg to move.

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akamkpa) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Sam O. Alu : On page 562, leave out the following :

Classification	Details of Expenditure	Appropriation 1980
024604000865	National Science and Technology Development	40,500,000

and insert in a separate page as follows :

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
HEAD 'X'—MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY**

Classification	Details of Expenditure	Appropriation 1980
'y'	Research Institutes Capital Projects	.. 40,500,000

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Your problem is simply to put the words, *Research Institutes Capital Project*.

Mr Alu : Yes.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr L. E. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members may I move that the question be now put.

Mr Okoi : Mr Chairman, hon. Members I rise to second the motion.

Main question accordingly put and agreed to ₦47,708,000 for Head 44, Recurrent Expenditure, and ₦40,500,000 for part of Head 246, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Science and Technology—ordered to stand part of the Schedule, subject to the amendment made by the Committee of the whole House.

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, may I move that the Chairman report progress.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : Mr Chairman, I rise to second the Motion.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee Reports Progress, to sit again—Tomorrow.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members the Report is that the Committee of the whole House has now passed the Report of the Committee on the Federal Capital Territory and the Committee on Science and Technology. Hon. Members the time now is 1.15 p.m. and according to the Standing Orders it is time. This House now stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

And it being after 1.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 21st May, 1980

The House met at 10.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings for yesterday and they have been approved.

Committee on Creation of States

Hon. Members, You will remember that we have resolved to have a Committee on the creation of States. The membership of the Committee is now as follows :

NPN : Rep. Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Chairman)

Rep. Alhaji Ibrahim

Rep. Dr O. O. Oreh

Rep. Alhaji Umaru Mohammed

Rep. Kempte Giadom

Rep. Mr J. M. Zuokumor

Rep. S. I. Idakwo

Rep. Yunusa Folorunsho

Rep. Yomi Akintola

UPN : Rep. S. A. Adetoyinbo

Rep. F. A. Akinbisehin

Rep. Effiong Ononokpono

Rep. Tunji Ogunsiji

Rep. Abiola Babatope (Mrs)

Rep. Chief M. Nwoseh

NPP : Rep. M. C. Okoye

Rep. S. U. Wanganga

Rep. Josiah Y. M. Mallo

Rep. Chief G. B. Wodi

PRP : Rep. Muhammed Ahmed T. Fagam

Rep. Idi Mustapha

Rep. B. U. Camma

GNPP : Rep. Dr G. Idang

Rep. David H. Gbaondo.

Public Relations Committee

We also resolved to have a Public Relations Committee, and we realise the importance of this Committee in the light of publications. The membership will comprise :

NPN : Rep. Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu (Chairman)

UPN : Rep. R. O. Apalara

NPP : Rep. David Attah

PRP : Rep. Umaru Sule Garo

GNPP : Rep. Mike Akpabio.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Committee on Transport

Presentation of Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Ministry of Transport—Head 49, part of Heads 229 and 230 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr A. Ukpanah (Ukanefun II) : I rise to present this Report as it stands in my name—

That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget proposals for the Ministry of Transport—Head 49, part of Head 229 and 230 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jemmandth) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Appropriation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for Contingencies—Head 55 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji M. Bachaka (Argungu) : I rise to present the Report of the Appropriation Committee on Contingencies as it stands in my name in the Order Paper for today—

That this House do receive the Report on the Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget proposals for Contingencies—Head 55 of Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit.

Chief Stephen Alete (Ikwerre/Etche I) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Appropriation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget proposals for Contribution to Development Fund—Head 56 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka (Argungu) : I rise to present the Report on the Appropriation Bill on the Draft Budget for contribution to Development Fund as it stands in my name on the Order Paper today—

That this House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for Contribution to Development Fund—Head 56 of Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to submit.

Dr E. J. Sohwo (Ethiope North) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Appropriation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Electoral Commission—Head 52 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji M. Bachaka (Argungu) : I rise to present the report on the Federal Electoral Commission as it stands on the Order Paper for today—

That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Electoral Commission—Head 52 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit.

Mr Barde Gadaka (Fika South) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Capital Budget proposals for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation—Heads 225 and 226 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Dr Taribo Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to present the Report on Petroleum and Energy Conservation standing in my name, That the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Capital Draft Budget for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation—Heads 225 and 226 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr John Laven (Langtang) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY
APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980
(9TH ALLOTTED DAY)
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

Question proposed, That ₦7,081,000 for Head 43, Recurrent Expenditure ; ₦400,000,000 for Head 227, Capital Expenditure ; ₦151,000 for Head 225, Capital Expenditure;—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief P. A. Gbinigie (Ethiopia South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the Budget proposals for the Ministry of Mines and Power for the year 1980.

Following the resolution of the House ordering the Committee of Mines and Power to study, examine and recommend to the House on the Budget proposals for the year, your Committee on Mines and Power examined the Budget proposals of the Ministry of Mines and Power which is charged

with the overall responsibility for Electricity, Explosives, Geological Surveys, Mineral and Quarries (other than Petroleum) throughout the country. The Ministry is also charged with the Supervisory control of the affairs of the Nigeria Coal Corporation, the Nigerian Mining Corporation and the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA). To discharge these functions, the Ministry is divided into the following Divisions and Department : Policy and Management, Mineral Resources, Electrical Inspectorate and Geological Survey Department.

The Policy and Management Division is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the administration and Establishment matters of the Ministry.

The Electrical Inspectorate Division advises the Ministry on all electricity matters, makes recommendations on electricity development in the country, inspects electricity supply undertakings and large consumers' installations, inspects and issues certificates for private generating plants, and electrical installations, investigates and reports on electrical accidents for Police action, and also recommends preventive measures, studies and re-appraises major Power Projects proposed by Public Power Supply Agencies such as NEPA, NESCO, *et cetera*.

The Mining Division is responsible for the general surveillance, regulation and control of Mining and quarrying activities throughout Nigeria in order to ensure orderly, safe and efficient extraction of the available minerals.

The Geological Survey Department is responsible for the Geological Survey and mapping of the entire country at various scales in order to depict in synoptic manner the various groups of rocks that compose its surface and account for its typographical features, its soils, its surfaces and underground water resources.

It is also responsible for the geological, geophysical and geochemical investigations of the country's mineral resources, laboratory investigation of the various mineral rocks and water samples, preparation of maps, reports and publications embodying the results of the Department's field and Laboratory investigations, provision of geological consultancy to various interested Public and Federal Sectors, the Universities, Research Institutes and private sector.

In order to effect a good examination of the proposals for the year, your Committee, in order to examine the Draft Estimates critically, and to ascertain the rationale for the proposals, had to invite the Minister to appear in person with some of his top executives on several occasions, to explain details of the budget, and answer questions that were bound to arise in the process. In view of the problems which were peculiar with NEPA, it was considered that NEPA should appear again for further examination of the proposals submitted. On the 23rd April, 1980, the following top executives of NEPA appeared before the Committee to defend the Budget :

General Manager
Assistant General Manager (Operations)
Manager (Finance)

[CHIEF GBINIGIE]

Assistant General Manager (Administration)
Manager (Commercial)

Assistant General Manager (Distribution)

Assistant General Manager (Engineering)

DATES FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES (SUB-COMMITTEES NOT INCLUDED)

Your Committee met on the 23rd March, 25th March, 27th March, and the Minister and top Executives of the Ministry were invited. The meetings continued to meet—

The Chairman : Hon. Chairman, the members have read the report, if you can only give us the highlights.

Chief Gbinigie : I am coming to that, Sir, I am merely trying to give the details and the extent of the Ministry in order that Members may appreciate the—

The Chairman : Go on.

Mr Gbinigie : Please, exercise patience. Highlights

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

Upon careful examination of the provision's under personal Emoluments, the Committee noted the increase in staff strength from 2,453 to 2,599. Upon further enquiry, it was explained to the satisfaction of this Committee that the increase was brought about by the opening of new stations in some parts of the Federation. Your Committee therefore considered the increase was justified.

OTHER CHARGES SECTION B, PAGE 348

It was noted that a total sum of ₦1,792,000 was provided for other charges. The Committee considered the total amount justified in view of the determination of the Federal Government to tap the mineral resources of the country. This process would provide employment for the masses and would also go a long way to increase their spending power. The increased tempo in mining and quarrying would certainly give rise to demand for vehicles, working equipments, tools, replacement of old machineries and furnishing of offices as embodied in the other charges presented before us for consideration. Apart from all these, the Ministry of Mines and Power had dealings with international organisations such as International Council for Research and Development, Committee of the World Energy, etc. of which Nigeria was a full member. On these International organisations the Ministry would be called upon to pay membership fees, different types of contributions, and other related expenses.

The Committee noted an increase of a total sum of ₦600,490 over and above the total sum of money budgeted for the previous year. The Committee was satisfied that the increase was brought about by the mining and quarrying tempo as was already explained in the preceding paragraph. In the item captioned *Purchase of New and Modern Equipments for the Mining Department in Jos* together with other related provisions under the special Expenditure, it was seen that the idea was to replace obsolete machineries with up-to-date and modern ones.

The sum of ₦178,500 shown under item 3154 and headed *Purchase of Photo Geological Equipment and Materials* was also justified in view of the geological work that was connected with mining and quarrying.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES : NIGERIAN COAL CORPORATION

A total sum of ₦8,814,000 was provided as loan to the Nigerian Coal Corporation for the execution of the following Coal mining projects :

- (i) Coal preparation plant
- (ii) Pitwood Plantations
- (iii) Expansion of Enugu Mines
- (iv) Development of Northern Mines, and
- (v) Transportation.

It should be noted, however, that the Ministry asked for a total sum of ₦9,938,000 but it was cut down to ₦8,814,000 by the Federal Ministry of Finance. The Ministry tendered details of work and materials involved in the projects listed above. Your Committee was satisfied, and had to recommend the approval of ₦8,814,000.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES MINING CORPORATION : SUNDRY PROJECTS PAGE 494

A provision of ₦43,393,000 was made under this item for the establishment of the following sundry projects :

- (i) Stone Industry (quarries)
- (ii) Clay bricks and Allied Industries
- (iii) Tin and Allied Minerals
- (iv) Lime and Marble
- (v) Salt, lead and Zinc at Abakaliki
- (vi) Appraisal of mineral Deposits
- (vii) Mineral House and area offices Development
- (viii) Manpower Training and Development
- (ix) Staff Housing Development
- (x) Workshop Development.

In view of the projects listed for execution, the Committee was satisfied with the provision made thereof.

Capital Expenditure Code 032 Nigerian Mining Corporation : Participation in other Mining Projects—Page 494

A total sum of ₦5,000,000 provided under this item would take care of the following projects :

- (i) Plateau Ceramic Industries Ltd.
- (ii) Kaduna Ceramic projects
- (iii) Ozubulu Kaolin Development, Anambra
- (iv) Abeokuta Kaolin Development
- (v) Tin Mining Companies on the Plateau each carrying ₦1,000, ₦2,000 and ₦500,000 respectively. Your Committee was satisfied with the provision.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Chief Gbinigie : Not on the report, Sir, until I finish reading.

Dr O. Ogunkoya (Ijebu Remo) : My point of order is on the question of this man reading directly.

I want him to give us a gist from the head. He should give us a gist from the head without reading in detail. We all can read.

The Chairman : Please sit down. I thought that you had a point of order. Please always come to the House everyday. If you come to the house everyday, you will follow the proceedings.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CODE 040 NIGERIAN MINING CORPORATION :
PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIAN URANIUM MINING COMPANY PAGE 494

A sum of ₦3,500,000 was provided under this item and the Committee was satisfied with the provision.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES CODE 469 RIRIWAJ MINES LIMITED : EQUITY PARTICIPATION PAGE 495

Your Committee was satisfied with the provision of ₦12,000,000 under this item.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS PAGE 495

Geological Surveys carry very important role in prospecting, exploration and exploitation of minerals in the country, it is obvious that a lot of money should be invested in order to ascertain quality and grade in mineral deposits. In addition to this, all votes allocated to mining institutes such as school of mines, Jos, Geological branch Institute, Kaduna, Headquarters and State branch laboratories and mine-land reclamation come under this heading.

After a critical examination of the head and sub-heads under this section the Committee is satisfied that the amount of ₦22,605,000 allocated directly to Geological Survey is justifiable.

It has also been observed that the sum of ₦12,000,000 out of the ₦22,605,000 under subhead 0469 allocated to Nigeria Mining Corporation for participation in Ririwai mines limited, is a step in the right direction.

13. NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY (NEPA) PAGE 501

National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has proposed for a capital expenditure of ₦568,000,000, for the 9 months of 1980 Financial year.

Due to financial constraint the Federal Government has made available a loan of ₦400,000,000 towards this capital expenditure. It therefore stands to reason that NEPA would generate the difference of ₦168,000,000 from its internal operations.

As the capital projects proposal for NEPA did not give any details in the proposal before you, the Committee here attempts to show how the capital is applied.

	₦
Thermal Generation	152,042,000
Hydraulic	147,026,000
Transmission and Transformation	123,715,000
General Plant and Building	38,206,000
Total	₦ 568,025,000

Further explanations on the above are as follows :

(a) Expected commencement of construction of Lagos Thermal Plant at Igbini.

(b) Increased tempo of activity at Jebba and Shiroro Hydraulic Dams and in all major capital expenditure projects such as Sapele and other major transmission lines.

(c) Provision of extra generation of 300MW Gas Turbine Station in Sapele and another 450MW Gas Turbines Station at Afam arising from the delay in service dates for Jebba and Shiroro and to meet short-fall in energy and capacity due to adopting a higher energy reserve policy.

GENERATION

14. Construction of work on Sapele Power Station to provide 720MW is well under way. The first four units have been commissioned by 31st October, 1979 and it is expected that the last two units will be commissioned in 1980 as work is continuing on schedule. Provision has been made for the commencement of the construction of the Lagos Thermal Plant which will have a capacity of the order of 720MW to 800MW. Construction of additional 300MW Gas Turbine at Sapele has commenced and also due to start is 450MW Gas Turbine at Afam. They are expected to be brought into service in 1981 and 1982 respectively.

Work on the feasibility study of Makurdi/Ikom hydro projects is in its final stage. The Lokoja Feasibility Report was submitted early in 1979. Approval to go ahead with Lokoja Hydro has not been given, and the Committee urges a quick action to enable work to commence.

Transmission and Transformation

The construction of the double circuit 330KV line from Sapele to Benin and Lagos has been completed and the line is now operational.

The second Jebba-Kaduna line has also been completed. Also Kaduna-Kano 330KV line has been commissioned.

The Jos-Gombe 330KV line has just been completed but not commissioned.

Other 330KV transmission lines between Onitsha-Enugu, Sapele-Aladja, Benin-Ajaokuta, Jebba-Oshogbo third circuit, Jebba Main-Jebba Hydro, are under construction.

The Ala-Oji-Afam line is part of Afam IV Gas Turbine contract which is still to be awarded.

132KV/lines completed include Kano-Hadejia, Kano-Kankiya-Katsina, Itu-Eket, Oshogbo-Ife-Ondo, Iwo-Iseyin, Papa Alanto-Abeokuta, Jos-Gombe-Numan-Yola, Shagamu-Ijebu Ode.

Lines presently under construction include Ikeja West-Oworonsoki-Alagbon double circuit, Shiroro-Minna-Bida-Suleija-Abuja, Aba-Owerri and Enugu-Nkalagu.

On-going works at 330KV transformation stations are at Ikeja West, Aiyede, Kano, Kaduna, Benin, Onitsha, Ala-Oji, Jos and Gombe.

[CHIEF GBINIGIE]

DISTRIBUTION

Apart from normal increases in customers service which is expected to reach 150,000 new customers in the coming year, there are also large numbers of Government housing estates in all State Capitals that are nearing completion. Also nearly all the country-wide electrification programmes have been completed. In the Lagos area, major distribution expansion is under way and the world Bank is expected to undertake financing of further development in the Lagos area. The change-over from 6.6 KV to 11KV is now nearly completed. The Government's directive for electrification of all Local Government Headquarters will give rise to a lot of distribution networks. The Committee strongly recommends quick action on the project to ensure a flow of manpower to the rural areas as against the present trend where the community tend to move to the urban areas. Detailed planning is being undertaken this year and major spendings on this will commence immediately. To this end the sum of ₦15,000,000 has been earmarked to ensure steady progress. (ii) The British Electricity International has completed the study of twenty-three major towns including all state capitals for the purpose of initiating distribution expansion programme similar to the Lagos Metro Project possible with the financial assistance of World Bank.

**Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
(NNPC)**

This item is strictly for the Committee on Petroleum and Energy and your Committee did not touch on that matter.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I sincerely commend these proposals for your approval to ensure development in all its facets throughout the country's economy.

Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to submit.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much, Chief Gbinigie. It is a very good report. Does it require any comment ?

Mr S. O. Adoyi (Okpokwu West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to commend the Committee on Mines and Power for a job well done. Mine is to draw the attention of this honourable House to the utter neglect that Okpako mine in Owupako Division of Benue State has suffered since 1957. Mr Chairman, Sir, the decision to develop Owupako Mine was taken alongside that of the Okaba and Lafia Coal Mines but unfortunately while these two Coal Mines Okaba and Lafia have taken off in earnest, Owupako Mine has suffered the greatest neglect. All we heard about Owupako Mine is that the feasibility survey is still being carried out. In 1976, Mr Chairman, a temporary office was built and everybody's hope was raised that the Owupako Mine was about to take off, but all that we saw and up till today there has been no further work or development on the Owupako Mine. I would like to appeal through this honourable House to the Executive to give due attention to the Owupako Mine out of the ₦8.8 million voted for the Coal industry in this new Financial Year. With these few comments, Sir, I beg to sit down.

Alhaji Saidu Kanti (Hadejia) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my contribution on this report, especially on page 501. It was written in the report that a breakdown of ₦568,000,000 was made, while on page 501 only ₦400,000,000 is put thereon. What we here in the National Assembly see in the proposed budget is ₦400,000,000, but the breakdown is ₦568,000,000, although he said the rest of ₦168,000,000 will be realised from their own internal revenue. I think, Mr Chairman, Sir, the Committee should go and make the breakdown to read ₦400,000,000. The difference of ₦168,000,000, I think should be an internal matter of the NEPA.

Thank you, very much.

Mr Godwin Nwokocho (Abakaliki East-Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to thank the Committee on Mines and Power for the job they have done, but I want to highlight some of the problems that affect Mines and Power especially in the areas where they have tried to do some work. The Geological Survey of Nigeria is not yet complete, and knowing what it costs to have a Geological Survey, I do not think that the amount under the Subhead for Geological Survey of Mineral Resources of ₦2,862,000 will be enough to do the job that that department should do. Also, the air maps for Geophysical Surveys of underground minerals has been allocated only a meagre sum of ₦700,000. This, for sure, is inadequate if a job is to be done.

Now, Mr Chairman, I want to draw the attention of this House to what I would call an unpatriotic attitude of some mineral prospectors who prospect without licence in the rural areas. These are in the fields of laterite quarrying and quartzite quarrying. I know there is a law in the country which prevents people from going for anything that is some metres below the ground without licence. But, these prospectors go into the rural areas without licence and destroy home-lands and farm-lands in their quest for minerals.

I would also, want to draw the attention of this House to the lead-zinc mine at Eyingba in Abakaliki. Houses, machinery and access routes were all destroyed during the civil war, and for the past 13 years they have remained destroyed. Indeed, the Vice-President of the Federation when he visited the Mine estimated the cost of reactivating that Mine at ₦35,000,000. Now, looking at what the Ministry of Finance has approved under the Sundry Projects on page 494, only—

The Chairman : Time up !

Dr I. B. A. Ufondu (Enugu) : I want to seize this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to thank the Committee on Mines and Power for a job well done and particularly to thank them for the allocation of ₦8,814,000 for the Nigerian Coal Corporation, Enugu.

An hon. Member : Leave Enugu alone.

Dr Ufondu : I said Nigerian Coal Corporation. Secondly, Sir, I want to put it on record in this honourable House that the President of the Federation of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, has continuously supported the efforts made by the Nigerian Coal

Corporation and Enugu in general. I also want to say that no one can at any time say that Mr President is not helping the people of Enugu. Thank you, very much, Mr Chairman.

Mr P. E. S. Ideh (Ughelli) : I rise to associate myself with the views expressed by some hon. Members who spoke earlier in thanking and congratulating the Committee on Mines and Power for a job well done, particularly the Chairman of the Committee for the way he has presented their report. In doing so, Mr Chairman, I have a few comments.

First, the reduction of the demand of NEPA for a sum of ₦568,000,000 to ₦400,000,000 is, in my own opinion not justified. There has been a lot of hue and cry about the inefficiency of NEPA in the country, and it is my view that one of the causes of their failure is the type of materials they use in the operation of their job. If they had wanted an amount, that amount should have been given to them so as to give them no cause for an excuse. In the circumstances, Mr Chairman, I hope in future every opportunity would be given to organisations like NEPA in terms of funding to enable them perform their functions.

In the report, Sir, it would appear that all works pertaining to electricity are concentrated in the urban areas. There is now a very strong demand and need for the use of electricity in the rural areas. The programme of the government to build houses all over the areas demands, too, that electric power supply is a proper mate for this exercise. I am, therefore, urging this House to put on record the need to require the Ministry to ensure that electric power is spread to the rural areas.

There is one aspect, Sir. The lack of interest which NEPA authorities show to the people who suffer on account of NEPA's carelessness is one thing that strikes some surprise in the minds of many people. About two weeks ago, due to the carelessness of NEPA, four students were electrocuted at Oghara village in Ethiope Local Government area. Up to the time of coming to this House, there has been no word of sympathy from the Authorities to the family of the deceased and people of the area. This kind of thing, Mr Chairman, has to be discouraged.

The Chairman : Time up.

Mr Ambrose N. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I would like to give a token appreciation of the work so far done by this Committee, but I am impelled to use this forum to express concern over the lack of sufficient funds for the reclamation of land on the Plateau. I would like to appeal through this honourable House that we on the Plateau are being threatened by the deep excavation by tin miners. We have been displaced. We would like our identity to continue to exist, but where you find people moved away from their localities, lumped here and there, there is a danger of some kind of quarrel sparking off over land. But if the Federal Government helps us in reclaiming wherever these tin mines are going on, we shall always be able to go back and re-settle in the places that have been reclaimed.

So, I appeal through this very House for that very exercise to be looked into in this current Budget.

The other point that is actually worth looking into is to draw the attention of the appropriate Committee and the Minister concerned to the existence of an enormous quantity of marble and limestone in the Kanam Local Government Area that calls for immediate exploration, exploitation and utilisation for the production of cement. It is clear that this very raw material exists there, but nobody had ever bothered to go into that very corner of Plateau State to look at it.

On NEPA, NEPA, you know, in the early days of our settling down in this House was declared as one of the sick babies of the nation that require serious treatment. I am surprised that NEPA is left with a balance of ₦168,000,000 to harness her operations when just recently, we read that NEPA staff have embarked upon *operation fill their pockets* by receiving bribes from consumers and re-connecting their lights on receipt of these bribes. How they are going to harness this ₦168,000,000 is yet a mystery. (*Point ! Point!*). Therefore, I imagine that if NEPA is not given the full financial support, I doubt whether they will really produce the ₦168,000,000 to make possible their operations. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Thank you. Yes, the hon. Member for Port Harcourt II (*Chief Godwin Bekole Wodi*).

Chief Godwin Bekole Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : I want to comment on two aspects of this Report. Firstly, the Nigerian Coal Corporation. Honestly, Mr Chairman, I would feel that the amount allocated there, of ₦8,814,000 is meagre. If we remember that the Coal Corporation has not been fully rehabilitated, we would feel that this amount is not enough. But, I can see that the issue of the Coal Corporation is being approached very cautiously. This is because we have not actually determined what to do with the coal when it is dug out. I could remember that we were using locomotive engines, which consumed quite a lot of coal, many years gone by. We have now changed to a different thing entirely. We also learnt that both dye and bitumen could be by-products of coal. I would expect that every effort should be made to actually go into the production of these by-products from coal and this will encourage the development of the industry.

The other aspect I want to mention, Mr Chairman, is NEPA. NEPA actually is failing us. If you get to better developed countries, you will hear them talking and advertising that people should think electric. I begin to imagine why the incidence of NEPA failure in this country is just peculiar here. It is not like that in Western Germany ; it is not like that in the United Kingdom. Is it not time we began to learn the secret of this reliability in these other countries ?

Another aspect of it, Mr Chairman, is this question of discriminating against areas generating electricity for use in this country. I want to talk about Igbim where we are going to spend so many millions of naira generating electricity. It will be surprising that all the towns and villages around this place will be

[CHIEF WODI]

denied the use of electricity while the whole thing is concentrated in the urban areas. Are those areas not in Nigeria? Are they not entitled to the use of electricity and what have you? I would want NEPA and this Committee to make it their policy that any area where electricity is generated should have electricity supply first before the urban areas. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Thank you. Yes, GNPP.

Mr Audu Mbicho (Gwoza): Mr Chairman, the Report is quite satisfactory, therefore, I associate myself with those who recommend its approval. Mr Chairman, the only thing I would like to mention is that I want the Chairman of the Committee to throw more light on page 5 of this Report. He has mentioned the expansion of Enugu Mines, but what of others? He mentioned things like Coal Preparation Plant, where does it exist? Again, he talked of Pitwood Plantations, where does it exist? He also mentioned Development of Northern Mines, but where do these mines exist? Similarly, mention was made about Transportation; to where?

Mr Chairman, I would like the Chairman of the Committee to please throw more light on these, because we do not know where these mines exist at all. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Alhaji Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North): Mr Chairman, and hon. Members, the Committee has done a very nice job in a way, but they could have allocated more money to the Mining Section rather than to NEPA. This country should as at now, invest more money on the research of other minerals other than the crude oil which may finish within a very short time. So, it is wiser for the country to go into mining of uranium, coal, Cement, columbite, *et cetera*, but we are putting more money than we should, on the mining and exportation of petroleum.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, on the money allocated to NEPA, I think that we should make some corrections so that the Mining Section of the Ministry of Mines and Power gets the larger share. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Thank you, very much.

Alhaji M. Mutari Adamu (Dutse): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to congratulate the Chief for this good presentation of his Report; that is, the Chairman of the Committee. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would strongly oppose the loan of ₦400,000,000 to the NEPA. My reason is that I see no reason why this ₦400,000,000 should be given to NEPA while our masses are suffering because we have no water, we have no roads and then this heavy amount will be diverted to NEPA.

For that reason, I strongly oppose it. Definitely in my constituency, we have no water to drink and we have no roads, whereas ₦400,000,000 is being diverted to NEPA. I strongly oppose it. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Yes UPN. You always have the same people raising their hands.

Mr Oladepo Olaniyan (Irepodun): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in appreciating the work of the Committee on Mines and Power, I would like to say that this particular Ministry is one that gives Nigeria pride and shortcomings at the same time. All our economic pride in this country today emanates from this Ministry. But at the same time, the NEPA which has been giving every industry a lot of problems and disappointment is in this Ministry as well. I would think that as we are talking about technological advancement, it would be the duty of the Minister of Mines and Power to ensure that the junior workers in this Ministry are catered for and given incentives in order to get the best out of the money we are allocating to this Ministry. If the junior workers are properly treated, I am very sure there will be a great deal of productivity in this particular area.

I would expect that when next we are to look into this kind of Budget, we should find some people who have wide experience about mines and surveys so that they would not rely only on what were submitted to them, but they would be able to find out things practically for themselves, and would ensure that all are in the best interest of this country. I beg to support the report.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Alhaji S. A. Famuyide (Ilesha): Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to the support of the Report prepared by the Committee on Mines and Power, I do appreciate the work they have done, but I have some points which I would like to raise. If my proposals cannot be accommodated in this current Budget, I would remind them to include the proposals I want to raise in the next budget.

The Ministry of Mines and Power is a Ministry that is catering for quite a number of sources of incomes for the Government, especially mining area. I would like to mention that it is a great omission for the Ministry to have not included a place where we have plenty of gold, and today our women are all going about to other countries to buy gold. Ilesha is a place where some minerals like gold and other things like marbles abound. This Committee should have included a provision to include such areas as those to be exploited, and I want the Committee to bear in mind that that would help us further economically.

In addition to that, there are places in Ondo where quarry could be set up. Finally, I am appealing to the Ministry to please look into it and include Ilesha as gold mining area in the future proposals.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Yes, thank you.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Floor and to take the opportunity to thank the Chairman for a job well done. While contributing to this debate, I would like to appeal to this Committee to make it a point of duty to ensure a general survey of Ondo State, particularly Ekiti Hills, where we know a lot of mineral resources are still embedded.

[MR ADEAGBO]

While contributing to this debate, Mr Chairman, I would like to appeal to this Committee that not only in this Budget, but all efforts must be seen to the execution of the projects within the NEPA. Before I left Ibadan a few days ago, the whole area was in black out. This is repeated every time. We all realise the ineffectiveness in the NEPA in relation to Staff, equipment, vehicles, offices, *et cetera*. I appeal to you, Mr Chairman, that all efforts must be made to ensure that sick baby of this government, NEPA, is given everything to make it live for the comfort of the ordinary people. I would also like to appeal that NEPA in particular should be given all facilities to extend its services to the rural areas where development is at the highest rate.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

The Chairman : Thank you. Yes, the Leader of the House.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I respectfully move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

₦7,081,000 for Head 43—*Recurrent*, and ₦400,000,000 for Head 227—*Capital* and ₦151,000 for Head 225—*Capital*—*Federal Ministry of Mines and Power—ordered to stand part of the schedule.*

Head 38.—Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture

Question proposed, That Head 38 (₦78,874,000—Recurrent) and Head (₦237 (₦7,873,000—Capital) for Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. D. Shuaibu (Kanam) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to present the report of the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture for your consideration.

Before I allow Members to contribute their own quota, Mr Chairman, I beg your indulgence to make more explanation as to how this Committee has submitted its recommendations.

Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, this Ministry, as the name signifies, consists of four main sections, namely, Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture.

(a) Social Development : This section is solely responsible for promotion and welfare of human population and also to minimise the suffering of our disabled fellow Nigerians. To achieve this objective, Mr Chairman, and hon. Members, the Ministry has already embarked upon the establishment of six rehabilitation centres for the disabled people in Oyo, Anambra, Lagos, Kaduna, Kano and Sokoto States, and these centres will soon be commissioned before the end of the year. A survey is still in progress both in townships and the rural areas for the benefit of our destitutes.

(b) Youth Development : This section is responsible for inculcating self-discipline, self reliance, national consciousness and to harness the skills, energies and idealism of youths to the effort of

National Development. To achieve this, the Ministry has already planned for Youth Leadership courses, vocational workshops for children between the ages of 8 and 15, citizen and leadership training courses, establishment of Man O'war Clubs in all our post-primaries and higher institutions of learning.

Mrs S. O. Olowu (Ikale) : Point of order. My point of order is Order 26 (2). What we have on the Order Paper is *proposing Amendments*.

The Chairman : He is in order. He is dealing with his report. Let him finish with his report ; we shall debate it and go on with the Amendments.

Mr Shuaibu : Thank you, Mr Chairman. Lastly but, probably, the most important is the National Youth Service Corps through which the nation has now achieved the total mobilisation for national development of all graduates of the country's Universities and holders of HND and NCE qualifications.

(c) Sports : The Ministry has now embarked upon promoting the sporting activities throughout the Federation.

Our victory during the 12th African Cup of Nation is certainly still fresh in our minds and it gives encouragement to the Ministry. Besides the three Federal Stadia in Lagos, Ibadan and Kaduna, two more are now being constructed in Enugu and Jos. This process will continue until all the States are covered.

(d) The Cultural Sector : This sector has now been fully geared towards the revival and promotion of our Cultural heritage.

The Chairman, Sir, and hon. Members, it is because of these objectives above that our Committee recommends what you have seen in the report for your approval. I beg to move.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr J. K. Ugo (Gwer East) : I support the work of the Committee. It is a nice work.

I also agree with them that the vote proposed for beggars and destitutes is inadequate and should be increased. I think that we have a duty to look after Nigerian destitutes and beggars. There are quite a great number of foreign destitutes and beggars in this country and I think, it is not our duty to cater for them. A census, in my view, should be taken to determine who is a Nigerian destitute and who is not and after this exercise, we would be perfectly right and it would be within our constitutional powers to deport foreign destitutes.

I beg to support the report.

Mr Sani Dandare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Chairman, I would like to support this report. In supporting it, I would like to talk on four items on the Report. The first one is Culture. When we talk of culture, we should understand that we are borrowing foreign culture for our own use.

When I say foreign culture, I am talking of *Disco* 80. I rise to condemn the idea of *Disco* 80 into our society.

[MR KALGO]

Secondly, I would like to comment on the composition of the National Sports Commission. This Commission is called the National Sports Commission just in name. It consists of only one group of people. If we really want a National Sports Commission, we should invite all Directors of Sports in the Federation and the Director of the National Sports Commission as the Chairman so that they can form a National Sports Commission, if you truly want to reflect the people, not as at present that we have in the composition of the Commission the Director is from one group, the Assistant Director is from the same group, the Vice-Chairman from the other group. This should stop immediately.

I would also like to talk on the various Sports in the nation, like football, hockey, cricket, volley-ball and so on. The Chairman of football should come from Lagos, while that of volley ball from Sokoto, hockey from Ondo so that they can meet and decide on what to do. The method of sending letters of invitation to other States is also very poor. We know the method. They send out letters late so that before the letters reach a place like Sokoto, they have selected their people and finished with whatever they want to do. By the time the letters arrive, you cannot do anything.

We strongly criticize the method. We want proper representation in all aspects of our sports.

I would now like to talk about the composition of our National Team called the Green Eagles. We know that the Green Eagles are growing old and in sport we need young men; we have to start grooming another team so that it can succeed the present Green Eagles. We know they are growing old, and we know too that it takes years to train a player to a required standard. So, the idea is, let us start breeding other boys to succeed the present Green Eagles so that in the near future we would not be without a team.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Saidu Kanti (Hadeja): Mr Chairman, Sir, my contribution on this report on the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture is this. I have noticed that a contribution has already been made about the Young Men Christian Association, and I should like to draw the attention of the Committee that henceforth it is advisable to vote large sums of money for the Nigerian Aid Group. Although the former name sounds a religious group, but their work is almost the same. They help the needy and those who are not well. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I am just advising that this our Aid Group be given a place in the National Budget. Thank you.

The Chairman: Yes, let somebody from NPP speak.

Mr D. A. Omeke (Igbo-Eze North): Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I thank the Committee for the job well-done. I have little to say on this rehabilitation of the destitutes and beggars. Begging should not be encouraged in Nigeria, it should be banned. You will see that some of the beggars in Nigeria are not

Nigerians but even some Nigerians have taken up begging as a profession. This type of profession should not be encouraged in Nigeria. It brings shame rather than dignity to Nigeria. (*Applause*)

Then I come to destitutes. The destitutes and disabled should be rehabilitated. We should vote a lot of money for their rehabilitation. It is just a social calamity and they are not responsible for their conditions. We Nigerians should show humanitarian sympathy to these people and vote a lot of money for their rehabilitation. In the Amendment, I saw where they talked about the Nigerian Boys Scout. This type of organisation in Nigeria should always be encouraged. To encourage the morality and honesty in Nigeria, we should devote time and money to support this type of organisations.

I need not go further, Mr Chairman, I beg to sit.

Mr Christopher K. Gutus (Pankshin): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, while I take part in appreciating the efforts of this Committee for the job well-done, I would like to talk on a particular thing and that is the Voluntary Youth Organisations contained on page 3 of the Committee's Report. Here, after stressing the importance of these organisations the Committee decided to make an increment on the allocation of the Draft Estimates. To my mind, Mr Chairman and hon. Members, I think the increment is uncalled for. It is uncalled for because it is not prudent for us to make any increment without getting any formal request from the proper channel or the officials. I also believe, Mr Chairman, that since this Ministry is a new one, without knowing the previous allocation, it is difficult to compare and contrast, let alone knowing the inadequacy of the Budget presented. So, Mr Chairman. I am of the belief that this should also apply to other Estimates that may come forward.

Before I sit down, Mr Chairman, I believe all of us are aware of a place called Nok. Nok is a place found in Southern Zaria in Kaduna State. It is one of the historic areas. So, I would like to seize this opportunity to call on the Federal Government to establish a museum there. Thank you very much.

The Chairman: Yes, Chief Ugwu.

Chief F. C. Ugwu (Nsukka): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. gentlemen, I want to contribute on the aspect of this report that deals with the National Youth Service Corps code 1112. Mr Chairman, Sir, you will recall that sometime ago this House did pass a Motion calling on this Committee to look into the problems of the National Youth Service Corps. First of all, the amount of ₦49 million voted for the National Youth Service Corps—when we are expecting that 25,000 people will be participating in the next academic year—I think, is minimal. We have to remember that when the allowances for the National Youth Service Corps was fixed the rate of inflation had not gone up as high as it is today

I would suggest that this Committee should have recommended, at least, 50 per cent of the initial salary of a Corps Member to be paid to him while he is doing a National Youth Service Corps and not this ₦138 and ₦130, which is odd. Secondly, I

would urge the Committee even if it would not be possible now, to look into the issue of the age limit. When somebody passes the age of 25 he is no more a youth. His mind is already made about the issues of this country. So, I am suggesting that the age limit of 25 should be the ceiling for which somebody could get into the National Youth Service Corps. After that, he should go and serve the nation in other capacities.

I still insist also that married women should not participate in the National Youth Service Corps because of the attendant evils therein.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on this score, I beg to sit down.

Mr M. B. Mele (Matchina) : I rise to appreciate the work well done by the Members of this Committee, but yet I have some observations or points to highlight to the Members of the whole House. The first issue is that of destitutes in Nigeria. In fact, we have been seeing day and night along our high-ways destitutes perambulating, begging all over the country. This is, in fact, a disgrace, a shameful act for all Nigerians to see and to watch this kind of disgrace occurring in this country without saying anything. We call ourselves a great nation in Africa and yet we neglect a shameful thing which has been happening in this country. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think, it is really important for this House to consider an establishment of either a remand centre or a centre Home as some countries call it for the destitutes in all the three hundred and eighteen local government areas we have in this country.

On the question of National Youth Service Corps, Mr Chairman, for those of us who had the opportunity of experiencing the life in the National Youth Service Corps, we have known the difficulties involved in this scheme. In fact, it is one of the achievements of the Military Regime but up till today the problems faced by this scheme have not at all been solved. Some of the problems are those of allowances, accommodation, to mention a few, in fact, even recognition by the public of the importance of the National Youth Service Corps Members in our midst is another. So, Mr Chairman, it is important that this House sets up a Committee as quickly as possible to reorganise the National Youth Service Corps Scheme and to make arrangements so that the Members who have been serving under this scheme benefit.

Mr Kolo Lawal (Geidam North) : I stand to associate myself with my hon. Colleagues in support of the Committee Report. I have something to point out. The first issue is the amount budgeted for the destitutes and Rehabilitation. I think the amount is too small and I have supported the Committee's recommendation of ₦100,000, which is an increase of ₦97,000. The second one is on the issue of the reformation of the character of the Youth. I think there are other things or other aspects which need the Committee's attention in the reformation of the character of the youth. These are the remand homes and other orphanage homes. I do not know what provision the Committee has made for these.

Another point I would like to know much about is Code 116 on which the Committee said the Ministry could not explain ₦170 million budgeted. If the

Minister cannot explain that much, I think, the amount should be transferred to other Heads.

On the issue of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme, the amount of ₦49 million budgeted is too small. If Code 116 cannot be explained, by the Ministry, I think that amount can be transferred to the National Youth Service Corps Code.

Mr M. I. Gumawa (Gabasawa) : In associating myself with the recommendation of this Report, Mr Chairman, I want to point out my dissatisfaction with the explanation in Code 112 on the National Youth Service as expressed by some Members. I remember some time on the Floor of this House I mentioned some experiences I had, bitter experiences, of course, with the service, and I thought that some thing could have been done by the Directorate. The National Youth Service Directorate seemed to take no note at all of the grievances of the nation and the Youth Corpers. My quarrel is not particularly with the amount voted here but the way and manner this amount is being spent. Those of us who really had the experience witnessed how sometimes the Directorate and the State Officials of the National Youth Service mismanaged the amount given to them. Thousands of naira will be destroyed in throwing parties when the Youth Service Corpers are suffering from lack of accommodation, poor transport system, and, sometimes, very little or no allowances altogether. In some cases you will find Youth Corpers staying for more than two months before the allowances reach them because there is no road leading to their places and Inspectors who should have been taking the money to them are not efficient. Something should have been done here. Since nothing is done I should appeal to the Chairman of the Committee concerned to please go back to sit down to come up with a more specific recommendation for the National Youth Service Corps Scheme.

Mr S. G. Laosebikan (Iwo West) : I associate my views with those people who have spoken before me about this particular Report. I think it is a very good job that they have done. However, I want to make some comments like others on two points on the National Youth Service Corps Members. I think the allowances of Members of this Youth Corps were fixed arbitrarily. These young people have really made enough sacrifice by serving in any part of the country they are deployed to. I do not see any reason why we expect these people to make the sacrifices which we ourselves cannot make by giving them very poor allowances. I think these people should be given their salary grade wherever they work. Their normal salary scale should be given to them instead of giving them very poor allowances.

Also, I want to say something about the beggars and the mad people on our streets. I think we have to do something about them especially the mad people. It is improper to allow them to walk up and down our streets. We should collect these people and put them in the Hospitals like other countries all over the world do. I think it is high time that something was done about them. It is improper to allow them to walk along our streets.

With this comment, thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr B. O. Olabode (Ogbomosho North) : I commend the work done by the Committee on Veteran Affairs and Social Welfare. The Committee needs to be praised for the excellent work done. The Committee should have done more but its hands are tied. The Executive needs to be criticised for not having plan for the common people. The amount so far proposed for the destitutes, the blind, the handicapped, the beggars throughout this country is only ₦200 thousand compared with the total emolument of ₦1.2 million provided by the Social Workers and compared with ₦293,473,000 to be consumed by the Chief Executive Office.

This Committee had managed to increase the amount by ₦97,000. It is time for Nigeria's Chief Executive to face the reality, because though Nigeria can afford to spend almost ₦12 billion in nine months, she does not have time for its less privileged people. Our Chief Executive should be told that it is time to have our people's Budget. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would advise that the Executive should have concrete plans for the beggars, destitutes, the blind and the other less privileged people in the next financial year.

In the same way, the small businessmen and women should be cared for. In this regard, the Chief Executive should have a plan whereby a body to be known as Small Business Administration is set up. This body could be financed and be provided with a large sum of money to give grants or loans to small businessmen and women. If this is done, most of our nationals would be cared for.

The Chairman : I would say that we are dealing with Youth and Culture, not small businessmen.

Mr Olabode : Social Welfare should not be for the wealthy contractors, rich businessmen and top executives. Social Welfare should be particularly for the poor masses. The amount originally proposed to be spent on the rehabilitation of beggars and destitutes is only ₦3,000 but the Committee recommends ₦100,000 to enable our Government to start somewhere to rehabilitate the beggars and destitutes. But I am appealing to the Chief Executive to have concrete plans to rehabilitate all destitutes and beggars throughout Nigeria in the next financial year. For this reason, I would suggest that the Federal Government should earmark ₦19,000,000, which is ₦1,000,000 per state of the Federation in the next Budget. The Minister of Social Welfare should take note of this. I would also recommend that the Federal Government should do something about all old persons. With these few comments, I take my seat.

Prince T. O. Olusi (Lagos South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a few contributions to the Report of the Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture ably presented by the Committee's Chairman. It is to be noted that most of the subvention originally proposed by the Ministry in respect of voluntary organisations or voluntary agencies are grossly inadequate, but one has to praise the Committee for proposing various increases. The voluntary organisa-

tions are an important arm of community development and Government has a duty to ensure that they are assisted regularly.

The other point I would like to mention, Mr Chairman, Sir, is the question of rehabilitation of destitutes. This is an important aspect of social welfare work, and this is one that should receive the attention of the Federal Government. It is a disgrace that in our streets, either here in Lagos or in Kaduna or in Enugu or Jos, wherever you go, you find beggars. At the moment, they are a menace. They pester you whether you are walking or you are in your car. These are the less fortunate members of our community and those of us who are privileged or those of us who are fortunate, have a duty to ensure that we take adequate care of them. We can only do this by providing old peoples home and by providing rehabilitation centres. We have to be frank with ourselves that the various governments in the Federation have not attended sufficiently to this aspect of our life. Therefore, one would urge that the Federal Government should ensure that in the next Budget, sufficient money is provided in the Estimates to take adequate care of our beggars and destitutes.

Another point I would like to mention is in respect of Sports. One is happy that sufficient amount of money is inserted in the Estimates for the administration of sports in the country ; but one would like to urge that the National Sports Commission should ensure that this money is spread evenly throughout the country. They should ensure that the development of sporting activities is done on equal basis, and they should try as much as possible to ensure that stadia are spread all over the Federation ; whether mini-stadia or the advanced ones, so that we can ensure the development of sporting activities.

Finally, I would like to say a few words, Mr Chairman, Sir, in respect of Culture. There is only ₦500,000 inserted in the Estimates. This, Mr Chairman, hon. Members, you will agree with me, for a country like Nigeria, is grossly inadequate. The preservation of our culture is an aspect of life which should receive adequate attention of the National Assembly.

We should ensure that we have enough museums to preserve our antiquities ; we should ensure that our dances and songs on the various aspects of life, our way of life, the usual African way of life, the way we bring up our children, the way we treat ourselves on various occasions are protected.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I support the motion.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, let us take the Amendments one by one. There are many Amendments but we should take them one by one. Having gone through the debate, we are now in a position to know whether or not a particular Amendment will be acceptable to us. So, we vote on them one after the other.

Mr M. D. Shuaibu (Kanam) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, before I allow the Members to consider these Amendments one by one, I think I have to explain certain points here.

The Chairman : No, move the Amendment. We have heard the explanation.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that—

In page 306 (of the Amended Draft Estimates) under *Boys Scouts Association* Code 0732, to leave out the figure ₦36,000 and to insert ₦40,000, instead hereof. I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the amendment ?

Mr M. S. Kaugama (Aliyo/Kaugama) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the amendment.

Question put. (Interruptions)

The Chairman : Hon. Members, I understand the Chairman of the Committee is pressing to make an explanation. (*Interruptions*) Go on, Chairman of the Committee.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I think that if Members could refer to the recommendations of the Committee, they would understand that in pages 305, 306 and 307, code No. 116, ₦12,000 has been reduced because that particular item is dealing with passages, parcels and so on. Therefore, if ₦12,000 could be reduced from that particular item, the Committee considered that the balance would be unable to help the Ministry to go on with the particular process before the end of the year. Then, on code No. 724, ₦10,000 has been reduced. That particular item is responsible for courses and seminars, and seminars are not all that very important as regards social welfare and delinquences affairs. On item 113, ₦15,000 has been reduced because that particular item is dealing with the centre for Black African Festival and Culture. On item 033, ₦50,000 has been reduced because that particular item is dealing with purchase and replacement of vehicles. The committee considered the remaining amount as adequate to replace the vehicles and to maintain the present vehicles in the Ministry. As such, the decrease on these four items amounted to ₦122,000.

Then we come to the following Code Numbers whereby the Committee recommends for the increase of the following amounts. On item 752, ₦4,000 has been increased, on item 740, ₦2,000 has been increased, on item 757, ₦2,000 has been increased, likewise item 765, ₦2,000, item 773, ₦2,000, item 781, ₦2,000, item 805 ₦7,000, item 821 ₦2,000 and lastly, item 588 ₦97,000 has been increased, that is the item on rehabilitation of destitutes in the country. That is why the total increment is ₦122,000 while the reduction within the Estimate of the Ministry is ₦122,000. Therefore, ₦122,000 is augmented to balance.

I beg to move, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : We have got the explanation. Thank you for the explanation. We will repeat the vote all over again.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that—

In page 306 under *Boys Brigade* Code 0740, to leave out the figure ₦18,000 and to insert ₦20,000, instead thereof.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Amendment ?

Mr S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Otta) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 306 under *Girls Brigade* Code 0757, to leave out the figure ₦14,000 and to insert ₦16,000 instead thereof. I beg to move.

Prince T. O. Olusi (Lagos South III) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second the amendment.

Amendment put and agreed.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 306 under *Girls Guide Association* Code 0765 to leave out the figure ₦14,000 and to insert ₦16,000 instead thereof. I beg to move.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : Mr Chairman, I rise to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 306 under *Young Women's Christian Association* code 0773, to leave out the figure ₦14,000 and to insert ₦16,000 instead thereof.

Mr B. O. Olabode (Ogbomosho North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the amendment that in page 306 under *Young Men Christain Association* Code 0781, to leave out the figure ₦14,000 and to insert ₦16,000 instead thereof.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, it appears there is a Parliamentary Accord. (*Laughter*)

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 306 under *National Youth Council of Nigeria* Code 805, to leave out the figure ₦13,000 and to insert ₦20,000, instead thereof. I beg to move.

Alhaji Hassan Gambo (Mayo-Balwa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agree to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 306 under *Islamic Youth League* Code 0821 to leave out the figure ₦9,000 and to insert ₦13,000 instead thereof. I beg to move.

Dr Mike Ukpong (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that in page 305 under *passages* Code 0116 to leave out the figure ₦170,000 and to insert ₦158,000 instead thereof. I beg to move.

Alhaji Gambo (Gubja) : Mr Chairman, I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move that :

In page 306 under *Expenses in connection with Youth Officers Training Courses* to leave put the figure ₦127,000 and to insert ₦117,000 instead thereof.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, the hon. Member for Ikeduru. (*Mr T. N. Ochiama*)

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Colleagues I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that :

In page 307 under *Centre for Black and African Culture and Civilization*, Code 01153 to leave out the figure ₦535,390 and to insert ₦485,000, instead thereof. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, anybody seconding the Amendment?

Alhaji Bulama Ali (Fune) : Mr Chairman, I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : The next one.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment that :

In page 306 under *Rehabilitation of Beggars and Destitutes* Code 0588, to leave out the figure ₦3,000 and to insert ₦100,000 instead thereof. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Amendment?

Alhaji Iliyasu Hong (Hong) : I rise to Second the Amendment

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : The last one.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Amendment that :

In page 307 under *Motor Vehicles Purchase and Replacement* Code 03033, to leave out the figure ₦305,240 and to insert ₦245,240, instead thereof.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, anybody seconding the Amendment?

Mr D. B. Kamai (Jalingo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Yes, the Leader of the House, we shall now put the whole Question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

₦78,874,000 for Head 38, *Recurrent Expenditure* and ₦7,873,000 for Head 237, *Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture—ordered to stand part of the schedule.*

The Chairman : Hon. Members, you remember we had our meeting on Monday, we are going to have a repeat meeting this afternoon after this sitting for the Report about what we have decided.

I understand that their Report is not ready so we shall have our meeting tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

The paper should not have gone to the typists ; bring the manuscripts, we shall read them here. Go and bring the manuscripts.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Chairman report progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumes the Chair)

Committee Report Progress, to sit again—Tomorrow.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, if I may recommend, I think, we hold this our meeting tomorrow to enable these people finish their job.

Hon. Members, in accordance with the Standing Orders, this House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

And it being after 1.00 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 22nd May, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYER

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have two keys here which I believe belong to Members. They have been picked up by one of us. One is a 505 key which was picked up just there where we sign our names on the table. Then the other one is the key for a flat, flat No. 715.

Alhaji Abutu, Chairman of the newly appointed Public Relation Committee, you know you have a great deal of job to do, particularly in the Members' flats to ensure good relationship among Members. You have to do a great deal of job there because I have received a lot of reports of what is going on there.

Alhaji A. D. O. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Are Members aware of this fact ?

Mr Speaker : Yes, that is part of your job. You have to ensure that there is good relationship among members themselves and the public in general. This is very important because I have received a lot of reports of what is going on there. So, you have to look into them.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Housing, Community Development and Environment

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment—Heads 45, 239 and 240 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Alhaji Shuaibu Julde (Edu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to present the report which stands in the name of Mr A. B. Yahaya, the Chairman of the Committee on Housing, Community Development and Environment, and more that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Draft Budget for the Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment—Heads 45, 239 and 240 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Members, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Alhaji M. S. Aliyu (Nasarawa) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Aviation

Presentation of the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget proposals for the Federal Ministry of Civil Aviation—Heads 27 and 231 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Dr Mike Ukpog (Abak) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Chairman of my Committee, I want to present the report of the Committee on Aviation and move that the House do receive the Report on Appropriation Bill (1980) in respect of the Budget proposals for the Federal Ministry of Civil Aviation—Heads 27 and 231 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to present.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopo South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Please, Sergeant-at-Arms ensure that the hon. Member from Ondo State House of Assembly, Mr Morakinyo is taken to the V.I.P. Section of the gallery. (*Applause*)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill 1980 (H.R. 11)

(10th Allotted Day)

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE HOUSE
HEAD 30—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Question proposed, That ₦466,000,000 for Head 30 Recurrent Expenditure ; and ₦500,000,000 for Head 245, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr John L. Laven (Langtang) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, today's debate on the Appropriation Bill 1980 Draft Budget of Defence Ministry may look simple, but hon. Members, I have to warn that it is not as simple as we think it is. The amount involved will be seen as huge when you hear ₦500,000,000 or ₦510,000,000. It sounds big but when you have a careful look at our present position and our stand in international affairs as the pillar of Africa and champion of Liberation Movement, you will find that the amount budgeted for my Ministry, the Defence Ministry, is sort of inadequate in the overall total. (*Interruption*)

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Yes, go on.

Mr Laven : I will go on to the report. The Recurrent Budget, as you can see, is on Pages 149 to 192 of the 1980 Draft Budget, while the Capital Estimates are contained on Pages 546 to 551 of the same document.

[MR LAVEN]

Head 30—Recurrent.

This Head, you may see, carries a total sum of ₦466,000,000 and covers the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces together. The Committee divided it into three main categories. (a) Personal Emoluments carrying ₦288,000,000; (b) Other Charges carrying ₦160,000,000; (c) Special Expenditure carrying ₦18,000,000, a total of ₦466,000,000.

The allocation under (a) above is understood, which is Personal Emoluments, Salaries and so on.

Other Charges covers essential and special services, easy transport and travelling, all forms of maintenance services, purchases of stores, welfare and so on.

Special Expenditure is for items required for work by personnel and for wages of casual labour, purchase of office equipment, hospital equipment, beds, *et cetera*.

Defence Industry : We have in Kaduna, a factory called Defence Industry, and this is linked with the Armed Forces somehow. Every year a loan is given to this Defence Industry to manufacture some simple fire-arms, like simple ammunition and simple weapons. In fact, as I stated in my report, the Defence Industry was expected to be given ₦99,000,000, but for some reasons, due to our financial constraints, the sum of ₦6,000,000 was only given this year. You could see that in the report. I do not need to read everything.

Inter-services : We picked up the major sectors of this Budget and item 139, that is Code 139 makes provision for properties rented by the Ministry. The actual requirement was ₦20,000,000 in order to meet the existing obligations. As you can see, the Army at the moment is paying heavily towards rented properties. This is because the barracks are not yet completed. They have been built, some are occupied, but there are so many infrastructural things to put in, and as such, they cannot accommodate all the personnel. As such, the Army still rent a lot of houses. In fact, the whole budget, when you have carefully looked at it, would go to pay the debts already inherited by this Administration. Most of the money is going to be for payments of debts towards rentals, landed properties and so on and so forth. So, that sum goes for those purposes.

The same thing under item 139 (a) and (b). (b) makes provision for payments of compensation acquired by this Ministry for various projects. The actual monetary requirement is ₦60,000,000 but you will find that the amount given is meagre. Code 154 makes provision for one Army rehabilitation Centre at Oshodi. There are many centres : one at Oshodi, one at Kachia, one at Shendam, Lankunshi and one around the East, but you will find that because of the financial constraint again, the Army is only able to maintain that of Oshodi. You know the purpose of these centres is that those about to leave the Army or the disabled are normally sent there to be trained in the field of agriculture, mainly crop production, poultry keeping, piggery and rabbitary and that will help them when they go back to their villages to establish themselves

and be self-reliant. Oshodi centre is the only one any fund is made available for. I wish Shendam could have been allocated some funds too.

Item 382—*The Nigerian Army Standard Exchange Equipment*—is meant to serve the three arms of the Armed Forces. The aim is to monitor important areas of the country as well as major sources of revenue like the oil fields and be able to detect any eventual things coming up. It is important that we protect our oil fields and our revenue-earning areas so that any smugglers coming in, could be detected and arrested or otherwise. Now, that finishes the general aspect of the Recurrent and the Capital Project.

We shall now go on to the various fields of the Nigerian Army. The Nigerian Army Capital Estimate can be divided into five major areas :

1. Accommodation, Barracks and Workshops, carrying a budget of ₦127.44 million.
2. Vehicles—₦83,000,000 ;
3. Communication—₦7,000,000 ;
4. Defence Equipment and Weapons—₦20,000,000 ; and
5. Training—₦17.77 million. The total is ₦255.35 million.

Accommodation : Well, I do not need to tell you the importance of accommodation. I have said earlier on that because of lack of accommodation, the Defence Ministry or the Armed Forces pays almost three-quarters of the total budgeted sum towards rental and landed properties and this is causing a hindrance when it comes to finding money to purchase weapons to equip the Army as a whole. In spite of the debt inherited, we still have the need to reinforce our Army in terms of equipment and strength too.

Vehicles : Well, on vehicles, we have ₦83,000,000 on the budget. You know again that, with the Army, it is difficult to do anything without adequate mobility, and vehicles are highly needed. I know some of you will say they have vehicles and a lot is seen here and there, and what are they doing. I will give a hint that those vehicles, when ordered from the United States, were ordered along with their spare parts, but the wrong types of spare parts arrived, and we are still expecting the correct spare parts which will arrive soon.

Communication : This carries ₦7,000,000. Communication network again is one of most important units of the Army. This is more so in times of war since all the Divisions have to communicate with one another to know the locations, their progress, their requirements, and to know the enemy locations as well. The system, as you know, is all linked up with Radio Network, Electronic Warfare equipment, Monitors, Direction Finders, Jammers, Scanners, Land-laying equipment, Fisimiles and so on. The services of the Engineers also come into this aspect and the ₦7,000,000 again, as I said, is inadequate ; most of the equipment are out-dated and obsolete. It is time we equipped the Army with such modern radio communication system equipment.

But again, we are given only ₦7,000,000 which is just manageable. In case of eventuality there is nothing we can do other than to rely on P & T, and you know the P & T would not help us much with all the strikes going on there.

Defence Equipment and Weapons : Here, hon. Members, we have to take a careful look. As I said earlier on, in terms of weapons we are behind, absolutely behind. Our weapons are those which we used during the civil war which may not be repeated, but another bigger war may come. If we take up those equipment—(Interruptions)

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Chairman : The hon. Chairman of the Defence Committee, it will not come.

Mr Laven : Well, we have got to be prepared. All right, external war may come.

The Chairman : We cannot control that one.

Mr Laven : All right, hon. Members, no war will come into Nigeria, except external one. We have got to be ready, and we have got to have the modern equipment. In fact, we could even have missiles. I could remember about November or so, some people were talking of having a nuclear station in Nigeria. At present, I do not feel we can think of that until we have the necessary weapons, and then we could go on to nuclear power. Right now, we hope to have one though, if you will make funds available to us. But, at the moment, we would like to have the most sophisticated weapons. It is here that my Committee made important stresses, and it is here too that you will see that the first Amendment proposal came because the position is nil. We have to replace our ancient and obsolete weapons definitely if we are to champion the cause of Africa.

Let us take a look at the Nigerian Navy. The Nigerian Navy estimates cover mainly accommodation, barracks and workshops, equipment, including acquisition of warships, training and refits of existing ships. We break it down into three.

1. Accommodation, Barracks and Workshops which carry ₦16,260,000 ;
2. Equipment and Warships—₦91,900,000 and
3. Training—₦2,240,000.

At the moment, we have but just the basic training in the country. In fact the funds made available for this training are inadequate because they needed expansion of the training centre at Apapa and one at somewhere in the Rivers State or Calabar State.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Chief Efiom Ita-Efiom (Odukpani) : My point of Order is 26 (2). The Chairman of the Defence Committee is trying to deviate from the main issue and he is misleading the House into believing that there is a State called Calabar State, which in fact is not there.

The Chairman : There is no Calabar State. Please, go on.

Mr Laven : I am very sorry, Mr Chairman, and hon. Members, Calabar is not a State, the State is Cross River. As I was saying, the training need is great. Right now, we rely on overseas to train our Personnel and as such it is costing the Navy a lot of money. Therefore, there is a need to expand these training Centres. The ₦2,000,000 there is considered very inadequate.

Accommodation : ₦16,000,000 is for accommodation. The Navy have the same problem as the Army. They are all scattered about and it is difficult, as in the Army, to have control of the soldiers or the Navy Personnel. So, they need to be in one place so that they could be accessible too when needed. They have Barracks that are on-going projects which they have not paid for completely. Again, they have not got drainage systems, no electricity, no water supply and you find that it is difficult to live in such areas. The ₦16,000,000 however, the Committee considered may just take them through the nine months, or it may not.

Equipment and Warships : Here, the ₦91,000,000 again was considered inadequate, but because of the financial constraints, there was nothing the Committee could do other than to allow it go.

But it is obvious that by next year, we should think of improving on this amount so that the Navy would be able to take-off. The present ships are due for services and they are sort of old, and to service one ship may cost over ₦1,000,000.

Therefore, with this little amount you will find that as you can see in your Report we have :

1. One frigate (GPF) missile.
2. Two covert missiles.
3. Six fast missiles strike patrol crafts (one may arrive this June).
4. Fifteen In-shore patrol crafts.
5. Two landing crafts—These have been delivered but the five per cent retention fee still exist.

These have been delivered but we still have to pay for them. All these ships are already on order and payment has started and we still have on each one of them more than 30 per cent to go. Each one is a huge sum of money. In fact, for your information, the frigate is about ₦120 million.

Warships Capital Refits : We have right now some war-ships and they would soon require re-fitting. As you know, we do not re-fit in this country yet. All re-fits are done overseas and they cost a lot of money.

You will find that the requirement for this re-fit was ₦97 million. This is the requirement for the total purchase of the ships and the re-fit. But we did not get nothing but ₦91 million.

[MR LAVEN]

The Nigerian Air Force : The Nigerian Air Force Budget proposal covers four main areas which are :

- (1) Buildings (Barracks and Workshops), etc.
- (2) Equipment including Air Crafts and Weapons.
- (3) Communication.
- (4) Training.

For buildings and barracks we have ₦19,766,000. For equipment we have ₦51,265,000. For Communication ₦3,200,000 and for training we have ₦3 million, all totalling ₦77.231 million.

Here, I would sound a word of warning, an alert to the National Assembly or to the House of Representatives, that, although my Committee was not aware of this, there was a huge omission in the oil and lubricants of the Air Force. Fresh provision for that may come later on as a Supplementary Budget because it is necessary that we run the aircraft. The lubrication oil, according to this draft, was given twice and they gave the same figure, so the Committee took it that it was a correct figure whereas it was not. As such, there may be some kind of Supplementary Budget coming in.

On the question of buildings and barracks, I hope Members would understand, as I said earlier on, that we need to quarter all our Armed Forces. In the past, there had been some kind of outcry that soldiers should restrict themselves to the barracks. It is important that we keep them in barracks too because they would be easily accessible.

Equipment—Air Crafts and Weapons : The total requirements under the various Sub-heads by the Nigerian Air Force is ₦73 million, but the Budget Committee provided ₦51 million. You can see the drastic cut there. They requested for ₦73 million but they were given ₦51 million.

I would call your attention to item 1693. Hon. Members, this is an important area too that I am going to emphasise on. On item 1693—*Air Craft Operational Facilities and Equipment Combat*, hon. Members, the position here again, as I said, is inadequate. The Air Force cannot rely on the Airways for certain amenities. They need combat areas. In times of anything, they need the aircrafts to fly here and there and land here and there. They cannot keep on landing in the Airports because they need such areas for their own runs. So far, the facilities are nil.

Kaduna is there linked up with the Airport, and Kano is also linked up with the Airport. Makurdi is sort of independent but it is poor. Calabar is poor also. So, you will find that the Air Force is in a fix. In fact, the Air Defence system is in a fix. So, we want these facilities to be there in order to be able to do something and it is in this area too that our second proposed Amendment comes in.

They requested for ₦35.560 million but they were given ₦10 million. In fact, it is in this area and the importance of these landing facilities and operational facilities that an increase was requested by this Committee.

Item 1781—Fire Fighting Equipment : Hon. Members it is amazing that a country can operate aircraft without fire fighting equipment. I cannot imagine an aircraft crash landing and catching fire and maybe all the soldiers in the plane will be burnt, because right now they have not got any single fire fighting equipment. There is none at all. It is every time they want to land that they call on the Nigerian Airways and the Nigerian Airways would stand by with their fire fighting vehicles. They need their own. What of if they land in Calabar which may not be near an Airport or what of if they land in Makurdi which has no adequate functional airport or field ? What of if they land somewhere in the field whereby they may need their operational facilities ? They have no combat equipment at all.

It is in this area that they recommended ₦3.5 million to the Budget Committee and the Budget Committee put it at 10 e. It is in this area that my Committee viewed with very great concern and said an Amendment should be made that 10 e should be lifted and ₦3.5 million given.

GENERAL COMMENTS : Mr Chairman, Sir, your Committee also owes it a duty to acquaint this honourable House with the present State of the Nation's Defence System. According to this information, we are not well equipped. Of the four divisions consisting of 51 battalions, the Budget can only equip five battalions. The Committee regrets to note that the Army has no efficient and sophisticated equipment, and we need to equip them otherwise we have no grounds on which to challenge any person and say we are championing any cause at all. They have no fund. To fly our soldiers out to Tchad will be difficult for us. Right now, with ₦500,000 for oil and lubricants, we cannot fly a C130 definitely for one week. We have soldiers in Tchad, we have in Lebanon ; and we have in other places too, but how can we move them out of the country ?

In the Nigerian Air Force, at present the only aircraft we have is the Migs, and I need not tell you under what conditions the Migs came in, and what type they were. Were they new or old ? However, the Committee considers that the Migs we have now are obsolete. We have, therefore, no aircraft in the Nigerian Air Force.

NIGERIAN NAVY : The Nigerian Navy seems to be in a worse situation. The ships are getting out-dated. They cannot attack anything reasonable. I do not think, in fact, that they have modern anti-aircraft guns. None at all has such fittings. The Frigate that is coming in is supposed to be the only one that can defend our territorial waters adequately but it is only one. It cannot be here and there at the same time. So, you will find that the position is bad.

THE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM : As at now, given our size, economic potentiality and our role in African politics, it is sad that there is no air defence system. So, hon. Members, when this Committee is requesting for some more money, there is a general

shout that Defence has huge sums of money, but having a look at what is at hand and what we need, our need outweighs our budget. I agree that in the past there had been some kind of negligence on the part of those that ruled. I have mentioned it earlier to them that they neglected the fundamental aspects of our defence. Well, they were ruling quite all right. I would have thought that they would have equipped the Army alongside their ruling.

Hon. Members, whatever happens, in the future it would be ourselves to be blamed, because people would say that we knew that these things were lacking, and what did we do to normalise the situation? It is time for us to equip the Army and put it in strong position. Definitely, during the four years of our tenure of office, we have a need to equip the Army and make it a force to reckon with in the World of today.

So, hon. Members, I would appeal to this august House to first have a careful look at the situation before opposing any recommendation or Amendment we must have made. It took us time to arrive at our conclusions. We know the financial constraints of this country. We know that we cannot just put all our money into the Army and forget other sectors. All we are asking for is a reasonable adjustment so that these people could take off.

So, Mr Chairman, Sir, this is the report of my Committee.

Dr E. A. Utande (Obudu) : Before I comment on the report, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable House to the sensitive nature of this particular exercise. It borders on the security of this country, and I have my reservations about deliberating when the gallery is full, and more especially as we are not quite sure of who is going to report what. But, if it is in the opinion of the House and the Chairman that the debate should continue, I would like to focus on three issues.

The Chairman : Please, go on. This is an open government.

Dr Utande : There are two questions that we have to try to answer. The first is how secure is this country? According to the information available to the Committee, even though we have a large Army, the Army is ill-equipped. The index of combat readiness is less than 30 per cent, and we cannot survive an external aggression for more than one month.

The Chairman : If I may inform the hon. Member from Cross Rivers State, if during the Committee deliberations, the gentlemen from the Ministry supplied you with any secret information and if it is marked *secret* it should not be a subject matter for this debate.

Dr Utande : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am very concerned about the Military preparedness of this country, that was why I drew the attention of this honourable House to the vital information, because I feel that you have a right to know how ready we are. (*Prolonged Interruptions*)

The Chairman : The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Laven, please, is it a secret information from the Ministry?

Dr Laven : Well, it is only the percentage that may be secret. In fact, if I could have my way, the gallery should be cleared.

The Chairman : Order! Order! Please, hon. Members, especially those who attended the Committee meetings, as I have said before, you have special knowledge by virtue of the fact that you were in the Committee when these informations were given to you. Please, if these informations are classified informations, you are not supposed to divulge them, otherwise you can take part in the normal debate. If you were told by the officials that these are secret informations, as a patriotic Nigerian, if you know that a particular fact might prejudice the security of this country, you do not have to say it. Yes, Dr Utande.

Dr E. Utande : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, the responsibility for the security of this country lies between the Executive and the Legislature, and in my capacity as an elected representative and also a Member of the Defence Committee, I had thought that you have a right to know. But if it is the wish of this honourable House that we should gloss over what I consider vital information, I am going to focus on the very broad areas.

First, I would like you to note that our army is not well equipped.

The Chairman : We all know that.

Dr Utande : The Air Force is even worse off. We are vulnerable and we have no warning systems to give us indications.

The Chairman : Please, hon. Members, take your seats. Defence is always a very sensitive issue, and if anybody is particularly interested in knowing the Defence strategies of this country, as a Member of this House, he could go to the Ministry of Defence where they would supply him with the information. I am sure they would furnish you with that information.

Several hon. Members : No! No!

The Chairman : Please, Dr Utande, speak on the general principles of our defence policy.

Dr Utande : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry, but I had thought that this is an open government. I was told that right from the start.

The Chairman : Open government does not mean that you should tell your enemies your weaknesses.

Dr Utande : I am very sorry I cannot go further than that. I am a very frank man. Thank you, very much.

The Chairman : Yes, Mr Awuna. We will not call those who are in the Committee. Those who are not in the Committee will speak. Mr Awuna, you are not a member of the Committee?

An hon. Member : He is a Member.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I have listened attentively to the Chairman of the Defence Committee and, from his explanation, I have the following comments to make in supporting the Report.

We are all aware that the Military Regime came about thirteen years ago and they came during the oil boom. As a matter of fact, they went away with the oil boom. It is a shame that within this period they were unable to give the rank and file of the Nigerian Armed Forces a good accommodation, and that we have come in at the time that there is nothing in the treasury and we are now with the army problem of accommodation. I think that within the past thirteen years, they should have provided sufficient accommodation for the rank and file of their service men.

I can understand, too, that finding themselves in administration, it appeared that the army was trying to have too much to chew and this is a sign that government of the Army when they seize power, should not be for too long, but they should be there just to correct and give way, and concentrate on the protection and guarding of Nigerian borders. With the recent civil war, we have known that we have increased the strength of the Army by accident, and we need to cater for those soldiers demobilised from the Forces.

At the same time, Mr Chairman, Sir, the Committee would have told us in more detail about these rehabilitation centres built all over the States in the country. Some of these soldiers are disabled and need to be useful to themselves. We want to know how these centres are being run and the plan made for the soldiers so that when they leave the centres they could be useful to themselves and their families.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am also aware that among the discharged soldiers, some of them were not even paid their pensions; they died without even their pensions. The family laboured to cater for them. This is a serious matter and; at a certain stage, I will bring up a Motion that the Army should be able to present a comprehensive list of those whom they paid and those whom they have discharged, and we shall then see those whom they were able to compensate or not, and those families who are suffering in silence.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if we want peace, we must at the same time prepare for war. We must have a good training for our members of the armed forces. We should equip them and they should know how to operate their arms; let them have the sophisticated ones. We should at the same time remember the standard Nigeria is taking in world politics as of now. We should expect the highest discipline from our members of the armed-forces. At this point, I would like to make a comment about our soldiers whom we send abroad to help in keeping International Peace. These Soldiers need to be treated with some respect. I must confess, I was not happy with the way Col. Gom was handled. We sent him out and the way he was handled was wrong. He needs to be given our

protection. He is a Nigerian. He was not in Lebanon for himself but for us; but the way he was treated shabbily was most unfortunate. Mr Chairman, Sir, thank you.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, if you look at the VIP Box, you would see that we have a very eminent Nigerian, His Excellency, the Governor of Plateau State, Mr Solomon Lar. Hon. Members, you would recall that His Excellency is not new to this Legislature, and as a matter of fact, he was elected into this House in 1959. He was re-elected in 1964. You would also remember that he played a very significant part in the political development of this country. He became a junior Minister in 1965, but unfortunately he was one of those who were expelled by the army. I am also happy to announce that His Excellency is a member of the legal profession. Your Excellency, you are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Engr. Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would first of all compliment the Chairman and Members of Defence Committee for a well written report. I would also use the opportunity for us to understand that as hon. Members of this House, we have a duty to ensure the security of this country. We are all honourable Members, but I do not think it will be good for us to take the patriotism of everybody here for granted. As the Chairman has said, if anybody has got any cause to find out about the Defence of this country, he should go to the Ministry of Defence. It is not good evoking some controversial issues about our defences on the Floor of this House. I shall dwell mainly on the aspect of the report in which I think it is insufficient.

The Report failed to emphasize the need for us to have indigenous ammunition factory. No matter how strongly you are equipped, it is necessary that our production of the equipment should be done completely by us. I know there are certain aspects of equipment which we cannot do ourselves, but we must emphasize the need that in future our defence factories must be properly manned by Nigerians. This is the only way we can guarantee the safety of our country.

Alhaji L. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members I rise to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on Defence Matters and the entire Members of the Committee. In my contribution to the report submitted by this Committee, I would like, in fact, to draw the attention of the Committee and the Ministry concerned to the fact that our Army Personnel or even the Defence Personnel are facing great trouble in getting their gratuities, pensions and other entitlements during their retiring time. It is a great problem for somebody to serve for at least ten years in the Government and when he retires, it takes him two or three years before collecting his retiring benefits. People have to travel from far distant areas in this country in order to come to Lagos to collect their benefits which will take them at least three or four years before they can get it. Moreover, if you come to Lagos in order to collect your benefits, you do not know where to go

[ALHAJI DAURA]

and nobody cares for you. Nobody cares for those people. They suffered a lot, they died in the service, they were totally ignored and isolated either by the Army or the Personnel Department of the Ministry, I do not know what, could it be all politics?

My dear friends, please I would like to appeal to the Minister of Defence, in such a case, that he should step in and ensure that all the personnel retiring within his Ministry collect their benefits within a short time or even get the benefits before they retire. It will be better not only for the people concerned, but even for us here, to resolve and submit to the President of this country to give something reasonable or to arrange for the people of this country to get their retiring benefits before they go, as they encounter a lot of problems while they wait for the benefits. Somebody may retire without even a penny in his pocket. I am sure that some Army personnel, especially the junior ones have no bank accounts. Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few comments, I beg to sit.

Chief Stephen I. Alete (Ikwerre/Etche I): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to make my contribution on the matter on the Floor, which is Defence. I am not going to talk about the whole lot of things but I will just deliberate upon one or two things. First, I want to touch on the issue of the quality of our army personnel. I am very sad to note that when we produce top army personnel, it takes this nation quite a lot of financing and quite a long time to produce an expertise in the army. What I do find, to my own displeasure, is that after producing them, that is the time they will decide to leave the Army and we start all over again to produce another set. It will cost this nation so much to be doing that and we cannot afford it.

I am making particular reference to all our top army personnel who, for personal reasons, not considering the interest of the nation, have all left the army. I need not mention their names. All of you know these top army officers who have left the army. In other countries you find that Colonels, Generals, and even Captains are very elderly people. They are elderly because they have stayed in the army for a very long time. I do not see the reason why after producing top army officers we allow them to leave the army and then we start all over again. That is exposing us to danger.

Mr K. Ralph Obioha (Ideato): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, there are certain items I want to raise on the Defence provisions and I will raise them with some figures. In 1975, Nigeria's total budget was ₦466,000,000 and in 1980 the total provisions we are making to the Military is ₦1,066,000,000. I would also wish to highlight to the House that the United States spends 6 per cent of her current receipts on the military, U.S.S.R. that is known to spend a lot of money on her military is spending 12 per cent of her entire budget. Japan is spending 1½ per cent, Germany 3 per cent and Britain 2½ per cent. Nigerian expenditure on the military is 20 per cent. In 1976 it was 43 per cent, so there is an improvement. But the point

I am trying to make today is that, as a civilian government, we have to establish the government guideline in terms of our military priority. Every country has got an objective when they talk about military expenditure. It is either they are defending the system or they are defending their economic power or there is a territorial question in terms of their territorial integrity. But nobody can claim today that there is a system Nigeria is defending, or that there is an economic power that we are defending, or that any of our neighbours is claiming any part of our land. What is important to Nigeria today is for us to take the money we are pouring into a non-productive sector like the military to establish something. It is then that we can talk about defending, and when the money comes in future then we can talk about putting so much money in the army. If tomorrow Nigerian revenue changes to ₦500,000,000, for example, let nobody here deceive himself that Nigeria will spend ₦1,066,000,000 on military. So, I think that the military expenditure is too much and we should devise a means to take a certain percentage which we shall tell the military, and work within this percentage in the Budget. I will recommend 10 per cent of the total Federal Government Budget.

Mr Christopher K. Gutus (Pankshin): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, before I comment on the point in question I would like to register my appreciation to this House for welcoming our able Governor in the person of His Excellency, Mr Solomon Lar.

As a matter of fact, my comment is on the tradition of Armed Forces salaries, with particular reference to the Army, Navy and the Air-Force. We are all aware that the Ministry of Defence has got two wings. We have the Administrative Section and the Armed Forces Section. If you take a look at the Budget, on pages 149 to 154 where the Administrative Section is, you will find that salaries of individual personnel have been indicated. But if you go to pages 154 and 155, where the salaries of the armed forces personnel are, nothing is indicated. To my mind, I think, we are creating a room for instability. My reason, Sir, is this. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces himself, who is the Head of this country has not concealed his salary. We have done it, by example by telling the nation and the world what our Head of State is going to receive. We have also told the world what we, who belong to the highest institution, are going to receive. I think, this is something the nation should appreciate.

Secondly, if we compare and contrast the assets of the previous politicians and the assets of the last administrators you will agree with me that the last administrators were well off in life. So, I think, it will not be fair for us to shy away from our responsibilities. That is why I would like to suggest that the salaries should be clearly or physically indicated. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, fully aware of the sensitivity of the Defence Ministry, the allocation, in my

personal opinion, is too much. We do not like to bring any hardship to anyone, but common sense will tell one that there is certainly a need to cut down the amount. The amount of ₦288,000,000 for personal emoluments alone is certainly too much and this could be reduced with certain guidelines. These guidelines could be in three forms. Firstly, the prompt payment of pensions and gratuities to the army will reduce the amount on personal emoluments, because at the moment the calculation done includes those who retire or leave the service. If they are not paid their gratuities and pensions their amount of payment still goes into the personal emoluments and this always boosts the amount in the personal emoluments.

Secondly, we do not need as much soldiers now as such. They could be deployed to other sectors like the Nigeria Police. The army personnel could be encouraged to leave the service and go into the Nigeria Police or other fields, so that at least there will be some reduction in the personal emoluments.

Thirdly, the craftsmen and artsmen in the Nigerian Army could best be used by the Government in government projects. This will also cut down the running cost. If these three guidelines are applied the army personnel will be reduced and the amount being voted for personal emoluments could be cut down by 10 to 15 per cent and consequently that will reduce the budget.

Thank you, very much.

The Chairman: Thank you. Yes, GNPP.

Alhaji Sarki Gambo (Takai/Kachako): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers and I want to refer the Chairman of the Defence Committee to page 154 where we have Oversea Posts and Staff Emoluments. I think we no longer have Military Advisers abroad; we do not have to. What I expect the Chairman to tell the House is the purpose of sending these Military Advisers to countries like Washington, Moscow, New Delhi, Bonn during this civilian regime. I think this is a civilian regime and not a military regime. We do not have any need for Military Advisers in these countries to work on behalf of—

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Alhaji Gambo: Mr Chairman, what I am trying to emphasise here—(Interruptions). I am not clear enough on this. (Interruptions)

An hon. Member: All right sit down.

Alhaji Gambo: All right, thank you, very much.

The Chairman: Thank you very much. Yes, PRP. The hon. Member for Danbatta (*Alhaji Sidi Hamed Ali*) is to speak.

Alhaji Sidi Hamed Ali (Danbatta): Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, we are talking about the Ministry of Defence which is made up of the Armed Forces of this country. As we all know, the Armed Forces are almost the most important institution in every country because it is the weapon of stability, peace and, indeed, unity of every nation.

Mr Chairman, as a professional journalist, my view will be mostly on the public relations division of the Army which, I find, in the Draft Estimates, is absolutely neglected. I raise the question of the public relations because I feel that misunderstanding and misinformation can easily make or unmake any nation. *Don Allah Khayah akuri.* (Laughter)

To prove this, I want to give three examples that have happened which had caused untold hardship. Firstly, the first major world war as we know in history, is known as the Battle of Troy. The Battle of Troy was caused because a woman called Hellen was taken by another man, so the people of that country decided to fight the other country. So, you could see what a single unimportant thing can cause a country.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, the Second World War took place because an Arch-Duke of one country, Prussia in Germany, was murdered and that murder led the whole world into war the result of which every one knows.

Mr Chairman, although I do not like to bring this, but it is vital to remember one of the things that happened when the massacre of our brothers from the former Eastern State took place as a result of a radio announcement, not from Nigeria but from our neighbouring State of Dahomey. It announced that the Northerners were being killed in the former East. Without checking, people went berserk and started killing one another. Therefore, Mr Chairman, when we are dealing with the Armed Forces, it is an issue that needs the highest consideration, the highest thought and taking things into proper situation by ignoring political sentiments, tribal leanings or any other thing that we feel is of our own self-interest. We have to exist, this country has to exist. Therefore, Mr Chairman, as I said, my role as a Journalist is that of the Public Relations of the Armed Forces.

Mr Chairman, again a situation took place in Kaduna where about seven soldiers were killed. The whole trouble started because a Sergeant who, during the war, had been promoted to a Field Lieutenant was admitted in a Hospital in Kaduna. That was about five years ago. He had trouble for which he was demoted. So, the order was given that he should be removed from the Officers ward and sent to the Other Rank's ward. This Sergeant then informed the other soldiers that *Because we have been wounded in the war, now the war does not want us.* So, they went berserk and started fighting which resulted in death. Therefore, a small misinformation is capable of bringing the highest fire and instability in any country.

The Chairman: There is a point of order.

Alhaji Sidi Ali: All right, Sir.

Mr Dagogo Princwill (Degema I): The point of order is Order 26 (2). The hon. Member for Danbatta (*Alhaji Sidi Hamed Ali*), is deviating from the point at issue. We are discussing the Budget of the Ministry of Defence and not irrelevant stories.

Several hon. Members : No ! No ! Fire ! Fire !

The Chairman : Yes, Alhaji Sidi Ali.

Alhaji Sidi Ali : Mr Chairman, thank you, very much, and I am very grateful to the hon. Members of this House for throwing away my brother from the Oil Producing Area because the stories seem to be important.

I believe, Mr Chairman, we cannot discuss the present set up of our Armed Forces, we cannot discuss our Budget or their happiness without taking into consideration the *coups* and counter *coups* taking place all over Africa. Some may be justified, some are definitely unjustified, but what are the causes of these *coups*? Some of these *coups* are caused by certain love for power, lust for money of certain individual soldiers who take advantage of the ignorance of the greater number of rank and file to create trouble in order for them to get what they want. This is why, Mr Chairman, I feel, if the Budget does not take care of this, we should, in due course, bring a Bill whereby we create a special division in the Armed Forces whose duty will be to re-educate the soldiers especially the Other Ranks to prevent the possibility of their being used by any body who will take advantage of their ignorance and still cause trouble through tribal sentiments or any other thing. From this dismal record it is quite clear that there is something radically wrong with the education and administration of the Armed Forces.

I am aware that the President of the country, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, as the Commander-in-Chief, is re-organising those important institutions. I will suggest that the Federal Ministry of Defence should organise a series of Seminars and symposia in the various units of the various commands with the theme—Stability in the Armed Forces of the Country and Africa. Every effort needs to be made at these Seminars to educate the enlisted men and Officers on the proper role of the Armed Forces.

Secondly, every effort should be made to open an avenue where every member of the Force, irrespective of his rank can voice out his grievances. The top brass and the lowest enlisted recruit should also have the same opportunity.

Mr Chairman, we should take this opportunity to review the matter of the welfare of every soldier because it is the most important thing in every organisation. This is the only way the government can be in a better position to get first hand unadulterated information of the thinking and feelings of the rank and file of the Members of the Armed Forces. The Government should seize every opportunity at these meetings to draw the attention of the men to the problems of the country.

Several hon. Members : Time ! Time !

Alhaji Sidi Ali : Mr Chairman, Sir, to end up, I am appealing to this honourable House to take every possible stand and appeal to the President to bring back the former Army Chief and the former Head of State Major-General Yakubu Gowon and his friend Emeka Ojukwu. Thank you.

Alhaji Aliyu Isa (Makarfi) : In contributing to the Military Budget, I want to emphasise that the Military is very important to every country. But the real fact is that Nigeria does not require such a huge and expensive Armed forces. In my opinion a ceiling should be put to the military budget not to exceed ₦150,000,000. The Nigerian Army needs to be reviewed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is disheartening to note that during the 13 years of the military rule, they budgeted and got anything they wanted from the government, without any opposition, still the military appears to be ineffective, inefficient and inadequate. We cannot now continue with such type of military exercise any more. The military should be brought to size and it should be re-organised, and brought up to world standard.

It is disheartening, Mr Chairman, that a barrack built somewhere with ₦40,000,000, is now reported as having no drainage, no water and no electricity. Now, if this is the case who is to blame, the architects or who? This is not our business.

Coming to the real fact that there is no fighting planes and the rest in this country, with all these bloody hell of expenses on the military, I think, we should not let this weigh on our minds. We do not need all these bloody war-ships; we do not need all this bloody expensive military. Hon. Members, what I want you to realise is that Nigeria is not threatened by any country in the world with war. Our biggest enemy is in the world of intelligence which we are lacking.

The Chairman : Time up !

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to start by giving praise to members of the Armed Forces of this country in the sense that since relinquishing power to we civilians in this country, I think the incidence of harassment and thuggery which usually characterized the life of the Armed Forces before has disappeared. So, it is on this note that I have to congratulate members of the Armed Forces.

Be that as it may, I would like to say further that, if the Armed Forces ruled this country for a period of about 13 or 14 years and we are now being told by our Committee that the army is ill-equipped, there is shortage of accommodation, and all that then I want to submit that this is a sad commentary on the entire Military regime in this country. If the army has failed in providing for itself, I believe sincerely that it has also failed in other areas. In spite of this, I would also like to say that the Defence Budget is too high.

It is too high in the sense that the number of soldiers has been decreased from about 250,000, we are told, to 150,000. Last year, one supposes, so to say, that if the number of soldiers was about 250,000 and now it is about 150,000, the amount of money voted this year should not even be up to that sum. But what you find is that when you spread it over a year you discover that the Budget we are discussing now is about ₦1.2 billion which is far above the normal limit. Furthermore, Mr Chairman, I would also like to say that voting a large sum of money for the Armed Forces is encouraging them to waste the money.

[MR ADESINA]

I want to give an instance. There is one institution called the Armed Forces Institute of Nigeria. I think, according to information, this Armed Forces Institute of Nigeria where the members of the Armed Forces go to buy materials was established with about ₦3.5 million. When you go there today, you can see that the goods there are not even up to ₦50,000. One wonders whether we should encourage the Armed Forces to continue to waste the meagre resources of this country.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would also like to call on the Minister of Defence and those who are in power in the Armed Forces to ensure that those members of the Armed Forces who were illegally jailed are given justice. I am saying this because a member of my constituency, a Warrant Officer one Kunle Aderinto, has been petitioning me to bring his problems to this House that when he was trying to inform members of the public about malpractices, about fraudulent handling of money, he was sentenced to jail. He has been appealing to the Minister of Defence and to everybody, but his appeals are falling on deaf ears. So, I want to call on the Minister of Defence to please look into problems of this nature; problems of people who have been sent to jail because they wanted to tell the nation what actually is amiss in the army.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, thank you.

Hon. Members, I understand our distinguished Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency S. D. Lar, wants to leave the House. (Applause)

Mr Olu Olofinlade (Ero South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I commend the efforts of the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Defence for the wonderful report that they presented to us this morning, and I quite sympathise with the sentiment expressed in the paper given to us about the equipment of the Army. I quite agree with the Committee that our Armed Forces must be well equipped so as to be able to fight our cause in Africa. Africa is the centre-piece of our foreign policy, and if we want to project the image of African politics our Armed Forces must be well-equipped.

About communication, I would advise the Committee to see that the communication systems of the Army are taken care of. We should not allow foreigners to dabble into the communications set-up of the Army, so that they may not know everything that we have in our Armed Forces. In this regard, I would advise the Committee to see that companies like the ITT and so on and so forth do not know anything about the communications system of our Armed Forces. The CIA and all those should not know anything about the Armed Forces of our country.

Then, I would advise that the vote on Army barracks should stop, because we have been, for almost 14 years, voting billions for building Army Barracks. I mean it is time that we should stop this building upon building and concentrate on equipment. In this regard, I would advise that we reduce the item on the building of barracks. The emergency

army contractors have taken away much money from the Armed Forces. So, I would advise that we reduce the vote on building and use the money we can get from there to equip the army.

As of now, I would support the idea that our Army Generals that we use our life-money to train should not leave the army. It is only in Nigeria that you see an Army General retiring at the age of 32. It is only in Nigeria that you can get that type of thing. I would advise that when we have spent our money to train them, they should stay with us to train others coming behind them.

With these few remarks, I would support the idea that Ojukwu and Gowon be allowed to come back to Nigeria to assist this country. (Applause)

Mr Stephen Kunle Odetoyinbo (Oshogbo North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, the only thing I want to speak upon is the compensation as contained in page 2 of the Report. To me, compensation which is supposed to be ₦60,000,000 was cut down to something like ₦16,000,000. This is very inadequate. What I am saying now affects everybody in this House because I know that a lot of land acquisitions have been made in Bendel, in the Eastern States, in the Northern States as well as in this area. There are still some people who voted us here to whom no compensation has been paid at all. I think it is high time the Ministry of Defence handled this thing properly.

This acquisition started as far back as 1973 and the accumulation went on until the Land Use Decree was passed. Even after the Land Use Decree the acquisition still continues. I am sure those people who voted us to this place are expecting that we should be able to fight for them so that the poor farmers who have been dispossessed of their land should get their due compensation. I appeal to this House that this compensation should be paid in time especially for the good relationship between the Army and the civilians. It is high time something was done. When you think of the uproar that was raised in the past between the Army and the civilians, it was mostly due to the fact that compensations were not paid to the civilians in time. I appeal very strongly through this Committee to the Minister of Defence that this compensation should be paid as early as possible.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Dr Oladele Ogunsiji (Egbado North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to this debate, I should like to submit that as the first Federal Legislature to consider the post-Military budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Defence, we should recall at this point in time the commendable role played by the Armed Forces in ensuring the unity of this great nation. They fought the agonizing war during which some of them paid the supreme sacrifice. They proceeded briskly and returned power to whom it rightly belongs. Although, I have to add that some people have genuine interest for doubting the transparent honesty of the Armed Forces, but it should be put on record that at least the Armed Forces of this country made history by returning power voluntarily to the civilians.

As far as the Budget is concerned, I should like to add that we are no more in civil war and, therefore, I see no reason why we should spend so much on the Military. I think this country should be so much pre-occupied with finding solutions to the poverty of the country, to mass illiteracy and to malnutrition to the extent that we should pay so much to the military.

Therefore, I will submit that the amount allocated to the military, that is the amount of ₦0.5 billion should be sufficient for the military. We could spread this increase to other pressing needs of the nation.

Mr John L. Laven (Langtang) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I proposed some amendment, but while here, I received another document. The item was left out in the whole draft estimate and as such the amendment has been overtaken by events.

I think the Committee would have to sit again and bring to the honourable House what these proposals are. They were exactly the items left out completely in the draft budget.

So I beg to suspend the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Some hon. Members : No ! No ! (*Interuptions*)

The Chairman : Hon. Members, the Report is suspended.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress, to sit again—Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : I move that this House stand adjourned till ten o'clock on Monday morning.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do adjourn till ten o'clock on Monday morning.

The House accordingly adjourned at 12.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 26th May, 1980

The House met at 10.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Security

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Oron I (Mr Effiong Ononokpono).

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, I am addressing myself to what I would have called the greatest Nigerians, but he who is to be the greatest must be the lowest in his performance. Sir, I want to note certain points on our security. I want to address myself to our personal security and a little bit on the security of the nation we have sworn to keep and to hold.

Security is the greatest thing that the human life requires; security in employment is borne out in pensions, security in existence is by personal protection. I would dare to say that Members of this august Assembly are not properly protected against those who are enemies of this country. I dare to say that hon. Members of this Assembly are those who hold the key to the progress of this nation, who hold the key to the fall of this nation if we want this nation to fall, but God forbid that this nation should fall while we are here.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would touch on the protection in our residence; where we can be invaded by anybody at any time of the day or night. There is nothing to say who one is before one enters the premises and there is nothing really to ensure that one who enters the premises we stay is not armed, is not coming to harm us, or is not coming to eliminate us. Even the premises of this National Assembly which is supposed to be Security. Spot is not in anyway secure. Anybody comes in here, anybody eats with us, and anybody occupies the seats we occupy.

I remember, during the Nigerian Civil War, that places like cinema houses were not safe. What guarantee is there that we in this Assembly, having passed through what we have passed through to protect this nation, to lift this nation from squalor to a position of prominence, that we are not being seen as people who have come here to exploit whereas we have come here to re-discover what had been hidden, to bring to the public the truth.

The security of this nation is at stake unless we really open our eyes and sort out the enemies of this nation. (*Fire ! Fire !*)

The Constitution of this nation empowers us to invite, to call, and to compel anybody, any group of persons, or any individual, no matter how highly placed and, of course, no Nigerian is more highly placed than the Members of this National Assembly. The contents of this National Hall are the highest elements, if you may refer to anything as being the highest. Therefore, Mr Speaker, so many things are happening. Security is not made by shouting out, security is not in fire, security is not in irresponsible statements. Let nobody point accusing finger at anybody, but let us point the accusing finger at ourselves because the security is in our hands. We have seen those things happening but we have not done those things we ought to have done.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am only beating on the periphery. Those who know better will speak. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : That is all right. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Passing of the Appropriation Bill

Hon. Members, there is only one announcement. As you are aware, our deliberations on the 1980 Appropriation Bill have been going on for several weeks now and I believe the time has come when all efforts should be devoted to complete the Budget exercise as a matter of urgency. (*Interruptions*)

Order! Order! To clear the apparent anxiety in several quarters over the delay in the completion of the Budget exercise, it is necessary for us to give ourselves a time limit within which to complete the assignment in the interest of the nation. I have, therefore, directed the Clerk of the House of Representatives to list all the Reports submitted by the various Committees for consideration by the House so that the whole exercise will be completed within a day. (*Interruptions*)

Order! Order, hon. Gentlemen. It will be necessary for the House to sit for long hours, late into the night if necessary, to ensure that this deadline is met. So, hon. Members, we start right away, if possible, we are completing the Budget today and we pass it today. (*Interruptions*)

Yes, the Leader of House (Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo), move that we go into the Committee of the Whole House.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House for the consideration of the reports on the Appropriation Bill. I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, the hon. Member for Degema I (Mr Dagogo Princewill)

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980

(11th ALLOTTED DAY)

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

HEAD 32.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That ₦454,375,000 for Head 32, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦694,232,000 for Head 233, Capital Expenditure—FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : We now deal with the Committee on Education. Please, let the Chairmen of the other Committees be ready to give their reports. If you have not got your reports here, we shall take the draft estimate as your report.

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I present to this honourable House, the Report of the Committee on Education. Owing to circumstances in which I find myself, I have decided to withdraw all the Amendments that I have put down. It does not mean that these Amendments are unnecessary but that we want to facilitate the passage of this Appropriation Bill in the interest of the whole nation. (*Applause*)

However, there are some salient points that I still wish to draw the attention of this House to. Some of these, you have already got in the written Report. But I will also stress the fact that this House will, in future, do all it can to prevent unwarranted wastage of public funds. It is already pointed out in your Report that there is wastage of public funds under the heading : *Local Transport and Travelling* and so, I am sounding a note of warning to those in the Executive Branch, who prepared the Estimates, that as from now, they should make every effort to build their own hostels, their own quarters for members of their staff and for their pupils.

As from next financial year, I will direct my Committee to make very drastic cut, if they should try to spend public money on their staff who are in transit. So, we will look very unkindly to that kind of expenditure in future.

We have already accepted the Report of the Education Committee on such Federal Institutions that are at present, on temporary sites. We have made provision in the estimates for them to be transferred as quickly as possible to their permanent sites. We have also accepted, in principle, that there should be twelve Colleges of Arts and Science ; twelve Federal Polytechnics and seven Universities. These Universities are intended for the new States that have no universities at present and in future, we will find ways of augmenting the WAEC funds, because we found in the past that absence of WAEC offices in the States helped education malpractices. Although, at the moment, I have temporarily withdrawn the Amendment to this effect, but in due course, I will present to this House other proposals for doing that.

The National Universities Commission have got a little augmentation of their funds, but in the near future, we will present to this House proposals for making more funds available to them. We know that our universities can be used by trouble shooters to create trouble for this Nation. That is where you have young inexperienced men and women who can be easily manipulated to serve some political ends and so, we intend that we are not going to play into the hands of these divisive elements in our Nation.

Having told you my intentions for the future, I will now ask you to accept the Report of the Committee on Education.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Any comment? Yes, any comment?

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, may I move that the Question be now put.

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

₦454,375,000 for head 32, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦694,232,000 for head 233, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Education—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 40.—JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed, that ₦52,000 for head 40—Judicial Service Commission, ₦4,002,000 for head 41—Ministry of Justice and ₦7,560,000 for part of head 53—Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Yinusa Paiko (Minna South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, against the background of the exceptional circumstances in which this House and this Nation found themselves today, I must beg you, Mr Chairman and the hon. Members of this House, to allow me adopt the exceptional procedure of not only using this opportunity to first present the Report of the Judiciary Committee but also, ask you to take a final resolution to accept it today without giving me some further time to explain any further Amendments.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, the Executive this year has asked for a total of ₦21.7 million for the running of the Judiciary and the judicial services of this country under both the Capital and Recurrent Estimates. These are contained in Heads 40, 41 and 53 of the Revised Estimates. The total that they request is a modest sum of ₦21.7 million. They are in a unique position from now till next four years to know what they need to provide adequate justice for this country. We in this House are loyal Members. When the President of this country came to address us jointly, we at the end of his address, pledged our full support that we will give him every necessary backing to do the job.

ALHAJI PAIKO

Mr Chairman, I therefore move that the request for ₦21.7 million under Heads 40, 41 and 53 of the Budget be accepted and approved by this House.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

The Chairman : Yes, hon. Ogwe Kalu Ogwe.

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Any comments?

Several hon. Members : No.

The Chairman : Please put the question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

₦52,000 for Head 40 Recurrent Expenditure, ₦4,002,000 for Head 41, and ₦7,560,000 for part of Head 53, Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 27.—MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Question proposed, That ₦28,089,000 for Head 27, Recurrent Expenditure, and ₦153,510,000 for part of Head 231, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Civil Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr M. B. Ukpogon (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to submit for the approval of this honourable House the 1980 Appropriation Bill in respect of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Committee has carefully examined the Budget proposal and has taken into consideration a number of things to be done.

1. The Murtala Muhammed Airport expansion and the provision of all the facilities.
2. The pay for all the contracts already undertaken and to provide modern facilities for all the Airports throughout Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of this I am requesting this honourable House to approve the Draft Budget in respect of Ministry of Aviation as presented. I beg to move.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members I rise to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Yes, any comments?

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Olushola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

₦28,089,000 for Head 27, Recurrent Expenditure, and ₦153,510,000 for part of Head 231, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Civil Aviation—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 36.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed, That ₦116,451,000 for Head 36, Recurrent Expenditure—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Sanusi Imam (Kankiya) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in preparing the report of the Committee on Health, we have taken absolute care of the demands and the criticisms levelled against this Committee previously. You would understand that the National Basic Health Scheme has been our consideration and the concern of this House. For that we have expanded and given you a full detail as well as information as to where in each of all the states of this Federation all aspects of the National Basic Health Scheme has been set up. The Committee has decided that, with your consent we are going to tour the whole country to find out details of all that is necessary concerning this. Mr Chairman, Sir, with all the details we have given in the reports which I believe Members have gone through, I now move that the report be accepted.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

The Chairman : Yes, Chief Eleke.

Chief P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Chairman, I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Any comments, hon. Members?

Several hon. Members : No.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

₦16,451,00 for Head 36, Recurrent Expenditure, and ₦110,429,000 for part of Head 234, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Health—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Question proposed, That ₦466,000,000 for Head 30, Recurrent Expenditure : and ₦500,000,000 for Head 245, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to submit the Report of the Committee on Defence as contained in the approved estimates 1980 Head 30 and Head 245 of the Capital Expenditure.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to submit.

Mr E. N. Kanu (Ikwoano/Umuahia) : I beg to second the Motion.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Hon. Members, Mr Chairman, I move that the question be won put.

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

₦466,000,000 for Head 30, Recurrent Expenditure and ₦500,000,000 for Head 245, Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Defence—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 20.—NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Question proposed, That ₦89,108,000 for Head 20, Recurrent Expenditure,—National Assembly—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. N. Kanu (Ikwoano/Umuahia): I have critically examined the National Assembly Budget and I have found it in order. I hereby move that this honourable House do approve the National Assembly Recurrent Estimates 1980 under Head 20 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980: Personal Emoluments—₦9,849,000; Other Charges—₦67,125,000; Special Expenditure—₦12,124,000; making a total of ₦89,108,000.

I beg to move.

Mr I. Y. Toro (Toro): I beg to second the Motion.

Alhaji Kaltungo: I move that the Question be now put.

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

₦89,108,000 for Head 20, Recurrent Expenditure—National Assembly—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

PART OF HEAD 225 AND PART OF HEAD 226.—PETROLEUM AND ENERGY

Question proposed, That ₦533,870,000 for part of Head 225; and ₦430,230,000 for part of Head 226; Capital Expenditure—Petroleum and Energy—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr J. T. Sekibo (Bonny 2): I rise to present the report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Resources. We have critically examined the Capital Estimates of the NNPC as contained under part of Head 225 and part of Head 226, and we hereby recommend for the approval of this House the total Estimate of 1.016 billion as contained in the Capital Estimates under review.

I beg to move.

Mr P. A. Gbinije (Ethiophe South): I beg to second.

Alhaji Kaltungo: Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

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

₦533,870,000 for part of Head 225; and ₦430,230,000 for part of Head 226, Capital Expenditure—Petroleum and Energy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 21.—THE PRESIDENCY

Question proposed, That ₦293,473,000 for Head 21—Presidency; ₦5,340,000,000 for Head 56—Contribution to Development Fund; ₦150,000,000 for Head 55—Contingencies; ₦446,462,000 for Head 54—Non-Statutory Appropriation and ₦7,907,000—Federal Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka (Argungu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to present the report on the Presidency, Head 21 of the amended Draft Estimate. I also present the report in respect of Contribution to the Development Fund, Head 56. I also present the Appropriation Committee Report on Head 55—Contingencies. I also present the Appropriation Committee Report on Head 54—Non-Statutory Allocation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to present the last report by the Appropriation Committee of Federal Electoral Commission, Head 52 of the Amended Draft.

I beg to present.

An hon. Member: I beg to second.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo: Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

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

₦293,473,000 for Head 21—Presidency; ₦5,340,000,000 for Head 56—Contribution to Development Fund; ₦150,000,000 for Head 55—Contingencies; ₦446,462,000 for Head 54—Non-Statutory Appropriation of Revenue; ₦7,907,000 for Head 52—Federal Electoral Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 45.—MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

Question proposed, That ₦45,816,000 for Head 45: Recurrent Expenditure and ₦452,630,000 for Head 240 Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Housing and Environment—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Yahaya (Ilorin East): I rise to present the report of the Ministry of Housing and Environment. Your Committee has critically examined the Draft proposals in respect of the Budget on the Ministry of Housing and Environment, as contained in Head 45 of the Budget, and wish to hereby report that your Committee has approved the Recurrent and the Capital Expenditure accordingly.

Mr J. C. Emeka (Anambra North): I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

₦45,816,000 for Head 45, Recurrent Expenditure; and ₦452,630,000 for Head 240, Capital Expenditure,—Ministry of Housing and Environment—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 37.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES

Question proposed, That ₦8,353,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure of Head 37—Ministry of Industries—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. N. Kanu (Ikwoano/Umuahia) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, the Chairman of the Committee, is not around. He has just walked out. I am a Member of the Committee.

We have deliberated critically on the Budget concerning the Ministry of Industries and we have found all the Estimates in order. I hereby move that the House do approve the Estimates on Ministry of Industries, under Head 37 of the Recurrent and Capital Estimates of the 1980 Budget as follows :

Personal Emoluments	₦4,324,000
Other Charges	₦3,847,000
Special Expenditure	₦182,000

making a total Recurrent Expenditure of ₦8,353,000. I also move that the Capital Expenditure as contained in the Budget Estimates be approved.

I beg to move.

Mr S. Dandare Kalgo (Bunza Kalgo) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

₦8,353,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure of Head 37.—Ministry of Industries—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 51.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That ₦157,489,000 for Head 51, Recurrent Expenditure ; ₦763,680,000 for part of Head 229 ; ₦4,550,000 for Head 239 ; ₦19,400,000 for Head 241 ; and ₦55,500,000 for part of Head 246.—Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to present the Budgets as it concerns the Ministry of Works and Surveys under Head 51 of the Draft Estimates.

Before presenting this, I should like to tell hon. Members that the Members of each of the twenty-five Standing Committees deliberated seriously in the Draft Budget, and agreed on the Reports of the Draft Budget. All the Reports were seriously considered by every Member of this honourable House and we all agreed on the Report. I, therefore, submit for approval my Committee's Report on the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

I beg to move.

Mr G. I. Anukwuem (Ihitte Uhome) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

₦157,489,000 for Head 51, Recurrent Expenditure ; ₦763,680,000 for part of Head 229 ; ₦4,550,000 for Head 239 ; ₦19,400,000 for Head 241 ; and ₦55,500,000 for part of Head 246.—Capital Expenditure—Ministry of Works and Surveys—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 49.—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Question proposed, That ₦14,760,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure; ₦154,650,000 for part of Head 229 and ₦29,574,000 for part of Head 230.—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I rise to submit the Report for approval of the Federal Ministry of Transport, under Head 29 of the Draft Estimates Proposals. I, therefore, beg this honourable House, after deliberating seriously on the provision of the Draft Budget to approve it.

I beg to move.

Mr C. A. Modebe (Onitsha North-East) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

₦14,760,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure, ₦154,650,000 for part of Head 229, and ₦29,574,000 for part of Head 230—Ministry of Transport—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Question proposed, that ₦24,428,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure and ₦260,044,000 for the Capital Expenditure of Head 221—Ministry of Agriculture—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. K. Umar (Kaduna South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to submit the Report on the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Animal Science on the 1980 Budget Proposals of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture on the Recurrent Estimates—21 and Capital Estimates—221. I rise to submit the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and I hope that it would be approved.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Current and Recurrent Capital Estimates are far below expectations. So, I hope this will not pose any problem.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Motion?

Alhaji Sarki Gambo (Takai/Kachako) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

The Chairman : Any comment, hon. Members?

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Chairman : Please, move that the Question be put.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

₦24,428,000 for Head 25, Recurrent and ₦260,044,000 for Head 221, Capital—Federal Ministry of Agriculture—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

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

[Head 25—Ministry of Agriculture]

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the Report is a very happy one ; the Committee of the Whole House has been able to approve the Estimates in the Appropriation Bill 1980, with various Amendments.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Appropriation Bill, 1980 be read the Third time and passed.

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Olushola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speak Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 27th May, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : Please, hon. Members, we have with us this morning the hon. Mr Briggs, the Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly. (Applause) The hon. Mr Briggs is here for the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Federation. You are welcome Mr Briggs.

Investigation Panel

Please, hon. Members, try as much as possible to co-operate with our investigation Panel into the House Committee. The Panel is complaining that some of the Members have been asked to come and give evidence and they have refused. Please, I am asking the hon. E. O. Chukwu and hon. W. A. Amoka to kindly go and see the Investigation Panel.

Yes, Mr Funsho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Constitutional Procedure

Mr Funsho Akinyosoye (Ondo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of explanation is in relation to some publications in consequence of the proceedings of this honourable House yesterday, especially the publication of the *National Punch* titled : *Fear grips Assemblymen*. I crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker to make bold to state categorically that the procedure adopted in this honourable House yesterday is in full consonance with the practice and procedure of this honourable House. (Applause) I also make bold to state categorically that, in fact, the hon. Speaker acted in the full tradition of parliamentary practice. (Applause)

Several hon. Members : Fire! Fire!

Mr Speaker : Order! Order!

Mr Akinyosoye : There was no item of any rule of procedure or of the provisions of our Constitution which was breached by Mr Speaker when the House was resolved into the Committee of the whole House and I would like it to go on the record and I state categorically that what Mr Speaker did was to apply what we call *parliamentary gullotine* in passing the Bill. It is true that in political consideration some of us are not in agreement with what he did, and we take this opportunity to say that this power vested on him should be used sparingly in future. But I state again that what he did was in perfect order with his political commitment. (Applause)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I thank my Colleague very sincerely for the compliments expressed on Mr Speaker, and I can assure you that Mr Speaker has no political commitment. (Interruptions) I also assure him that the political commitment of Mr Speaker is the unity and preservation of the territorial integrity of this country.

Also, hon. Members, we should correct the impression on the *Punch* this morning that what we passed yesterday were not Bills. They say we passed 13 Bills. How could somebody pass 13 Bills in two hours? These are not Bills. It shows that most of these Pressmen do not even understand what we are doing here. We passed only one Bill and that was the Appropriation Bill 1980. That was the only Bill we passed yesterday. All that we considered were reports. We considered the reports within the rules and within the parliamentary procedure.

Yes, any other explanation? Yes, Mr Awuna.

Telecommunications

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of explanation is on Telecommunications as a priority to the Nation—rural Telecommunication, modern Telecommunications as a tool to development and advanced Telecommunication, Technology in Africa. I want to explain this, because of the lectures delivered to mark the 12th World Telecommunications Day Celebration at which many distinguish Nigerians spoke. The Minister of Communications especially spoke on how Communication is going to reach the rural areas of this Nation, and a lecture was delivered by Professor Owolabi of the University of Ilorin. Another lecture was delivered by Chief M. K. Abiola to the University of Ife. The last but not the least was the lecture delivered to School of P & T Oshodi by the Chairman on Telecommunications of this honourable House, Mr M. O. Ugwu.

Going through these lectures, I am prompted to appeal to this honourable House to change the status of the P & T School, Oshodi, to be called *National College of Technology* and to affiliate this P & T School with universities in Nigeria so that the products of this School can either be given Associate degrees or Degrees on completion of their various studies.

Mr Speaker : That is all right.

Mr Awuna : I, therefore, Mr Speaker, appeal very humbly and I think you will take note and save the situation.

ORDER OF THE DAY

River Basin Development Authorities
(Amendment) Bill 1980

A Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Reconstitution of the Membership of the 11 River Basins Development Authorities in Nigeria.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairman : Yes, the Chairman of the Committee on Water Resources—Dr O. A. Nwala.

Dr Eze O. A. Nwala (Ikwerre/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is my pleasure to present the Report of the Committee on Water Resources on the River Basins Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill, 1980. I want to say that the Bill was sent to us on February 18th, 1980. After careful consideration and deliberation we submit the following amendments. I want to say that in trying to consider the Bill sent to my Committee, we had to refer to previous publications on the constitution of the membership of the 11 River Basins Development Authorities, namely, Decree No. 25 of 1976 and Decree No. 87 of 1979. This was very necessary because you could not really do any serious business on this Bill without really getting to inform yourself of the background to the creation of the 11 River Basins Development Authorities.

Before I present the Report there are one or two corrections that should be made. On page 250 of the Order Paper you will find that in page C6 item (g) you have (g) (vi). There is no such thing as (g) (vi), so cross out *Bendel State Government*, it is not part of (g).

Having said that, I will now present the Report. The first Amendment we are proposing is the number of people constituting the membership. In the original Bill, 14 Members were proposed and we thought in order to avoid a tie vote whenever any decision is to be taken, it is better to stagger it and make it an odd number. So, we increased the Membership from 14 to 15.

So, amendment proposed : (a) In page C1, (i) in line 7, (*Membership*) to leave out the figure 14 and to insert the figure 15 instead thereof.

Mr Chairman, are we taking it one by one or are we taking the whole Report ?

The Chairman : Dr Nwala, what you should do is, debate your Report and tell us everything particularly the highlights of your Report. Then allow Members to say whatever they like it. Thereafter we go to your Amendment one by one.

Dr Nwala : In line 8, to leave out the words *appointed by the Minister with the approval of the President* and to insert the words *appointed by the President one of whom shall be appointed as a Chairman of the Authority with the proviso that such a Chairman shall be an indigene of the State or States within which the Authority is established, as follows* : The Amendment is in line with the spirit of the Constitution that all appointments must be made by the President. So, we are proposing that the President appoints, not the Minister. Secondly, in the interest of the authorities, it will be better to have someone from within the State where the Authority resides to be the Chairman. This is for purposes of commitment because if you appoint a Chairman, who comes from outside the area, he may not be committed. So, we think that it will be healthy for the Chairman of the River Basins Development Authority to come from within the States where these Authorities exist.

In line 13 leave out the word *eight* and insert the word *nine* instead thereof.

The Federal Government is to appoint nine Members while the State Governments will nominate six Members, making, on the whole, 15.

The Chairman : Always give us reasons for these Amendments. You cannot just say remove this and put that. Always give us the reasons why you want these additions or reductions.

Dr Nwala : Originally, the Federal Government was to appoint eight persons, and we thought that since we have increased the Membership to 15 instead of 14, the Federal Government should provide nine Members whereas six Members should come from the States where these authorities reside. The reason is that because of manpower problems and for bringing in qualified persons, it is better to find more qualified persons throughout the Federation ; and that the Federal Government is in a position to locate these qualified persons and appoint them to the respective River Basins Development Authorities. In line 21 also, wherever we have the word *eight* to leave them out and insert the word *nine* instead thereof. This is to reflect the change in the composition whereby the Federal Government appoints nine Members and the State Governments six.

In page C 2

(i) In line 4, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

(ii) In line 12, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

(iii) In line 20, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

(iv) In line 28, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

(v) In line 34, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof, for the same reason.

In page C 4

(i) In line 5, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

(ii) In lines 9 to 12, to leave out the words in sub-clause (2) (a) and to insert as follows :

2(a) (i) *the General Manager of each River Basin Development Authority shall be a member of the Board and shall have no voting right at Board meetings.*

In the Bill sent to us, no mention was made of the General Manager of the Authority who happens to be the head of the Authority. The Board Members are appointed and they have to operate within a specific time period, whereas the General Manager is a permanent member of the Authority. In order to provide continuity between the various time phases, we thought that the General Manager should be there and also to act as the Secretary to the Authority but that he should not have a voting right.

2(a) (ii) *Members of each Authority who are nominated by both the State and Federal Governments*

[Amendment) Bill]

[DR. NWALA]

and appointed by the President shall be referred to as members. You will notice that in the original proposition there was a decision made between those who were nominated by the State Governments and those who were appointed directly by the Federal Government and they were called nominated Members. We felt that this adjective *nominated Members* was a little bit discriminatory, and that it will be in the better interest of everyone to be called just a Member. When you begin to differentiate between those appointed directly by the Federal Government and those who are nominated by the State Governments, you begin to call those who are nominated by the State Governments as *nominated Members*. They will be suffering some disability and feel inferior. We do not want anyone to feel inferior, we want every Member to contribute equally. In order to maximise input and output of contributions at Board Meetings, we think that no one should be discriminated against. Therefore, we suggest that the word *nominated* should be dropped and every one appointed by the President should be called just *Member*.

(ii) In line 18 (b), to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the *President* instead thereof, for the same reason that the President has the executive authority to appoint, not the *Minister* who is an agent of the President.

(iii) In line 21, to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the word *President*, instead thereof, for the same reason.

(iv) In line 23, after the word *management*, to insert the words *composed of five Members*. You will find that that section empowers the President to dissolve the Board and within a period not exceeding three months to appoint an Administrator or a Committee of Management. We think that once a Board or Authority is not performing very well and the President is convinced about their poor performance, the best thing is for the President to dissolve the Board. Rather than appoint a sole administrator, we feel that it is a little bit more viable and objective to appoint a Committee of Management of five Members. A sole Administrator can ruin the work of an Authority within a very short period if he takes adverse decisions. It is better to have a Management Committee rather than have a sole Administrator to manage the affairs of the Authority until a new Board is constituted by the President. This is the reason for inserting a *Committee of Management composed of five members* to manage the affairs of the Authority until a new board is constituted for that Authority.

On the same page, C4, between lines 24 and 25, to insert the following : *there shall be an inquiry conducted into the functions of the dissolved Board before a new Board is appointed in case of dissolution in accordance with the provisions of subsection 3 (b).*

Once the President is convinced that an Authority is not performing and the Board is dissolved, we think that it is not necessary or that it will not be a healthy thing to go ahead and reconstitute a new Board without finding out really what are the problems. A thorough Commission of Enquiry should be set up to investigate the activities of the

(Amendment) Bill]

dissolved Board and if there are any Members who are liable to the Authority, due process of law should take place to recover whatever they may owe to the Authority.

In page C5, to make the following consequential Amendments to the Explanatory Memorandum : wherever you find *Federal Government* we are asking that the Membership should reflect the Amendments made in the preceding sections. So, wherever you find *Federal Government* appointment which normally read *eight* it should now read *nine*. In respect of Cross River Basin Development Authority, the original proposal made provision for membership of the Cross River Basin Development Authority to be constituted by Federal Government and Cross River State Government. We thought that there was a departure in the criterion for constituting the membership of the River Basin Development Authority, namely, the criterion used is that of watershed. You will find that a river originates from one State and flows to another State, and usually in constituting the membership those States affected by the same River are appointed members to these areas. In the case of the Cross River Basin, you will find that the Cross River Basin embraces areas in Benue, Anambra, Imo, and Cross River States and therefore it would be a healthy thing to have people from these areas being represented on the Board.

Bearing the watershed criterion in mind, we suggested that the Membership of the Cross River Basin Development Authority should reflect all those States whose lives are affected by water which flows from the Cross River system. So, on page 6, the Cross River system now will be made up of :

	Members
<i>Federal Government</i>	9
<i>Cross River State Government</i>	2
<i>Anambra State Government</i>	1
<i>Imo State Government</i>	2
<i>Benue State Government</i>	1

The same criterion was extended to Imo-Anambra River Basin Development Authority.

On page C6, to make the following consequential amendments :

	Members
<i>Federal Government</i>	9
<i>Anambra State Government</i>	2
<i>Imo State Government</i>	2
<i>Rivers State Government</i>	1
<i>Cross River State Government</i>	1

Hon. Members, the reason is that the Imo River flows through Imo State, Rivers State and Cross River State. In the southern portion, the estuary of the Imo River embraces both the Rivers State and Cross River State. So, we are saying that the Imo-Anambra River Basin Development Authority should be constituted by all those States whose lives are affected by the Imo-Anambra system.

The last Amendment is in the case of the Niger Delta Basin, where we are asking that the Federal Government should appoint nine Members, Rivers

[DR NWALA]

State 5 and Bendel State, that is also affected by what happens in the Niger Delta, should be represented by a Member. The reason is that much of the Niger Delta, the juridical area of the Niger Delta Basin, is solely within Rivers State and only a small section of the Bendel area shares boundary with the Niger Delta Basin. So, we are suggesting one member to be from Bendel State to just act as a watch-dog to find out what decisions are being taken by this Authority which may be adverse. (Interruptions)

One page 6.

In sub-section 2, line 1, after the word *empower*, to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the word *President* instead thereof; and after the word *appoint* in line 2, leave out the words *either an administrator or* to reflect the changes suggested.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I want to say that the subsequent Amendments are individual Members, proposals and I will not go into those ones.

Mr Chairman, I beg to present the Report.

Clause 2.—MEMBERSHIP

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I have listened to the Chairman of the Committee. I am opposed to the Amendments proposed by the Chairman. I feel that the Bill presented to us is quite adequate with the exception of the Amendments proposed on page C4, to leave the word *Minister* and to insert *President* thereof.

In the circumstances, I am of the view that the Amendments should not go, with the exception of the one that I have so far mentioned. I am opposed to the position that the Membership should change to nine; the Chairman has not been able to give us sufficient reason for doing so. In the circumstances, I am also opposed to that.

So, Mr Chairman, the only Amendment which I support is the one in which we should leave out the word *Minister* and substitute the word *President* in keeping with the Presidential system of Government which we are operating. With these few remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat.

Mr M. S. Oma-Eko (Ilorin West): Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I personally reject all the Amendments made by the Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman was unable to give us sufficient reasons to buttress all the Amendments. I feel that the Chairman, in other words, is very parochial in that he has actually mentioned his own State and that is why he is making that particular Amendment.

Another point is that if you look into the Order Paper, you will find that at least three other Members have Amendments.

The Chairman: There is a point of order.

Mr Ambrose Gapsuk (Shendam East): Mr Chairman, hon. Members, the point of order is on Order 26, whereby the hon. Member who spoke last referred to the mentioning of the Chairman's

State as being parochial. I feel seriously that everybody here came from a Constituency, and he has got a Constituency-interest; not only that he has got a State to defend, and so I consider that it is not wrong if anybody should do anything for his State.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members, if you look through the Order Paper, you will find that, at least, three Members of the same Committee have got various Amendments on this. It means that each Member of the Committee has got personal grievances against the Authority. So I beg to oppose the Amendments.

Dr P. J. Egberipou (Yenagoa): Mr Chairman, Sir, following the footsteps of my active leader, Mr Afolabi, I rise to oppose all the Amendments proposed in this Bill with the exception of the one, changing *Minister* to *President*. There does not seem to be any reason adduced whatsoever for any of the Amendments so far made.

I would like to remind the House that the Rivers State is affected by all the rivers in Nigeria. If we are to follow the argument of the Chairman of the Committee, then, we should be represented in all the Basin Authorities in the Federation. You would agree with me that the Kainji Dam that has already been built in Kainji across the Niger is adversely affecting the ecology of the Niger Delta mainly in the Rivers State. So you would see with me that the argument that Imo River has a section in the Rivers State or Cross River State does not hold at all.

I would suggest to the Committee to do a better home-work and come back with better propositions. I would say that this does not require long debate. I think, the mood of the House itself suggests that nobody accepts any of the Amendments.

Mr Chairman, I beg to sit.

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom): Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I want to say that I oppose the Amendment on pages C1, C2, C5 and C6. With particular reference to pages C5 and C6 which relate to the composition of the Cross River Basin Development Authority and the Imo-Anambra River Basin Authority. I want to say that probably, the Committee did not go through the Decree No. 87 of 1979 properly to know that the areas of authority of these two Development Authorities have been reduced. For now the Cross River Basin Authority is for the Cross River State and Imo-Anambra Basin Authority Imo-Anambra States only.

Therefore, it follows that in constituting these Authorities, membership should be restricted to the two States, that is to say, that membership of the Cross River Basin Development Authority should be restricted to the Cross River State and membership of Imo-Anambra Development Authority should be restricted to the Imo-Anambra States. Again, if you look at the geography of the Cross River, it does not in any way, extend to Imo or Anambra; on the other hand, if you also look at the geography of the Imo River, it does not, in any way, extend to the Cross River State, so as to bring someone from the Cross River State to be a member of the Imo-Anambra River Basin Authority. So, I totally oppose that Amendment, and I would uphold the proposal as contained in the Bill itself that for the

Cross River Basin Authority, the membership should be six from the Cross River State and that for the Imo-Anambra Development Authority, the membership should be only limited to the two States that are covered by this particular river. Thank you very much.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in associating myself with the Previous hon. Members who spoke, I rise to oppose the Amendments except one.

In opposing the Amendments, I intend to mention that the Chairman failed to tell us the reasons for making the Amendments, and to me, it is rather unfortunate I was reliably informed that Members of this Committee did not, and I repeat, did not, make any Amendment of this nature on the Bill. The only Amendment I will accept is the one in page C1 (ii) to replace *Minister* with the *President*.

With these few remarks, I beg to sit.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few comments on the Amendments and the first comment refers to page C1 in relation to the Chairman. It says, *The Chairman shall be an indigene of the State*. I disagree with the Amendment and with the opinion of the Chairman for suggesting this, because it will mean breeding inefficiency where no suitable person from that particular area is available to man the office. (*Interruptions*) I mean an efficient man. That is what I am saying about that. If no efficient person is available to man the business there, it means somebody, whether he is an illiterate or does not know anything, he must be Chairman. It is not in that sense we are advocating Federal character.

An hon. Member : Federal Character!

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe : I should not be interrupted. There is another area which, out of my many years as a lawyer, I have never seen any law which has this provision: *There shall be an inquiry conducted into the functions of the dissolved Board before a new Board is appointed in case of dissolution in accordance with the provisions of subsection 3 (b)*. I have reasons for saying so, and the reasons are as follows: If such a provision is allowed to stay in the Bill or the Law, it will (1) generate fear and reduce productivity. It will, at the same time, kill initiative and work against patriotism.

When this clause hangs, like the sword of Damocles, on the head of any person managing a business, it will mean that he will always be working and watching that he will be probed and so efficiency will be killed. Therefore, on this ground, this clause must be cast into the Atlantic Ocean. (*Laughter*)

An hon. Member : What of into the river?

Chief Ogwe : No river. So, hon. Chairman and Members, I disagree with this Amendment. In fact, I associate myself with what the hon. Member for Ikom (*Mr Ekok Ojogu*) said in certain areas and I do not need to repeat those areas.

Alhaji M. S. Aliyu (Nasarawa) : Mr Chairman, well, I happen to belong to the Committee in question, and I have heard some previous speakers saying that they do not agree with the Amendments. In fact, some of the Amendments here need a little clarification which I will do. Previously, it was said that the Federal Government would have eight Members and the State Governments would nominate six. Well, if we increase the number of the Federal Government to nine and that of the State Governments still remains at six, the same reason applies to all the other Amendments. When we talk of nine Members from the Federal Government and six Members to represent the State Governments, it will remove the fears of some people that some of us are in a better position when it comes to appointments by the President. In any case, when the appointments are going to be made some Parties will be in a better position. To remove that fear, we said that State Governments should have six representatives who have the knowledge of that area and who will bring ideas to benefit the State. If we say that all the appointments should be made by the Federal Government and that the State Governments should not be represented on the Board, well, the appointments will be one sided. That is one of the reasons for that Amendment on page C5.

Again, we said that there should be representatives from each State where the river passes through. This is to give opportunity to people to contribute or do something—

The Chairman : It is time.

Mr Frank C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in contributing to these Amendments, I would, first of all, thank the Committee for taking all the pains to study the previous Decrees and then to suggest these Amendments. On page C1, I support the increase to fifteen, but I would suggest that instead of allowing Federal Government nine, and the State Governments six, the Federal Government should retain their eight while the State Governments supply seven. My reason is this : for eleven River Basin Authorities, the Federal Government will be required then to submit 88 nominees while the State has only 7. So, I would prefer that this thing goes back to 8 to 7.

Secondly, on the question of Chairmanship, I think, we should not go with the old adage of experience and competence. What is experience and competence when you have not given the people a chance? The Chairmen should come from the States. I do not see any State in Nigeria that cannot provide a Chairman for a River Basin Authority. So, I support that Amendment.

On the issue of criteria based on water-shed, an hon. Member mentioned here that there was an Amendment which now limits the rivers to within the States, if that is true, I would support the idea that Membership of the River Basin Authorities should go to the States, since the extent of the river limits itself to the States. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, the hon. Member for Isiala Ngwa (*Mr Apollus N. Njoku*).

(Amendment) [Bill]

(Amendment) Bill]

Mr Apollos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, already there are some Amendments standing in my name. We have not come to that but I would like to make a little contribution on the Amendments submitted by the Chairman of the Committee. I draw the attention of hon. Members to page C4 under 2(a) in the Chairman's Amendments. Mr Chairman, Sir, let me read the last part of that sentence :

and shall be referred to as nominated Members.

I am quarrelling with the word *nominated* because it says that the State shall nominate people who will form Members of the Board and they shall be referred to as nominated Members. Now, it does seem to me that there will be two categories of membership of the Board, those appointed by the Federal Government and those appointed by the State Governments and they shall be referred to as nominated. In our context, Sir, I am fully aware that if you have these two categories, it is going to give the impression that those who are appointed by the Federal Government are superior to those nominated by the State Governments, and I strongly support that the word *nominated* should be deleted so that all the members, whether they are appointed by the Federal Government or the State Governments are referred to as Members of the Board. This is just to remove a little conflict which I very well appreciate that, when they come to operate, at a stage in their discussions this little idea may arise where one will consider himself more superior to the other simply because he is appointed by the Federal Government and the other nominated by the State Governments.

So, I support the Amendment that that word *nominated* should be removed so that all of them could be referred to as Members of the Board and not one nominated and the other appointed. So, Mr Chairman, Sir, I sit until I come to my own Amendments.

The Chairman : Yes, GNPP.

Alhaji M. Bukar Mele (Matchina) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it was the House that submitted this Bill to the Committee concerned. To our disappointment, the Committee came out with a view which in fact, is just a one-sided view and it is the view of the Chairman only of the Committee. For your information, Mr Chairman, there are so many Members, up to 14, of this Committee who rejected this report or this submission of the Chairman of this Committee. Going into the Amendments proposed, with the exception of the one on page C1, subsection (ii) which complies with the Constitution, Section 144. Subsection 1, I think that with the exception of that Amendment, all the other Amendments are nothing other than the expression of the Chairman of the Committee's view. As such, they should be rejected, Mr Chairman.

Mr Muhammadu Lawan Narogo (Karaye) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to give my whole support to my hon. Colleague, from Matchina, Borno State (*Mr M. B. Mele*) and, of course, to reject the proposal on the Amendments so far submitted by the Chairman of this Committee.

Again, I somewhat disagree with my Learned Colleague from Bende (*Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe*) for his refusal to acknowledge the simple fact that Section 13, Subsection 4 of the Constitution provides for the reflection of the Federal character by each and every board. I believe it is not only the Chairmanship of the River Basin Authorities that should only come from the State but, of course, the Board should equally reflect the federal character. We should not concentrate it in the hands of very few individuals.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to sit down.

Mr Adebo Adeola (Ijero) : Mr Chairman, I want Members to have a look at page 251 of the Order Paper. According to the consequence of the Amendments as proposed here, I can observe some irregularities. In case of (a) 1 and 2, we have 8 and 5, then in case of (c) we have 8 and 33. Then in case of (k) we have 8, 2, 2 respectively. In case of (f) we have 8, 3, 3 respectively and in (m) we have 8, 3, 3 respectively. I would want the Chairman to give us further explanation, why in some other States, we have the Federal Government being represented by 8 as being proposed and then the States being represented by 6, while these other sections I have pointed out are being represented by 5, 33, 2—2, 3—3, 3, 3. That is number one.

Then in case of (m) where we talk of Oshun River Basin Development Authority, I would like to refresh—

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr I. Mac-Eteli (Brass) : My point of order is Order 29 (1). He is not speaking on the Motion on the Floor, he is off the point. So, he should restrict himself to what we are discussing on the Floor.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Please confine yourself to the subject matter on the Floor.

Mr Adeola : Mr Chairman, in continuation, I would like to refresh the memory of the Members of that Committee together with the Chairman, that geographically, Oshun River takes its source and course through Ondo State. In a place like Ipoti, the river streams between Ipoti and Ijero in my own constituency, then it goes through Ikoro and Okemesi also still in Ondo State. Then we have the river flowing through Okemesi which is partly in Ondo State and Imesi-Ile which is partly in Oyo State and still on, you have that river in Oshun Division which is in Oyo State. I believe that River Basin Authority should comprise not only Federal Government, Lagos State Government, Ogun State Government but should incorporate Ondo State Government and Oyo State Government on representation.

The Chairman : Point of order. There is another point of order.

Mr T. O. Bob-manuel (Degema II) : My point of order is 26 (2). This Amendment the hon. Member is talking about is another Amendment not considered

here at all. We are on page 249 to page 250 of the Order Paper.

The Chairman : Order! Order! Please sit down. Yes, go on.

Mr Adeola : Summarily, Sir, I want to submit that in view of these irregularities, it appears there is a great deal of loophole in these Amendments being proposed by the Chairman and that Committee. As a result, I stand to oppose the Amendments.

Mr Samuel A. Ogunfuyi (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, one or two Members who have spoken suggested that the Report of the Committees as being delivered by the Chairman was a personal Report by the Chairman. But I want to throw some light, that we have something to take from the Report even though we are going to reject so much from it. If I can refer you to the Order Paper page 249, where the Committee has suggested that the General Manager of each River Basin Authority shall be a Member of the Board and shall have no voting right just for continuity sake, I think, we should agree with that. If we change the Board every time and the General Manager who is always in the Corporation or in the Authority is not a Member, each time we have a Board, every Member will be very new there and no one will be able to tell them what had been done in the past.

In the second place, members of each Authority who are nominated by the State or Federal Government shall be referred to as Members, that is correct. Not to give room for inferiority complex, it is nice to call everybody Members. If I can still take you a little further, Sir, on the Management Committee to be appointed if the Board is dissolved, I want to advise this honourable House to agree that they will comprise about five Members, and not to make it one Member's business.

Then, if I can turn you to the original Bill, I think sufficient job has been done in ensuring that, where a Basin is connecting two States, the membership of 6 has been shared 3-3. Where three States are involved, they are shared 2-2-2, and so on. I think this is justifiable rather than follow, for example, one of their recommendations for Niger Delta Development Authority where they have recommended Rivers State to have 5 and another State to have one. The difference is too much. So, I want us to agree to the number given in the original Bill—8 Members for the Federal Government, 6 for the States.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendments. In the first instance, I do not think it is reasonable for us to lay down a policy to probe any Authority before effecting change of Management in any set-up.

We all agree that probe is expensive ; it is not useful and at the same time, it will drive out opportunities for Nigerians that might be eligible to work in such positions.

Secondly, I am in sympathy with the Chairman of this particular Committee for lack of his knowledge in geography in respect of the various Basins in this country, and I thereby again advise that the

Committee, in the near future, should work harder to give a better Report.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Let us hear Chief Omoruwa.

Chief Bon Omoruwa (Warri) : Mr Chairman, in fairness to the Chairman of this Committee, I agree with him, whether he has done these Amendments on his own or in company of other people.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I want to refer to Order 45 Subsection 3, and I beg to read :

If any Member before the conclusion of proceedings on a bill move to report progress and such motion be carried, or if the proceedings in a committee of the Whole House have not been finished at the conclusion of a day's sitting, the chairman shall leave the chair and he, or if Mr Speaker has been the chairman the Member in-charge of the Bill, shall report progress to the house and shall ask leave to sit again, and a day for the resumption of the proceedings shall be named by the Member in-charge of the Bill.

Mr Chairman, I am asking that the debate be stopped and progress be reported. Thank you.

Chief Omoruwa : Mr Chairman, I think my hon. Friend wants the House to see him speak. As I was saying, I am in support of the Chairman of this Committee in respect of C1, C2 and C4. Whether he has done it alone or in company of other people, I think, the suggestions therein are quite reasonable and they should be accepted. In respect of C5 and C6 where States are concerned, Mr Chairman, we should borrow a leaf from Section 44 of the Constitution. There should be equal representatives from the States since this matter affects States initially and exclusively. So, it is my humble suggestion that in every State membership should be equal ; none should be more than the other. Thank you.

The Chairman : Yes, the Acting Leader of the House.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Chairman, I respectfully move that the Question be put in respect of the Amendments proposed. I will take the Amendments one by one. In page C 1 I move that, in line 7 (membership) to leave out the figure 14 and to insert the figure 15 instead thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Chairman, I move that the Question be now put in respect of line 8, to leave out the words *appointed by the Minister with approval of the President* and to insert the words *appointed by the President one of whom shall be appointed as the Chairman of the authority with the provision that such a Chairman shall be an indigene of the State or States within which the authority is established, as follows :*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : I move that in line 13, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Afolabi : I move that in line 21, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Chairman : I think we can take the whole of (b) together.

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Chairman, I respectfully move that the Question be put in respect of Amendments in (b) page C2, line 4, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof. In line 12, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof. In line 20, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof. In line 28, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof. In line 34, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the Question be put in respect of page C4 (i) in line 5, to leave out the word *eight* and to insert the word *nine*, instead thereof.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Afolabi : I move that the question be put in respect of the Amendment (ii) of page C4, in lines 9 to 12, to leave out the words in sub-clause (ii)(a) and to insert as follows :

2 (a) (i) *the General Manager of each River Basin Development Authority shall be a member of the Board and shall have no voting right at Board meetings.*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : I move that the Question be put in respect of 2 (a) (ii) *Members of each Authority who are nominated by both the State and Federal Governments and appointed by the President shall be referred to as members.*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Chairman, with due respect, I respectfully move that the Question be put, the question in respect of item (iii) on page C4, in line 18 (b), to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the word *President* instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : I move that in item (iv) page C4, line 21 to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the word *President*, instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Chairman, in respect of page C4, item (v), in line 23, after the word *Management* to insert the words *composed of five Members*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : I move that in page C4, item (vi), between lines 24 and 25 to insert, the following : *there shall be an Inquiry conducted into the functions of the*

dissolved Board before a new Board is appointed in case of dissolution in accordance with the provisions of subsection 3 (b).

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Afolabi : In page C6, in subsection 2, line 1, after the word *empower*, to leave out the word *Minister* and to insert the word *President* instead thereof ; and after the word *appoint* in line 2, to leave out the words *either and administrator or*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : In page C6, item (ii), I move that in lines 2 and 3 after the word *Management* to insert the words *composed of five members*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Dr Obihara.

Several hon. Members : He is not present.

The Chairman : The Amendment of Dr Chikwe Obihara lapses. The other ones belong to hon. Roland Owie. Is he present ?

Several hon. Members : He is not present.

The Chairman : The Amendments of hon. Owie lapse.

Mr A. N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, since this morning when this Order Paper came out, I have had a lot of consultations with interested groups towards the areas where I proposed my Amendment. We have come to an agreement to take another line of action in order to effect the changes we have intended. As a result of that, Mr Chairman, I withdraw my proposed Amendments in respect of (a) to (c) under page 250. But, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to argue my Amendment in page C4.

The Chairman : Let us finish with the first ones.

Mr Njoku : It is all right, Sir. I am withdrawing my Amendments (a), (b) and (c).

The Chairman : You are left with (d).

Mr Njoku : Yes, Sir.

The Chairman : Formally move (d).

Mr Njoku : Mr Chairman, Sir, in (d) page C4, item (i) has been taken care of in the last Amendments of the Chairman. I am withdrawing that one too. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to argue my Amendments in d (ii).

The Chairman : You have to move it first and have a seconder before you argue.

Mr Njoku : I beg to move.

The Chairman : Do you want to withdraw (d) (i) ?

Mr Njoku : Yes. Item (d) (ii), I move the Amendment standing in my name that between lines 24 and 25 to insert the words :

the Minister shall not reappoint any Member of the Authority whose Board of Directors was terminated in accordance with subsection 3 (b).

There shall be an inquiry into the functions of the Authority before a new Board is appointed in case of dissolution in accordance with 3 (b) above.
(Interruptions)

The Chairman : Order ! We will treat his Amendment. Let him go on with his Amendment. We will vote.

Mr Njoku : I beg to move.

Mr M. G. Alo Nwokocha (Abakaliki East-Central) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Mr Njoku : Mr Chairman, Sir, in the first place I would like to draw Members' attention to 3 (b). It says there that if a Board is dissolved because it did not perform very well a new Board is to be appointed. I am thinking that it is just a matter of practical experience that if a Board has performed badly, there should be a need to find out why it performed badly. It could have performed badly because of inadequacies in the structure or could be because individuals did not know what to do. So, in order to establish the fact why it performed badly it is necessary to conduct, even if it is a day's inquiry, so as to establish basis for the new Board. If the new Board comes in, it will be able to find out why the first one did not function well, and it will be able to avoid such mistakes. But to dissolve a Board because of poor performance and simply go to appoint a new Board without finding out what happened, I think is not a good principle. So, on that score, I am Moving the Amendment.

Mr Chairman, on the second part of the Amendment, as I have just said, if it were possible for me to be appointed into a situation where I know the performances have been very poor, it would be a blind packet to just step in without finding out why they did not do well. So, I strongly feel that it is only an inquiry which can reveal why the last Board did perform badly. It is not going to be a Judicial Inquiry.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my point of order is based on Order 30 rule (4) thereof :

A Member who has moved or seconded a dilatory motion which has been negatived may not subsequently move or second another such motion. During the same debate, whether in the House or in committee of the Whole House.

We have rejected the second leg of his Motion, Sir, that is *there shall be an inquiry*. We have negatived it here. For him to raise it here is uncalled for, Sir.

The Chairman : Yes go on. We can still vote on the issue.

Mr Njoku : Mr Chairman, with due respect to the Learned Member, these Amendments have been put on this paper long before this time. What I am stressing here is that, experience has shown in this country that when a Board is dissolved, because of certain links, there is always the re-appointment of the same man who performed badly in the same situation. Now, if we are trying to restructure situations in this country and make things to move well, I do not think it will be necessary for a man who has performed very badly in a situation to be re-appointed for anything again. So, in order to ensure

that we do not create loop-holes where one person continues to enjoy patronage because of one thing or the other, even though it is known that he is not doing very well, I think it is necessary to say that any Member who has been removed from any Board would not, for anything, when the Board is reconstituted, become a Member of the same Board. So, this is why I am taking these two things together.

In the first instance, it will make it possible for people who enjoy patronage to perform very well wherever they are, knowing that once they lose their chance they have not got a second trial. Secondly, in order to make these Boards move very well, there is need for an inquiry to establish why the last Board performed badly so as to make corrections for the future. This is my reason for making this Amendment.

Josiah Y. Mallo (Akwanga) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I rise to support this Amendment one hundred *per cent*. Experience has shown that most of our Boards, Statutory Boards, either at the Federal or State level, normally when their appointments are terminated, there are always one or two reasons and I think it is only in order that we should insert a provision that once a Board is dissolved, terminated or whatever, there must be a formal way of giving accountability to the masses. In other words, it is administrative and it is also financial. Probably, there might be some financial misappropriation in one way or the other. And how do we know whether that is possible or not. Unless there is a probe it is not possible to know that either the Chairman or the Board Members either connived with some of the staff to embezzle money.

Thirdly, to probe any Board that has been dissolved is only a matter of procedure. It is a matter of procedure in the sense that once we want this country to operate an open government then we must be prepared to face the facts. It is a matter of accountability that there should be a formal probe. Under all circumstances, once a Board is dissolved, there must be a probe into the activities of that particular Board. I am asking the Members of this honourable House to support this Amendment 105 *per cent*. Thank you, Sir.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : I move that the Question be now put.

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

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 2—(MEMBERSHIP)—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, there is one Amendment at the back of the Order Paper. The Amendment stands in the name of Alhaji Gambo. Alhaji Gambo is not around. So it lapses.

Mr O. Afolabi : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the Chairman should now report progress.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the River Basin Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill 1980 be read the Third time and passed.

Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

Mr Speaker : Gentlemen of the Press, this is a Bill, it is now we call it a Bill. We have passed it into Law. We have to teach you now the difference between a Report and a Bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Garba M. Tambari (Maradun) : I beg to second.

Scarcity of some Newspapers

Mr S. A. Shiyanbola (Ede South) : While supporting the Motion on Adjournment, I have two things to point out.

(1) I want the people in-charge of two nationally-known papers in Nigeria the *Tribune* as well as the *Sketch* to please get the message this afternoon that those of us in Lagos have not been able to find their publications to read. They should find a way of getting us the newspapers. The same thing is true of *Observer*. Please we want to be able to read these papers.

Now, Mr Speaker, my second point is very vital and please I want the gentlemen to please listen.

Mr Speaker : Mr Afolabi, please move that the Question be put.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 28th May, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Meeting

Mr Speaker : The Members of the Committee on Mines and Power will meet immediately after this sitting in Committee Room Number C3. Also may I remind the Members of the Business Committee, that we have a meeting in my office to discuss the calendar for the rest of the year.

Communication

We have two letters, hon. Members. One is from the People's Redemption Party. It reads :

PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION PARTY (PRP)

Motto : (Loyal Service and Discipline)

(*JAM'IYYAR CETON AL'UMMA*)

Office of the President
75 Ibrahim Taiwo Road,
P.O. Box 744,
Kano, Nigeria.

Date: 27th May, 1980.

The Speaker House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Lagos.

Following the TV appearance of Alhaji Isa Aliyu Makarfi in which he dissociates himself from one of the decisions of our National Directorate session just held in Kano, I hereby suspend him from the party's membership pending his trial by the Kaduna State Directorate.

I wish to point out that he should be suspended from all Standing Committees of the House pending the decision of the Directorate.

(Sgd.) MALLAM AMINU KANO,
National President, PRP

Mr Speaker : The second letter is from the Special Adviser to the President. It reads :

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SPECIAL ADVISER ON

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIAISON

State House
Lagos, Nigeria.

Ref. No. SANAL/SEC/11/61
Date : 27th May, 1980.

Hon. E. Ume Ezeoke,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
House of Representatives, National Assembly,
Tafawa Balewa Square,
Lagos.

1980 BUDGET

Please convey to the Members of the House of Representatives our extreme satisfaction in the way they have handled the Budget and given it a speedy consideration and passed into law.

2. This demonstrates again your awareness of the priority which the country as a whole attaches to the Budget ; because until it is passed all the roads, food, shelter, and construction that we are all aiming to undertake for the eighty million of our people would be at a stand-still.

3. Once again, thank you for a job well done.

(Sgd.) DR K. O. MBADIWE,
Special Adviser,
National Assembly Liaison

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that this House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 10.40 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 29th May, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28th May, 1980 and they reflect the correct thing that transpired here in the House yesterday and I, therefore, approve them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee on creation of States

There are only one or two announcements this morning. On the Committee on Creation of States, Party Leaders were informed to submit names of people to serve on the Committee and that the composition of the membership must be from those States where there has so far been no demand for creation of states. (*Applause*) Accordingly, we discussed with the Party Leaders and we have received the substitutes. On the UPN side we have two substitutions in the names of Mr David Saraso and Chief Bon Omoruwa, who are substituting Mr Effiom Ononokpono and Chief M. Nwose. (*Interruptions*) From the PRP, we still have to substitute the name of Mr B. U. Yaman with somebody because there is a demand for Kaduna State. The PRP has to give us the name of somebody. From the GNPP we want a substitute for Dr G. Idang. From NPP we want a substitute for Chief G. W. Wodi. From NPN we want a substitute for Mr Yomi Akintola. I am calling on the Chairman of the Committee on Creation of States, Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar, to call the inaugural meeting of this Committee and start work immediately.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiophe South) : If we must have a uniform standard for the appointment of membership for the Committee on Creation of States, and it has been decided by the Leaders of the Parties that any person coming from an area where a State is being demanded should not be a member of that Committee, then, I will submit, Sir, without prejudice to any person or individual, that Anioma State has been suggested in Bendel and Delta State has also been suggested in Bendel State. But one of the persons whose names has just been mentioned is from the proposed Delta State in Bendel State. The proposed Anioma State is before this House and the name suggested from the other Side is from Anioma State. So, I would like to say that the person of Chief Bon Omoruwa

being suggested does not comply with the decision of the Parties if we must have a single standard.

The Deputy Speaker : All right, your point is noted.

Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of explanation is about remuneration for Legislators in this country. (*Interruptions*)

Some hon. Members : No! No!

Some hon. Members : Sit down.

Press Boycott

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members the last announcement for this morning is this. As you are aware, you might have read on the pages of newspapers and possibly heard on television yesterday that the Association of National Assembly Correspondents are boycotting the Report of the Proceedings in the National Assembly. I heard over the television yesterday that the representatives of the Nigerian Union of Journalists are coming this morning with a delegation to raise the matter of the treatment meted to one of the Pressmen in the Speaker's office.

I just heard this over the news but we have not received any correspondence to that effect, which means they are coming today. The Speaker is travelling to Kaduna today, therefore, he will not be around. What disturbs me most is that even though the correspondents say they will not cover the proceedings of the National Assembly, they are still within the premises of the National Assembly and using the facilities in the National Assembly. Therefore, I do not know what this august House would like to suggest on what we intend to do over this matter.

An hon. Member : Silence is better.

The Deputy Speaker : Silence is better, I know, but even if silence is better, I would just like to hear the views of the different political parties. Yes, Mr Agi.

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, first of all, I would like to correct the impression being given by some newspapers in the country that over this particular matter the President of the Senate has summoned the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Now, there is no such thing in the provisions of the Constitution for the Speaker of the House of Representatives to be summoned by the President of the Senate. It is understandable that where the need arises the Senate, as a body or a Committee of any arm of the National Assembly, can summon any functionary of the National Assembly, but not a single individual summoning another functionary in the National Assembly. So, that impression should be corrected by the particular newspaper concerned immediately.

Then, coming to the matter of the Association of National Assembly Correspondents, I personally feel that the incident that led to their action should have been treated on a personal basis between the orderly of the Speaker concerned and the victim of the incident, and then some administrative measure be taken to resolve the issue.

[Mr Agi]

But when the Association of Correspondents as a whole decided to take it upon themselves and to escalate the matter to an issue between themselves and the National Assembly, I think it is only right and proper that we allow them to go to whatever extent they feel they can go. If they feel they can do without us, I do not see why we cannot feel we can do without them.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning the Association of National Assembly Correspondents, I want to say this. The association is not a Trade Union and cannot negotiate with us as though it were a Trade Union. Reporters who are sent here by their media to cover us can cover us. It is their assignment. If they refuse to do their jobs the media which sent them know what to do with such reporters.

Secondly, I want to say, Sir, that it is not every member of the Association of National Assembly Correspondents that is boycotting the affairs of the National Assembly. It is not every member, and it is not of every medium. Some members of the Association are being used by certain groups, and certain interests. If they want to be so used, nobody can stop them. I do not want it to be taken as though all Members of the Association are not covering our proceedings because I know certain correspondents from certain media who are still covering us and are here on duty. They have cleared with their Management and their Management have sent them to go and do the jobs for which they are employed. I do not think we should take up this matter. I have personally investigated this matter and these are facts. Thank you, Sir.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : First of all, the little incident (I call it a little incident) which occurred a few days ago is not something that will bring up confrontation. Somebody has already spoken that it is something that could have been treated cautiously and administratively, but it was not so done. With reference to what the Speaker has already said that the Pressmen are still around even though they have said in the press that they will not cover us again, Chapter 4 of the Constitution allows free movement. Since it is not our intention to pose confrontation with the press or anybody whatsoever, we would allow them to appear. Just like somebody who has spoken already, I made an enquiry and one of them told me the hard truth. He told me that actually the person involved, the victim so-called, was actually wrong; that they wanted to see the Speaker, the orderly asked them to wait a bit as the Speaker was busy and that he would allow them in later on. That particular person started to push himself to do it his own way and the incident occurred. When they went into a meeting, well, the majority had to take the vote, and they decided the way they had decided.

At the same time, as an hon. Member said, I know somebody who is covering a particular newspaper and he is coming here. His media asked him to go ahead and cover us and he is doing so. If the pressmen in spite of what they have said to the public, are hanging around to cover us, we would not advise them not to cover us, and we would not pose con-

frontation because we are representing thousands in our various constituencies and we are responsible people.

In fact, we are like fathers. Most of the press boys are actually just young men full of youthful exuberance. So, we would tolerate their attitude and advise them like fathers. We would not pose confrontation.

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : If I understand the Speaker very well, last night there was an indication of the intention of the news media to have audience with the Speaker and possibly with other Members of this hon. Assembly. I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that if they do come, that is if you receive formal invitation, receive them and have discussion with them. I would also suggest that we do not ask anyone to leave. If I put it strongly, it is all their business. If they like they can report the proceedings of this Assembly; if they do not like it is their business. That is my contribution.

Mr M. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a little information for this honourable House with reference to the relationship between the National Assembly and the pressmen. Yesterday the hon. Chairman of the Public Relations and I met the Speaker in his office, who briefed us on what actually transpired between the particular pressman who was alleged to have been assaulted by the police. As it were the Public Relations Committee of this House of Representatives tried yesterday to have audience with the press, but unfortunately we were informed that the Executive of the press were holding a meeting.

It seems that today we are going to do something about the members of the press in order to bringing about normalisation of relationship between the press and the honourable House. The information I am giving, Sir, is that we are trying in the Public Relations Committee to see to it that the little hitch comes to an end between the members of the press covering the proceedings of this House and the entire National Assembly. Thank you very much.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : I wish to make some remarks on this incident. I believe, Sir, that it is not correct to attach the responsibility of an individual to that of another. It has been suggested as if the matter was between the Speaker of this honourable House and the press. I think they are wrong. The issue is between the orderly and the reporter. What normally happens is this. If the Reporter went to the office of the Speaker he has to see the orderly before he gets in, and if anything ensues between them, it is not the responsibility of the House or of the Speaker. I would point also to Section 82 of the Constitution which gives this Assembly the power to conduct investigation and, in particular, Section 83 (1) (c) which says that anybody can be summoned. I would say it is a wrong notion to say that the Speaker of this honourable House has been invited or has been summoned to appear before a Colleague of his with an insinuation that he is to be tried or to be reprimanded. We should correct this impression.

If there is anything to be done, it is my suggestion that the Party Leaders, and by this I mean all the

Party Leaders, maybe about ten of them, two from each Party, and the Leader in the Senate, the Leader in the House of Representatives plus our Deputy Speaker here could have a meeting with the Leaders of the Press. We should allow Mr Speaker to be out of this matter.

Nobody wants a confrontation with anybody, but they should allow us to do our work well. They must not try to intimidate us in this House. They must allow us to be free to discuss what we want and to represent us in the right way, not to give us a bad name as some of them are trying to do. With these remarks, Sir, I would say that we should try and get a Committee of these Leaders to meet the people of the Press and the orderly, look into this matter and settle it. (*Interruptions*) In that wise, Sir, it could be referred to the Public Relations Committee.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota): Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I would wish that the Speaker speak to the Orderly, because the source of the trouble is the Orderly allegedly beating the Reporter. Fortunately, I was around on that very day that this thing happened, and this seems to be the second time that this thing is happening.

I do not think it is justified for the Orderly to use hands on anybody coming to this Assembly. I would suggest that, from time to time, in order to keep our good name, we should try to advise the Orderly not to resort to violence.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, fortunately enough this incident happened when I was in the office of the Speaker. I was personally there, and it is very wrong for any individual to slap a policeman in uniform, and carrying arms for that matter. If the policeman was outside the National Assembly, he would have arrested this individual and he knows exactly what would happen to him when he is taken to the Charge Office.

I tried to intervene and I would say, with due respect, that one of the correspondents insulted me personally. Therefore, I do not see how you are going to intervene in a matter where people have already made up their minds to cause trouble. The Orderly is there to perform a certain function, and the contention of the Press was that we bulldozed the proceedings of Monday just to conceal our remunerations. Therefore, they wanted to interview the Speaker to hear his own opinion. We are representatives of the people, and I believe a Member has a right to express any opinion on the Floor of this House. It is left to the Press to report exactly what they want to report in their papers, but the responsibility is that of the Member who spoke on the Floor of the House.

I do not want a Member to be challenged or to be dragged into an argument by a member of the Press, because you have responsibility to your Constituency and to the people who elected you. The opinion of the Press is an opinion. Therefore we have to be very cautious because, as they said, this is the second time the Orderly has done this thing.

The Orderly is there to protect the Speaker and to allow people to go in when the Speaker is free to see them. If the Speaker is not ready to see anybody and you try to force your way through, obviously it is the responsibility of the Orderly to stop you from doing so. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, I feel this would open an avenue for us and members of the Press to understand each other. We are going to meet them. Preferably, I would like to meet the members of the NUJ in the presence of the Party Leaders, so that we can air this issue and solve it once and for all, and we hope it will not recur.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Presentation of the Report of the Committee Delegation to the United States of America.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo): Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I rise to move:

That the House do receive the Report of the Business Committee Delegation on their recent visit to the United States of America. I beg to move.

Mr O. J. Ekpenyong (Uyo I): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive the Report of the Business Committee Delegation on their recent visit to the United States of America.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the House do adjourn till 10.00 a.m. on Monday morning.

Alhaji Hassan Gambo (Mayo-Balwa): I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Afolabi: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, some Committees are meeting and I think it is time that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till 10.00 a.m. on Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.00 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 2nd June, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

COMMUNICATION

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have a letter here and the letter is written by Mallam Aminu Kano. The letter reads as follows :

PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION PARTY (PRP)

Motto : (Loyal, Service and Discipline)

(JAM'IYYAR CETON AL'UMMA)

Office of the President,
75 Ibrahim Taiwo Road,
P.O. Box 744,
Kano, Nigeria.
Date 31st May, 1980.

The Speaker House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Lagos.

Following the interview and Press statement of Ibrahim Bakori, Mohammed Sha'aibu Kaigama and Alhaji Isyaku Gumawa in which they dissociate themselves from one of the decisions of our National Directorate Section just held in Kano, I hereby suspend them from the Party's membership pending their trial by their respective State Directorates.

I wish to point out that they should be suspended from all Standing Committees of the House pending the decision of Directorate. (Interruptions)

I am sorry to be bothering you with this kind of request, but I am determined to go down the ladder to impose discipline in the party.

(Sgd.) MALLAM AMINU KANO,
National President, PRP

Message of Condolence

Mr Mohammed Sha'aibu Kaigama (Aliwo/Kaigama) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to this honourable House through you, Mr Speaker, to send a Message of Condolence to the chief mourner of last week's Air crash, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the incident of what happened last week Monday.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, on this subject ?

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have to make a little comment with reference to the letter given to us by the respectable Alhaji Aminu Kano.

Several Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : No, we are talking about letter of condolence. Yes, Mallam Sidi Ali.

Alhaji Sidi H. Ali (Danbatta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support my hon. Colleague on the Message of Condolence to be sent to the President, but before I do that, I have a very chilling statement on this issue regarding what is happening in connection with these bodies. By the time I got there, twelve bodies had been brought, out of which only one, that of the Naval officer, could be recognised because of his Navy dress. The other bodies were so cut, some no heads, some no legs, some no arms and two were still to be brought.

When I went to the Benin hospital, there was no electricity, there was nothing done, I am sorry to say, by the State Government for the bodies of these Nigerians who happened to find themselves in this unfortunate situation. My information was that the Commissioner of Works who took money from his own pocket to buy gas in order to supply some sort of electricity so that the bodies could be cared for. I must say the Governor went with us and personally used his hands to open the bodies. But before I got there, nothing had been done.

The saddest thing of all, is that at the Escravos where the bodies were being dug out, our Navy and divers were completely helpless, doing nothing but just standing because they had no means of getting to the bodies. It was the local fishermen who were getting the bodies out and they were asking for ₦1,000 per body. This was what the Air Force was paying for every body. In fact, we got to a point when there was no kobo any more to pay, but they insisted that until the money was paid, that body was not going to be released, and the body was tied with a rope. The man tied it to his own body insisting that he was not going to release it.

It is a very sad thing for fellow Nigerians to treat their own brothers in this way. Again, I feel the Nigerian Navy should be condemned in every sense for them to say, in a National Emergency of this nature, that they have no means of finding how to even get to the water, except to rely on the fishermen.

I feel the Committee on Defence should do something very seriously so that we shall be able to take a stand that in emergencies of this nature, something is done, and swiftly too.

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you. (Applause)

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to join fellow Nigerians in expressing the deepest grief and sympathy for the tragedy that has recently befallen this country. We mourn the loss of these worthy Nigerians, and one recalls with sad sentimentality the fact that the head of that delegation was a Member of this honourable House, Dr Usman Abubakar.

It is particularly saddening that in under one year this Assembly has lost three of its Members and the House in particular has lost two. In mourning the death of these Nigerians, a number of things have

been brought to the fore. One, is regard or disregard for opinions of experts in certain fields. One should not over-flog the issue, but we have all heard what was said about the weather before the ill-fated trip.

I would also like to comment in passing, on what the last hon. Member has said with regard to our Navy. It is not enough to condemn the Navy. We know about the Navy now because their own case relates directly to this question of recovering the dead bodies from the water. If we had something specific which should have involved the Air Force, then their own problem would have been brought out. And, of course, by the time we go further to the ground the full soldiers' problems would have been brought out. So, this, in fact, strengthens the case of the Committee on Defence in relation to the last Budget, but I would not go further because if details are known then Members will shake their heads about the state of affairs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in concluding, I wish to say that we send our deepest sympathy and condolence to all the members of the deceased families. We pray that God in his infinite mercy will receive their souls and grant grace and courage to their bereaved ones and that those of us who are in any way in a position to give them succour should do so, and of course we have no doubt in our mind that the Government will do what it can to alleviate their sufferings. Their loss is irreparable. No amount of material help will revive or bring back the loss ones, but all the same death is an inevitability and it is in fact a natural concomitant to life itself. So, we must take it in this vein and we express our condolences.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to associate myself with the remarks expressed by hon. Members about this sad loss. In doing so, I feel disappointed by certain Press releases by certain persons that came out as a result of this accident. I think it was unfortunate for certain persons to issue statement which gave the impression as if the Federal Government was to be blamed for this kind of incident. I think it is a disaster which the Defence Committee should look into, and to prove their point that our Armed Forces are weak. I want to say this quite clearly, Mr Speaker, that we in this House stand together, and on sad issues like this we should, whether out of this House or wherever the people are, avoid political sentiments and political easy point making. *(Applause)* I would like to say this quite clearly so that our people can understand our views and our feelings that we are all Nigerians.

I feel that this incident has revealed once more the report made by the Chairman of the Defence Committee about the rather unsatisfactory position of our Armed Forces.

Mr Speaker, Sir, while I support that we should write to condole the families, I would say that this is not enough; we should try to demonstrate a bit further particularly when one of our Colleagues

was involved, once a Member always a Member if there is anything we can do, we should do something practical to assist in one form or the other. I suggest this, Mr Speaker.

Thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker: Yes, Mr Laven.

Mr L. Laven (Langtang): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to associate myself with Members who are in sympathy with the families of the victims of last Mondays' ghastly accident. In doing so, I have to re-emphasize my Committee's Report on the Air Force operational facilities whereby, knowing the position of the Air Force, knowing the conditions of the aircraft, we made a recommendation specifically to this House. I told you that whatever happens the blame would not be on the Army, it would not be on the Army past regime, it would be on the present regime, that is, we the National Assembly Members. We have a duty to do something about this obsolete position of the Armed Forces in general. The equipment of diving in the Navy is absolutely non-existent. I would expect the Navy to have adequate diving equipment and facilities. That is why they stood by looking and having nothing to do. They cannot dive with their bodies like I am standing now. You need oxygen, you need so many things and you stay underneath water for about ten, twenty minutes or even an hour. We have not got such facilities. The plane was lost, and contact was lost immediately, yet Benin and Lagos are so close. There was no radio facility system in this country to locate that plane. Cameroon was tried, and they said we contacted them once and that was all. Benin is too near for Nigeria to lose contact with a plane of that nature. My Committee put that specifically in writing, in black and white, that we have not got air operational facilities and something must be done. The plane too is an old one.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a question before you and my Committee too, that in fact, we have a duty as to the re-organisation and equipping the Army. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Yes, Dr Sowho.

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to associate myself fully with all the sentiments expressed by Members to the nation. Every single member feels a deep sense of loss at the recent accident in which, once again, a Member of the National Assembly was involved. It is indeed a further shock that it took so many days to recover the bodies from the water to such an extent that the normal processes after death have set in and there is now talk of inability to identify even certain bodies.

Like was said earlier, this accident happened in our own national waters; we are unable to take prompt action. If it was a little farther away, we would have completely been out of control. We are further told that the local fishermen are those who were helping us to even fish out these bodies.

[DR SOWHO]

Incidentally the area in which this accident happened is in the usual course of transportation of crude oil from this country, and the Navy is supposed to be patrolling this area. It becomes more painful that something happened in an area that is supposed to be under surveillance, and we are unable to do anything.

This accident has brought a lot of things to the fore-front. There is a lot of talk of Nigeria being a power; you do not be a power just by talking on the pages of newspapers. Simple basic facilities are very essential.

Another interesting point that should be noted involves the issue of identification. In advanced countries even if only, the head were found, smashed up, from a simple X-ray of the dentition, you can identify anybody. From a good X-ray of the long bones you can identify. We are told here already that because certain parts were not available the issue of identification is becoming a problem. This boils down to the issue of facilities. I think this painful accident should bring a greater sense of urgency to our minds to ensure that in the short while we are here until 1983 those areas that make for better performance of a nation as a whole should be brought up-to-date so that we stop making a laughing stock of ourselves.

This plane that was involved in the accident, we are told, had earlier been involved in two minor accidents only a few months back. Yet it was put on. We are also told that all other planes did not fly that very morning, waiting for the weather to clear; yet they were put in the air. We all know that the sea coast route is one of the roughest when the weather is bad. One wonders if he who gave the instruction that they should fly should not actually be investigated.

However, it is essential that this House wastes no further time in sending the condolence of this House to the President and, through him, to the members of the families involved.

I agreed entirely with the suggestion of the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*) that we should go a step further and demonstrate our deep involvement in the issue by doing something more than just sending words. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Yes, the Leader of the House.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, at this juncture I would crave your indulgence, if the House will agree with me, that we suspend Standing Order 19 so that a Motion could be moved on this tragedy which affects this country.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order 19 be suspended.

Notice of Motion

Message of Condolence

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move—

That this House expresses its deepest regret and sympathy on the week-end tragedy resulting in the loss of the lives, in the performance of their national duties, of these distinguished and eminent Nigerians on their way to Sao Tome; and sends Message of Condolence, through the President of the Republic of Nigeria, to the bereaved families.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Alhaji D. O. Raji (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House expresses its deepest regret and sympathy on the week-end tragedy resulting in the loss of the lives, in the performance of their national duties, of these distinguished and eminent Nigerians on their way to Sao Tome; and sends Message of Condolence, through the President of the Republic of Nigeria, to the bereaved families.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Mines and Power

Presentation of the Report in respect of Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiophe South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Report of the Committee on Mines and Power on the Bill to make provision for the number of persons to constitute the Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA). I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Mines and Power

Presentation of the Report in respect of a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiophe South): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Mines and Power in respect of a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

I beg to move.

Mr I. Mac-Eteli (Brass): I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee on Mines and Power

Presentation of the Report in respect of a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Mining Corporation.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Mines and Power in respect of a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Mining Corporation.

I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : I move that this House do adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : I beg to second the Motion.

Membership of the House

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to contribute to the Motion on Adjournment on a very important issue affecting the constitutionality of the Membership of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, we received a letter today from a Party Leader of one of the great parties of this country. We all know that we are the creators of parties, but nevertheless, all our institutions are under our Constitution. Luckily, we have a presiding officer here who is a Legal Practitioner. I want to put it to this House that until any of us here, any of the hon. Members of this House, resigns his party membership, I repeat, until that person resigns his party membership, it is there and then that the conditions of his resignation from this House and going to contest election arises. Although I respect political parties as I have told you because we have created these parties, but for any party leader to breach the Constitution of this country is an abuse of the process of this House. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, any party political issue is a private matter within the party and we do not want to bring it to the Floor of this House.

Railway Accident at Jos

Alhaji Abdulkadir Zakari (Wase) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to speak on the railway accident which happened last week at Jos, Plateau State Capital. I believe all hon. Members are aware of the train accident which occurred last week at Jos. Owing to these frequent railway accidents at this Railway Terminus at Jos, many lives and properties are lost. The train accident of last week at Jos led to

an unprecedented congestion at Murtala Hospital whereby many patients in the hospital vacated their beds in order to allow the accident victims to be rushed in so as to save their lives. Even one woman on labour vacated her bed and eventually gave birth to her baby in a doctor's backyard.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Federal Government and also the Railway Corporation to move the Jos Railway Station away from the centre of the State Capital to outside Jos. With this information, I would like to take my seat.

Increase in Air Fares

Mr Apollos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the recent increase in International Airways fares. Yesterday, I had the opportunity of mixing with a lot of citizens of this great country both in one of their important hotels in this city and at the Airport. There were a lot of complaints by our citizens about the recent increase, which was to the tune of 17 per cent. A lot of people saw this increase as unnecessary and uncalled for and have complained bitterly.

In their complaints, Mr Speaker, the blame had been levelled on this House as being instrumental to this increase. In fact, I was informed that some time during the Military Regime, the question of this increase in Airways fares came up and the Military Authorities turned it down as unnecessary and undeserving at that material time. Now, the public feels alarmed that just a few months after civilians have taken over, the Airways are able to implement this increase.

They have argued that in terms of the services rendered by the Airways and in terms of returns on profitability, there is nothing to justify this increase. There is also a hand-out by the Public Relations Manager of the Nigerian Airways in which he has argued that this increase is necessitated by the cost of fuelling and other services in the Airways.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the point is that it will be necessary for the Committee on Aviation to get in touch with the Minister of Aviation to justify the need for this increase otherwise I am calling that we should request the Minister to look into this increase because it appears to be very unpopular and not in the interest of this country.

The Speaker : Why not bring a Motion on it before this House ?

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I think it is getting too hot. I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 10:52 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 3rd June, 1980

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resumption of Press Coverage

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there are only one or two announcements. Hon. Members, as you are aware, an incident last week between my Police Orderly and a journalist covering the National Assembly sparked off some controversy which led to disaffection and boycott of coverage of the proceedings of the House by the Press. I am happy to report that the incident has now been settled as a result of a number of meetings initiated by the Nigerian Union of Journalists.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the Police in the performance of their duties are independent of anybody and the particular conduct complained of is now under investigation. In my position, I have played the role of a peace maker in the interest of everybody, and this did not call for any special apology on my part to either party as this would pre-judge the result of the pending investigations. I am happy, however, that the matter has now been resolved to the extent that the Press are now back to their duties in the Assembly in the national interest.

Once again, I appeal to all parties in and outside the House to continue to do their utmost to foster national co-operation in the interest of our great nation.

Communication

Hon. Members, we also received a telegram for this House. The telegram reads as follows :

ZCZC HQX5/130

LAGOS 20 30 9.45

Hon. Edwin Umezeoke, Speaker House of Representatives, Lagos.

Passage of the 1980 Appropriation Bill by Your Legislative House is your greatest contribution to National interest, cohesion and integration. Your name will go down in history as the greatest equilibrating force in the three arms of the Federal Government. Your efforts to help revitalising the slumbering economy vindicates you as a great nationalist. The masses are abundantly happy with you. Keep it up. Emmanuel Akamobi. (Applause)

Meetings

Order ! Order ! Please, Party Leaders, we are going to have a meeting with the Senate this morning at 11 o'clock and there will be another meeting immediately after in respect of our own private affair.

Election of the Acting Speaker

Please, according to the rules, the House should please, elect somebody to preside because my deputy is not in town. Yes, the hon. Member for Oron II (*Mr Edet Bassey Etienam*), nominate somebody. (*Interruptions*) Order ! Order !

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I want to move—

That in accordance with Section 49 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, in the absence of Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*) be elected to preside over the meeting of this honourable House.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the nomination ?

Mr Yunusa (Asa) : Mr Speaker, I second the nomination. (*Interruptions*)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*) should preside in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

(Mr Olusola Afolabi in the Chair)

The Acting Speaker : Order ! Order ! hon. Members, first of all, I must thank you for allowing me to sit as today's Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

I am sure that I can count on the support of all the Sides of the House whether it is GNPP or it is PRP or it is UPN or NPP or NPN. Thank you, very much. I am sure I will get your co-operation for the short time that I will be here.

Votes and Proceedings

I have looked at the Votes and Proceedings. There is an omission, and I have instructed the Clerk to insert it accordingly into the Votes and Proceedings. It is in respect of the Reports of the Committee on Mines and Power which were tabled yesterday. I found that they were not in the Votes and Proceedings and accordingly I have instructed the Clerk to make the necessary amendments in respect of that.

Order ! Order ! Before we proceed on the notice of Motion for today, I do not know whether anybody has any point of explanation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Acting Speaker's Election

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of explanation is in respect of today's appointment of the acting Speaker. Sir, we are all flattered by the elevation of Mr Afolabi to the Chair and we hope that all the Members will give him due co-operation. He is a seasoned lawyer and that matters much. (Applause)

Stockfish Importation

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is unfortunate that in this country where we represent the entire masses of this nation and where we are also struggling to alleviate the suffering of the masses, some people will form themselves into a certain clique to jeopardise the chances of certain people from having what is entirely their rights.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some businessmen whose field is to trade on stockfish came to us the other time and protested. They say there is a sort of monopoly going on now by the Scandinavian countries who are the main suppliers of that particular brand of commodity.

The Head of State, in his principle to make sure that at least the masses of this nation do not suffer malnutrition, removed the import restriction on stockfish and put the importation of stock-fish on open licence. I cannot see the justification in that field for some people to monopolise the importation of stockfish thereby bringing us back to square one, which means whatever price they decide is what we are going to buy it at. Mr Speaker, Sir, I also use this venue to congratulate and thank the President for his timely intervention by giving an order to ensure that this sort of yoke is broken.

I am appealing to this honourable House to please appeal to Mr President to make sure that this yoke is completely broken. This clique is making it difficult for those citizens of this nation who consume stockfish as their own particular type of food to have easy access to the purchase of this commodity ; they must be effectively curbed by placing the importation of stockfish on open licence. If it is on open licence, anybody who feels he can import stockfish into this country is allowed to import it. The importation of stockfish should not be left entirely in the hands of a few people.

Thank you, very much, Mr Speaker.

Investigation into Air-Crash

Alhaji Sidi H. Ali (Danbatta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday we sat down in this House to express our deep feelings and sympathy to those who lost their lives in the ill-fated incident. We also made a call on the President to set up a high-powered investigation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Defence has now come out with what claims to be a high-powered investigation, but at the same time defending that the pilot was not ordered to fly in spite of the fact that he reported that the weather was bad. We do not think a person can be an accused and also a judge in the same case. Therefore we feel the so-called Committee of investigation by the Ministry of Defence is not right, especially when they came out defending everything about the particular order. I feel, therefore, that this House should take an action to call on the President to set up an independent committee of Investigation or Commission to find out whoever is guilty in this matter.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Objective Press Coverage

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I only want to say a few things in respect of the matter which had been on for some time, and this relates to the men of the media who, for one reason or the other, had cause to be absent from this honourable House. I seize this opportunity to welcome them back to this House and I also want to appeal to the men of the news media to be patient and co-operate with the working of this Constitution.

They must not try to put the blame on one person or the other. I think that in working this new Constitution we must try as much as possible not to have confrontation with ourselves. Since they are very powerful and they are one of the factors to be reckoned with in any society, their views are brought to the public and, as such, members of the public might be misguided by whatever they say. I am seizing this opportunity to request them to be lenient, to look at things from the right perspective and approach matters in the right way.

I welcome them back and I hope that, since the matter has been settled, what we have said or what we have in mind should not prejudice the meeting that is going to take place among the NUJ, the leaders of the parties, the Speaker, and the President of the Senate. Thank you.

Government Ownership of Newspapers

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : The point of observation which I like to make this morning is in respect of the pledge which Mr President made during the Presidential campaign and soon after his election, his first Press conference. He did say on these two occasions that the government would throw back to the public the 60 per cent holding in the newspaper media particularly the *Daily Times* which we all acclaim as an independent newspaper in this country. By the recent events in the country everyone should examine his or her mind thoroughly and judge whether the *Daily Times* is actually independent or not.

There have been occasions where people wrote letters to the Editor of the *Daily Times* for one thing or the other against the government, and these letters were not published. One will again wonder about the recent transfers in the *Daily Times* group, particularly that of Mr Tunji Oseni, the Editor of the *Sunday Times*.

The Acting Speaker : The hon. Member, I am sorry to cut you short. Is that point of explanation? If you have any point to explain, please explain it.

Mr Omidiji : Yes, I am trying to build up the point.

The Acting Speaker : No, you will do that on Motion for Adjournment.

Mr Omidiji : The point I am making is that the government should by now return the 60 per cent holding to the public, because at the moment the public has 40 per cent and they are holding 60 per cent (Interruptions). Please, let me make up my point.

The Acting Speaker : All right, have you made it?

Mr Omidiji : That is the point I want to make if actually we want *Daily Times* to be an independent paper. We do not want it to be killed like the *Morning Post*.

The Acting Speaker : Okay, thank you. Yes, NPN.

Illegal Political Party

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to move on from what the last Member has said to an issue in the *Sunday Punch*. I want the hon. Members here to note, and if I am permitted I will quote the section before I give you the reference. It is Section 202 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that concerns political parties. I am talking about Barrister Tunji Braithwaite and his NAP Party. Section 202 says :

No association by whatever name called shall function as a political party, unless—

(a) the names and addresses of its national officers are registered with the Federal Electoral Commission.

The NAP is an unregistered political party and should not pose itself as a political party and continue talking about the National Assembly, and engage in issues concerning the nation.

An hon. Member : He has right.

Mr Bob-Manuel : He has his own right to talk as an individual, but not as a political party. It is an unregistered party and he should stop this contravention of the Constitution. It is illegal to contravene this Constitution. Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope his brothers on the opposite Side should go and tell him that this is not the way to talk. He should not say anything about the political parties here. So, please, Mr Tunji Braithwaite should be warned for captioning himself as a political party.

Arms Trafficking with South Africa

Dr T. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to an issue that affects us as Africans. It has been revealed by an investigation team in Denmark that certain countries in the capitalist world as well as in the socialist block have been engaging in arms traffickings with South Africa. It is really a matter for regret that certain countries that have professed so much support for the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination are now in the business of selling arms to South Africa.

It becomes more painful when certain socialist countries that have identified themselves with the fight against apartheid are now engaged in this sort of business. For the capitalist countries we know that for quite some time they have been bursting all the sanctions against South Africa as regards arms deal. But those Socialist countries that have now come into the show should be ashamed of themselves because they are now going against the very basis of their own system, that is, discrimination and exploitation of man by man and so on and so forth. I would want Members to note that such countries may no longer be regarded as friends of well meaning African Nations. Thank you, very much.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I think it is enough for the points of explanation. We now go to the Order Paper and we have Notice of Motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Adoption of Business Committee's Report on Trip to U.S.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwere/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion Standing in my name—

That the Report of the Delegation of the Business Committee to the United States of America (laid on the Table, 29th May, 1980) be adopted, and referred to the Business Committee for their study and recommendations to the House.

I beg to move.

The Acting Speaker : Any seconder?

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akankpa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Ihekweazu : Mr Speaker, Sir, in urging the House to accept the report, first, I would like to remind hon. Members that when your delegation returned back on the 27th April, 1980, I did, on behalf of the delegation, report to the House that we were back and that we would present a report to you. I am happy that at the earliest opportunity after dealing with the Budget we were able to present the report to you on the 28th.

I have no doubt that most, if not all hon. Members, have had a copy of the report. First, page 1 of the report indicates all Members of the delegations. They are M. A. Olukoya, hon. Sule Lamido, hon. Amos Sunday, hon. Ingo Mac-Eteli and my humble self, hon. S. M. C. Ihekweazu.

The report, I would say, if hon. Members have had the opportunity of reading it, is self explanatory. In many ways it gives us an insight, based on our experiences into the American Presidential system. Particularly on page 2, we have been able to itemise the number of Committees operated in the United States. They are 22 altogether and they are listed there for your perusal. The Rules Committee, which was of particular interest to your delegation, is found on the same page 2. We tried to give you a historical background of the development of the Rules Committee in the United States as far back as 1789 when the first Congress met in the U.S.

The Rules Committee has been one which has progressed over the years and, as at now, it has a Membership of 16 in the United States. It has quite a number of powers as you can see on page 3. It has powers to make special orders ; it has powers to report from time to time, and on page 4 you can see details of what powers the Rules Committee has been granted in the United States. The Rules Committee reports a number of rules ; it reports on what is called closed rules, open rules, rules providing for specific or other points of order whether to be allowed or not, and modified open rules. On page 5 the powers of the Committee with regard to the scheduling of Motions and Bills are also explained. There is a typical resolution at the bottom of page 5 which gives an idea of the way they conduct their Business and what sort of rules they do present to the House.

I must mention that all these rules are invariably subject to ratification by the House.

On page 7, there is also an idea on details of the staff composition of the Committee. Again, this is of special interest in the sense that the Committee there has a staff of 42. I think for us, at this early stage in the development of our own system, considering the fact that our Business Committee as we know it here has virtually one or two Clerks attending to it, you can then imagine the disparity in terms of strength of staff. The details of the duties performed by each staff also are shown on page 8. Both the minority and the majority Leaders have special Councils attached to them, all within the complex of the Rules Committee set-up.

Also on page 9, there is the procedure for bringing a Motion or a Bill. This is one which I very much commend to every Member. It is not too different from what we do, but it is a little bit more elegant and more precise in terms of what we know today or appreciate as the Presidential system. The details are further explained on page 10, itemised *a, b, c, d*, up to *(t)* on page 11. We should take special pains to try to read all those.

There is also on page 11 how Members of Congress introduce Bills. There is something which we do not always appreciate, and that is, that the system of legal processes in the Senate in the Congress are not always identical. That particular procedure is one instance which brings up the very little difference that occurs in the manner of procedure. You can see that in the Senate, the Senator merely stands up and addresses himself to the President of the Senate, Mr President, and then expects recognition, and thereafter he will mention that he has Bills to introduce ; whereas in the House of Representatives Member of the House introduce Bills by placing them in a hopper box in the office of the Clerk of the House.

There is also page 12 where what is the first reading of a Bill is explained. That again is of special interest. Formerly a Bill was first read by title at the time of introduction ; but since 1890 the first reading is accomplished by the mere printing of title in the Congressional records and the Journal.

There is also the procedure at Committee Meetings. This is very important. We have had some experience, particularly in handling the Budget, as to how to conduct Committee Meetings. I am sure that in due course many more matters will be referred to Committees, and we shall expect our Committees to operate in keeping with what is the established practice. Page 12 shows that at length.

There is something again which is called the mark-up section of Committees. When the Committees would have completed its hearing, public or otherwise, there is the mark-up section where Members of the Committee address their minds and really agree on what to present to the House. There is also the procedure on Amendments, how to pursue Amendments within the Committee. There is also the question of the Committee report itself, how to compile it and how to present it and introduce it in the House. There is also the question of the contents. There is also the usual pattern of starting off with an introduction, a summary of the hearings and a section by section analysis which purports to describe, in layman's terms, what the technical language of each section of the Bill provides, a discussion of Amendments, statements showing what changes would be made by the Bill, and finally individual and minority supplementary reports.

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Point of order. My Order is taken from Order 28 (4) ; *During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.* I think there is too much interruption, Mr Speaker, Sir.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you, Mr Ojukwu. However, I want to inform the Chairman of the Business Committee to try as much as possible to be brief, since you are still going to study the report in your Committee, and then come back to report to us.

Mr Ihiekweazu : Thank you, Mr Speaker, although your point of order is directed to the Members, not to the Chairman of the Business Committee.

There is also on page 15 who brings up the Committee report. There is also what is a rule, the definition of a rule, and what a rule provides for. A rule provides for three main purposes. First, it pushes a Bill ahead of less important matters, so as to bring up the procedure, and it also covers the length of debate permitted on the Floor, and also describes the extent to which a Bill may be amended. All these are matters affecting the Business of the Rules Committee, the Committee reports and the way they are presented to the House.

Mr Speaker, the next other item is the question of the library of Congress, which again is self explanatory on page 16. It states the history of the library of Congress as far back as 1800, the development and the facilities available to Members. But of particular interest is the department known as the Congressional Research Service, which renders very special services to Members. Members can go in there and for short notice get at all sorts of materials they require for presentation to the House. The Congressional Research Service is very well equipped. It has quite a lot of skilled man-power, Legal Draftsmen, Legal Department and all that.

[MR IHEKWEAZU]

There is also the issue of calendars. I have brought quite a lot of papers here which I intend to show to the House later. Some of these are calendars which we collected from the United States: the House calendar, the Union calendar, the Consent calendar, the Private calendars, the discharge calendar. All these are described on page 17.

There is also page 18 which shows the position of some Committees. You have what we call the Privileges Committee, like the Appropriation Committee. Some of them are empowered to report from time to time any matters of special interest to the House.

Page 19 also deals on the rules which we now ask the responsibility of preparing should be properly handed over to the Business Committee.

There is also the procedure for handling the Budget. That again is on page 19. It is a matter of Legislation in the United States and is controlled by what is known as the Budget Act and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. That is of special interest. The composition of the Budget Committee is as follows: five Members of the Appropriation Committee, five Members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, and eleven Members from the House, making a total of 23. The role of the Budget Committee is also spelt out on page 20. It is of special interest, and I commend it specially to all of you to try and read and note, particularly the fact that the act provides for a number of broad goals. It provides for the co-ordinating Expenditures, the development of the new Budget Analysis and ensuring an improved capability for determining overall expenditure. All these are part of the responsibilities attached to the Budget Committee.

There is also the Congregational Budget office which is created by the Act. These are ideas we saw there which, if considered by the House, might in due course be transplanted to our own country. There is also the role of the Appropriations Committee which is on page 21. It has a composition of 55. It is about the largest Committee in the United States. That Committee's role also is of special note. That is as far as the Business of the Rules and other Committees goes.

The next thing is some other side reports based on the experiences of the team, for instance the experience of Nigerian Students overseas. We do hope that in due course a special Act will be brought before us for the purpose of making it possible for Members to come back home. There is also the idea of a training scheme which we hope will be adopted here. There are recommendations based on page 22 to guide.

Finally, we register our appreciation to the United States government for the way they have been able to assist and attend to us.

I have before me series of books which we were able to get out: the Powers of the Congress; The little Legislature; the Supreme Court and the Law; the United States experience and the Committee

Reports; the enactment of Law; the Calendars of the United States; (people talk about the calendars. It is good to have an idea of what they look like); also the history of calendars; and other books like, the Legislative process: a comparative approach. All these we were able to bring back. Some were also collected here before we took off.

Hon. Members, I think that is all for now. As I said, it is a fact-finding Report and we have tried to lay before this honourable House our experiences there based on what we saw and the books made available and the research on some of the books that were made available to us.

Finally, I commend this Report to the House so that, when referred to the Business Committee, it will serve as a base for bringing up special Resolutions or giving rise to the basic needs of preparing the Rules of the honourable House.

Once again, I beg to move. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you, Mr Ihekweazu. Any comments?

Mr A. E. Ejiga (Oturkpo): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have a brief comment to make on the Report. The Report is a well-written document, though I will say that it is a bit technical. I would wish that when the final Report comes back to the House, they would write it in the language which we have in our Constitution, which is so brief, so simple and so straight-forward.

Again, Sir, looking at the recommendations in the Report, I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to our Constitution, Section 58 (4), and with the permission of Mr Speaker, I would like to read it:

Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorising such House to delegate to a committee the power to decide whether a bill shall be passed into law or to determine any matter which it is empowered to determine by resolution under the provisions of this Constitution, but the committee may be authorised to make recommendations to the House on any such matter.

I want to say that whatever we do, we should not give any Committee the power to kill any Bill. The power to refuse a Bill should ultimately lie with this House, according to the Constitution. Another matter which I would like to talk about is on our Standing Orders. I remember when we came here first, we were issued with some draft of new Standing Orders, and I understand this draft was referred to the Business Committee. Up till now we have not heard anything about it.

Reading through the Report and the recommendations, I found that there are places where it was suggested that the name of the Business Committee should be changed to Rules Committee. While we would like to emulate what the Americans have done, as much as possible, we should retain our own identity. I think by calling it Business Committee, we can still go on and make the necessary amendments.

With these few comments, I beg to sit.

Engineer S. O. Alu (Afikpo) : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to make a few comments. I think, for almost a year now, this House has been using Standing Orders that were made since 1962. It is indeed a shame, like what the hon. Member who spoke last said, that we have not evolved Standing Orders or Rules of our own. So, I am very happy that since we have sent our Business Committee to the United States, we should expect an immediate action by that Committee to bring to us within a very short time Rules reflecting our new system, reflecting the ingenuity of Nigerians and that they would make the Rules really Nigerian.

Mr Speaker, Sir, but if we inject the American experience into those Rules, that would still be acceptable. The only criticism I have on the Report is that the Report made a very short definition of what the Appropriations Committee is. It says that the Appropriations Committee controls the actual expenditure and appropriation of funds. We notice we have just passed our Budget. Although we can excuse the Appropriations Committee for the little part they have played, but I would have expected the Committee to tell us what they mean by controlling the actual expenditure of the Budget. I hope that when the Report comes out, they will fully define the role of the Appropriations Committee. I hope that they will tell us how actually the United States Congress oversees the expenditure of the Executive because, I think, it is that area we will have some form of conflict between the Assembly and the Executive.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr J. C. Okoli (Ezeagu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have just a brief comment to make on the Motion on the Floor. First of all, I have to congratulate the delegation that travelled to the United States and have come back with some new ideas they want to build into our System to make us operate properly. For too long, we have been having people leaving this House and going on tours and missions and then their ideas fade out and no new ideas or innovations are introduced into this House for us to benefit from such trips.

We are encouraged that this particular delegation has managed to come up with some meaningful report, and we have noticed that there is an element of speed in what they are trying to put across. I am not suggesting that the Chairman of the Business Committee is taking advantage of his position to put forward his own Motion earlier than usual, but that this House needs proper guidance in operating a new system.

The last but one speaker was almost saying that in adopting a new system, we should not forego our own ways. I think this is the danger that should be forestalled by having a quick report from this delegation otherwise, we may resort to the Westminster style of deliberations as our traditional ways of getting things done in this House. So, it is important that this report is given a prompt attention and referred to the Business Committee for them to make recommendations to us for quick adoption to enable us have a proper feel of the new Presidential System which we are trying to operate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is on the speed of getting out this report that I am really after, and we would urge them to try and put across to us those things that they consider easily appreciated and assimilated by people with our own background and our own experiences. We are not Americans and we do not want to be seen as such.

Also, I would like to emphasise that in the proceedings in this House we require a programmed table of events and proper time table for our activities. Recently, we had the experience of having to rush the Budget, and this was principally because there was no special programme drawn up which we should have compelled ourselves to abide by or stick to. Towards the end we found ourselves between the devil and the deep blue sea and had to rush things, maybe, in the way we thought we should. I think if we had a properly drawn up programme of events, people would have conditioned their minds to what we expect with a view to achieving particular objectives, and with that we may have arrived at a more acceptable result without too much of varied opinions.

So, I would urge this Committee, in putting up their report, to be mindful of the necessity of drawing up a programme of events and time-table which we should strictly adhere to in achieving our objectives.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take my seat. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you very much. The hon. Member for Isiala Ngwa (*Mr Apollos Njoku*).

Mr Apollos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it gives me special pleasure to comment on this Report. It seems to me that this is the fourth delegation which has gone off from this House and came back to present a comprehensive report of actual activities and not just tea party delegations. Looking from page 1 of the Report, there is a real time-table of what the delegation was supposed to do, and going through the pages, one would be satisfied that they have been able to meet a lot of personalities who know what they are about and they have been able to attend series of meetings. So, they have come back not only with a comprehensive report, but a report full of new ideas which, if we strive hard to achieve, can really put us on the right path in our deliberations in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, like some other Members have said, I would, in any case, have thought that, knowing the sort of controversy in this House about the duties of the Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee and other Committees, the delegation could have spent a little more time in studying the activities of some of these very important Committees, so that they can once and for all set us a right path towards what we are supposed to do.

I also would like to comment on the recommendations of the Committee in which they have suggested the manner in which Bills or other Reports will be presented through the Speaker's Office. Again, there is a problem in this, because if you look through the whole report, it would appear that one of our greatest handicaps is the problem of facilities.

[MR NJOKU]

Most of these ideas and recommendations cannot be achieved until we have the necessary facilities in this House. It will be necessary now that we have passed the Budget for the Members of this House to do all in their power to find space, and the necessary facilities including staff so that most of these ideas can be put into practice.

It becomes also very necessary that if we must perform well, as we ought to, there is need for some other Committees to be sent to America and some other areas that have, for some time, been practising the Presidential System. If only a few persons go and come back to impart these ideas to us, they may not be very meaningful, but if the various Committees will find time to visit these countries, I am sure that by the time we meet again, everyone of us shall have known ought to know and our performances here will become better and, perhaps, more qualitative.

So, Mr Speaker, like I said earlier on, I want to happily associate myself with the report of the Committee and commend it for adoption. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. GNPP, the hon. Member for Yauri (*Alhaji A. Yelwa*).

Alhaji Mohammed Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members, I must congratulate the Committee on the Report submitted. They certainly deserve a praise for this. In appreciating their Report, I would also like to add here that adaptation should be our guideline. If one follows their recommendations, it is essential that we try to adopt some of these recommendations to fit into our own society. We should not copy all that is done in America, but we should try to do it in a way whereby it would be convenient to the general atmosphere in this country.

The Committee has been doing very well even at home before they went to the United States. They have been supplying us with the weekly time table which we very much appreciate. They also try to keep us informed of what is likely to come up. I hope that what they were doing before they went to America will still continue. For the time being, I hope they will remember that we have certain outstanding Bills and Motions and that they will, as soon as possible, draw up in advance the outstanding Bills and Motions for our consideration, not necessarily bringing them up on the very day we are to discuss them. This also I hope, they will keep in mind.

Finally, I would also like to call on the Committee still to remember that under normal circumstances, the Committee used to draw up a yearly calendar for the Members to note, so that at least we shall know exactly when we shall be on recess and when we shall be at work, and we can prepare ahead what our commitments will be.

So, with these remarks, Sir, I appreciate their efforts and I congratulate them for what they have done.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you, PRP.

Mr Mohammed Lawal Narogo (Karaye) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in associating myself with the Report submitted by this group that went to America, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to one basic fact. It is, of course, my opinion that there should be a Committee to study this Report, filter it reject the rejectables and accept the acceptables, before consideration by this honourable House. It will be, of course, naive, Mr Speaker, to accept the Report as it is now. It seems as if we assume that Nigeria is just like America. There are, of course, a lot of odds against Nigeria, like the NEPA, Nigeria Airways, the P and T and a host of others. You see, American structure is based upon all these superficialities, of which we are completely handicapped.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in this regard, that is the more reason why I am asking this honourable House to set up a Committee to look into the specific areas we can adopt the most relevant issues in the Report, not just to accept the Report for adoption.

With this short remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit down.

The Acting Speaker : UPN, the hon. Member from Bendel State.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to this Report, I have to associate myself with the beautiful Report comprehensively written by the Chairman of the Delegation.

As a matter of fact, having read through this Report, the quality of recommendations in there is very high ; very high in the sense that it would take us many years to live up to that expectation. Nevertheless we have to start and, in fact, we have started in the right direction. I hope, in the course of time, this honourable House will take its place in the comity of nations on Presidential Procedure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we are matching towards a civilized parliamentary democracy in this country. I have no doubt in my mind that we shall, in course of time, justify our position in Africa in dealing with this type of Procedure.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to take my seat. Thank you, very much.

The Acting Speaker : The hon. Member for Lagos State, Mr Badejo.

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, with all respects, I have to congratulate the Members who went to the United States of America and have prepared this Report. Technically, it is very sound, but with all respects, Mr Speaker, Sir, our technological view may be different, because whatever we do in life, every system has its own different schematic ways of doing things. Are we Americans ?

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Badejo : This is a different society, with different historical sequence. The history of America is the history of immigrants, either those who were forced or those who were taken there because of religious persecution. If we know the history of the rules of our Parliamentary Procedure from 1962, we will find that we have been making mistakes.

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Report on trip to U.S.]
We lifted them from the British Constitution and we are not British. Now, we are trying again to go hook, line, and sinker to swallow Uncle Sam's system of Procedure in Congress.

Please, there must be a caveat. The caveat is this. The American System is not similar to our own. There is only a pattern. With regard to our own Presidential System, except for few particularised Executive powers, it is this House that can modify and reject executive power. Whereas in the American System, the Executive power is a blanket one. As a lawyer, the first rule of any rules, whether good or bad, is that any procedural law should not swallow substantive law, whereas the genesis of American System is filibustering. (Interruptions) This is very serious.

My learned Chairman of this Committee was quoting how a Bill is presented. If the Mafia in America does not want a Bill to get lifted up, that is how they start it. They just print it in Congress paper. They have a sub Committee where they will say *sink it to the grave*. We do not want that system here. Technically, as I have stated, the Committee has done a lot but there must be a caveat.

Do not let us surrender to problems, as civilised Gentlemen and Ladies here. If there is any problem, there must be a response to it. Have we responded to our problems before we go to America? No. How have we stream lined our Committees?

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, you have two minutes more.

Mr Badejo : No. So, how did we behave here the other day when we passed 11 Bills within 30 minutes?

An Hon. Member : 11 Reports.

Mr Badejo : 11 Reports. Is that the American type of system? Please, it is all these things we should direct our minds.

The Acting Speaker : Please, hon. Member, go to the point.

Mr Badejo : Yes, Sir, It is only in American system that they have a dictionary called Bunkum.

The Acting Speaker : Point of order. There is point of order.

Mr Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) : I just want to correct my hon. Friend that we passed only one Bill and not eleven.

Mr Badejo : Yes, I stand to be corrected. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, much as I adore the technicality of the Report, please I urge, as my hon. Friend Yelwa said, that we should start from the premises of developing rules that will be conducive to our political atmosphere. From there, we can go to where other people have gone, and we can modify that system to suit our own. These are my views, I beg to sit.

[Adjournment] 2698

The Acting Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Rivers State Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Speakers Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

The Acting Speaker : Any seconder?

Dr Eze O. A. Nwala (Ikwerre/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question that the Question be now put, put and agreed to. Main question accordingly put and agreed too.

Resolved : That the Report of the Delegation of the Business Committee to the United States of America (laid on the Table, 29th May, 1980) be adopted, and referred to the Business Committee for their study and recommendations to the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Bubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Martin Effiom (Oron III) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Member, from Benue State, Mr Agi.

Stop Consulting Governors on road Priorities

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to speak on a topic that was touched upon by the Minister in the Ministry of Works as reported in the *New Nigerian* of 30th May, 1980. There, the hon. Minister was answering questions from the Senate Committee on Public Works. He was quoted as saying, and I quote—

That all the State Governments had been advised to send the list of their priorities of roads to the Ministry of Works.

I feel that this requirement is not right. The requirement would have been right if we were still under a Military Regime. But in a situation where we are now in a civil democratic regime and where all the Local Government Council Areas and Senatorial Districts have been represented by Members in the National Assembly, all priorities of roads and procedure for fixing them, should fall to a forum that ought to have been instituted by the Ministry of Works to consist of the Executive of the Ministry of Works and the respective representatives of the various Local Government Areas. A situation where the Governors of each State are asked to forward priorities on roads to the Ministry of Works is not satisfactory. Nobody can tell me that the Governor of my State might consider a particular Federal Road that is of interest to my own people in Oju Local Government as being a priority or not in 1980.

It is only I, who is in a position to give the facts of any particular road and who should have been consulted in a forum of all the representatives affected, that can determine the priority or otherwise of a particular Federal Road in a particular fiscal

[MR AGI]

Year. So, I am now calling on the Federal Ministry of Works, through the Minister of Works, to discontinue that practice that was initiated during the Military regime. The Military regime had no representatives. They were at best using a roughshod method of collecting priorities of roads through the various Military Governors of each State. But now that the people have sent their representatives, it should be the duty of these people to liaise with the Ministry of Works and agree on priorities of Federal Roads in each particular State and in each fiscal year.

I bother to bring this point because if I may quote from the *West Africa Magazine* of two weeks ago, roads are very important. A correspondent in that paper had this to say, with particular reference to the 1980 budget, as affects roads and I beg to quote, Mr Speaker.

Roads, since historical empires are the foundations on which life, work and unity of the State, the economy and society are built. Rural development schemes, housing schemes, green revolution, and what have you will come to nothing without adequate road networks radiating access to all parts of this vast country. The absence of adequate road coverage or their concentration in a few areas has not only resulted in low exploitation of our basic products which yield the most needed Foreign exchange earnings, but has in fact abetted inflation by increasing cost of foodstuffs and imported goods due to added cost by the time the foodstuffs come to the rural population that consumes them.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter because all the programmes of this Government and any other government will not be realised unless proper priorities with regard to road networks are fixed and these things are distributed as fairly as possible. The corporatives, and what we want to give to the people, will not receive the goods to be stuffed in these houses unless we bother to fix priorities of roads and make it a matter of consultation between the direct representatives of the Local Government area, and stop consulting with the State Governors who, at most, are not the people that are directly accountable to the respective and various local government areas. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit this for noting down. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : The hon. Member from Cross River State, hon. Ukanah.

Legislative Participation in Fourth National Development Plan

Mr A. Ukanah (Ukanafun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, my area of discussion will very much be akin to what the last hon. Member has spoken about. That is with respect to the Fourth National Development Plan. Perhaps, Members are not quite aware that the planning for the Fourth National Development Plan is on, on the Executive side. I would think that it is for the interest of this nation, now that we are here to participate effectively and fully in the

drawing of the Fourth National Development Plan, particularly now that the House of Representatives have been able to get done with the Budget.

It would be of interest and it is important, I hope, that we in the committees should address ourselves to planning for the Fourth National Development Plan otherwise we might find ourselves in the situation we find now being responsible for what we cannot account for. We would be involved by the grace of God in the next three years. If we do not know, if we are not part and parcel of the planning now, we might not even be able to legislate towards the implementation of some of these programmes. This is my contribution, Mr Speaker.

Misinformation

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, I wish once again, to draw the attention of the House to a matter which I consider of some importance, and it is a matter that pertains to freedom and responsibility. That is the way I would like to look at it. I am not going to speak generally about freedom ; I want to talk on only one aspect of it : and that is freedom of speech, and the freedom to express one's opinion. I want to say, Sir, that as custodians of the Constitution, we have the right to protect the Constitution. We should all take it as a matter of course to cherish freedom. However, like in every other thing, whenever you give you expect to receive, and to freedom must be attached responsibility, even at the risk of being dubbed a media critic.

I would venture to take the risk of, once again, pointing an accusing finger at some sections of the mass communication industry in this country. It is painful that whenever certain matters arise or whenever the nation runs into difficulty it is usually those along the corridors of power, those at the helm of affairs who are first accused of mis-management, of complicity, of negligence and of ineptitude. We often forget that all these are a sum total or an amalgam of the contributions of all of us. In this regard, Sir, I regret to say that some of our professional communicators have either been failing in their duties or have shown gross irresponsibility. How can you explain, Sir, a deliberate distortion of facts, a deliberate and orchestrated mis-information, constant attempt to alienate a certain group of people or those who have been chosen to rule ? It is my view that this is an exhibition of irresponsibility in high quarters. I shall give an instance. There are certain papers, two newspapers, involved and I will dare to mention names : the *Nigerian Tribune* and occasionally the *PUNCH*. (Laughter)

I have singled out the greatest culprits. This is not to say that these two papers I have mentioned are completely bad in themselves or that the other papers I have not mentioned are completely exonerated. I have merely mentioned the greatest culprits in my opinion.

[MR OJUKWU]

Mr Speaker, Sir, sectionalism is part of journalism. Speculation is part of journalism. But there are certain times when matters of public interest, national stability and overall interest of the common man whose cause we claim to champion must be paramount in our minds. How can we excuse printing in the front page of any newspaper that legislator's annual salary is ₦60,000 per annum? What is the motive? What is the intention? Is it just to sell the newspaper? Is it to cause disaffection, or is it to inform? Indeed, this is misinformation. Is it a distortion of facts. These things are perpetuated and well orchestrated and they go on day in day out.

What bothers me, Mr Speaker, is that some of us have had a chat with some of the journalists, around. They are fine men and ladies. They are nice people, ordinary good Nigerians. It would seem that there are certain people who saddle the chairmanship of these organisations whose duties it is either to mutilate what these correspondents file in or force them somehow to tow their lines. It is a matter of deep regret and I am calling on the mass media to look at this matter. What is more, is that an hon. Member of this House very recently, to be precise on Sunday in the Sunday issue of the *Sunday Tribune*, has gone at great length and has taken great pains to lambast the Speaker of this House. Such a Member has all the opportunities in the world to air her views and unpleasantness on the Floor of this House. Some of the things that were said were not true. When you are correcting somebody, is it your aim to destroy the person or to correct the person so that he performs better? These are questions which we must avert our minds to.

It is my opinion that the article credited to Mrs Abiola Babatope which must have been ghosted in my opinion by her husband, Mr Babatope, who has been in the scene, is in a very bad taste. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, if I am receiving this response— (*Interruptions*) I say with great responsibility that some of us who have witnessed the events in this country know that they were generated and started by a chain of re-actions by a sum total of certain unbridled remarks. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not retarding my remarks.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : My point of order is order 26 (2). The last Speaker has no right whatsoever—

The Acting Speaker : Your Order is well taken.

Mr Ojukwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for calling me to order. It is well appreciated. However, I want to conclude by saying that we all owe ourselves a responsibility and this is a sober and a sombre appeal to the people in the mass communication industry to please temper their criticisms. It is all in the interest of all of us. We want to operate in an atmosphere that is devoid of rancour and hatred. I would like to be corrected but I would like it to be done with charity.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion for Adjournment.

Nigeria Airways

Mrs J. C. Eze (Uzo-Uwani) : Speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, Sir, I want to emphasise to the honourable House that the way the Nigeria Airways are handling the affairs of their fellow Nigerians travelling by their services and the way they are treating passengers are very unbecoming. I think it has been brought to our notice that some foreigners have been invited into this country to control and introduce a better formula by which Nigeria Airways could be run. By this process I am sure Nigerians are paying twice the salary we have to pay to a fellow Nigerian to each of these expatriates, just to make sure that we get better services.

Unfortunately, these foreigners cannot introduce boarding passes system, which everyone of us who has travelled abroad could appreciate. Everyday you find air passengers both men and women with dignity, our Chiefs, running to the aircraft just like boys who are running to board buses. I look at it as being ridiculous and most of the time you find these expatriates in Nigeria looking at us as very stupid people.

So, with this, I want to say, Mr Speaker, that if the Nigerian Airways could introduce a method by which they number the seats in the aircraft and number the Boarding Passes which as well go to control this habit of bribery and corruption by which when you come by 12 o'clock to check in for aircraft travelling by 2 o'clock, somebody who came in by quarter to two will board before you, if they can number the seats in the aircraft and number the Boarding Passes, when you are going to board, they number your Boarding Pass, you go in quietly when the announcement is made. There is no need running. You cannot run again because already your seat is numbered. So, you will walk quietly if you want to walk, but those who are accustomed to running can run the whole day. But when you get inside the aircraft, you would be sure that the number of your seat is there and the number is marked on your Boarding Pass and you will go and sit down gently like a human being.

So, with this, Mr Speaker, I would like us to take note that the Nigerian Airways and their management should be called to order to allocate numbers to the seats of the aircraft and do the same to the Boarding Passes. Thank you.

Elephant Rampage at Borno and Gongola States

Mr Audu Mbicho (Gwoza) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, what I have to say on the Motion for Adjournment is about the invasion of elephants in some parts of this country, especially Borno and Gongola States. Mr Speaker, Sir, the damage caused by this class of animals is very serious. Apart from all the initiatives taken by his Excellency the Governor of Borno State with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, still nothing has been done about it. Let me appeal, through this honourable House, about the seriousness of the damage caused by these animals. It has been determined that about 2,000

[MR MBICHO]

hectares of land was destroyed by this class of animals in Gwoza in Borno State some years ago, as a result of which most of the farmers have already left the area because of this undesirable condition of living.

Mr Speaker, to me, apart from all the preaching of Green Revolution, the said Green Revolution is not taking place in these areas because the elephants are there, and the elephants there are causing great damage. Many appeals have been made by the people of that area to the Federal Government and even to the State Government, but still nothing has been done. I think it is high time this House did something or appealed to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, if at all these areas are to participate in this Green Revolution actively. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Let us steer clear of Partisanship

Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in associating myself with the Motion for Adjournment I would like to talk on two basic issues. The first one is that which affects this honourable House. That is, this House has been dragged to plunge itself into partisanship, and I believe it is high time for this House to maintain all the honour and dignity it deserves by not trying to indulge itself in partisanship. We are all hon. Members, and we have been sworn and we are also the fathers of the nation ; we are supposed to mend where it has leaked or broken down. So, Mr Speaker, this sort of sad affair that has been happening by the Speaker plunging this House into the affairs of one party or the other, is unfortunate. So, I believe with these few remarks, henceforth such an issue should be stopped.

The second issue, is that since October 1st, when we came into power, I believe everything has now settled down to normalcy. In certain areas in this country, it is a very sad thing to note that up till now political victimization, political head-on collision and rampant clashes have been occurring up in the North. Why? As a result, very many lives are being lost everyday. Mr Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the simple fact that there are, of course, certain groups of individuals who are all out to commit atrocities and to destabilise this nation, that is, by compelling people to believe in their line of beliefs, of which gone were the years when an average Nigerian would be compelled to believe in what he did not believe.

I am not saying anything with regard to any other issue apart from what has been happening in Kano State around Hadejia, political clashes NPN versus PRP, and in Bauchi State, NPN versus PRP ; and in Borno State, NPN versus GNPP and, of course, in Sokoto State hundreds of defenceless Nigerians were massacred by the Police. The government used its open and naked brutality to butcher the innocent and, of course, defenceless citizens of this country who have nothing. I am only referring to the Bakalori issue. Facts are fact so it is high time we called a spade a spade.

The Acting Speaker : Wind up, please.

Mr David Agi (Oju) : Point of order.

The Acting Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Agi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am afraid the quorum is not formed in this honourable House.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. We will allow two speakers from the UPN. The hon. Member for Ijebu Remo (*Dr Obatayo Ogunkoya*) is to speak.

Sale of Arms and Illegal Immigrants

Dr Obatayo Ogunkoya (Ijebu Remo) : In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, on a serious note and a very serious note, I think we are all living in fear in this country. The fear is originated by the so-called armed robbers. The armed robbers are a menace to any civilised society.

But it is unfortunate that while the police and all good intentioned citizens of this country are doing their best to curb armed robbery there are still some elements of people who are still making a very good business on the sale of arms. In and around the old Dodan Barracks, there are some nasty ex-soldiers who are making at the rate of one thousand naira daily on selling arms of all calibres, pistols and all what not. It is unfortunate that within these groups of people there are also some aliens and ex-soldiers. Unfortunately, nobody is interested in mentioning Biafra and what not or Nigerian Army. We are all Nigerians now. But at the same time, there are some groups of people in and around Port Harcourt who are selling arms to some of these armed robbers.

There was a startling evidence by one Mukaila who is held up in a Police Custody somewhere in Ilupeju. He gave some fantastic revelations which would shock any civilised society. Even, he went as far as describing how the vehicle of one Mr Attah, one of our Members, was stolen at Assess Hotel and taken straightaway to one Usman Mohammed somewhere in Yaba, and they collected ₦2,500 on the spot and shared the money, ₦400 each. Immediately this vehicle got to this man, Usman Mohammed, he was waiting with a Kaduna number, a Kaduna Insurance Certificate, Kaduna Road Traffic Licence and everything. The plate number was changed immediately and the car was driven away. It is very fortunate that we have some good Policemen ; and I was able to interview him. He is a very nice and intelligent man indeed. Mr Kaltungo, who happens, by co-incidence, to be a brother or a cousin of our Leader of the House here. He gave revelations about some aliens in the society, particularly in and around our big cities, who are co-operating with the armed robbers in this country.

We must be very careful. If ECOWAS is going to mean anything to us, it must mean something positive, positive in the sense that we cannot allow, these aliens to flood this country without some definition. Even in Europe where there is European Economic Community, you cannot walk into any country without real papers being scrutinised

A lot of these people are in this country to do nothing but havoc. We realise recently that Dahomey, Togo, Camerouns and even some parts of Niger have opened their doors for most of the vehicles being stolen in this country to come to their places.

Let us face it. There is over ₦6.8 billion in circulation now, and every year armed robbers go away with ₦1 billion of it. That means for every ₦7 made in this country, ₦1 goes into the hands of the armed robbers.

I want to point out two facts which must be looked into by the authorities responsible. First, who are these people selling arms in and around the Dodan Barracks? Who are these so called Biafrans?

An hon. Member : There is no Biafra.

Dr Ogunkoya : Let me finish. Who are these people selling arms in and around Port Harcourt? These must be investigated. Again, the duties of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs should be well scrutinised as to allow only those responsible aliens to enter into eth shores of this country.

With these comments, I beg to support the Motion.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. The hon. Member for Oron III (*Mr Martin Okon Effiong*) should be the last Member, please.

Cross River State

Mr Martins Okon Effiong (Oron III) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, in my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to bring to this honourable House the frequent incidents which are occurring at Abana and Atabong and Edemurua the fishing villages between the *gendarmes* and our fishermen. Here, the *gendarmes* are torturing our people, confiscating their property and subjecting them to such inhuman treatment which I myself cannot describe. So, I appeal to this honourable House to try everything that we can to tell our President to find a lasting solution to some of these boundary disputes, over territorial waters with the Camerouns.

Furthermore, Sir, it is clear to every citizen of Cross River Sate that we are really neglected. In 1976, there was the discovery of petroleum oil in commercial quantity at Akata, Ikpe, Ukwo and Annamkpa. To our greatest surprise, the Federal Government had to leas these four wells and placed them under reserved concession. The citizens of Cross River State are not happy about this, and that is why we wish this to be placed on record and to appeal to our President to direct without any further delay the production of petroleum oil by the African Petroleum Development Company. If this is not done, we shall not be happy about it at all.

Furthermore, there is a very big cheating. The petroleum oil was discovered some years ago in the Rivers State and in Bendel State and some thing had been done there. Refineries have been built. One at Port Harcourt and one at Bendel and there is another one now being built at Kaduna.

So, we feel there will be no compromise, no matter whatever happens, if, after the completion of that of Kaduna, if another refinery is not built in Cross River State. Thank you, Sir.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. The hon. Member for Gamawa (*Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar*), please, move that the Question be now put.

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 4th June, 1980

The House met at 10.50 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker : Order ! Order ! Members of the Public Relations Committee, you will meet in my office immediately after this sitting, please.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Priority on Old Roads

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I want to correct an impression in the *Punch* publication for today. As a Member of the Public Works and Survey Committee, the Report stating that the Federal Government has no priority for repairing old roads is false. This impression is out in the *Punch* publication for today under an interview with the *Punch* Editor and Senator Odebiyi where they stated that the Federal Government has never found ways and means of repairing old roads, but only found a way to build new roads.

Referring to our draft Budget that has been passed, in Other Charges, we have about ₦90 million for rehabilitation of trunk roads in the Federation. Again, in Special Charges, we have ₦71 million for asphalt laying and port-hole repairs. So, with this provision of about ₦160 million by the Federal Government for rehabilitating and laying of asphalt on old roads, I do not see how it is true that the Federal Government has given no priority in repairing old roads, but building new roads.

This impression should be corrected by the *Punch* publication, that Federal Government are always doing what is good for the public. Writing this is an adverse reflection on the National Assembly and the Federal Government itself. If he has said that the old regime had no priority on old roads, I can say maybe he is a little bit correct ; but saying that the present regime has no priority for roads is false and should be corrected in the Senate.

Presentation of Public Petitions

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : I crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker, Sir, to present two petitions under Rule 11 (1) and (2) of the Standing Orders. One of these petitions, Sir, came from one Mr Alamu Adeyemi of Ogun State while the other came from Mr E. E. Okujeni of Bendel State.

I am presenting Mr Adeyemi's petition, Sir, on humanitarian ground. This young man had an accident sometime ago, and he was almost crippled. On his discharge from the hospital, he was given a job at the Neuro Psychiatric Hospital, Aro Abeokuta. He was working there until he ran into trouble with the Head of his department, and consequently he was given the boot.

Mr Adeyemi felt that he was not properly treated and so the best place to seek redress was the National Assembly. So, he sent this petition through me to this honourable House. In fact, he has been here several times in wheel a chair and has had discussions with hon. Mr Speaker. The redress Mr Adeyemi seeks, Mr Speaker, is that this honourable House should intervene in the matter of his appointment with a view to securing his re-instatement. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to present.

The other petition from Mr Okujeni of Bendel State, is quite different from that of Mr Adeyemi of OgunState. With your permission, Sir, I would like to read a few extracts from the petition. Mr Okujeni is an industrialist. His petition says:

On the 1st of January, 1980, the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria carried a news item to the effect that the Federal Government has made a grant of ₦500,000 available to NIFOR in Benin, and the FIIR in Oshodi to research into the preservation, bottling and development of the palm wine. I received the news with mixed feelings of joy and sadness.

I was happy that the Federal Government has at last taken a positive stand on this vital and prestigious traditional industry. On the other hand, Sir, I was sad that the award was not based on merit, competence and the need to achieve result in the shortest possible time. I have, therefore, decided to submit this petition in order to bring to the notice of the Government, through the National Assembly, other vital options available for considerations, and if possible, to call for a redress of the situation and save the Government from unnecessary wastage of time and funds.

He went on to say, Sir : *Over 14 years ago I drew up a comprehensive programme of integrated pioneer research and development in rafia palm tree as major strategic forest research of the Federation. The programme was started as an expression of private initiative in National Economic Development. He went on to talk about the problems facing the palm wine industry in Nigeria today as follows : inadequate supply of the pure wine to meet the demand of drinkers who number millions all over the country ; the unhygienic and inefficient one man traditional industry pattern of preparation which severely limits the capability of the tapers to a few trees daily, and on scanty yield of wine ; the ever increasing distance, the extremely filthy conditions.*

He then talked about the assistance he is seeking from the Federal Government : *this application is to ask the Federal Government for some financial assistance for the purpose of carrying out the development of the technological, infrastructural facilities for the effective exploitation of the rafia palm tree economic potential as follows : (i) the design and drawing of equipment, machinery and so on ; the fabrication and so on and so forth.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, this petition is on a programme of integrated pioneer research and development in the rafia palm tree as a major forest research. With this explanation, Mr Speaker, I beg to present the petitions.

(Amendment) Bill]

Mr Speaker : The petition will be referred to the Public Petitions Committee.

Resignation of a Member

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have received a letter of vacation of seat from a Member. It reads as follow :

*Local Government Service Commission,
Gongola State,
P.M.B. 2103,
Yola.*

31st January, 1980.

*The Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
P.M.B. 12512,
Lagos.*

Mr Speaker, Sir,

Vacation of Seat

I, hon. Idrisu N. Medugu, Member for Madagali Constituency of Gongola State do hereby vacate my seat as from 31st January, 1980 following my recent appointment as Chairman, Gongola State Local Government Service Commission.

This vacation of my seat in the House is in compliance with Section 64 subsection 1(e) of our Constitution.

May I take the opportunity at this juncture to mention how privileged I was to have been associated with the functions of this Great House.

I wish every honourable member of the house useful deliberations which should be in the interest of peace, unity and political stability of this Great Country of ours.

*Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) IDRISU N. MEDUGU*

The Leader of GNPP, please tell the former hon. Member that we wish him well in his future endeavour.

Votes and Proceedings

Hon. Members, I have seen the votes and proceedings for yesterday and they are in order.

**National Electric Power Authority
(Amendment) Bill**

A bill for an Act to make provision for the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority.

CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairman : Yes, Chief Gbinije.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, the Committee on Mines and Power is proud to submit its Report on the above mentioned Bill referred to it for action. It is necessary to invite the attention of hon. Members to the fact that the original Bill has gone through the

Senate where it has substantially been amended. The amended version of the Bill titled S.7-80E was subsequently forwarded to this House for its affirmation or otherwise. Your Committee has examined the Bill clause by clause and has therefore proposed the following Amendments.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before I go on there is a corrigendum on the pigeon holes of Members, and I hope they will take note as I go on with the main correction. The corrigendum stipulates the error committed in substituting *Director of Mineral Resources* in place of *Electrical services*. Please, in your Amendment take note of that because it appears on the Order Paper.

The Chairman : Is it an Amendment ?

Chief Gbinije : No, this is just an error in the paper before the House. If it is not corrected now they will not follow others.

The Chairman : Yes, go on.

Chief Gbinije : In page C1, line I, leave out the word *Federation* and insert the word *Federal Republic*, instead thereof.

The Chairman : Chief Gbinije, I thought you will just deal with your Report, and in course of your telling us, refer to your Amendments so that you leave it for us to vote on the Amendments when you have finished.

Chief Gbinije : I have earlier stated that the amended version of the Bill titled S.7-80E was subsequently forwarded to the House for its affirmation or otherwise. Your Committee has examined the Bill clause by clause and has therefore proposed the following Amendments. The Amendments are stated on the Report. The purpose of this Bill is to reduce the number of officials in the number of persons constituting the Board of Directors of the National Electric Power Authority and to increase the number of Non-Ex-Officio Members in the Bill.

This is in accord with the spirit of the new Constitution so as to give the Board Members full and sufficient autonomy to be able to carry out the functions of the Board. To this end, the following Amendments have been proposed. The main issue on this Bill is that this Bill is not the main Bill for the National Electric Power Authority. It is only an attempt to amend clause 2 of the Bill so as to make provision for the Appointment of Members of the Board.

Now, in page C1, line I, leave out the word *Federation* and insert the word *Federal Republic*, instead thereof. This is considered more concise and appropriate to the spirit of the Constitution Amendment of the National Electric Power Authority Decree 1972 number 24, 1977 number 35 and 1979 No. 64 :

In Page C1, line 10, leave out the words *Minister with the approval of this*.

It is considered that the President should be responsible for the Appointment since he is an elected person and should be more responsible to the Nation.

[CHIEF GBINIJE]

In page C1, line 12, leave out the words Minister (with the approval of the President). The reason for the change is as given as above. In page C2, lines 1 and 2, leave out the words Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, and in his absence. All those items that I mentioned should be deleted. In page C2 line 1, leave out the words *Permanent Secretary* and insert the words *Director of Electrical Inspectorate Service instead thereof*. Your Committee consider the interest of the Ministry should be well represented by the Heads of that Division relative to the work on hand. In page C2 lines 2 and 3, leave out the words *or in his absence the Director of Electrical Services*. The words, if not deleted, will result in unnecessary repetition and would not serve any useful purpose.

In conclusion we invite the hon. Members to examine critically the Amendments clause by clause and approve them as recommended. In the same token we request this honourable House to arrange as soon as possible a Conference of both Houses of the National Assembly to resolve the few discrepancies as required by law. It is our honour and privilege to be at your service, and we hope that this Bill will pass through this House as it is not a controversial one.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : Thank you, Chief Gbinije. Yes, Members any comments? Yes, Dr Obihara.

Dr C. Obihara (Owerri South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I find very often or sometime at least in the past, in the composition of Members of some of these Boards, people have tended to say that the Permanent Secretary should be removed. I find that the Permanent Secretary, by definition, is the Chief Executive of the Ministry.

Several Members : No.

Dr Obihara : I am sorry. He was until recently ; now it is the Minister. Before now it was the Permanent Secretary, but in the new Constitution it is the Minister. But the Permanent Secretary with the Minister still remain the Chief Executives of the Ministry, and it is not necessary to remove the Permanent Secretary because many things pass through him in the Ministry. You will find that he makes policies with the Minister, and on very many issues he is, in fact, the most important Civil Servant in that Ministry. I do not therefore support the Amendment here that the Permanent Secretary should be removed from the Board. I would rather suggest that he should be left as a Member of the Board.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, any other comment? You want to say something? Yes.

Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim (Kiyawa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is necessary to remove all the Permanent Secretaries from the Boards because usually they do not allow their Directors and Members of the Board to work properly. Most of the time if there is any paper that may come from the Managing

Director of a certain Company, the Permanent Secretary will just take it and put it under his table, and he will not have the time to attend the meetings most of the time, so I think this Amendment is quite good we should leave it there. If possible we should remove the Permanent Secretary from the Ministry, Sir. Thank you, very much.

The Chairman : Any other comment?

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my only observation is that this Committee has used the amended version from the Senate to render this Report. I am of the opinion that in subsequent Amendments by Committees on the proposed bills it is better and, for purposes of balance, it would be easier for us or for such Committee to use the original Bill which came in from the Ministry, and then to compare what the Ministry's Bill is with the amended version from the Senate, if such a Bill came through the Senate. But in this case, it will be discovered that the Committee Report refers us to page C 2 line 2, whereas it is not there. So, it sort of complicates the situation. Mr Chairman, in future, if Committees are working on a Bill from a Ministry, it would guide us better or more if the original Bill is treated and compared with the Senate Amendment, and where the Committee agrees with the Senate Amendment they should give a reason ; if they differ from the Senate Amendment they should also give a reason.

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is my submission.

The Chairman : Thank you. Yes, Alhaji Tuggar.

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. It is my considered belief that the purpose of the Amendment to the main body of the law establishing the National Electric Power Authority for this country is to enhance and promote its services to the general public of this country. This being the case, I would have to make a number of observations.

I do agree, Mr Chairman, Sir, that the National Electric Power Authority, like other Parastatals in this country has its own difficulties and short-comings. But I venture to say, Mr Chairman, that the National Electric Power Authority, in my considered opinion, is the only parastatal in this country whose problems are being further complicated by many other Government Agencies. I would elaborate on what I mean, Mr Chairman. On many occasions, Ministries, Departments and Corporations will plan major industrial Estates or industrial projects for the production of goods without necessarily involving the National Electric Power Authority. Not until everything is completed are they called upon to connect electricity.

This normally puts NEPA in a very difficult situation. Maybe their transformers along the line are insufficient to carry that kind of load. In many cases, local governments and state governments built secretariats and offices for Ministries without advance information to NEPA that these things are going to be completed next year, and that time they would need NEPA to bring electricity. They would not take them into consideration ; they would not co-operate with them. They would start

and complete building and the last day either a Governor is going to open the building tomorrow or next week they say, *NEPA give us fire, the Governor is going to open this building.*

This kind of situation, Mr Chairman, must be checked. The general public also are not co-operating. We are not behaving in accordance with the regulations of the NEPA. You will find an individual will build a house, he will apply for electricity and say he is going to instal one air-conditioning unit. That is the way they will assess the supply of electricity to his house. But in six months, you will find that he has got three or four units without informing them that he is increasing his consumption. We have to co-operate if we want NEPA to really be of useful service to the whole country. When we do give this co-operation, I am sure we will be happy with their services. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr A. E. Ayomanor (Okpe) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Member who spoke last, the hon. Member for Tangale-Waja south (*Alhaji Yinusa Kaltungo*) was making a very poor defence of the NEPA. It is very poor indeed. At the time that Kainji was being constructed, we were told that not only would it be able to feed the whole of the Federation, but it would be able to sell power to friendly neighbouring countries. But before it was opened, we found that the power that the NEPA was supplying was inadequate for the whole Federation.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my point of order is 26 (2). We are considering the Bill to constitute the board, and not anything about the working system of NEPA and their light and so on. Thank you.

Mr Ayomanor : In order to reconstitute the board of NEPA so as to be effective, you have to know exactly how NEPA is functioning. There is no use for anybody here to put up any defence for NEPA. NEPA has gone on from year to year without any satisfaction to members of the public. In fact, from experience we see that any time NEPA cuts off light, and you do not have light, that month, very probably, your Bill will go up, so that the less you use the more you pay.

Therefore, hon. Gentlemen, for the reconstitution of the board of NEPA, all those people who had hands in the running of NEPA in the past years should be dropped, more especially the Permanent Secretaries. These people have had hands to run NEPA for years and we never saw any improvement. It is better that the board should be over-hauled so that we can see how new people would run the board, and see whether we can have any improvement. It is no use coming here to put up any poor defence for NEPA from any angle whatsoever.

Mrs J. C. Eze (Izo-Uwani) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am on a follow up from what the last speaker, the hon. Member for Okpe (*Mr Ayomanor*) has said. In fact, the position that NEPA has placed Nigeria is becoming very unbearable. Right now, you know, frustration could lead to so many things. I want to state that most of our small scale industries are nearly winding up. These things are very painful

because when a man cannot afford his three square meals, his next step is to plan trouble. So, I am using this opportunity to support the last speaker that the present Management we have in NEPA should really be changed including the Permanent Secretary.

Right now in Enugu, life is becoming very unbearable. You can stay in Enugu for one week, you may not have light for two days. You see, seamstresses, block-makers, all the people that use small automobile electrical plants to do their job have been forced to buy one Generating Plant or the other. When these plants cannot function, it means those families cannot earn their living.

It is well to appeal to NEPA authorities that it is high time they rehabilitated Oji Power Station. Everybody in Nigeria today can see with me that the Kainji Dam cannot feed Nigeria not to talk of patronising neighbouring countries. In that respect, let them rehabilitate other power stations like Oji to enable living people around that side to get on with their means of livelihood.

Another thing I have to say is that the NEPA, in itself, as I see it, as the last speaker said, the month you do not even use your light at all, whether all their meters are dead or not you are surely going to pay more in your Bill. Some of these things have to be checked ; whether it is done possibly by the meter readers or they were instructed to do so I do not know.

So, with this, I support that the Permanent Secretary and the rest of them should be changed for a new Board Management and the Board must reflect the Federal character. Thank you.

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jamai North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill in front of me, about the reconstitution of the Board Members of NEPA, I would like to make certain observations. NEPA has seen changes in its life only in form of name but not in form of implementation. It is a pity, Mr Chairman, that for years the Nigerian Government has sunk a lot of money into NEPA, and NEPA has achieved nothing. If we should check the aggregate of NEPA's achievements, you will find out that NEPA has achieved nothing. It is completely nil.

In supporting this idea, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the present Board that is now going to take the responsibility of running NEPA to make sure that the four years of their stay in this Board should not be counted as unprogressive years like the others before them who played that role. We want them to be methodical in their services to make sure that anomalies of NEPA are brought into light and examined properly. And within the four years, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like NEPA to become a private organisation, because in this country the moment that the Federal government sinks money into a public organisation without accountability, you will find that they will do nothing. NEPA for the past nine years has not given her account to be audited, and this is a very serious issue. I would like the Board to seriously come to the aid of Nigerians to examine the account of NEPA which have not been audited for the past nine years.

[MR ZUBAIRU]

Secondly, I would like to include here that in the Board Membership a member of the Chamber of Commerce should be included because they are the people who look after the industrial set-up in this country. They go and bring expatriates to go into business entrepreneurship. You will and on most occasions find that people have refused to invest in Nigeria because they have always said if you have a gigantic project in Nigeria you have no light. In the long run, the cost benefit will not meet your expenses and you will run into losses. Let us take the case of Peugeot Company in Kaduna. They have been suffering the crisis of NEPA, and other companies have also been suffering the crisis of NEPA.

So, Mr Chairman, I would actually like that NEPA should compete with other electrical organisations, NESCO which is based in Jos. NESCO is a private organisation. Before the birth of NEPA in Jos, NESCO has been working tremendously well. But immediately NEPA took up the services in Jos, you find today there is no light ; for 24 hours you have light for only three hours. So, I would like NEPA to compete with NESCO. If they cannot do that, we have to amend the Constitution and allow a state to operate her own system of electricity.

I wish I were a member of the Constituent Assembly, who made it absolutely necessary for NEPA to install their wires and almost everything throughout the country and stopped other States running their own electricity. With these contributions, Mr Chairman, I beg to sit down.

The Chairman : Let us take the Amendments one by one. Yes, Chief Gbinije.

Mr Adekunle Alli (Lagos South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my contribution on this point is that the reconstitution of the new NEPA Board must not only reflect the Federal character in the country but it must also reflect the political character of the country.

Several hon. Members : No !

Nigeria belongs to the entire people of this country. We cannot have a situation in which members of one political party would dominate the running of an important institution like the National Electric Power Authority.

All of us have complained of recurrent power failures. Apart from the technical problems involved in running this institution, there is also the question that once we allow the running of that institution to fall into the hands of members of one political party, then we are going to have a situation in this country in which certain parts of the country may suffer from perennial black-outs.

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr A. T. Lawal (Ifelodun) : I am referring to Order 26 (2). My Colleague is talking irrelevancies because our Party would not like to be a Member of any Board. So, it should not reflect the party system. (Applause)

Mr Gbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : On a more serious note, Mr Chairman, I think we should be able to correct ourselves on the Floor of this House so that we may go out and find out facts. It is not true that Kainji Dam cannot supply. In this respect, I want to draw a distinction between production and distribution. Up till today what is really wrong with NEPA is the distribution methods. This is why Alhaji Tuggar has pointed that out. From Kainji you can supply whenever you want to supply to this nation and other nations and that still remains as a fact.

The fact is that if we ourselves do not help and co-operate with NEPA as far as distribution is concerned, it could be likened to the production of power in Enugu which you have concentrated in distributing to Port Harcourt alone without necessarily distributing throughout the world. Please let us get that straight, that there is nothing wrong with Kainji up till today.

Another thing I want to correct is this. Some of us are saying that the Permanent Secretaries should not be a Member of the Boards and we tie their hands down, I do support that they should not. The reason we should give is that they should concentrate more on formulating policies in their offices, reading at large getting us what goes on in other parts of the world, how they are able to make their own Electric Corporation to work for the benefit of the people. I think the Military boys brought them in because they (the Military) were ignorant of some things in this country, and the Permanent Secretary was found at that time to be a ready hand to supplement whatever was to be done at that time.

With these few comments. Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Bill.

Dr J. S. Muhammed (West Ward) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in making any contribution on the Bill before the House, I would like to make a few observations. The first observation I have is a constitutional one. According to part 2 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1979, Electric Generation falls under the concurrent legislative list. My amendment, Mr Chairman, Sir, is that all along NEPA has pretended to have the statutory monopoly of generating electricity and distributing electricity in this country. I think we need to bring it to the Government that NEPA has not got this monopoly as far as the Constitution is concerned.

Mr Chairman, Sir, much as I would like to castigate NEPA for bad distribution system which is erratic, badly managed and what have you, we have to be careful in actually putting the blame where it belongs. I think it is a national malaise. You would find that when the first National Development Plan was being thought out and being formulated, nobody thought about making a focus on the amount of electricity that was going to be needed within the Plan period. We had a situation whereby the organisation responsible for generating and distributing electricity in this country did not know how much electricity was being needed. Now, if we did not know how much was going to be required, NEPA, as far as I am concerned, both from Ijora, Kainji Dam and other generating areas, simply cannot cope with the demand that is being put on it by the nation. Then we cannot blame NEPA for erratic power supply.

[DR MUHAMMED]

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have a situation whereby, as somebody has indicated, a few generating areas for electricity has been taken over by NEPA under this guise of exclusivity in generating and distribution of electricity, like the NESCO in Jos. They are making a mess of it. Those who remember Jos in those days and the Jos of today, as far as electricity is concerned, will even realise that what happened with NEPA taking over NESCO was a disaster. So, I think it should be made clear to the Minister and to the Board Members and the Chairman of NEPA when constituted that, according to the Constitution of this country, they do not have exclusive right over generation and distribution of electricity in this country.

Another issue, Mr Chairman, is I do notice when we come to discuss things of this nature, people stand and say we must leave out Permanent Secretaries, we must leave out Civil Servants. Well, I am not a sufficient admirer of Civil Servants *per se*. Being an ex-Civil Servant myself, I think I have no cause to be grateful to any Permanent Secretary in any Federal Institution or any State Institution for that matter. But at the same time, Mr Chairman, Sir, we do realise that these statutory bodies, NEPA, Nigeria Ports Authority, Nigerian Airways, have what we call mother Ministries. They do not write memos and hand over to the Executive Council. These memos have got to be handed over, through the various ministries, through the various Permanent Secretaries, and Ministers. By automatically cancelling out the name of a Permanent Secretary everywhere you see it in any Board, you are making it extremely difficult for these Boards and Statutory Corporations to have their views properly channelled and properly aired at the relevant Executive Council meetings, where issues concerning these Boards and Statutory Bodies are concerned. So, we have to be very careful. Much as we would like to reduce the powers of these super Permanent Secretaries, we have to be careful so that we do not give room for sabotage by exclusion. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

COMMENCEMENT—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY DECREE 1972. 1972 No. 24. 1977 No. 35, 1979 No. 64.)

Mr P. A. C. Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : I move that—(i) In page C1, line 1, leave out the word *Federation* and insert the word *Federal Republic*, instead thereof.

Mr I. Mac-Eteli (Brass) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Gbinije : I move that—

(ii) In page C1, line 10, leave out the words *Minister with the approval of the*.

Mr John Okoye (Agwata) : I beg to second the Amendment,

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Gbinije : I beg to move that :

(iii) In page C1, line 12, leave out the words *Minister (with the approval of the President)*.

Mr Idrissa M. Takau (Fika North) : I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Gbinije : I beg to move that—

(iv) In page C2, lines 1 and 2, leave out the words *Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, and in his absence*.

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Gbinije : I move that—

(v) In page C2, line 1, leave out the words *Permanent Secretary* and insert the words *Director, Electrical Services*, instead thereof.

Alhaji M. B. Mustapha (Bida North) : I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that—(vi) in page C2 and 3, leave out the words *or in his absence the Director of Electrical Services*, I beg to move.

Dr Taribo James Sekibo (Bonny II) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : There is another Amendment by the hon. Member for Ikwuano Umuahia (*Mr E. N. Kanu*).

An hon. Member : He is not here.

The Chairman : The Amendment lapses.

Amendment lapses.

The Chairman : There is another Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Mbaitoli (*Mr E. D. N. Uwandu*).

Several hon. Members : He is absent.

The Chairman : Then the Amendment lapses.

Clause 2—(AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY DECREE 1972 ; 1972 No. 24 ; 1977 No. 35 ; 1979 No. 64)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendments, read the Third time and passed.

Mr Speaker : So, the Bill has now been passed by the House of Representatives.

Nigerian Coal Corporation (Amendment Bill)

A Bill for an Act to make provision for the number of persons to constitute Membership of the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairman : Yes, the Chairman of the Committee on Mines and Power, Chief P. A. Gbinije.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : Mr Chairman, and hon. Members, the Committee on Mines and Power is proud to submit its report on the above-mentioned Bill referred to it for action.

It is necessary to invite the attention of hon. Members to the fact that the original Bill has gone through the Senate where it was substantially amended. The amended version of the Bill titled S.5-80E was subsequently forwarded to the House for its affirmation or otherwise.

Your Committee has examined the Bill, clause by clause, and has therefore proposed the following Amendments.

The main purpose of the Amendments is to vary the number of non-ex-officio members provided for in the former Bill and to reduce the number of ex-officio members which made the former Bill very top-heavy with ex-officio members.

In Clause 2 of the Bill—Amendment of the Nigerian Coal Corporation Act, Cap. 134, 1977 No 36, the following Amendments are proposed :

In page C1, line 1, delete the words *Federation* and insert thereon *Federal Republic*. This is considered more concise and appropriate to the spirit of the Constitution.

In page C1, line 8, delete the words *Minister with the approval of the president* and insert *President*. It is considered that an elected person is more answerable to the nation.

In page C1, lines 10 and 11, delete the words *Minister with the approval of the President* and insert thereon *President*. Here it is considered that an elected person is more answerable to the nation.

In page C1, line 15, delete the word *main* and insert thereon *mining*. It is considered that the word *mining* is more suitable than the word *main* which appears, in the opinion of your Committee as vague.

In page C1, line 16, insert *apostrophes* in the word *corporations*, that is *Corporation's*. Your Committee considers that it is a typographical error which should be corrected.

Explanatory Memorandum :

In line 3, delete the word *member* and insert thereon *number*. This is considered a suitable word. It is feared that a typographical error has arisen here.

In lines 6 and 7, delete the words *Minister of Mines and Power with the approval of the*. It is considered that elected person is preferable since he is answerable to the Nation.

In lines 11, 12, delete the part *three* and insert thereon *two*. Delete also *the Permanent Secretary*,

Federal Ministry of Mines and Power. It is considered that since there are two ex-officio members, it would be in order to write two and not three. Two ex-officio member are considered enough for the representation of the Ministry.

In conclusion, we invite hon. Members to examine critically our Amendments clause by clause and approve them as recommended.

In the same token, we request the honourable House to arrange as soon as possible, a conference of both House of the National Assembly to resolve the few discrepancies as required by law. It is our honour and privilege to be at your service. Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

The Chairman : Yes, hon. Members, any comments on the Nigerian Coal Corporation ?

Mr S. O. Adoyi (Okpoku West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I rise to speak in support of the Bill before the House, I would like to make a few comments as follows. I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the discriminatory manner in which appointments of Board Members and the Executives of such Boards had been hitherto done by the Military Government. The Military Government, being a dictator one has little to say, but now we have a democratically elected government—

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

An hon. Member : Order 26 (2).

The Chairman : That is in order. We are dealing with the Nigerian Coal Corporation, you are talking about the Military regime.

Mr Adoyi : I am talking about the appointment of Boards.

The Chairman : We have nothing to do with that. You talk about the Nigerian Coal Corporation Board, that is the Bill before us.

Mr Adoyi : All right, Sir. I would like this honourable House to direct the Executive, that while making the appointments into this Nigerian Coal Corporation to take into consideration where coals are found in, Nigeria, like Enugu in Anambra State, Owukpa in Okpoku in Benue State and Lafia in Plateau State. I would like these areas to be represented, for it is generally believed that when a member representing an area is on the Board, he will take particular interest in whatever happens in his area. This is why, Mr Chairman, the Owukpa Coal Corporation as not taken off up till now. I beg to sit down, Sir.

The Chairman : Thank you.

Mr Muhammadu Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in associating myself with the debate on this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House to the simple fact that we have, at least, been considering the reconstitution of a lot of Boards and other parastatal management committees. To this end, Mr Chairman, and with regard to the Coal Corporation, I would equally like to make it categorically clear that all these Boards

should, at least, be result oriented. We should give the management, at least, a year within which to report or failing which they should be dissolved.

Mr Chairman with this short remark, I beg to sit down.

Mr Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Amendments in this Bill, I wish to make a small observation on the functions of Board Members. In the past, membership of Boards were looked upon as mere favours to the appointees. I would wish that any Board appointed to a place like the Coal Corporation, should be able to articulate the functions of the Coal Corporation to the advantage of the industry and to the advantage of the people also.

We know that coal could be used for various purposes—domestic consumption and industrial consumption. I remember that before the advent of oil in this country, coal was used extensively for driving locomotive engines in the Railways. Since oil arrived, we have completely ignored coal and we are trying to push it out. I would wish that the new Board should be able to find ways of making useful for domestic purposes. If we do that, we can then conserve our forest, since our woods are being made extinct because people use wood for cooking.

Again, I shall also wish that the Federal Government should extend its support to the Coal Corporation especially that in Enugu, to extend the use of the coal. We know there are so many proposals being pushed around by the Coal Corporation to extend it, but lack of funds had completely paralysed some of these proposals.

Mr Chairman, I wish that those who are going to be appointed Board Members should have this in mind and make efficient proposals for the extension of the coal industry.

The Chairman : Well, let us hear somebody from Enugu, that is the centre of coal.

Mrs Justina C. Eze (Uzo-Uwani) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Motion, I would like to beg this honourable House that we shall all think in the line of making sure that the present Board Members into the Nigerian Coal Corporation should be men of technology. In saying this, I mean that our country is getting into technology, and for so many years the Enugu Coal has been sampled, feasibility studies done, and it has been proved that from this Enugu coal we can get coke which can go straight into our steel industry in Ajaokuta. This is going to save a lot of money in our foreign exchange for Nigeria. So, in this regard I was expecting that the Enugu coal industry should have taken off along with that of Ajaokuta in order to extract the coke to go straight into our steel Industry.

On the other hand, I have to say that we have a lot of coal in Nigeria including that in Benue State and so on. There was a time they proposed a cooking equipment which can burn coal in schools and so many industrial areas. That stove was demonstrated, I think, by a foreign company. It was then on exhibition. I cannot remember the year. All of a sudden the idea of using that cooker which can burn coal in

cooking in schools and in large institutions was dropped. Since then, most of the time, some schools even have to starve because they do not have gas supplied to them. If we can get to the company again do research into our industries, the Minister can trace the file, we can trace those industrial cookers that can use up our coal and this coal can be used for cooking in our industrial kitchens.

Again, I have to say that up till today we still import crude from abroad in getting our coal-tar. If I am not making a mistake, it is there written in black and white that from our coal in Enugu we can get our asphalt, we can get our coal-tar. Why we should employ or appoint the technologists or Engineers people with the knowledge into the present Board is that they have to go and search for these facts. And if these products are there, then there is no need when you are talking about preserving our foreign exchange to continue importing coal-tar when we have the raw material in Nigeria. If our coal is put into technology, we can save foreign exchange and use that raw material to produce coal-tar, produce asphalt and produce coke for our steel industry.

So, with these few comments I beg to sit down. Thank you.

Mr David A. Omeke (Igbo-Eze North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, my Colleagues, in my own contribution on this particular issue, I should like the hon. Members to remember the importance of coal. Coal had been used in Nigeria for years. When there were no diesels to operate the trains, coal was used in driving trains. But now it appears that Nigeria has devalued the importance of the use of coal. We should bear the importance of coal in mind always and try to reconstitute the Coal Corporation Board.

Now, at Enugu, many members of Staff of the Coal Corporation who resigned or retired many years ago have not even been paid their gratuities. If we have honest men as members of the Board that manage the Coal Corporation, all these would not have been happening. We should do all we can to encourage the Corporations because at this present time, the importance of the use of coal is still existing even though we have started getting diesel oil to operate the vehicles and gas for the stoves and other things. We should always remember that before we started getting diesel oil to operate trains it was coal that we were using for trains, and it was only trains that we used as transport from the former Eastern Nigeria to the former Northern part of Nigeria and other states. We should remember the services the Coal Corporation has given us and we should give priority to this Coal Corporation especially Enugu, and other places where there is coal in Nigeria and where possibly we can discover coal. We have to encourage the Coal Corporation.

With this short remark, I beg to sit, Mr Chairman.

Mr Akaninyene Ukpanah (Ukanafun, II) : Chairman and hon. Members, in contributing to the debate on the Bill for the Coal Corporation, I want to mention the fact that the Nigerian Coal Corporation has become a sick baby in the past years not because of its own making but, particularly, because of changing from coal trains to diesel trains. Now, the

[MR UKPANAH]

Nigerian coal is going to meet its boom period by the establishment of the Ajaokuta Steel Mill. The trouble in the country is because the Steel Mill is going to use coal, about 90 per cent to 100 per cent coal. Have we made certain that the coal we have is sufficient?

My contribution here, Sir, is that the Committee on Mines and Power with the Committee on Science and Technology should invite the Minister of Steel to answer some questions. What research has been done? Whether the coal we have is sufficient so that we do not run mid-way into trouble during our elegant Steel Mill Operations? We do not go importing coal into Nigeria or using diesel for all our things.

So, my contribution will be that I support the Amendment but members of the Coal Corporation Board should also, after meeting the Committees on Mines and Power and Science and Technology with the Minister to answer some of these questions. A clear-cut policy of deep research will be sent on to members of this Coal Corporation Board, so that something is done in order that our Steel Mill does not run into trouble. That is my contribution.

The Chairman : Any comments from the UPN?

An hon. Member : There is no point of controversy here.

The Chairman : Is that because you have no coal?

Mr Cornelius Okpa Agbor (Obubra I) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, in contributing to the debate on the Bill on the Nigerian Coal Mining Corporation, I would support my honourable Colleagues who have deliberated on the fact that the Coal Corporation should be result oriented. We have known that coal can be put into many uses, domestic, industrial, and so on.

But one other fact which I would like to place before this House is that coal is one of the elements from which petroleum or fuel can be produced. We all remember that South Africa, the apartheid country, is producing plenty of fuel and petroleum as well as gas from coal. South Africa started doing this because there were sanctions against her. Iran, her primary source of petroleum, has also joined other nations of the world in placing sanctions against South Africa. In that respect, we should learn a lesson from South Africa, as the United States of America is about to do, to produce petroleum and other fuels from coal. We know that our crude oil is not inexhaustible. It can be exhausted and we should look for alternative fields from where we can produce fuel. So, I hope the Nigerian Coal Corporation Board will take note of this. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes, let us wind up. Yes, the hon. Member for Ethiope South (*Chief P. A. Gbinije*).

COMMENCEMENT—ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 2—(AMENDMENT OF THE NIGERIAN COAL CORPORATION ACT, CAP. 134, 1977 No. 36)

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiope South) : Mr Chairman, I move that in page C1, line 1, leave out the word *Federation* and insert the words *Federal Republic*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Chairman, I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : I wish to move that in page C1, line 8, leave out the words *Minister with the approval of the President* and insert the word *President*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

Mr Agya Agbujoro (Wukari) : I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in page C1, lines 10 and 11, leave out the words *Minister with the approval of the President* and insert the words *President*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi Isunwe) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to withdraw Amendment number (iv) in page C1, line 15, as stated thereon, and to leave the word *main* as the appropriate word.

The Chairman : That is you are withdrawing that Amendment?

Chief Gbinije : Yes.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief Gbinije : I beg to move that in page C1, line 16, leave out the word *Corporation* and insert the word *Corporation's* instead thereof.

I beg to move.

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akamkpa) : I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2—(AMENDMENT OF THE NIGERIAN COAL CORPORATION ACT, CAP. 134, 1977, No. 36)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(SHORT TITLE)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Alhaji A. Abutu : I am already on my seat. The Amendment reads like this : in line 14, leave out the word *one* and insert the word *two*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

Chief D. J. Eshiet (Ukanafun I) : I beg to second.

Alhaji Abutu : Mr Chairman, the reason for my colleague's and my Amendment is that coal industry is very important in this country. It is an important mineral. We feel that we have got coal in many places ; we have a very big and a large deposit of surface coal in Benue in two places Kabba and Orukpa ; also in Anambra State, we have a large quantity of coal. We feel that the two states should be represented in the Board of Coal Corporation and this is the Amendment we have proposed.

Thank you.

Mr B. A. Chaha (Katsina Ala) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as a matter of fact, the Amendment calls for two and with that, I would like to make my contribution, I think, it should be more. Now that we are able to know certain places in Nigeria where they have coal, it is always better to have their own members to cater for their own interest. For example, we have one in Anambra and, it is our belief that, if just one person from Anambra is chosen as a member, he may not know exactly what is happening in Benue or what is happening in Plateau, because we have some in Plateau too and in other places. That is why, Mr Chairman, we feel it is much better and constitutional to have members from these areas to cater for their own areas and be able to represent their own areas so as to tell exactly what is happening in these places.

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is all I have to say. Thank you.

Dr Mike B. Ukpong (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir, if I understand the Amendment very well, I think it does not arise unless he says that people from these areas should be included, that might be somewhat meaningful, but to talk about having two Coal Corporations, does not arise. For instance, in this country. (*Interruptions*)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Chief Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : I beg to move that in line 3, under the *Explanatory Memorandum*, leave out the word *Member* and insert the word *number*, instead thereof.

I beg to move.

The Chairman : You are trying to amend the Explanatory Note. Explanatory Note is not part of the Bill. You will withdraw that one.

Chief Gbinije : Well, Amendments (vi) and (vii) in connection with the Explanatory Memorandum are withdrawn. But Amendment (viii) is relevant because the explanation relates to the main body of the Amendment.

The Chairman : Let us hear your No. (viii)

Chief Gbinije : I beg to move that in lines 11 and 12. leave out the word *three* and insert the word *two* instead thereof, and again leave out the words *The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and*

Power. That is the Amendment to agree with the reduction in number.

I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : I rise to second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

The Chairman : There is an Amendment proposed by hon. Mr E. N. Kanu. Mr E. N. Kanu is absent, so the Amendment lapses.

Amendment lapses.

There is another Amendment standing in the name of hon. Mr S. I. Idakwo and Alhaji Abubakar Abutu.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman, my Amendment reads thus, in line 14 (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama (Aliyo/Kaugama) : I am calling the hon. Member to Order 3 (2) and with your permission, Mr Chairman, I would read :

A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that Mr Speaker may change the allocation from time to time.

The Chairman : All right, Alhaji Abutu speak from your seat.

Dr M. B. Ukpong : Mr Chairman, I think this was not very well explained. If this is correct, as I said, if he is talking about two members, it is meaningful because in Nigeria even though it is not always that we have to talk about Federal character, it is very important to ensure that members from the areas from where crude oil, mineral resources or anything are produced should be represented in any Board in order to protect the interest of the people. If this is exactly what he is saying, I think that two may only represent two areas, but according to Alhaji Abutu, he says that coal has been found in more than two places in Nigeria and, I think, that the area from where they have the heaviest deposit of coal should have a member to represent it in the Coal Corporation. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale Waja South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members I move that, in respect of this Amendment, presented by hon. Abubakar Abutu, the Question be now put.

Amendment put and negatived.

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I move that the Chairman do now report progress.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendments, read the third time and Passed.

**Nigerian Mining Corporation
(Amendment) Bill**

A Bill or an Act to make Provision for the number of Persons to Constitute Membership of the Nigerian Mining Corporation.

CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairman : Yes, the Chairman of the Committee, Chief Gbinije.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, this Bill has been presented to this House from the Senate, and was referred to my Committee for proper study and report to this House. The Committee has examined the Bill and the main purpose of this Provision sought for is to increase the Membership of non-ex-officio Members of the Board Members of the Corporation, and reduce the ex-officio Members. It has been studied by the Committee, clause by clause, and the following Amendments have been proposed.

In page C1, line 12, delete the words, *Minister with the approval of the.*

It is considered that an elected person who is answerable to the nation should be directly responsible for the appointment.

In page C1, lines 14 and 15, leave out the words *Minister with the approval of.*

The reason for this is as shown above.

I withdraw Amendments (iv), (v) and (vi).

These are the only Amendments Proposed. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be passed.

The Chairman : Yes, any comments ?

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my comment on these Amendments is based on the original Bill brought to this House by the President. The Bill considered here is the Bill already amended by the Senate. On several occasions the Senate have been placing this House in a position we do not understand and we do not like.

Our Committee Members should concentrate and deal with original Bills from the President so that we shall know exactly how we amend the President's Bill before comparing it line by line with the one from the Senate. To consider the Senate Amended Bill and re-amend it here, though people will feel it is the procedure, but we should start our own with the original Bill. From there we can then compare the two together before checking what is happening because the Senate feels that we are doing nothing here.

Several Members : No, that is not your business.

Mr Bob-Manuel : Whether it is my business, or not I am expressing my views.

For example, we have, page C1, line 1, leave out the word *Federation* and insert the words *Federal Republic of Nigeria* instead thereof. In all Bills initiated here, they still call the *Federal Republic, Federation.*

I think the Chairman should direct that *Federation* should never appear in our Bills again because everyday we amend the Bills to read *Federal Republic of Nigeria* instead of *Federation*, and they continue to give us Bills with *Federation*. There is a certain meaning attached to *Federation*, and they should note that *Federal Republic of Nigeria* should be inserted always. In all our Bills we still have *Federation* instead of *Federal Republic of Nigeria*. So, this issue is trying to portray us in a way we do not like. With the word *Federation*, some people may feel they have more powers in the States.

Thank you.

Mr Sani Dandare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to talk on the Bill of Nigerian Mining Corporation. In my supporting the Bill, I would like to make the following comments. One, these Members should be dedicated people. When I say dedicated, I mean Nigerians who are willing, who are dedicated to help Nigeria and to help our people. We do not want members who are members by name ; we want dedicated people who are ready to work. Two,—

The Chairman : There is a point of order.

Mr Muhammed Shuaibu Kaugama (Aliyo. Kaugama) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am calling my hon. Colleague to Order 26 (2). We are talking on the Amendment. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman : Yes.

Mr Kalgo : Mr Chairman, I was saying that we should get qualified and dedicated people. Secondly, we have to make money available because we cannot say we want to mine without money. It is necessary that money should be made available to these mining areas.

Thirdly, I would also advise that our research institutions should be encouraged so that we can get enough personnel to be trained in these research institutions. If we want mining in our own country we should not mine without enough qualified people in the areas of research. If at present we do not have enough personnel for research, I advise we train our own people. When we talk of mine we cannot do mining without good research people. I would also advise that these members should be qualified so that they can give us advice or give us new ideas from time to time on how we can improve the standard of our present mining system. These people should be educated, qualified and they should know what mining is so that they can give us advice from time to time on our mining system.

With these three points, Mr Chairman, I beg to take my seat.

The Chairman : Any other comment ? Yes, Alhaji Yelwa.

Alhaji Muhammed A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my comment on this Bill is a general one. After oil, the next important thing in the next century is going to be natural minerals. Our attention will be focused on that, and as such it is essential that the Board to be re-constituted should not

only reflect the Federal character, but should have people with vision who will try to make the Board turn commercial. In other words, the present Board tried and introduced brick-making in Jos, the next Board should try not only bricks making in Jos, but other industries could benefit from the country's resources. Every State has interest in mining now and more will be in future. So, the Board should also try to see that the interest of the whole Nation is covered.

My final word is a warning or an advice to some of the State Governments who are now trying to feel that they could do mining by themselves. It is clearly stated in our Constitution in the second Schedule that mining, geological survey and the rest are the full responsibility of the Federal Government. As such the State Governments should try and co-operate and make sure that the working is done in the interest of the whole Nation. Thank you.

The Chairman : Yes, UPN.

Alhaji Yusuf Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members I would like to take sides with Alhaji Yelwa in making a general comment on the Bill. Before the discovery of oil in this country mining corporations which undertook the mining of gold bauxite, tin, columbite, *et cetera* were in the fore front. But when we look at the Budget for this year on the revenue side we find that these corporations are not in any way contributing to the economic set-up of this country.

Members of the Board, in one way or the other, have neglected or have left our mines entirely in the hands of the expatriates who are coming to mine our tin gold, *et cetera*, and take away the resources without even being noticed. So it may be necessary to ask the President to institute a Commission of Inquiry into why the revenue derived from the mining corporations is declining. If you look at the Budget of three or five years ago when Nigeria started to exploit crude oil, all what is in gold has been dropped, columbite and tin are not being taken care of. This is a very serious matter. As far as we are concerned, these minerals which are revenue earning should be revived and further intensified. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

COMMENCEMENT—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF THE NIGERIAN MINING CORPORATION DECREE 1972, 1972 No. 39)

The Chairman : Yes Chief Gbinije, move your Amendments.

Chief P. A. Gbinije (Ethiopia South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in page C1, line 1 leave out the word *Federation* and insert the word *Federal Republic*, instead thereof.

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding it ?

Alhaji B. Abdullahi (Tsagero) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that in page C1, line 12, leave out the words *Minister (with the approval of the)*

The Chairman : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman, Sir, in page C1, lines 14 and 15 leave out the words *the Minister with approval of*. I beg to move.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Gbinije : Mr Chairman Sir, I am withdrawing (iv), (v) and (vi). But (vi) under *Explanatory Memorandum* is not part of the Bill, but it is necessary if it is going to be put there to have *mineral resources* instead of *electrical services*.

The Chairman : Please leave it. There is another Amendment standing in the name of Mr E. N. Kanu and I understand he is not here, it therefore lapses.

Amendment lapses.

There is another Amendment in the name of Mr E. N. D. Uwandu. He is not here and it lapses. Yet another one standing in the names of Mr S. I. Idakwo and Alhaji Abubakar Abutu, it also lapses because they are not here.

Amendments lapse.

Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF THE NIGERIAN MINING CORPORATION DECREE 1972, 1972, No. 39)—as amended *ordered to stand part of the Bill*.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendments, read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yinusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that this sitting be now adjourned until tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

Mr A. Yahaya (Ilorin East) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members it is now 1 o'clock and this House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

And it being 1 o'clock the Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (7).

Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 5th June, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr Speaker : The Joint Meeting of the Protocol Committee will meet at 1.30 p.m. this afternoon, so all the Members nominated by the various Parties, will please attend.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Petroleum and Energy
Conservation

Approval of the Report on the Trip of the Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas of the Rivers State.

Mr Mike J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the honourable Chairman of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation who led the delegation of the Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas is unavoidably absent in the House this morning, may I, with due respect, take advantage of Order 30 (1) and request that the debate on the Report be adjourned to a future date.

Mr Speaker : That is all right, the debate on the Motion will be adjourned but you will get in touch with the Chairman of the Business Committee to give you a new date.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : There is a small announcement. Hon. Members, we have finished with the Order of today. Those who will attend this Joint Meeting on our order of Protocol are : Mr Olusola Afolabi, NPN, Mr Hanza Dangiwa, GNPP, Dr J. Mohammed, PRP, Mr D. D. Dafuan, NPP, Professor O. Ola, UPN. Please, you should remember what I said yesterday.

Presentation of Public Petition

Mr S. O. Olowu (Ikale) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to present a petition pursuant to Order 11 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives. The petition is presented on behalf of the Plant Indigenous Hirers Association, and in accordance with Order 11, the Parties are the Nigerian Indigenous Plant Hirers Association versus the Nigerian Ports Authority. The main allegation is that the Nigerian Ports Authority had shared the Plant Hiring at our Ports in Lagos to foreign concerns, and that as from the 18th of February, 1980, all the Indigenous Plant Hirers—

Mr Speaker : Please, you are not to read the petition, just tell us what it is all about.

Mr Olowu : I am giving the substance of the allegation. That the Indigenous Plant Hirers Association have been disallowed from operating in our ports. That is why the petitioner has come with this prayer to this honourable House and the prayers are as follows—

That this honourable House do come to their aid to ensure that the ban placed on their operation at the ports be lifted.

This is the essence of the prayer. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to present.

Mr Speaker : The essence of the prayer is what ?

Mr Olowu : The essence of the prayer is that the ban placed on their operations be lifted. They are disallowed from operating at the ports and they have involved themselves in a huge indebtedness. They had a following of about 2,000 workers who are now jobless. We have adequately complied with the requirements of Order 11. The signatories are Mr E. Williams as Secretary, Mr O. Lawson as President.

I beg to present, Sir.

Mr Speaker : The petition is referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr F. C. Ugwu (Nsukka) : I move that in the absence of any other business, the House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bendel) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Constitutional Provision on Passage of
Appropriation Budget

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on this Motion for adjournment, I would like to make some important observations relating to the Budget Appropriation Bill 1980, which has just been approved. Hon. Members would recall that on the 26th of May, 1980, this honourable House passed the Appropriation Bill into law. This was after, of course, all the various Budget Reports by the appropriate Committees had been considered and approved.

After the passing of the Bill, Members will recall there was a spate of criticisms especially in the Press. A section of the Press was particularly hostile to the House for the step it took. Whether the manner in which the Bill was passed conforms with the provisions of the Standing Orders which have been in force, and which were prepared during the first Republic, or not is a matter for conjecture. However, the point is that this House passed the Bill. Of course, regrettably some sections of the Press did not see anything valuable or commendable in what the House has done.

In spite of those criticisms there are certain provisions in the Constitution with which we must comply. Section 55 subsection 2 of the Constitution of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria provides, among other things, that within two months of the commencement of the Financial year, if one of the Houses has passed the Appropriation Bill into law, and other House has not, then it is obligatory on the part of the President of the Senate to summon a meeting.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Dr Junaidu S. Muhammed (Kano West Ward) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would urge the hon. Member for Okpebho (*Mr F. O. Iyayi*) to read this section as it stands in the Constitution because what he is saying is so important. I am not trying to stop him from talking but I believe he should read it out word for word because it is absolutely vital to whatever we are doing. Thank you, Sir.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order. You will not tell me what to do.

Mr Iyayi : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was coming to that. As I was saying, if, within two months of the commencement of a Financial Year, the Appropriation Bill has been passed by one House and has not been passed by the other, it is incumbent on the President of the Senate to summon a joint meeting of the Finance Committees to consider the Appropriation Bill and this he should do within 14 days after two months.

In this connection, hon. Members will recall that earlier on, a Bill has been passed stipulating that the Current Financial Year shall start on the 1st of April and end on the 31st of December, 1980. This House passed the Bill on the 26th of May, 1980 before the end of two months after the commencement of the Current Financial Year. It is now two months and four days, and yet, to the best of my knowledge, the other House, that is the Senate, has not passed the Appropriation Bill into Law.

In this connection, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like with your permission to quote the relevant section of the Constitution.

Mr Speaker : Yes.

Mr Iyayi : Section 55, subsection 2 says :—

Where a bill (that is the Appropriation Bill or Finance Bill) to which this section applies is passed by one of the Houses of the National Assembly but is not passed by the other House within a period of 2 months from the commencement of financial year, the President of the Senate shall within 14 days thereafter arrange for and convene a meeting of the joint finance committee to examine the bill with a view to resolving the differences between the 2 Houses.

Now, it proceeds further to state other things after Joint Financial Committee would have met. Now, I think, at this stage, Mr Speaker, it will be advisable for this House to draw the attention of the President of the Senate and of the Senate as a whole to the requirements of the Law. If they did not do that, I am afraid that they would be contravening an essential part of the Constitution. We, on our part, have done our duty, and it is a matter for pride that we have been able to do this within the time allowed under the Constitution.

In other that there may be no further delay on the Appropriation Bill, especially having regard to the yearnings of millions of Nigerians for development of their various areas, it is now a matter of priority that the Senate should be called upon to set in motion a machinery for approving the 1980 Budget. Thank you, Mr Speaker. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much. As a matter of fact, hon. Members, I have already told the President of the Senate that if the action on the Budget is not concluded by tomorrow, that by Monday we shall start a formal resolution asking him to convene a joint Finance Committee and subsequently a joint meeting of the National Assembly. If we do not hear that the Budget has been passed tomorrow, on Monday we will tell the whole country that this is our position because the Constitution must be enforced.

Yes, the hon. Member for Ede South (*Mr Samson A. Siyanbola*).

Plastic Pipes

Mr Samson A. Shiyabola (Ede South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion of Adjournment, I would like to speak on the Plastic Pipe Manufacturing Association. If we notice in the plan for this year's Budget, we would see that certain things are put under Licence and some of these things are what I would like to speak about.

Firstly, the Plastic Pipes, of size 39.2D is supposed to be placed under open Licence, and at the same time, the import duty on the raisins used to make Plastic Pipes will also be increased. Now, there are two things wrong here. The first one, if I can quote Section 16 of our Constitution, which says :

The State shall, within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this Constitution—

(a) control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen

and so on and so forth. If these two things that I referred to before will happen this year, then we are going to control the Plastic Industry in a way that it is not going to be good for the welfare of this Nation. In other words, we are going to allow the importation of plastic pipes at the expense of foreign exchange of Nigeria. Again, we are going to disturb the growth of the infant industry engaged in the production of Plastic Pipes, by opening the door to the importers to bring in expensive foreign pipes.

Now, if the raisin which is used to make Plastic pipes is subjected to increase in duties, it then follows that the Plastic pipes industry in Nigeria will have to produce at expensive rates or expensive prices. Therefore, people will now have to prefer to buy the imported pipes. So, because of this, I would like the Federal Minister of Finance to check again to see to the possibility of removing the duties on the raisins and increasing the duties on the importation of the pipes that I have just mentioned. This will help the economy and it will help the people to be more productive. Thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I forgot to announce that the hon. Members of the NPN are attending their Party's Executive Meeting.

An hon. Member: Are they all members of the Executive Committee?

Mr Speaker: Yes, they are all members of the Executive Committee. I understand that they are all members of the Executive, unlike the UPN. In NPP, it is the same thing, we are all members of the Executive. That is democracy.

Yes, the hon. Member for Ikwere/Etche I (*Chief Stephen Ikpokwu Alete*)

Chief Stephen Ikpokwu Alete (Ikwere/Etche I): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the death of the whole lot of our Diplomatic Mission to Sao Tome due to—

An hon. Member: This has been dealt with.

Chief Alete: I know, I am coming. Do not interrupt me. Mr Speaker, Sir, having expressed my sympathy, I would like—

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! This matter has been disposed of. Yes, the hon. Member for Rimin Gado (*Alhaji Muhammed Mustapha*), the Leader of PRP.

Trunk Road from Lagos to the North

Alhaji Muhammed Mustapha (Rimin Gado): Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you, very much. I would like to talk on the condition of the main road between the Federal Capital, as at now, Lagos, and the States in the North. Mr Speaker, I am fond of travelling by road between Lagos and my home State, Kano. I am therefore, in a position to describe to this honourable House the condition of this road. I am, therefore, bringing this matter to this honourable House for information and for the consideration of the Committee on Public Works as well as for the attention of the Minister of Works.

Mr Speaker, it is well known that over the years, road transport has overtaken Railway system in usefulness to many people in this country. If you are travelling by road from here to places like Kano or Kaduna, as soon as you get to Ilorin, you start to see dangerous bridges narrowly built and ill-prepared. You will see a lot of accidents by both the big trailers as well as saloon cars right up to the end of Jebba. At one point, I had to stop and found out the statistics of accidents along this road. At Ilorin, I was told the rate of accidents is so high that the Federal Government ought by now to take a special responsibility for repairing immediately all those bridges between Ilorin town and Jebba and between Jebba and Mokwa.

We are losing valuable human lives on this road every blessed day we wake up. I hope the Committee on Public Works should look into this, and this information should also be passed to the Minister for Works. Thank you, Mr Speaker,

Mr Speaker: Yes, the hon. Member for Abak (*Dr Mike B. Ukpog*)

Development of the Local Government Areas

Dr Mike B. Ukpog (Abak): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I am very happy to be here this morning to talk on the Motion for Adjournment on a very important point which is on the role of Local Government. What I am going to talk about is in the interest of all Nigerians. I believe that local government in Nigeria is yet to be given its right functions. My point is on the role of local government councils in the national development in Nigeria.

We all know that the Federal Republic of Nigeria is made up of local government units. The State Governments of the 19 States are made up of local government units, so that if you talk about the Federal Republic of Nigeria, you are talking about the Federal Republic of Nigeria in terms of the various local government units. You cannot talk about Nigeria without these units. It appears to me that when we talk about national planning in this country, we concentrate too much at the national level and at the State level at the expense of the various units which actually make Nigeria. The Presidential System is the only way to correct this imbalance. That is why I am appealing to this honourable House that there is the need to have more viable local government units which should be used as the base for national development in Nigeria, because too much concentration at the State level or at the Federal level does not do any good to these units.

For instance, we are talking about the mass-exodus, that is the migration of people from the rural areas to the urban areas. This is because there are no job opportunities. This is caused by the fact that all projects are centred around State capitals or the Federal capital and very little at the local government areas.

For instance, the local people have helped the country a lot in food production. In spite of the billions of naira spent on mechanised system of farmings, the largest proportion of food consumed in this country is from the so-called crude farmers. I am very sure that if the amount spent in the Ministry or spent in the so-called mechanised farming had been partly given to the local farmers, we would have enough for the rural areas.

The second reason is too much concentration of industries in State capitals and in the Federal capital at the expense of the rural areas. We all know that 85 per cent of the voters are from the rural areas and they are the people actually giving us the power. We all know that 85 per cent of the Nigerian population is from the rural areas. Therefore, there has to be a conscious and planned development programme through the local government units. I am making this appeal through the Speaker and the hon. Members of this House that, in order to have an effective

Presidential System in Nigeria, we have to have local government units, not too large to make development projects very impossible, and not too small as not to be viable. This means that aside from politics, whether we are in UPN, NPN or PRP, we have to determine a policy of creating more local governments because, I believe that the smaller the size of the local government, the more viable it is for development projects.

Encouraging Local Military Technology

Mr Speaker, Sir, my second point is the development of military technology along the line of local talents. You all are aware that during the Civil War, there were quite a number of people, particularly in the Eastern States, who improvised military weapons like the tank. In fact, I remember the *Ogbunigwe*. We tried to make some research in the University of Nigeria immediately after the War but there was no fund. It is very important that the Government of this country should not rely only on foreign military technology. We should, in spite of ethnic affiliations, try to bring these people from their local areas and give them the financial incentives in order to develop military technology along the line of local talents, because I am very sure that the larger Nigeria becomes, the more it has external enemies, and in order to maintain its own duty, it has to be able to get some of its own military ammunitions and some of these things. We should not indulge in getting things only from the foreign countries.

Therefore, in order to achieve this, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the Ministry of Defence to provide some programme for the development of military technology, and to make sure that those people who developed *Ogbunigwe* during the Biafran War are given some financial aid to actually improve upon the work. (Applause)

I am also suggesting that instead of giving too much money to people who are already rich in the name of Agricultural Development, the rural farmers should be given adequate money to improve upon their own agriculture.

Finally, Sir, it has already been known that it is too difficult for a rural person to get loan from the Bank. A person who has not got ₦100 goes for a loan of ₦500 and he is asked to give a surety, say, a house already built in the town. This makes it practically impossible for a poor person to get a loan. I am appealing to this House to relax the condition of giving loans to the local farmers and local industrial entrepreneurs. With this, I support the Motion for Adjournment.

Election Promises and Housing

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to talk on two issues. The first one is election promises, while the second one is Housing. The two are related and I will show how they are related by the time I end up this speech. I think the five political parties that fought elections in this country last year made a number of promises to the electorate that if they were voted into power, they would do this or that. All the parties without exception did this. It is very gratifying that those parties that won the elections have been trying

to uphold these promises, but by and large, one would see that (I am not trying to play up to the gallery about my own party, the Unity Party of Nigeria) it is the Unity Party of Nigeria that has been fighting tooth and nail to put its election promises into actual operation.

Mr Speaker : We will soon adjourn.

Mr Adesina : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we ought to take this thing very seriously, in the sense that I was reading a magazine yesterday and discovered that the people of Ghana are becoming disillusioned about the civilian regime there of Dr Liman, and the reason they gave was because Dr Liman's government has not been implementing its election promises. So, I now call on all the parties that have come to power in Nigeria, in fact all the five political parties, to try as much as possible, to put into practice the election promises they made to the people.

From there, I want to talk about Housing. It is, however, very gratifying that just last Monday I watched a television programme interview, where the hon. Minister for Housing and Urban Development was being interviewed, and he made the promise that very soon the Federal Government Housing Programme will take off from Yola. We hope that this will continue into other parts of Nigeria. Also, it is very gratifying that the President inaugurated the National Green Revolution Committee just yesterday. These are hopes for the people, and we hope that the hopes will not be shattered again, because after coming to power after eight months one would have imagined that the Federal Government should have taken all these things into consideration.

From there, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to turn the attention of this honourable House to a publication in the *Evening Times* of Thursday August 15, 1979 in which it was stated that Housing units were allotted to winners. These are the Housing units in the Satellite town. According to this publication about 30,000 applications were processed and about 1,000 or so people were given the allocations, but what will embarrass this House or will cause dismay for us is that among those people who were given these allocations, you will find that some people were given nothing. They just wrote down allocations give to so, so, and so. But when they got there, they could not discover anything at all. For example, they mentioned Closes 71, 72, 74 and 76 as being given to some people and these Closes never existed at all. Or if they existed may be they existed in the fertile imagination of those people who are making the allocations. What is more, those people who were even re-allocated from these wrong allocations Closes went there, and took the trouble to comply with the requirements, but what they discovered was that these houses given to them were not even equipped. When they got there, nothing was ready. They were asked to go and pay insurance fees lawyers fees, and so on. Everything was completed but when they got there they did not only find the House empty, but they discovered that nothing was existing there at all. When one looks at this thing, I think there must be something wrong somewhere. One should call upon the Minister for

[MR ADESINA]

Housing and Urban Development to go into this problem and see that people who are given allocations at Satellite Town are allowed to move in there and all uncompleted houses there are completed with despatch.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I want to also mention that the houses which Dr Dosunmu mentioned, they have to review some of the plans there. For example, I understand that most of the houses are meant for low income earners. Each house will have a room, a sitting room, a store and all conveniences. With all due respect to you, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I think this type of plan is not only un-African but it is against our traditions in Africa. Do you want somebody to be a perpetual bachelor with a room? Will he not get children? Will he not get married? So, I think if you want to encourage low income earners, you should also bear in mind that they have the right to rear children and to look after their families.

Desert Encroachment in the North

Mr M. Bukar Mele (Matchina) : In supporting the Motion for Adjournment, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on an important issue that is threatening the lives of so many people, more especially in the Northern part of the country. This issue is an issue of desert encroachment. A very large area, in fact all the areas right from latitude twelve degree North to the Northern part of the country should now be declared as disaster areas. This is because these areas, for your information, have been threa-

tened by the desert encroachment. Mr Speaker, Sir, these areas are Kaduna, Sokoto, Borno, Kano, and Bauchi States.

I will touch upon some places in these areas, for example, that of Borno. I know areas like Nguru Local Government Area where the whole of the area is now covered by sand dunes. So many people have now been leaving their villages and the cows are moving Southwards. All the bushes have been cleared due to lack of rainfall.

Mr Speaker, Sir, for your information, an Arid Zone Afforestation Committee was established two years ago with its headquarters in Kaduna, but with all the money being poured into this Committee, nothing effective came up till today. Up till today, all the areas mentioned, are disaster areas. On that score, I would call upon the Federal Government to take a rigorous step in stopping this serious menace.

Mr S. M. A. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : I move that the question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 9th June, 1980

The House met at 11.05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Olusola Afolabi in the Chair)

Nomination of the Acting Speaker

Clerk of the House of Representatives : Hon. Members, I wish to inform the House that the Speaker of the House is not present to preside at today's meeting. The Deputy Speaker is also not available. In the circumstances, I have a duty to invite your attention to the relevant provision in the Constitution. Hon. Members, I read :

At any sitting of the National Assembly—

An hon. Member : What section ?

The Clerk : Section 49 (1) (a) and (b), (2) and (3)

(49).—

(1) *At any sitting of the National Assembly—*

(a) *in the case of the Senate, the President of the Senate shall preside, and in his absence the Deputy President shall preside ; and*

(b) *in the case of the House of Representatives, the Speaker of that House shall preside, and in his absence the Deputy Speaker shall preside.*

(2) *At any joint sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate shall preside, and in his absence the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall preside.*

(3) *In the absence of the persons mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this section, such member of the Senate or the House of Representatives as the Senate or the House of Representatives may elect for that purpose shall preside.*

Alhaji Sanda Konduga (Konduga) : Hon. Members, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, as the Speaker as well as the Deputy Speaker are not present, I move that hon. Rep. Olusola Afolabi should preside over the House. (Applause)

Dr O. Ogunkoya (Ijebu Remo) : I stand to support the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Hon. Olusola Afolabi do take the Chair as the Speaker.

Votes and Proceedings

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I have looked at the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 5th June, 1980 and they are in order.

Announcement

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I will now proceed to read the two letters which I have for

today and then, after that there would be some points of explanation before we proceed to the Order Paper of today.

Communication

The Acting Speaker : The two letters are from the People's Redemption Party and the first one reads as follows :

PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION PARTY (PRP)

Motto : (LOYAL, SERVICE AND DISCIPLINE)

(JAM'IYYAR CETON AL'UMMA)

Telephone 5691

Ref. :

Office of the President,
75 Ibrahim Taiwo Road,
P.O. Box 744,
Kano, Nigeria.
Date : 31st May, 1980

The Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly
Lagos

Following the interview and press statement of Alhaji Sarki Adamu in which he dissociated himself from one of the decisions of our National Directorate session just held in Kano, I hereby suspend him from the party's membership pending his trial by the Kano State Directorate.

I wish to point out that he should be suspended from all Standing Committees of the House pending the decision of the Directorate.

I am sorry to be bothering you with this kind of request, but I am determined to go down the ladder to impose discipline in the Party.

(Sgd.) Mallam Aminu Kano
NATIONAL PRESIDENT,
PRP

Hon. Members, the second letter is as follows :

PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION PARTY (PRP)

MOTTO : (LOYAL, SERVICE AND
DISCIPLINE)

(JAM'IYYAR CETON AL'UMMA)

Telephone 5691

Ref. :

Office of the President,
75, Ibrahim Taiwo Road,
P.O.Box 744,
Kano, Nigeria.

The Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Lagos

Following the interview and press statement of Alhaji Sarki Adamu, Rabiu Shu'aibu Ringim, Idi Mustapha Gaya and Badamasi Faskari in which they dissociate themselves from one of the decisions of our

National Directorate Session just held in Kano, I hereby suspend them from the party's membership pending their trial by their respective state directorates.

I wish to point out that they should be suspended from all Standing Committees of the house pending the decision of the Directorate. (Interruptions)

I am sorry to be bothering you with this kind of request, but I am determined to go down the ladder to impose discipline in the party.

(Sgd.) Mallam Aminu Kano,
National President, PRP

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Low Profile Reviewed

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I want to make an explanation. Mr Speaker, on the publication in the *Sunday Punch* issue of June 8, 1980, which is titled *Low Profile Reviewed, President, Governors and some others may be exempted*.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to read the relevant section of the publication on which I would like to make my comment. The publication says :

Considering the security implications, stability, durability and weight of higher vehicles such as Mercedes Benz, viz-a-viz the Peugeot cars, coupled with the fact that the President has to constantly receive visiting Heads of State to Nigeria, his use of higher grade vehicles has become incontestible and to do otherwise would appear to be hypocritical.

Then the paper went on to say, Sir :

The Committee made up of two Ministers, two Special Advisers and top politicians has recommended Mercedes 600 or its equivalent for the President when he is receiving foreign Heads of State.

The Acting Speaker : Point of order, please

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the point of order I wish to raise is Order 16 which reads as follows :

By indulgence of the House, and the leave of Mr Speaker, a Member may make a personal explanation although there may be no question before the House; but no controversial matter may be brought forward.

I maintain, Mr Speaker, that this matter is very controversial. It generated one of the most stormy debates we have had in this House. So stormy it was that I personally had to walk out from the pandemonium, and I maintain, Mr Speaker, that such points should not be raised on a point of Explanation.

The Acting Speaker Thank you, the hon. Member from Onitsha South. I am sure that the hon. Member from Oron II would try as much as possible to be brief and not be controversial.

Mr E. B. Etianam : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for that pruning. The point I want to make, Sir, is a very important one. You will remember, Sir, that during the dying days of the Military rule, we were told that they were observing what they called *Low Profile* in their public activities, that is to say, that official cars which the public functionaries in the Military regime were using were very small cars. When we took over in October last year there was an apparent attempt to inherit this posture in our public relations. The area in which we are affected, Mr Speaker, Sir, you will remember, concerns the use of official cars by public functionaries some time ago, this House accepted a Motion which barred the use of 505 Peugeot cars by certain officials of this House, and I want to say, Sir, that this decision by a Committee of the Government is most welcome by some of us in this House, but the decision should not lie with the Ministers, the Speakers, and other functionaries of the Executive alone. It should also be extended to other functionaries both in the National Assembly and in the States Assemblies. Committee Chairmen and also their Committee Members should also be allowed the use of official vehicles.

The Acting Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : The Order number is 26 (4) :

It shall be out of order to attempt to re-consider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive Motion for rescission.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have debated at length this matter being brought under this, and a substantive Motion should have been brought on this.

Imo State Airport

Dr Chikwe H. Obihara (Owerri South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the point of explanation I want to make concerns the publication in last Saturday's *Daily Times*. The headline said that the site for the Imo State Airport is unacceptable to the Federal Government. We in this Chamber have many times passed Motions here recommending new Airports for those States that do not have them. That of Imo State is one of them and it has been accepted. Now, this new statement was actually made by no less a person than the Presidential Liaison Officer for Imo State. He said that the site for the Imo State Airport is not acceptable to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the reason given was that the Federal and State Governments do not agree on this site.

I want to explain that this is not so. The situation regarding the siting of this Airport was that in the Military era, about four years ago, the Imo State Military Government decided to build an air-strip about forty kilometres from Owerri at Owerri-Nta. Sometime after that, during the same Military regime, the Federal Government itself chose a site for a full-scale Airport at Polakwo about ten kilo-

DR OBIHRA
metres south of Owerri. Since then there has been no disagreement, as this choice was made by the Federal Government.

Since then they have been working on the new site, trying to establish the airport. But some time ago, it was found out, early this year, that a Microwave Repeater Station fell just where the runway was planned to be near Ulakwo on the Aba-Owerri Road. The Microwave Repeater Station fell on that site. It was proposed to remove this Microwave Repeater Station, if possible, but it was found that it was in line with many others going to Port Harcourt airport and that to remove this one would involve removing all the others and re-aligning them. So instead of that, the Federal Government proposed to shift the airport.

The Planners have now agreed to shift the airport a bit to the north, in fact, from Umuoowa where it was to Polakwo itself, and the shift was only a shift of one and three quarter kilometres. It was not a big shift. It was a very small shift, only one and three-quarter kilometres. Since then they have been working on this new site. They have cleared it, there has been no disagreement at all between the State Government and the Federal Government. The shifting was done by the Federal Government and there was no objection at all.

So, this statement which was made in the *Daily Times* of last Saturday is quite misleading. There is no disagreement whatsoever between the two Governments about the airport. The Federal Government is making the movement which has been made. All that we here can ask is that the Federal Government should speed up work on the airport, and perhaps, the Ministry of Civil Aviation should issue an official denial saying that there is no disagreement whatsoever and that the work is progressing according to plan. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Not only Legislators, but Followers-up

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko); Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to focus your attention on a very serious issue which I have been following for some time, and I want hon. Members to be drawn into it. Firstly, the role of our Committee Chairmen particularly as it affects output in this country. I have been following certain developments that affect the interest and the pride of this great country, and I believe that there is no doubt that we are now the Legislature for this Nation. I am beginning to see that if we just sit down here doing only the Business of Legislature without follow up, knowing Nigeria for what it is, we are bound to end up with inefficiency and indiscipline in our Public Services.

Take for instance this story I have been following for about two weeks which came up again yesterday, and that is the northern part of Bornu State bordering on Chad Republic, where we have been having this war. Hon. Members, you must have read that itinerants and mad soldiers from Chad, of all places, crossed our borders and went away with a herd of cattle, that is about a thousand, that is a life income for a Local Government in most areas, without

being challenged. Not only that, they killed some Nigerians, and in addition destroyed some homes. They have been doing this quite incessantly.

Hon. Members, this is a serious issue that borders on the pride of this Nation. A nation that we have opened our doors to, to pass its goods through us, a nation that we are struggling to put on its proper footing, a country that virtually lives on Nigeria, has done this to us.

What is annoying me most is this. Now that we know there is a war in that part of the country bordering Nigeria, I expected that our armed forces should be properly represented in these bordering areas. If this is not done, then we in this House have to follow up some of these things. The Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs and the Chairman of Defence Committee, cannot wait for the House to pass a resolution. It is their duty, when things like this happen, to seek explanation and inform hon. Members as to the true position of what happened in those places.

On this occasion I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Transport Committee, the hon. Mr Ukpanah, for what he did over the issue of the moribund equipment in the NPA. Immediately this thing was published in the news, this Committee and its Chairman went there, they saw for themselves, they reported and that matter was killed. I think this is how the Chairmen should operate.

Secondly, an hon. Member from the Cross River State came here and said that; we all know that by the some years ago, two Nigerian Islands producing over 200 barrels of crude oil, have been seized by the Cameroun gendarme. Those from the Cross River State will tell you, that most of creeks and riverine areas their are policed, controlled and manned by the gendarmes of Cameroun and people from Cross River State have been crying and shouting about this. Those in the river areas know what is happening. I think it is a humiliation that this honourable House will no longer tolerate.

I am, therefore, appealing to Mr Speaker and this House, that the relevant committee, in tin-charge of these things should go and find out and tell us what is happening in those places so that we know we are not only legislating but are controlling this country.

Not only that, of recent, we had an air disaster off Escravos, and you heard the pathetic story of how ordinary fishermen had to salvage the bodies at very exorbitant charges. In some cases, when they recovered a corpse, they had to tie a rope to it and when they came ashore they said unless a thousand Naira was paid they would not release it. The hon. Member Sidi Ali reported about this, and you heard where the Navy that is supposed to defend this country, were on standby and said, there, they had no gas.

The Acting Speaker : Point of order, Mr E. O. Echetaabu.

Mr E. O. Echetaabu (Njikoka South) : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, I would like to point out that matters of war are the prerogative of the Senate and the Executive and have nothing to do with the House of Representatives. (*Interruptions*) Under the Constitution—

The Acting Speaker : The hon. Member from Isoko, please continue.

Mr Egbuwoku : Thank you, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, what I am trying to say here is that if situations like these happen, the Committees have a right to know. This type of thing cannot continue.

Of recent, we also heard of a case where, a thousand people or whatever it was at Bakolori dams were killed, others lost their homes. What I am saying is that whenever things like these are happening as hon. Etienam did once when there was a strike of P and T workers, he came to the House to make a statement, to brief the House on what is happening. I expect you Chairmen and hon. Members that when these things are happening, should seize the Bull by the horn and work effectively.

Hon. Members, this is all I want to alert you about. Thank you very much.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I think there will be opportunity during the Motion for adjournment to air your views.

Approval of the Report on the Trip of the Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas of the Rivers State

The Acting Speaker : Is the Chairman of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation, Dr Taribo J. Sekibo, around ?

Several hon. Members : No.

The Acting Speaker : In the circumstances, I think I would defer the Motion till tomorrow.

Motion deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow, 10 a.m.

Dr Eze Nwala (Ikwere/Etche II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion for Adjournment.

Indiscriminate Digging of Roads are Death Traps

Mrs Abiola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, last week the nation witnessed the death, and burial of those people that were victims of the F.27 air crash. During the same week, we had the misfortune of the Shell BP Helicopter which also crashed into the Atlantic Ocean. We always hear news of this nature when important

functionaries are involved ; but when it comes to the ordinary people of this nation, most of us do not seem to care.

About last month, a Member of my Constituency sent in a request to this House stating that due to the inefficiency of some Federal Government contractors, deaths of some School Children have been occurring in Mushin area. This can be attributed to the attitude of Fujikura, Siemens and Graham Bell which are responsible for our Telecommunication work.

They dig indiscriminate holes all over the place and do not even care to indicate that these are areas of danger. This is the rainy season and we know that the surface water will soon cover up all these holes and this constitutes a lot of danger to the School Children when they close from School.

I think when work of this nature is being carried out in their own countries, they know that they have to do it virtually on 24 hours basis so that life and property could be saved.

I am appealing to the Members of the Committee on Communications to call to order all these Federal Government Contractors, and make them do their job as they would have done in their own home countries where they know that they have to adhere strictly to safety regulations.

Those Fictitious NEPA Bills

We have also been witnessing incessant power failure by NEPA. We all know that despite the fact that most of us experience black-outs the NEPA bills soar at the end of the month. It is our view that the boys who are supposed to check the meter readings just sit back at their offices and increase the last month's bill by some few naira. This arbitrary allocation of electricity bills, is improper.

Those in the Committee of Mines and Power should call the NEPA officials to order and should actually ask from them how they come up with the facts and figures and the bills which they give to the consumers.

My Job to my Constituency

Also last week, I understand that a Member in this House seized the opportunity while I was away from this House to pass uncomplimentary remarks on an article which I have written in the paper.

I think, each and everyone of us, by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution have a right to express his views, and that exactly was what I have done. If the Member was not pleased with my contributions in the *Tribune* he has a right to make up his own write-up in any of the Papers.

In this nation, both men and women, those of us that are educated, have a right to express our views. The Member should take a cue from myself and make sure that all the women from his Constituency are educated so that when they have issues of public interest on which they have to make their opinions known, such women from the Mem-

ber's Constituency will be able to contribute effectively. Where things are not properly run in this country, it behoves on all of us to contribute successfully and see that the prayers which Mr Speaker reads to us every morning is translated in deeds and not only in words which Mr Speaker repeats and sits down.

All of us owe it a duty to ourselves and to the nation to contribute constructively even though it might not be palatable to some people. I am doing my responsibility to Members my Constituency, and from doing my job.

Member's Tenure of Seats

Mr S. O. Olowu (Ikale) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to remind Members of what are the conditions which determine the tenure of seats of Members. It is a mere attempt to refresh Members' memories.

As we all know, this Legislature is a creature of the Constitution. Therefore, the Constitution should be our Bible. In this regard, I wish to invite Members' attention to Section 64 of the Nigerian Constitution. For the purpose of this Section, the question facing this House now is this. Will this House be an instrument in the hands of outside personalities in matters which we can regard as their internal problems? Before we can get an answer to this, we have to read Section 64 of the Constitution which I have already referred to. With the permission of Mr Speaker, I beg to invite your attention to the relevant column. I beg to read, Sir, Section 64 (G) :

A member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives shall vacate his seat in the House of which he is a member if—

being a person whose election to the House was sponsored by a political party, he becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of the period for which that House was elected.

Under no other condition shall a Member be compelled to vacate his seat. All the conditions are stated in Section 64. The question which arises is this. In all correspondence which has been received by the Speaker, hon. Members do not know what would be the reply of Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Member for Ikale (Mr Olowu), we have received letters and it is the business of the Speaker to read these letters, and that is precisely what I have done. We all know the provisions of the Constitution.

Mr Olowu : Thank you, Sir. I am reminding you about that Section. Sir. Thank you, I beg to take my seat.

Install landing Facilities at Jos Airport

Mr A. N. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : I wish to comment and make an appeal in the light of our recent experience in Air Crashes in this country.

I heard the news this morning that the Federal Minister for Aviation Mr Mafuyai is proceeding to Kaduna this morning on a tour of Aviation Installa-

tions in this country. I want to make a special appeal to the Federal Minister in charge of Aviation. In the light of the present climatic condition of very cloudy and rainy atmosphere when the business of flying is a very difficult one, he should take special note of the situation on the high plateau in this country.

All of you are aware that the Jos City which is the Tin City, has a very special climate, and it is a very big centre that attracts a lot of visitors both our colleagues in this country and the foreigners. The climate there, because of the high hills, is a very special one. My fear here is the possibility of visibility as well as possible Aviation problems that might complicate the flying situations there.

I am therefore, appealing, Mr Speaker, to this Federal Minister, in the course of his tour, to please take special note so that when he comes back he can order the installation of landing facilities as well as possible expansion of this very airport in this enviable and very beautiful city in the centre of this country.

Thank you.

Derogatory and Violent Foreign Films

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : I would like to talk on two subjects. One is based on slavery. Recently, certain films are being shown in this country, particularly about ten o'clock or so, to show how inhuman Africans were in those days, and, maybe, how angelic the whites were and these types of pictures are being shown on our television screens without some of us realising what injury they do to the mental capabilities of the younger ones. I am asking, through this House, that such films which try to belittle us and try to show the whites as being superior to us and which try to antagonise us with our fellow blacks in other areas of the world should no longer be shown. Is there anything to delight us from that? I do not see it. If, for example, one starts to show the atrocities of the civil war in Nigeria every time here, I do not think it will help to promote unity or peace in this country. Since one cannot derive anything through that type of derogatory film shows I think, it behoves this country to stop that type of show, because it does not help us in any way. We do not learn anything from it.

There is another area, Sir, I would like to develop upon. That is an area in which violence is being tutored to the younger brains through film shows again. In so many of the films we now see, we watch shooting every time. In every little thing they shoot. I do not think it helps this country by any standard. If you watch the little kids they have started to fashion themselves in a violent mood by trying to make *pooh, pooh* every time. If we allow the younger ones who, we suppose, will replace us in due course to grow through violence, this country will be chaotic indeed. I wish that the authority concerned in this show of violent and derogatory films should put a stop to it. Thank you very much.

Members' Security

Mr Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North): This is the second time that I am going to speak about our security. Just last week, there was an out-break of fire which threatened every Member's family in the flats there. I was thinking that the Speaker or the House is going to condole the person whose flat was burnt with his property in, but nobody took notice of this. The cause of the fire, as I reliably understand, was that there was a shortage of water in the water heater and as a result the heater was over-heated and it exploded. If that is the situation, then all of us are in trouble.

I have examined and asked various questions about our drinking water. It is being drawn from the lagoon just at the back of our compounds and being treated there and just passed to us for drinking. You will find that the water is too salty and from inquiry from medical officers or experts I was told that it is dangerous to our health and to that of our children. I mean salty water is dangerous even to little children. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I would impress on you that this is a very serious matter, considering first of all, our situation, and secondly our health. Thank you very much.

Influx of foreigners

Mr Umar Bukar (Ngala East): On Motion for Adjournment, I would like to make one or two observations about the influx of foreigners into Nigeria, with particular reference to Chadians. I would call my constituency a disaster area because the refugees who are coming into Nigeria are, in fact, people of all sorts of characters. Chadians being what they are, their presence not only in my constituency but in the State capital at Maiduguri is rather a threat. If at all they are to come into Nigeria there must be ways and means of screening, or a way of keeping them away from the citizens of Nigeria. I learnt from my constituency that the grant which the Federal Government gave to assist these refugees, was mismanaged and as such these refugees could not stay in the towns where they are supposed to stay. They find their way into the midst of the people and a lot of havoc is going on. One hon. Member mentioned here that the same Chadian soldiers came into Nigeria, because there is war in their country, and did a lot of havoc here. Talking about Nigeria's security, we need to tighten the security at our borders, otherwise we are not safe. Thank you.

Politicking with Ajaokuta Steel Complex

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi): In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Steel regarding the amount of politics being played with the Ajaokuta Steel Complex. If ever this country is to progress in the field of technology, we have toyed with Ajaokuta Steel Complex for long. Knowing the importance of steel project to this country, Mr President assigned a Minister of Cabinet rank to take charge of this steel project in the country.

The main site for this project is from Ajaokuta in Kwara State. We have been following the politics being played with this project where we are supposed to have started, a lot of money has been sunk into this project, but nothing is coming out of it yet. The Ajaokuta site is supposed to be the mother site but that of Warri where the raw material is not even available but has to be imported from Okene to that place, is completed.

We would very much like to appeal to the Minister. During his first Press Conference, he made a very reasonable comment on Ajaokuta Steel Project. We would very much want him to do something in the very near future to see that the project takes off. If the Russians, are interested, we should see them working on the site in full swing. If they are not, they should tell Nigerians and we terminate the contract. We are tired. If they want to go on they should come and start with us. We welcome them. We need them in the country. They should contribute. They have the technological know-how. They should come and do it. Any unnecessary delay will not do this country any good.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Steel Project is a very important issue to this country. We cannot allow any foreign powers to toy with our own interest. Without the project we cannot advance the way everyone expects this country to do. With this comment, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit.

The Acting Speaker: The hon. Member from Bauchi State (*Alhaji Tuggar*).

Committees to Intensify their Investigative Activities

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to contribute to the Motion on adjournment. I have been deeply touched by the sentiments expressed by hon. Members from all sections of the House regarding our functions. I think we will have to really do something about that. But before we do all these things we have to depend on the Chairmen of these Committees as an hon. Member pointed out.

The hon. Member for Okehi-Adavbi (*Mr Jimoh Damisa*) has spoken about Ajaokuta Steel Complex; that is true. He said there is politics; we agree there is politics. But the Committee on Industries, in spite of all the controversies all over the country for a long time now over the contract agreement, has not been able to secure this contract agreement for Members to see so that we can know the flaws. We can know where we are wrong and where we are right. The Chairman of Currency Committee in this House could go to the banks and get us from the Central Bank or Ministry of Finance the kind of agreement entered into with these foreign banks before the Federal Government bought shares, and whether there are some lapses. We should have all these things. There is also the agreement on the Airways Management which is going on, which we have all criticised here and the public is crying about. We should have these things. We have Committees for all these things. They have not

brought anything for us to see. We only rise here and say this is bad, that is bad, but we have not got the people to bring the documents to us to really go through. We can then constitute ourselves into a force and say we do not agree with this clause or not prepared to that clause. Anybody who accept a change in the clauses should better pack and go and then we get some other people. That is the best way to go about it.

An Appeal to Governors for Co-operation

Mr Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Thank you, Mr Speaker. My speech this morning is an appeal, an appeal to our Governors to co-operate with the Federal Government in implementing its programmes. I am from Oyo State, and the progress of Oyo State is the progress of my people. Therefore, in spite of the fact that the governor happens to come from a rival party I still pray for his success. We have been informed by the Minister of Housing that most of the *Progressive* Governors have been constituting themselves into an impediment. Let us tell them that they are very small. We have no intention of using the Federal might. (*Interruptions*)

The Acting Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Akintola : I am appealing to our Governors to co-operate with the Federal Ministries because whatever comes to my State my people will benefit from it. I have no intention of constituting myself into an opposition unduly. We will criticise where necessary and be constructive too. But we want the Governors to please co-operate with the Ministries and let us have some progress.

Secondly, the *Progressive* Governors have equally been unduly molesting our people.

An hon. Member : Go to Kwara.

Mr Akintola : I will not mind being merged with Kwara, so that is not the point. The point is, as of today, you know it yourself that in terms of election, Oyo, Ogun and Ondo States are the only places you lose your deposit. So, when we are talking—(*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

The Acting Speaker : Order ! Order !

There is a point of order.

Mr Godwin Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the hon. Member for Ogbomosho Central (*Mr Yomi Akintola*) that he is to make a speech and not to quarrel with Members sitting opposite him. He seems to be replying to everything they say there and not making his speech. Let him please tell us what he wants and finish with it.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. The hon. Member for Ogbomosho you can continue please.

Roads for Ogbomosho in Oyo State

Mr Akintola : My appeal again is to the Governors to please put an end to bitterness. We have ended with campaigns and we have conceded victory

to them. Therefore all we are asking is that you should please forget the past and let us work together for the progress of this nation.

I am appealing again to the Federal Government to come to our aid. Ogbomosho roads are bad. We have contributed enough money to resurface the roads but unfortunately we cannot have enough to roll coal-tar on these roads. So, we implore the Federal Government to aid the Oyo State government in completing this progress.

The Acting Speaker : There will be two more Speakers, one from the NPP and one from the UPN.

Illegal Recruitment of Nigerian Women to Overseas

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on this Motion for Adjournment, I wish to make a few points. One of our women Members has spoken this morning and as a matter of fact my first point should have been made by one of them. That is the question of some foreigners reported to have come to this country of ours, this great Nigeria of ours, to recruit women to be sent abroad for some immoral purposes. I do not mind what they do with our men outside these shores, but I do mind a lot what they do with our women outside this country. This foreigner came, booked into one of our hotels and interviewed our women and was left to go scot free.

I am sure that going through our Criminal Code, this criminal activity must have been well taken care of as to what to do with such men when they come here, but apparently nothing was done. The women of this country are well represented in this our Assembly and no dissentient voice was raised. I want to say, Mr Speaker, that we should make sure that that was the first and the last time any foreigner, or any of our nationals for that matter, could have the effrontery to come here and insult a whole nation by recruiting our young women to be sent overseas for what can only be immoral purposes.

Roads and Postal Offices for Ogbaru in Anambra State

Having said that, I wish to appeal to the Executive, through you, Mr Speaker, to look kindly on a part of my constituency that has been neglected by all previous governments. I mean, the people of Ogbaru Clan in Anambra State. This small clan is made up of 15 communities. They have no road whatsoever. The Asika Regime tried to build roads, but stopped short at Ossamele, but beyond Ossamele, there is no road of any description communicating these various communities. These people are very industrious they are agricultural community, they produce a lot of fish, they produce a lot of yams and their land is excellent for rice paddies. They produce fish which they eat and give away and leave others to rot. The same thing happens with their yams. They cannot evacuate their produce. In saying this, I am making the point that you are not just building a road for the sake of it. You are building a road in this community for the improvement of our own economy. They will produce these crops and make it available, if they can only evacuate it, to the rest of the country, the road will pay for itself in due course.

[Dr. EMEKEKWUE]

In this entire community there is not one postal agency, from Ogbeukwu which is the beginning of Ogbaru right into Ogbuipéle. They have not a single postal agency. They have to take their letters by hand and go and post them at Onitsha. And to get letters sent to them by post, they have to know somebody who has an address at Onitsha where, from time to time, they will go and collect their mails. I think this is shameful and ridiculous in a country like Nigeria.

The Acting Speaker : Please be brief.

Armed Robbers in the Country

Dr Emekekwe : Mr Speaker, there is another subject that worries my mind and that is the question of armed robbers in this country. I think we have to face this problem. We have to face the fact that we have not got enough policemen to police this country. We have to face the fact that although there is restriction of arms to the respectable members of this community, those who go to harass others have easy access to them. It is about time we changed the law on this so that any respectable member of this community should be able to get licence to purchase any of the common arms that he can use to defend himself. In this way, we can help the police in policing this country.

Appeal to the Nigerian Press

Mr Speaker, Sir, finally, I wish to make an appeal to the Nigerian Press to be really responsible in what they do. I have never tried to play to the gallery and I will never do so in this country as long as I am a Member of this House. But they owe a duty to the Nigerian public to inform them about what is being done here in their name. My Committee, the Education Committee, put a very important Report to this House, a Report that touches every single family in this country and they did not find it fit, with one possible exception, to inform the Nigerian public about the revolutionary Report that has passed through this House. I think this is shameful.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit down. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. The hon. Member from Bendel State (*Mr Z. Momodu*).

Police Service Commission

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion on Adjournment, I intend to address myself on two aspects of what is happening. Firstly, I am seeking the indulgence of the Speaker to please inform the Executive, the President of this country to please appoint without further delay the Chairman of the Police Service Commission to enable them function properly and to preside over matters affecting police officers who had, in the recent times, been subjected to mental torture and physical humiliation. Without the composition of this body, the lives of these officers would not be determined. I would, therefore, suggest that this (*Interruptions*).

Prince T. O. Olusi (Lagos South) : Point of order.

The Acting Speaker : Point of order, please.

Prince Olusi : Mr Speaker, Sir, the speaker, hon. Momodu, is a retired police officer and the question of conflict of interest arises. (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, the point is that he is here to represent his constituency and not the police officers.

The Acting Speaker : May I remind the hon. Member for Lagos State (*Prince Olusi*) that the hon. Member from Bendel State (*Mr Momodu*) is a Member of the House of Representatives and he has the right to speak on anything on Motion for Adjournment. (*Applause*)

Mr Momodu : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the audience to speak. Mr Speaker, the second point I want to make is that the Board, if formed, would be able to draw out an idea or rules and regulations to generate the atmosphere of peace and security of the members.

Many have been saying that the Members of the Nigerian Police Force have not been effective, and Members of the public are not willing to enlist into the Nigerian Police Force. I am saying, with due respect, that this has been so because of the insecurity of the Members of the Force.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, an organisation where men are wolf to fellow men, an organisation where ethnic consideration is a yardstick of survival, such an organisation will destroy itself if care is not taken.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would also want the Commission to ensure that the convention of changing the Heads of Department of the Nigerian Police Force be maintained after the change of Government, and so I would implore the Service Commission, when appointed, to look into this properly and make some changes in the two hierarchies of the Nigerian Police Force.

Etsako Local Government Area

Finally, Mr Speaker, my Constituency, that is the Etsako Local Government Council in Bendel State, has been neglected for the past years. We have no Federal Industrial Institution in that area. I am seizing this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to please implore the Executive to look into this aspect of our problem.

We have a farm known as the Uwalaka Agbede Farm, a very big farm which can produce, say, 220 tonnes of rice yearly, but today, we have no grain of rice. With this Green Revolution which has been paramount, which has been a household slogan, we shall be grateful if the Federal Government look into this aspect of this particular farm instead of going to a virgin land which is not known. Ours is known, it requires a little development.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much indeed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Acting Speaker : Thank you. I will just make one or two announcements. There will be Committee Sittings in the afternoon between 1.30 p.m. and

4.30 p.m. The Special Investigation Panel will be sitting in Committee Room C.1 and the Business Committee in Committee Room C.2. Tomorrow, the Committee on Industries, I learnt, will meet around 1.30 p.m., so also the Special Investigation Panel. The Aviation Committee will also meet in Committee Room C.2. These are just the announcements, I want to make.

The Leader of the House, would you, please, move that the Question be now put.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

The Acting Speaker : Any seconder ? Yes, the PRP hon. Member for Kano Municipal South East (Alhaji Labaran Tanko).

Alhaji Labaran Tanko (Kano Municipal South East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

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

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 10th June, 1980

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Monday, 9th June, 1980 and from the brief I have received they reflect the true position of things that happened yesterday and have therefore been approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker : There are only one or two announcements. Some hon. Members have lost their identity cards and they have requested that these identity cards be replaced at their own expense. The photographer will be turning up tomorrow at 9 o'clock to take the photographs for the replacement of the identity cards of those Members that have lost theirs but they will have to foot the bill themselves.

Hon. Members, I know that you are aware the Speaker is not here. He has gone to prepare the ground for the Presiding Officers' Meeting that is going to take place in Enugu on Thursday and Friday. I believe Mr Ojo is going to represent the Clerks' Meeting which is taking place on Thursday in Enugu while the Presiding Officers meeting will take place on Friday. I had to be unavoidably absent yesterday because the Irikefe Tribunal was sitting yesterday for the final and last day and I had to give evidence yesterday in connection with our Special Committee on NNPC. The sitting did not finish until about 6 o'clock yesterday evening and the Tribunal did finish the public sitting yesterday.

On the Order Paper for today we have Notice of Presentation of a Bill.

PRESENTATION OF BILL

**Dissolution of the Joint Admissions and
Matriculation Board and Transfer of its
Functions (Hr 10)**

A Bill for an Act to dissolve the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board and to transfer its functions to the various Universities and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by Mr Rabiu Sha'aibu Ringim (Ringim), Mr Idi Mustapha (Gaya South) and Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi); read the First time, referred to the Committee on Education.

The Deputy Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr E. N. D. Uwandu (Mbaitoli) : Point of order. Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is on Procedure on Bill, Order 40(2) :

Any Member other than a Member of the Council of Ministers who wishes to move for leave to bring in a Bill shall give notice of such Motion by sending a copy of the provisions proposed to be embodied in the Bill to the Clerk, who shall cause them to be published in three successive issues of the Official Gazette and shall send a copy of the first of such issues to every Member.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Uwandu, the Bill was first read here some time ago and Mr Agbamuche raised the same point of order that you have just raised. Accordingly, the Bill has so far complied with the requirement of Standing Order 40 (2).

Mr Uwandu : Mr Speaker, Sir, it has not, please. The point is this—

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Uwandu, we have got copies of the *Gazette* here please.

Mr Uwandu : Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to that, I wish to say that if it had been read before, it could not have been read again as a first reading. How many first readings do we have? It is said here that it shall be printed in *three successive issues of the Official Gazette and shall send a copy of the first of such issues to every Member*—three successive issues.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Uwandu, you should go through your records. There are copies of the *Gazette* of 20th March, 1980, 27th March, 1980 and 3rd April, 1980. (*Applause*)

Several hon. Members : Shame! Shame!

**Committee on Petroleum and Energy
Conservation**

Approval of the Report on the Trip of the Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas of the Rivers State.

Dr Taribo J. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to place before this House and move that the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the trip of some Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas of the Rivers State of Nigeria; and I have to recall the memory of Members to the fact that this Report was laid before this House on the 20th of March, 1980.

I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody seconding?

Mr Agya Agbujoro (Wukari) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Dr Sekibo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, all of us are quite aware of the fact that the House of Representatives was the first to send a team to the Oil Spillage areas of the Rivers State which was later followed by that of the Senate and then the Presidential team.

Members of the Committee arrived at Port Harcourt at about 11.30 a.m. on 26th February, 1980, and left by helicopters to the areas of the Rivers State hit by the spillage from Funiwa 5 oil well owned by Texaco Overseas (Nigeria) Petroleum

Company located 5 miles offshore and 11 miles west of the mouth of Sangana Rivers. The General Manager of Texaco Overseas (Nigeria) Petroleum Company, Mr H. H. Bush accompanied members of the Committee to the areas affected by the oil spillage.

As a result of the unavailability of big air crafts members of the Committee travelled in different helicopters and visited Brass and Sangana of the oil spillage areas of the Rivers State. During the visit members had discussions with the natives, Texaco Local staff (especially one Mr Godwin Obaseki), the Doctor-in-charge of Brass General Hospital (Dr Dambo) and the General Manager of Texaco (Mr H. H. Bush).

Members of the Press who accompanied us from Lagos and from *Tide* Office in Port Harcourt participated very actively, taking photographs and asking questions.

Members of the Committee were told at the Brass General Hospital by the Doctor-in-charge :

(1) that the spillage and its attendant pollution spread to the waters of Brass.

(2) that since the beginning of the pollution caused by the spillage cases of Gastro-enteritis, Vulvitis and skin rashes or dermatitis increased considerably.

At Sangana, members of the Committee observed :

(1) that the Funiwa 5 oil well is located off shore about 5 miles from Sangana.

(2) that from Sangana the Funiwa 5 oil well Platform and burning gas were visible.

(3) that the natives of Sangana were basically fishermen and that the continental shelf is the main source of their means of livelihood and any adverse condition in the continental shelf affects their lives adversely.

(4) that Sangana and the other villages in the environ are permeated by creeks.

Discussions with the natives revealed :

(5) that some of the natives had migrated to other places as a result of the hardships caused by the spillage. There was no drinking water in the area and the only drinking water was brought down from Port Harcourt by the Rivers State Government.

(6) that Texaco Overseas (Nigeria) Petroleum Company made only insulting gifts of three hundred (₦300) naira as well as a few goats and bags of garri to them (the natives) as against the claims by the Local Supervisor of Texaco relief efforts (Mr Godwin Obaseki) who said that he has given them enough drinking water by digging wells and providing them with food and meat.

(Note : the denials were made by the natives before Mr Godwin Obaseki, who could not substantiate his claims with facts).

Members further observed :

(7) that although Mr Bush the General Manager of Texaco claimed to have spent over (₦30,000) thirty thousand naira on relief operations, there was no evidence whatsoever to support this claim.

(8) that after over forty-five days of the beginning of the spillage there was still abundant evidence of heavy pollution in the creeks and mangrove swamps around Sangana.

(9) that much damage was done to marine life, fishing nets and the mangrove vegetation by the pollution.

Members were further informed :

(10) that although the blow-out took place on 17th January, 1980, Texaco did not report the accident to the Rivers State Government. Information about the blow-out came to the notice of the Government through the natives of the area on 2nd February, 1980.

(11) that the widespread pollution was preventable if the necessary equipments were available and utilised properly and appropriately.

(12) that Mr G. Obaseki the Local Texaco Relief operations supervisor was not supplying the relief materials to the Communities if the Texaco General Manager's claim of having spent (₦30,000) thirty thousand naira is a fact.

(13) Members were left with the impression that Texaco Overseas (Nigeria) Company did not want members to see much of the spillage areas as they failed to provide fuel and motored boats to take members of the Committee to the affected areas despite their earlier promises.

(14) The committee as a whole recommends further help to the people of the affected areas.

RECOMMENDATION.—That as a result of the present exposure of many Nigerians to preventable hardships due to the ill-equipped nature of companies prospecting for oil in Nigeria, to combat oil spillages and subsequent pollutions, the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation of this House should properly study and review, if need be, the conditions of operations by all oil prospecting Companies in this Country with a view to proper legislation on the matter ; but the Committee recommends :—

(1) that as an immediate measure all oil prospecting Companies including the NNPC, must as a matter of urgency purchase complete sets of oil containment booms and oil spillage extraction equipments, etc. both for offshore and inshore spillage conditions ;

(2) that the NNPC must start immediately to organise and establish a Standard oil spillage Containment system in the country with training centres in Nigeria ;

(3) that there must be urgent recruitment and training of Nigerians to man the equipments ;

(4) that the Inspectorate Division of the NNPC must go round to ensure after six months that all oil Companies have complied with number (1) of this recommendation and report back to this Committee for further action.

Visit to Port Harcourt Refinery.—On the 27th February, 1980 members of the Committee visited

[DR SEKIBO]

the Refinery near Port Harcourt and the Jetty at Okrika and observed :

(a) that an extensive area of land has been acquired for the extension project with a view to expanding the refining capacity of the present refinery ;

(b) that a new Jetty to replace the old damaged one was completed and handed over to the NNPC since about October-November 1979 by the NPA ;

(c) that at the time of the visit work had not started for the installation of equipments for the shipment of refined products from the refinery and no contract has been awarded ;

(d) that the delay in the installation of the equipments at the Okrika Jetty is not in the best interest of our country having regard for the world inflationary trend.

RECOMMENDATION : In order to avoid further rise in the cost of installing the equipment, it is recommended that contract for the installation of the equipment at Okirika Jetty be negotiated and awarded immediately.

Hon. Members, before I take my seat, I have to explain that my inability to present this report to the honourable House was due to the fact that some of the relief materials being sent to the area by the Federal Relief Agency are having some problems. For instance, I was able to establish yesterday that over ₦30,000 worth of frozen chickens flown from Lagos to Port Harcourt could not be properly stored and, as a result of it, all went bad and were buried. This situation is really very serious because if Federal help cannot get to the victims as expected, then the whole idea of this House sending a team to assess and then advise the President on what to do is defeated.

The stand of the Federal Relief Agency saying that the State Relief Agency should keep clear, I think, under the circumstances cannot work. It is just like the United Nations Organisation trying to help Nigeria and then asking Nigerian Agency not to participate. This will not work well. So, I hope Members will think of it and will see what sort of recommendations we can give to the Agency or the President in this regard. Thank you very much.

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee for the timely action they took when the issue of oil spillage came up. Examining the report presented to us some time ago, one discovers at page 2 that the Texaco Overseas Nigeria Petroleum Company had paid out some money, in fact it says ₦30,000, for the purpose of giving this out to some of the areas that have been affected by the disaster. Unfortunately, one officer by the name Godwin Obaseki arrogated to himself the use of this money, and only gave out a small portion as charity, a small and meagre portion of ₦300, plus a few goats and some bags of rice to those for whom the entire ₦30,000 was meant. This goes to confirm the fact that our problem in Nigeria is not that we are under-developed or that we have been living under the rule of some other powers, like the colonial powers in those days, but that it is we ourselves that have been responsible for our fate in the Nigerian society. I can not imagine

how an officer, not a colonial officer but a Nigerian being given a some of ₦30,000 to give out to people that are dying as a result of the disaster, could make a charity donation of it, and gather a few people and give them bags of rice and a few goats as if he was coming back from a pilgrimage.

I mean we should really take a very hard and concerned look at a matter like this, and I recommend that such an officer should properly be investigated, disciplined and removed from this office forthwith.

If you go to page 3, there is also another thing. It says that the issue of oil disaster came up on the 17th of January, 1980, but the matter was not reported to the members of the public or the appropriate quarters for action. Well, as hon. Members may witness, a statement has been issued by Texaco itself on this matter. Texaco said that it issued a prompt information to the NNPC. Here again, we see Nigerians in action. The foreign Company knew its duty and its obligation to this nation by reporting the matter promptly. It came down here, according to their own release, to the NNPC Officials and intimidated them about the disaster. Here again, Nigerian officials in the NNPC advised them not to let it be known by Members of the public.

What was the rationale behind this ? Here again we see Nigerian Officials suppressing legitimate information that ought to have gone out to the people that are concerned about this disaster. We discovered that the matter remained until it nearly got out of hand, but for the fact that the President of the nation sent in a timely relief, the calamity was averted some how. I do feel that this Committee should not stop at this report, but should get the matter back to their own Committee and make further recommendations for appropriate discipline for the staff of the NNPC as well as the officer who diverted the use of ₦30,000 for his own pocket and gave out a charity of ₦30,000, a few goats and a bag of gari. Mr Speaker, I feel that this matter should receive a good concern of the Committee and adequate disciplinary action be taken against the officer concerned. I beg to sit. Thank you.

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : I think amelioration of the situation in the oil spillage areas will not stop at the token measure already taken by the Government of the Federation. I think the oil company in question is also liable to what we call industrial hazard. If that is the case, they will be responsible tortiously for the continental shelf of the Nigerian Coastline which they have polluted. In fact, in all civilised countries, there is always a measure against pollution of continental shelves by a decree or an Act of Parliament so that a future occurrence will not happen. Money has now been given by the Government to alleviate the suffering of the people in the oil spillage area but this has been diverted by other forces, and we do not know from the Committee whether it wants the Government to give more money when the one already given has been diverted and they have not claimed immunity as far as we are concerned.

So, we would like to know whether the Government will continue feeding the sick baby of dishonesty and of various unpatrotic acts of certain individuals

who touch money coming from the coffers of the Government; or are we to allow the sufferings of those masses still to continue? I feel very strongly that since this money has been given, I doubt whether we can give any other money except the situation warrants it, or else the Government will then be bearing the responsibility of the oil company that exploits oil at this continental shelf of the Riverine area. The Government should ask the oil company to pay adequate compensation to those people who are affected, and I recommend that such compensation should not be given to any individual or organisations, but the people so affected will come with their identities and receive whatever benefit will be given to them.

Regarding the question of forklifts and other instruments used at the terminals for evacuation of oil, I should think that these outdated forklifts should be auctioned, except the iron and steel industry is prepared to evacuate them safely to Ajaokuta, or else you will find that while they are still lying idle at the harbour, some unscrupulous Nigerians, as we know them, will by night remove them and re-sell them again to the NPA.

This is not the first time such situations have happened. We had that with the Stadium at Surulere; we had that even with the Television Authorities where instruments designed by the Government were surreptitiously removed over-night and then sold back to the government at the same time. This happened also in cases of drugs in our hospitals. So, whatever they are doing let the Committee see that these outdated machineries are either sent to Ajaokuta or another arrangement is made for the safe-handling of the materials and safe custody before rogues and vagabonds in the society lay hands on them. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: I just forgot to remind Party Leaders that we need some names. We have to make available the names of twelve Members of this honourable House that will meet twelve Members of the Senate for a Joint Conference on Appropriation. We are using the normal ratio of—

NPN	5 Members
UPN	3 Members
NPP	2 Members
PRP	1 Member
GNPP	1 Member

The Leaders of the political parties should please meet me immediately after this sitting. Yes, Mr Zubairu.

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jamai North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to contribute on the report of the Oil Spillage by the Committee on Petroleum and Energy. In the first instance, I would like to assure the Committee that they have done an excellent job, but at the same time they have left other things out. The writing of their report is so fine but in their findings they have not done very well. There are certain areas I would call their attention to.

In the first place they were made to realise that the relief of ₦30,000 was actually given to these people. I had wanted the Committee at that material time

and at that particular point to have made their fact-findings from the person that was given this money as to how this money was spent. But these Committee Members only got the story and did not work on this matter. It could be that they only sat down and had their tea and coffee.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want us to realise that bureaucracy has killed efficiency in this country. You will realise that the relief that was given by the Head of State, a Member once said here, that they were kept at the Airport for almost a month and were not distributed to the people. You can see right away that this thing started right from the NNPC officials here who were not interested that people should bring this matter out. The NNPC officials thought that they could handle the situation. It was when they found out that they could not handle the situation of the Oil spillage that they allowed the newspapers of this country to carry it. In this case, you will realise that inefficiency within our bureaucrats will kill the economic growth of this country. If the NNPC had taken this matter with great urgency this thing would not have degenerated so far like that. I would like the Committee to go back and write a critical report on this fact finding mission and the relief materials given to these people and bring it back to this House.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, Sir, in all developed countries where you have oil explorators you will find that they have gadgets that actually check the explorations of the oil, but in this country you find that nobody minds about anything. Nigerians do not mind about anything, they sit down and when these people come they take them unawares and do anything they want.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with this, I want the Committee to go back and look at these three areas, collate and see the type of gadgets that are being used in all oil fields.

Thank you very much.

Mr David H. Gbaaondo (Takum): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the oil spillage crisis came into existence when power was handed over to civilians I believe it would have been earlier than that. The Federal Government did not hesitate to send relief materials worth two million naira to the area. Mr Speaker, Sir, the President himself went to the area, but to my greatest surprise the materials did not reach the local area where the spillage was reported.

Mr Speaker, Sir, at this juncture, I do not believe in the report of this Committee. If at all we are going to compensate the oil spillage area I do not have any question. I believe this question of oil spillage in Nigeria is giving this Administration a very great headache. The Report of this Committee, I believe, must be rejected. Thank you.

Mr Isyaku Gumawa (Gabasawa): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, during the discussion of this Committee report and before the last two speakers you made an announcement. With due respect it is on this announcement that I want to get the constitutional point clearer. Section 55, Subsection 2 of the Constitution of Nigeria—

The Deputy Speaker : Are you contributing to the Debate before us or what ?

Mr Gumawa : It is a constitutional point of order I want to get clearer.

The Deputy Speaker : On what ?

Mr Gumawa : On the announcement you have just made.

The Deputy Speaker : I was calling on you to contribute to the debate on the Floor of the House, that is, on the report of the Committee on NNPC and the oil spillage.

Mr Gumawa : Mr Speaker, Sir, the announcement was made during this discussion on the report.

The Deputy Speaker : But we have already passed that point now.

Mr Gumawa : Please, Mr Speaker, Sir, with due respect, may I know the stand of this Special Committee you have just announced. Section 55 has clearly stated the situation of the Draft Estimate after having passed through one of the two arms of the National Assembly—

The Deputy Speaker : You cannot raise this matter now. You can raise it on Motion for adjournment later.

Mr Gumawa : It is as a result of your announcement, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : A hon. Member wanted to make this same constitutional observation and I asked him to sit down until after the Motion for Adjournment.

Mr Gumawa : Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody from PRP to contribute on this NNPC report ? All right let us have somebody from the UPN.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : I come from a constituency that produces half or two thirds of the total oil output of this country. It is just proper that I should speak on the report of the Committee on Petroleum.

To start with, hon. Members, and in line with what I said yesterday about the roles and the functions of Committee Chairmen, I wish to congratulate the Chairman of the Petroleum Committee, Dr Sekibo, and Members of the Committee for the timely intervention which they took with respect to this oil spillage. I believe this is what is expected of Committees of this House and I think they did a good job. Also I wish to thank this House for giving that Committee the chance to do the job the way they did it.

Hon. Members, if you look around, since we started the production of oil, you will see for yourselves that not until this House started taking very active interest, that for the first time, the people of this nation from all sectors of this country began to be aware of the problems that confront the oil production areas of this country. So, I wish to thank you and congratulate you for this particular interest you have shown in this matter. I think this is the way nationhood should be built.

Secondly, I would like to point out that sooner or later a Bill will be introduced to this House for your consideration to tie the hands of the oil companies. It is not enough to appeal to the Federal Government. We shall introduce a Bill sooner or later to tie the hands of these oil companies operating in these areas that when they destroy the property, crops and economic life of the areas where they are working they should pay adequate compensation. As I told you once, it was since 1955 that compensations have been paid for economic crops and economic activities destroyed by the oil companies. Since that date these rates have not been reviewed. Like the Chairman of the Committee told you, you have heard a case of thirty thousand naira which an oil company is supposed to disburse to the people of those areas, and it ended up with only three hundred naira, a goat, a bag of gari, and a ream of plantain, whatever that was worth. I want to tell you that this has been the pathetic situation of the oil producing areas all along.

I want the Chairman of the Committee and his Members to view very critically the land and legal departments of the oil companies because this is where all our people are being oppressed. The Land and Legal Department of the oil companies is the most corrupt, the most inarticulate, the most useless, and, in fact, one of the most crucial areas where the oil companies are cheating the ordinary people and I want the Committee to look into it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to remind the Committee that they still have pending a visit to other oil producing areas of the Cross River and Bendel States. As you are aware, this oil spillage affected areas in Bendel on land and offshore. In Cross River State particularly the Marine life there is being destroyed gradually everyday and the people are being impoverished just as we have in the Rivers, and in Bendel. Of course, I am being told that Ondo State has started producing oil. Sorry, I did not add the Ogbomosho oil. (*Laughter*)

Mr Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Point of order. I refer to Order 26 (2). The hon. Member should confine himself to the report before the House. Furthermore, Sir, I thought it was a Member of the House speaking I never knew it was a gold-magnate.

The Deputy Speaker : Your point is well taken, Tom, please wind up.

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, Sir, probably you would remember that in 1956 oil was discovered in Ogbomosho. I think they are still working on that one. Hon. Members, arising from this report, I also want to seize the opportunity to thank the President. Even though the Committee did not go to the oil spillage areas in Bendel and Cross River States, I do realise that forty per cent of the two million naira which was dished out to alleviate the sufferings of people in these riverine areas was graciously granted to Bendel State by the President. I think that if somebody does you good, it is just good enough to say thank you. But being that the Bendel State produces about two-thirds of the total oil output in this country we think that that amount is not enough.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to say I support the hon. Members there that the Chairman of the Committee should not take the issue of the ₦30,000 lying low. They should consult lawyers and Members in this Assembly to find out what powers we have to bring the oil companies to find out the details of this day-light robbery.

With this, Mr Speaker, I congratulate the Committee and I support the acceptance of the report. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Move that the Question be now put.

Mr Tubo O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do approve the report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the Trip of some Members of the Committee to the Oil Spillage Areas of the Rivers State of Nigeria.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Bob-Manuel : I move that this House do adjourn till 10.00 tomorrow morning.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Dr E. J. Sowho (Ethiopia North) : I beg to second the Motion.

Peugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited

Mr David Afaityo (Gboko East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Internal Affairs through you not to extend or renew the Expatriate quotas for Peugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited until the Committee on Commerce completes its investigation which is currently going on with the company. Before I go on, Sir, I would like to direct your attention to the agreement signed by this Company with the Nigerian Government in 1972, Article 5 paragraph 5. With your kind permission, I will read :

(a) Peugeot shall undertake the training of indigenous managerial and technical personnel prior to the commencement of operations, in such sufficient numbers as to ensure that by the commencement of production, posts in this category are predominantly held by Nigerians.

(b) Peugeot shall also assist the Company in the placement and training of its managerial and technical personnel in France, in such a way as to enable it to pursue purposefully the replacement of expatriate personnel by trained Nigerians. Such training shall include the activities of designing and procurement of equipment, planning and installing of assembly machinery, tools and jigs.

Sir, it will interest you to hear that the Company has only two years to transfer its manpower to Nigeria but up to this moment they have trained

nobody in the top Management section, instead they have written a letter demanding an extension and renewal of their expatriate quota now pending with the Minister of Internal Affairs. Our Embassy in Paris is refusing to grant them entry into the country on this basis and they are now lobbying our Minister to make available the order so that they will bring in their people.

It is in this regard, Sir, that I want to call the attention of this honourable House, through you, to send a message to the Minister not to grant this permission to these people until we find out what is happening in this company. I beg to sit.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Warri (*Chief B. O. N. Omoruwa*).

Insecurity in Nigeria

Chief Bon Omoruwa (Warri) : Mr Speaker, hon. Gentlemen, my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment is the publication in the *Daily Times* of the 7th of June, 1980 at the back page captioned *CIA Equipment in Warri*. Mr Speaker, with your permission, I will read a portion :

A powerful mobile satellite allegedly installed illegally by an Oil contracting firm has been discovered by the Police in Warri, Bendel State. The equipment which includes a sophisticated telex machine has been impounded. Sources said that the Satellite has been continually used by some expatriates to transmit clandestine reports to outside Nigeria. They thought that the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was not unconnected with the outfit.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the reason why this matter should be taken with all seriousness is that Nigeria is a country which is heading the problems of people in Africa and it is a famous country. There is need for this country to have internal security. Just on the 26th of last month, there was a publication in the *National Concord* about an armed ex-corporal in a combatant outfit who worked his way into the Radio Station and wanted to make a broadcast. Apart from that one, there is a report that the Tchadian Army had found their way into the country from the border, entered Bada in Bornu State and laid hands on hards of cattle and went away unchallenged.

Mr Speaker, these matters, taken together, indicate that there is no security whatsoever in this country. A country such as Nigeria is a country where the security should be tightened. We have enemies all over the world. How can we afford to say that we are championing the cause of Africa when, in fact, we have no security. It is my humble submission, Mr Speaker, that the inquiry over this question of CIA equipment at Warri should be handled by the Committee on Ministry of Internal Affairs. We understood that the Police is handling this matter but it is clear from the happening in this country that Police investigations are always inconclusive. On this question of impounding this sophisticated material, there is no information that this equipment has been handed over to the Federal Government in Lagos.

So, it is my humble submission that if the Committee of this House goes into this matter and

[CHIEF OMONRUWA]

examines it properly, they might come out with a result which will enable us to make more meaningful attack on lack of security in this country. With this, Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Gabasawa (*Alhaji Isyaku Gumawa*), I have to come back to the point you raised earlier on.

1980 Budget

Mr Isyaku M. Gumawa (Gabasawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members the point of Constitution I was raising is in connection with the announcement you made. You suggested that a Committee should be appointed by this House to be made up through a formula you have just mentioned. Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, Section 55, subsection 2 has stated clearly what should be done after the passing of the Draft Estimates by one of the two arms of the National Assembly. Now that the House of Representatives has finished with the Appropriation Bill and the Senate is likely to finish today or perhaps has finished yesterday, Mr Speaker, Section 55, subsection 2 states that a Committee already existing in each of the two Houses should come together to form a Joint Committee on Finance. I am sure Members of these two Committees in both Houses are getting prepared for the job ahead, for them to complete this Budget affair.

Now, If we should appoint another Committee, it all means that these people will have to be given time to study all the amendments made from the two Houses before they can come up with anything reasonable. We all agree that the Amendments were so many from both Houses, some of the Amendments were necessary and some were needless. This Committee on Finance is aware of all these. If we leave it, should we then agree that there is something we are afraid of from the recommendation of this existing Committee which we expect the special Committee to take care of ?

The Deputy Speaker : All you have to do is to refer to Section 55 (2) of the Constitution. Nobody is afraid of anything. You have just made a point on Section 55, no more ; there is no question of somebody being afraid of anything.

Mr Gumawa : Then as we have all sworn to protect the Constitution, Mr Speaker, I think we had better do that.

The Deputy Speaker : That is what we are doing. Hon. Members, the point that has been made by Isyaku Gumawa, Mr Tom Egbuwoku, Mr Iyayi and other Members is that the provisions of the Constitution has already stated clearly in Section 55 (2), which I do not need to read, that there is going to be the necessity of the Joint Committee on Finance to meet so as to iron out the differences between this House and the Senate with regard to the Budget for 1980.

Now, the Senate may possibly finish the Budget today or tomorrow, and this Finance Committee will be required to sit immediately after that so as to resolve the issues between the two Houses. There may then be the possibility of our having a Joint

Session of the two Houses. We do not know specifically, but I hope it has to be before Friday. The President of the Senate has informed me that this Budget should be disposed of completely including our own Joint Sitting by Friday this week. So, we have to wait until we receive a message from the Senate saying that they have disposed of the Budget and that there is a necessity of this Joint Sitting, otherwise it is the Joint Finance Committee that will meet and on this Joint Finance Committee we have already got our own members selected accordingly. So they should be prepared to meet their counterparts in the Senate any time.

Advance Notice of Items for Future Debates

Mr E. U. U. Inyang (Ikono) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I just wish to point out that the failure to consistently list in advance the items to appear on the Order Paper for each day in the week is affecting the quality of our Debates. We come into the House in the morning to find the list of the items for discussion and we come in unprepared for them. If it is possible for Committees to be listed ahead of the week, the items for each day of the week should be similarly listed to enable us prepare in advance. Mr Speaker, that is the point I want to make.

Roads and Livestock

Mr E. D. N. Uwandu (Mbaitoli) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on this Motion for Adjournment, I wish to comment on two issues within this Federation. The first one is on roads, the second one is on the shortage of livestock in the country which has led to lack of protein in the diets of the people of Nigeria. Now the roads in this country, especially in the rural areas, during the rainy season are so bad that lorries and individuals cannot pass, and cannot do their businesses very well. We are all talking of Green Revolution and production of food, but you cannot produce and transport food to the townships or the urban areas without good roads. For example, Imo area where I come from, as you all know, is a ravaged area. In the Local Government areas, and some other areas, even some of the roads which are under Federal Government are very bad.

The Orlu-Owerri-Awka road about which a fanfare was made last year by the Ministry of Works that this road has been given to contractors to construct or rehabilitate, by the speed at which they are doing that job (I do not even know if they have actually started that job) nothing has been done in that place. There are pot-holes. If you go to that area you will be surprised and yet we are talking of one Nigeria.

May I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this thing must be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Works. It is not good saying that we are going to build first-class roads, we are going to do this, we are going to do that, and yet when you go to the areas where you have these roads, the roads are so bad, dilapidated and impassable with the result that you cannot move freely in these areas.

Secondly, I shall talk on the livestock in the country. There is lack of food protein in this country. The cows, the cattle which we are supposed to have from Sokoto, Maiduguri and other places are not sufficient. So, I am asking that the Executive arm of the Government should lift the ban on the importation of meat, and allow more meat to come into Nigeria.

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Uwandu : So that we can have protein in this country because the quantity of meat we have to feed one hundred and twenty million people in Nigeria is not sufficient. So, with this, Mr Speaker, I am asking that we should improve the livestock system and the breeding of goats and sheep in this country whether it is in the North or in the South so that we can supply sufficient protein to the people of Nigeria. Without having sufficient protein we cannot develop, and our children's growth will be hampered.

With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Mr Dauda Adejumo Ibrahim.

Overhead Bridge at Dangerous Road Crossings

Mr Dauda Adejumo Ibrahim (Irewole West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in my own contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to comment on road accidents, which is biting deeply in my own Constituency on Ife-Ibadan Road which is owned by the Federal Government.

The point of intersection, that is Ikire-Iwo and Ife-Ibadan Road, has become death-trap for both pedestrians and motor users, and as a result, I wish to appeal through this honourable House and Mr Speaker that something need to be done to mitigate this problem of incessant accidents.

In order to buttress my argument over this matter, I have collected accident return statistics from Commissioner of Police, Oyo State and the statistics have been given to me in this form. It has been divided into columns : divisions, number of cases of reported accidents, number of fatal accidents, number of serious accidents, number of minor accidents, number of persons killed, number of persons seriously injured, and number of persons slightly injured. On overall total, within six months of 1979 we had 1,208 motor accidents reported. Out of this we have 418 which are fatal accidents, 606 serious accidents, 144 minor accidents, 607 persons killed, 885 persons were slightly injured and 306 persons were also slightly injured, according to the Police Report. This thing cuts across Federal Constituencies along that Federal road. At Ibadan, we have 754 reported, Ikire 123 reported, Iwo 166 reported, Ile-Ife 165 reported and then on the overall total 1,208 cases were reported.

For this reason, I wish to inform this honourable House that especially that point of intersection, I mean Ikire-Iwo and Ife-Ibadan point of intersection, has become death-trap for people using the road. I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to see that an overhead bridge is

constructed in that area and in other places where we have crossing sections on the roads. I beg to stop here, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put that the House be adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow, morning.

Some Hon. Members : No.

Mr A. Gapsuk (Shendam East) : I want to raise a point of objection against Mr Bob-Manuel asking that the Question be put, when Col. Amadi is here. Mr Bob-Manuel cannot ask you to put the Question when Col. Amadi is here. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Dr C. Obihara.

Members not invited to Funeral Ceremonies for Air Victims

Dr C. Obihara (Owerri South) : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this Motion for Adjournment. I suppose we all remember that last Saturday this nation had a big funeral ceremony for our fellow Nigerians who died in an air accident while on national duty.

Early last week we discussed this matter in this House and we all expressed our shock at what had happened. It was, really a pity that last Saturday, Members of these National Assembly were not invited to the ceremonies. I think that on such occasions Members of this august House should be invited because there were invitations to many people in all walks of life in Lagos and throughout the whole country except Members of this Assembly.

Now, while discussing this accident last week the Chairman of the Committee on Defence of this House did say that, in fact, some part of the blame for the accident, for the fact that bodies could not be recovered in time, should be laid at the door of this august House. The reason he gave was that we had not, perhaps, sufficiently equipped the Armed Forces to deal with emergencies. I do not agree with this assessment because, for the past fourteen years, this country was under a Military Government, and the Army, as we all know, had every chance to equip themselves fully as much as they liked during those fourteen years.

If, for any reason, they failed to equip themselves fully, then you cannot blame this House. In this year in particular, this House has infact approved the estimates of the Armed Forces without any reduction. I cannot see how we can be blamed at all for anything which might have happened.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this is an example. I am one of those who deplored the attitude of Committee Chairmen sometimes acting as spokesmen, as apologists, for Ministries, for arms of the Executives, instead of representing more strongly the views of the House. I find this in many Committees, not just this one. I think this is in fact a good reason for a proposal I have heard is going to be adopted that Committee Chairmen will be changed every year. This really is a very good point and I think it is a good thing this House should do, to change

[DR OBIHARA]

Committee Chairmen every year. As you all know, there are four hundred and fifty members in this House and only about twenty-five Committees. This boils down to one Member in eighteen serving as a Committee Chairman over a four-year period. This is too small. Rotating this every year will give a chance to more people to be exposed to guiding our Committees.

Furthermore, as you all know while many of our Committee Chairmen are very able men, very competent and doing the work very well, some others are, in fact, figure heads and are in fact not acutally competent to carry the Committees, and this delays progress and achievement in the Committees and in the House as a whole. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

III.—Equip Health Centres in States

Mr J. O. Owoseni (Ekiti South): I have just two points to bring to the attention of this House, and I hope Members will try to listen because they are very important. During the dying days of the Military Administration in this country, some Clinics or Health Centres were built or commissioned throughout the country especially in Ondo State. These Health Centres were expected to be run from day to day by the States in which they were built, but the Federal Government is expected to supply the equipments that would be used in these Clinics.

In Ondo State, some of these centres have been built but some have not. Those that were built had their equipments delivered to the site, but unfortunately, these equipments have not been installed even after a year that they had been delivered to the site. As a result of this non-installation, it has been very much difficult for the workers who were recruited into the centres to work effectively for the benefit of the people for whom the centres were created. This is particularly so in Ondo State. When I went round to my constituency last time, I discovered that the equipment there were just rotten. They were not installed and I was told that these equipments had been delivered over a year ago now.

Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Committee in-charge of Health in this House and the Minister in-charge of Health to speed up and contact the contractor in-charge because I was told that it is the contractors who were given the work who are expected to instal the equipments. It is, therefore, important, if the communities are to benefit from the Health Clinics and Health Centres, that these equipments should be installed in time.

Telephone Exchanges

Just yesterday an announcement was credited to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications that about three hundred and forty-one Telephone Exchanges will be built throughout the country before the end of this year. I think this is a very welcome news because of the importance of telephone to the economic development of any country. The announcement went further again to say that the Exchanges will be built in the Headquarters and Industrial Areas of the country.

To my mind, I feel the establishment of Telephone Exchange depends upon the economic viability of the areas in which they are to be built and so, there are some big towns in some Local Government Areas which are more economically viable than the Local Government Headquarter itself. So also there are some villages or towns which are more important or more economically viable than some small industrial areas.

So, I would suggest to the Minister in-charge to ensure that a feasibility study is made of the areas in which these Exchanges are to be built. During the Third National Development Plan, a number of towns were listed for these Exchanges. It is unfortunate that during these five years, these towns which are located in various parts of the States in the Federation have not been given Telephone Exchanges, I hope the Minister in-charge of Communications will look into these towns especially those which are economically viable, even though they are not headquarters or they are not in industrial areas. He should look into them and ensure that these towns which have been lying on his list for so many years be considered for these Telephone Exchanges. Thank you very much.

Ban on the use of 505 Cars

Alhaji Sidi H. Ali (Dambatta): Mr Speaker, I have something very important to say and it is only co-incident that you are on the seat Mr Speaker, we have all respect for this honourable House and some times when we do something and we are ignored, we find it very difficult. There was a resolution in this House which was very critically treated by all honourable Members and from all parties that we ban the use of Peugeot 505 by our Leaders.

Unfortunately, when this Motion was passed, I believe around 1.15 p.m., by 2 o'clock the Deputy Speaker, hon. Idris Ibrahim, was the first to return his car. Then other Party Leaders followed. The most disturbing and the most disgraceful thing is that the Leader of the House, hon. Yunusa Kaltungo, has refused up till now to return his 505.

Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr Ali: I am also informed that the Leader of the GNPP has equally refused to return his car; but the Leader of the PRP, hon. Mustapha, although he does not keep the car there but every morning this car goes to pick him.

Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame!

Mr Ali: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we should be very serious. When a Motion is passed on the Floor of this House, one should be the last, no matter how distasteful it is, to break it. I feel if any of these Leaders refuses to return the car within the next twenty-four hours we must impeach him.

Secondly, according to the Senate Order Paper, there is going to be an amendment raised by Senator Ayo Fasanmi in connection with the car advance to Members which he wants deleted. I think one of the jobs of this House is that

Members, especially those from his party, should lobby this distinguished Senator and the rest of us should lobby others. This item should be left because if it is deleted it is going to put a lot of Members into serious difficulty. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is what I have for you.

Thank you very much.

Members Tenure of Seats

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South): Mr Speaker, hon. Gentlemen, I will refer to a salient point raised by one Member of the UPN yesterday under Section 64 of the Constitution. After I have perused the Constitution I found that the hon. Member was right, that where a party has expelled a Member in a House, it is automatic that his seat should be vacated. I will rely on Section 64 (1) (b) and I will read as follows, *Tenure of Seats of Members*, because many Members believe that they cannot be sacked and that they will stay four years. That is wrong. The law is clear here:

A Member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives shall vacate his seat in the House of which he is a Member if

(a) *he becomes a Member of another Legislative House.*

(b) *any other circumstances arise that, if he were not a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, would cause him to be disqualified for election as a Member.*

If you are not a Member of a Party you could not really contest.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Echetabu: And you can not be a Member of the House of Representatives or the Senate without contesting an election under a Party platform.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Echetabu: So, those people who are sit-tight Members of Parliaments will find out that the only exception is Section 64 (1) (b). When there is a split in the Party that is the only situation in which Section 64 (1) (b) will not apply. I will read Section 64 (1) (b). (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! There is a point of order.

Mr Echetabu: Yes, I will hold on for the point of order and after that I will go on.

Dr T. J. Sekibo (Bonny II): My point of order is constitutional. I would like to refer hon. Members to Section 37 (b) of the Constitution and if I am allowed I will read:

A person elected to a legislative house as a candidate who was sponsored by any political party shall not be entitled to join or declare himself to be a member of a Political party until the general election next following his election as such candidate.

Therefore someone can be elected to this House. The idea of not being elected—

The Deputy Speaker: Your point is taken.

Mr Echetabu: So, Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may continue—

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Echetabu: Section 64 (1) (g) is the only exception where a Member may not vacate his seat— if there is a split in that political party.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Echetabu what are you trying to put forward?

Mr Echetabu: I am trying to say that Section 64 (1) (g) is the only exception to Section 64 (1) (b). That is, if there is a split in the political party Section 64 (1) (b) will not take effect. But where there is no split in the political party Section 64 (1) (b) takes effect, and Section 37 which was read by the hon. Member for Bonny hon. Princewill supports my contention. So, this is the position that persons who think that they can remain for four years cannot.

The Deputy Speaker: I just still do not know what you are getting at.

Mr Echetabu: What I am driving at is that except there is a split in a political party where from a person has contested election and become a Member of the House of Representatives or the Senate, if there is no such split, his seat becomes vacant, if the party is in unison and act according to their constitution to expel such a Member. This is what is envisaged.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Echetabu, with due respect, you are an able lawyer—

Some hon. Members: No! No!

The Deputy Speaker: He is a lawyer and was a magistrate. You do not become a magistrate without being a lawyer. You should, under normal circumstances, give us guidance on the legal interpretation of the Constitution. But I do not think you are trying to do so right now.

Mr Echetabu: That is a point, well agreed; but all the same I was only drawing a reference to this Section so that Members will bear it in mind. Secondly, I will refer to Section 174 (b) of the Constitution.

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise the point of order concerning the right of a member to put forward whatever views he has to this honourable House without let or hindrance, and I have in mind Order 28 (5) *Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.* You may not agree with what point he is putting forward, but he is entitled to be heard in silence, Mr Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: The point is taken.

Prof. Ola Opeyemi (Ekiti West): With regard to members, in terms of political parties (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, the point of Order is clear. It is constitutional. Section 64 of the Constitution and Section (g). I think it is very clear in terms of

[PROF. OPEYEMI]

whether members are nulified by their parties or not or whether they have right to sit in this House. I think the Constitution says that :

(g) being a person whose election to the House was sponsored by a political party, he becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of the period for which the House was elected.

This is the only condition. If this is not satisfied, any member has the right to be a member of this House.

Mr Echetabu : I have not finished.

The Deputy Speaker : Not on this matter.

Mr Echetabu : On the Land Use Decree. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the rumours have been heard that Lands Use Decree will be repealed. I would be able to draw the attention of the House to Section 274

that the Lands Use Decree cannot be repealed without two thirds of the votes of the National Assembly and two thirds of the votes of all the Assemblies in the 19 States of the Federation. Thank you very much.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Members have exhausted themselves from the contributions on the Motions on Adjournment, and in this respect, Mr Speaker, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.22 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 11th June, 1980

The House met at 10.50 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Votes and Proceedings

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 10th June, 1980 and I have approved them as being the true position of things that happened in the House yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee

There are only one or two announcements. Yesterday, we talked about the Joint Finance Committee of the two Houses. Our own Finance Committee met yesterday and it was decided that twelve Members of our own Finance Committee are going to meet with twelve Members of the Senate Finance Committee to resolve the Appropriation Budget. The Members of the Finance Committee elected within themselves the following twelve hon. Members to represent them at this Joint Meeting :

Prince A. U. Awa-Ekpo
Mr Dagogo Princewill
Dr E. Y. Atanu
Alhaji Inuwa Ali
Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita
Mr Samuel A. Adesina
Mr A. Mako
Mr Dauda A. Ibrahim
Mr J. C. Ojukwu
Alhaji Danjuma A. Zubairu
Alhaji Muhammadu Lawan Na-rogo
Alhaji Maina Ma'aji

The Clerk of the House has already communicated to the Senate the details of the Amendments made by this hon. House on the 1980 Draft Estimates. It is understood that the Senate has completed their deliberations on the Budget proposals but the details of the Amendments made by them have not yet been communicated to this House. As soon as the relevant details are received, the meeting of the Joint Conference will be held.

I would, therefore, advise hon. Members whose names I have just announced to hold themselves in readiness for the Joint Meeting which might have to be summoned at very short notice because of the urgent need for the National Assembly to dispose of the Appropriation Bill without any further delay.

I should also point out that as provided in the Constitution, if the Joint Conference fails to resolve the differences between the two Houses on the Appropriation Bill, there will be a Joint Session of

the National Assembly. Hon. Members should be prepared for such at any time. (*Applause*)

Hon. Members, the Constitution came into operation on the First of October, 1979 and it is still under a test, but it is absolutely important that the public are aware of the fact that no decision becomes law without the consent of the two Chambers. The Senate represents equity and the House of Representatives represents the people. (*Applause*)

Meeting of the Party Leaders and
Committee Chairmen

Please, I would like to have a Meeting with all the Party Leaders including the Chairmen of Committees immediately after this Session. Also, after that meeting, I would like to see the following hon. Members :

Alhaji Sule Lamido
Alhaji Isa Aliyu
Alhaji Isyaku M. Gumawa
Alhaji Ibrahim Hayan Gada
Alhaji Muhammadu Shu'aibu Kaugama
Alhaji Sarki Adamu
Alhaji M. I. Mustapha
Alhaji Shu'aibu Ringim

Communication

Hon. Members, I have received a letter from the Director of Administration, Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the letter is addressed as follows :

LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Ref : No. SS/5/S3/Vol. IV/12

9th June, 1980.

The Speaker,
House of Representative,
National Assembly,
Tafawa Balewa Square,
Lagos

Dear Sir.

Inauguration of

Re-constituted Management Board of LUTH.

The re-constituted Management Board of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital will be inaugurated on Saturday 14th June, 1980 at 10.00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the School of Nursing of the hospital at Idi-Araba, Surulere. It will be performed by the Honourable Minister of Health, Mr D. C. Ugwu.

Among the important dignitaries expected to attend the ceremony are the Vice-President Dr Alex Ekwueme and the Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande.

As the major Federal Health Institution serving the people in the Federal capital, we believe that honourable members of the House of Representatives count among our list of very important personalities to give the ceremony the grandeur that it is planned to be. We are convinced that, honourable members who budget for the health of the nation should see and know about some of the problems that are facing this hospital in its effective health care delivery to the people of Nigeria.

My Chairman, Mr J. O. Williams, has accordingly asked me to please request that the House of Representatives kindly be represented by two Members at the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

While we apologise for this rather short notice, we trust that the House will demonstrate its concern for the Health of our people by being represented at the inaugural ceremony.

We earnestly cherish your kind acceptance of this invitation, Sir.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. A. ADEWUNMI,
Director of Administration

So, I call on the Chairman of the Health Committee to avail himself and nominate a second person to honour this invitation.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Banking and Currency

Adoption of the Interim Report of the Banking and Currency Committee on Losses of Nigerian Currency Notes in the Central Bank of Nigeria (*laid on the Table, 17th April, 1980*).

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to talk about missing Nigerian currency notes, and not about Aba disaster, so please lend me your ears. You will recall that some time in December 1979, by a resolution of this House, No. 33 of Thursday, 13th December, 1979, the House agreed that the Committee on Banking and Currency should investigate reported missing Nigerian currency. We laid a report before this House on the 17th of April, 1980, but owing to the pressure of the Budget, the report could not be debated until now.

So, the report was laid on the 17th of April, and I would refresh your memory by letting you know what it says.

The Deputy Speaker: Can you move your Motion, please?

Mr Wanganga: I wish to move that the interim report of the Banking and Currency Committee on loss of Nigerian currency notes at the Central Bank of Nigeria be adopted. I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, anybody seconding?

Mr E. O. Chukwu (Okigwi North): I beg to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Mr Wanganga.

Mr Wanganga: Hon. Members the terms of reference given to the Committee by the Motion I referred to earlier was as follows:

That this House views with serious concern the report that a large quantity of old Nigerian currency notes have disappeared from the Central Bank of Nigeria and therefore calls on the Committee

on Banking and Currency to request the Central Bank and the Police in charge of the investigation to submit their findings to the House through the Committee.

As at the date of the Motion, Chairman of Standing Committee of the House had not been appointed. Following the subsequent appointment of Chairmen of Committees, the Motion was formally referred to your Committee, the Banking and Currency Committee, after the Christmas recess.

During its first inaugural meeting of 17th January, 1980, your Committee went straight into the assignment of obtaining information from the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Police about the results of their investigations. Accordingly, the Clerk of the Committee wrote several letters to the Central Bank and we now have reports from the two authorities.

The basis of the interim report: Your Committee has made very careful study of the reports of the Central Bank and the Police. From the two reports, there is not just one loss of a large quantity of old Nigerian Currency notes, there are in fact, four different losses so far discovered and more may yet be unearthed as time goes on.

One of the cases is already in Court and investigation into the other three have not been completed. Your Committee considered it prudent to be cautious as to the amount of details in this interim report in view of the cases pending in Court and the uncompleted investigations into the other three losses.

Hon. Members, I would now just summarise each of the four reports we have received.

(a) Theft of Currency Notes, meant for Burning at the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos between April, 1978 and January, 1979.

Your Committee is informed that following reports made by the officials of First Bank of Nigeria Limited, Yaba, and the Union Bank of Nigeria Limited, Marina, to the Police on the 26th January, 1979 and 1st February, 1979 respectively regarding unduly heavy and suspicious lodgements by two Central Bank Staff, the Police launched large-scale investigations. It was discovered that 16 Staff of the Bank who were engaged in currency destruction operations during the period had conspired to steal some of the currency notes meant for destruction amounting to ₦500,000.00. The Staff had since been charged to court.

(b) Theft of ₦130,000.00 in 13 Packets of ₦1,000.00 each discovered in bundles of ₦20 evacuated from Kano Branch of the Central Bank.

Your Committee is informed that the above case of theft totalling ₦130,000.00 was discovered in four boxes of ₦20 notes when they were opened for counting and verification in the Head Office, Currency Control Office on 20th September, 1979. On the same day, a team of senior Central Bank officials was dispatched to Kano Branch for investigations. They discovered that there were not adequate security measures taken at the currency loading bay where money was being received; and

concluded that no money could have been stolen from the strong-rooms and loading bay without the collusion or negligence of senior officials.

(c) Theft of ₦260,000.00 from Boxes of ₦10 from Port Harcourt.

Your Committee was informed that in the course of their taking delivery of 250 boxes of paid notes evacuated by air from Port Harcourt branch into their Lagos office strong-room on the evening of 15th November, 1979, one of their Treasury Staff discovered that two out of 250 boxes were lighter than usual. This aroused suspicion and the boxes were set aside for examination the following day, 16th November, 1979. When they were opened in the morning, it was discovered that instead of ₦100,000.00 in ₦10 notes which they should each contain, the two boxes in fact were stuffed with bundles of exercise books. Consequently, an immediate check of the remaining 248 boxes of ₦10 notes involved in the consignment was ordered.

A total of 247 boxes were found to contain correct ₦10 notes and one box was found to have a mixture of some bundles of notes and bundles of exercise books. To avoid tampering with finger prints they could not immediately ascertain the exact amount of the loss until the Police had been called in. The box containing the mixture of exercise books and currency notes was checked on 22nd November, 1979 in the presence of the Police Detectives and the value of the notes contained in it was found to be ₦40,000.00 instead of ₦100,000.00. Consequently, the shortage discovered in the three defective boxes of ₦10 notes out of the 250 evacuated from Port Harcourt Branch on 15th November, 1979 amounted to ₦260,000.00.

In the process of investigation, many staff of the Central Bank Lagos and Port Harcourt were interrogated; the investigation was also extended to some commercial banks in the Eastern States while the crew of the airline operators were also interrogated.

(d) Theft of ₦81,000.00 in boxes of ₦10 notes evacuated from Kano.

Your Committee was informed that on the evening of 28th November, 1979, a re-stacking exercise was being carried out by staff of the Lagos Head office when a box of ₦10 notes was discovered to be without binding wire and partly without security seals. The box was one of 600 boxes of paid ₦10 notes evacuated from the Kano branch of the Central Bank on 15th November, 1978. It was immediately set aside for examination the following day, 29th November, 1979, while the police were invited to be present. When the count was carried out in the presence of police officers it was discovered that the box contained ₦19,000.00 in loose packets of ₦10 notes instead of ₦100,000.00.

Interim Conclusion: (a) Your Committee is constrained to observe that stealing of money appears to be a regular and long-standing practice at the Central Bank.

(b) Our impression is that the entire staff handling movement of currency at the Central

Bank, including close circuit television crew, the security guards, strongroom controllers, supervisors, labourers and others are suspects. Subject to our further investigation a definite recommendation shall be made about them in due course.

(c) From the report available to your Committee so far, we are not satisfied that the police investigation into the various cases of theft in the Central Bank have been thorough or in depth. We fail to accept that such degree of fraud and stealing, in spite of existing double security measures, could take place without the collusion of senior officials of the Central Bank. The Police investigation appeared to concentrate on the lower cadre of staff. The Police is hereby called upon to extend their investigation to the senior staff as well.

(d) Your Committee proposes to visit the offices of the Central Bank in Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt to see things for itself and compare on-the-spot findings with reports so far received.

Hon. Members, this Interim Report has been necessary to assure you that the Committee has been pursuing the assignment given to it but owing to the nature of criminal investigations being handled by the Police, a lot of time is involved, so that if the Committee waited until the final result, it would appear as if the Committee had not taken its job seriously. Therefore, we decided to inform you, as an interim measure, that we are still pressing on and the speed at which we work is determined by how long it takes the Police to conclude their own investigations.

I beg to move.

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of this House, we thank the Chairman of the Committee on this particular subject. But it is a regret to say that, whatever may be the good intention of the Committee, on the long run, probably I am predicting, that it would be a spiral exercise for the following reasons:

Firstly, it is usual in this country to treat the symbol, may I repeat, to treat only the symbol and not the cause of our societal problems. As we all know, indiscipline is everywhere whether in the high cadre or in the low cadre of the Central Bank, and indiscipline is even worse in the Police, and for the Police, the greater the volume of amount involved the greater the field day for corruption. I am sure this investigation will last until the life of this Parliament. I am sure of that.

I have been involved in an investigation that lasted eight years and nothing happened. By then vital witnesses might have died, vital exhibits might have been burnt, and at the end of the day there can be no case to prove. That is number one.

Secondly, I will not subscribe—(Interruptions)

Chief Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani): The point of order is Order 26 (3):

Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in Mr Speaker's opinion prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

[CHIEF EFION]

I am of the view that since some of the cases reported upon are in court, some are under Police investigation, this honourable House should defer a debate on this report.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Member, the report, as submitted by the Committee on Banking and Currency, has not in any way mentioned the specific names of individuals that are involved in this fraud. The Committee is just reporting its own facts on the amount of money that has been missing during the change-over from the old currency notes to the new ones, and in my opinion that is not going in any way to prejudice the opinion of anybody that is involved in this case.

Mr Badejo : Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is exactly what I want to touch upon, that I will not subscribe to the view of our noble member of the Committee that says that because the matter is *subjudice*, as such their own full report should be suspended. The terms of Reference given to the Committee is larger than what is in the court. It is an infinitesimal aspect of the larger part of the duty of the Committee. The duty of the Committee is how on earth old notes were being put into the hands of some people and, with all respects, Sir, either we get consultant in this place, we cannot rely on the consultants of the Central Bank or the Police.

I always say with my experience in life, that if a system is bad even it will make an angel bad. That is what we do not know in this country. The majority of our problems arise because the system is wrong. Even if an angel gets there, that angel will be tempted. So, for God's sake, let us get at the cause of the problem and that way we get at the system. How can we streamline the system? Everybody knows that in all societies there are fraudulent people. In all societies there are dishonest people. But the question is this, in any system how can you organise it so that you discourage theft, you discourage dishonesty, because our system allows for much of our vices to be played to the fore.

So, the first question we shall refer to the Committee, luckily this is an interim report, is to ask a large question, to ask a relevant question, because if they are asking the wrong question they will be getting wrong answer. The first question and the right question in my view, Mr Speaker, Sir, is not to get one criminal or the other and put him into jail; that is not going to solve our problems.

The larger question is : is the system encouraging all these vices? If it is yes, how can they evolve a system there that will discourage, that will mitigate all those vices? I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that is the relevance of this report. Thank you very much.

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. I am not wearing wig and gown here.

The Deputy Speaker : They are welcoming you to the House.

Mr Akande : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to join hon. Members in thanking the Members of this Committee for doing some work and bringing to the House an interim report.

One of my criticisms, first and foremost, is that when a serious report of this nature is to be discussed this morning, and these reports were given to us two or three months behind, I think it is only fair, for a meaningful debate and contribution, that we ought to be intimated that it would be discussed this morning so that all of us or those who are interested would dust off their report and make meaningful contribution. (Applause) So, Mr Speaker, Sir, for future, I would say very seriously that we must be given the opportunity to make concrete and meaningful contribution and that such serious matters ought to be brought to our notice in advance. That is my point number one, Sir.

The last speaker, the hon. Member from Mushin Central, mentioned that all these affairs in relation to the missing money should be related to the system. I agree with him 100 per cent. I am one of the people in this country who feel the Central Bank, as it is at present constituted, is a haven for stealing. The system there is completely upside-down.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I remember that when the Governor of the Central Bank was interviewed in relation to the salaries, we discovered, at least some of us, for the first time, that a whole Governor of Central Bank was on the salary of ₦14,750 per annum or thereabout. Surely, this is the bank of the banks in Nigeria. I know, as a fact, that the Central Bank Governor appoints some of his junior colleagues to be Managing Directors in commercial banks and they go there to earn ₦35,000, ₦42,000, because I have served on the Board of a bank. This is completely ridiculous. When you place the Governor himself on a salary of ₦14,750 and he nominates his subordinate to the commercial banks to go and earn ₦35,000—(Interruptions)

I am talking about the system because I believe, Sir, and very strongly, and I am going to recommend to this Committee on Banking that they have to look into the ways and means of taking the Central Bank out of the Civil Service conditions of Service, like the Minting Corporation. The Mint is completely outside Civil Service. That is why up till today we have not been having problems with the Mint. We have not been having as much problems.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was speaking to an official of the Central Bank about a month ago. On the 21st of June he would have been in the Central Bank for 20 years. He showed me his pay slip; his take home salary is about ₦520 after 20 years.

Talking about the system, I would plead with this august House that, during our term, we try and evolve a system where the staff of the Central Bank will work with some satisfaction, will work with the encouragement that is necessary, that they will protect the interest of the monies of our country so that we can minimise regular and constant losses.

It is, therefore, Sir, my own humble submission, in further consideration of this matter, that the Committee on Banking should look into why there are regular occurrences of these losses take the trouble to interview some Members of the staff and bring back to us in their final report a comprehensive system whereby, starting from the Governor down

to the counter, the people who count the money, can feel that they are getting a good salary for a good day's work. I beg to say very emphatically that the system operating in Central Bank today is not good enough. It is disgraceful to find that the Governor is on a salary of ₦14,750. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Just on the point you raised that you needed time to study the report before contributing to the debate, the Business Committee is faced with a problem. We received 21 Bills from the Executive and as at today we have disposed of 20 of those Bills, remaining only one Bill that is still lying with the Committee on Industry on NISSER, and we have been waiting on the Committee on Industry to bring us the last Bill from the Executive for passage through this House, but we have still received nothing. I am calling on the Chairman of the Committee on Industry to please bring the last Executive Bill to us so that we can dispose of it.

The Business Committee has started dealing with Motions and so on submitted by Members long ago which were shelved. Because of the Budget they had to shelve them. They are going through them one by one and bringing them up. Obviously, they are bringing those reports that they have received long ago hoping that you have computerised the details of the report in your heads.

Mr Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : We received the Bill only last Friday and it was referred to this House on the 12th of March. It is not our fault that you have not got it. We only got it on Friday.

The Deputy Speaker : Which Friday ?

Mr Akintola : Last Friday.

The Deputy Speaker : The Bill was passed to this House on the 12th March. We are in June now.

Mr Akintola : We got it last Friday. It was referred to us last Friday. Look at the system.

Mr Mohammed Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I must commend the Committee on Banking and Currency for the interim report they have placed before the House in connection with the missing currency at the Central Bank. It is very unfortunate that in a country like Nigeria where dedication and progress are required from the citizens and from all persons contributing to the day to day running of the Government of the Federation, some public functionaries are often found wanting with regard to matters of probity. It is saddening, Mr Speaker, to note that people placed at strategic positions often try to find nooks and opportunities to pounce on situations for their own personal interest and benefits.

We would see here that we could go on talking and talking on matters of similar nature, but it would appear that the actual crux of the issue will continue to elude us. An hon. Colleague has pointed out that Nigeria is operating under a system that is so haphazard, so unfathomed, so uncharted, that it is very difficult for us to actually assess a situation

and arrive at a conclusion that would serve as a deterrent or a sort of avenue through which the problem could be stifled or even ousted completely. The only way we can try to rectify the situation is when and only when we are able to identify and appreciate the need to bring about a change in the system in order to evolve a new social order.

Mr Speaker, the whole system in this country is in a situation which we can easily term as shambles. Just like that hon. Colleague has indicated, the system is what we need to change. Unless and until we change the system, we can spend a hell of time here talking about similar problems, but we would not be able to bring about a solution unless and until we bring about a new social order. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that is where the solution lies. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Dr Idang.

Dr Godwin Idang (Etinan II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, first I would like to associate myself with the hon. Member from Kano who said that the problem is that of the social order and until you change the system you cannot rectify the particular problem. But it really intrigued me when an hon. Colleague said that because the Central Bank has been noted for stealing money, five hundred thousand and so on, then we should turn round and recommend higher salaries for this type of officials because the Bank has been the centre of stealing money. If we paid the Head of that particular Institution one hundred thousand naira per annum, then it would take him five hundred years to get five hundred thousand naira. So, I do not see any real need for it.

I think we should compensate officials that have shown sufficient national interest and commitment, not those types of officials that do not display probity in the discharge of their duties. At any rate, anybody is bound to accept a job that he feels he gets the necessary satisfaction. If you are not satisfied with the job, I am quite sure, there are quite a number of people standing by to get similar appointments. So, I do not think the problem is that of salary yet ; if the Central Bank wants to get improved conditions of service, I think, they must have to prove to this House and to the Nation at large that they deserve our own compensation and reward. I think the Nation will hold us as irresponsible lots if we come here and recommend higher salaries for staff of the Central Bank on the ground that money has been missing every time.

Perhaps, the hon. Colleagues will start looking for a way of stealing money so that hon. Members might be paid higher salaries too if that is the formula.

I would like to comment briefly on the particular issue at stake. First of all, this matter has to be taken very seriously and I would recommend to the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Banking and Currency that they should look into the possibility of setting a time limit for the Police to complete their investigation. I do not know whether that is possible so that we may be able to know what are the Police findings. I would also

[DR IDANG]

expect the Committee to brief this House on the necessary disciplinary actions taken against the individuals found wanting in this particular area.

I should also like to appeal to that Committee to make the feelings of the hon. Members of this august House known to the Central Bank officials that we are a bit disturbed at the frequency of currency disappearing from the Central Bank, perhaps, the main body that should take care of the nation's finances, and that this House will not hesitate to take serious moves if that particular trend continues.

With these few remarks, since the matter is still pending in the court and we do not have enough time to study (at any rate there is not much to study because we have only been told of the amount stolen and that the cases are being investigated by the Police) there is really not much to say, so we cannot fix responsibilities. With these few remarks, I will like to commend the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Banking and Currency for the interim Report and expect them to pursue the matter with utmost seriousness and vigour. Thank you very much.

Mr Eddy Nkem Nweke (Nkanu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to contribute on the Interim Report by the Committee on Banking and Currency. If I very well remember, I think, when this loss in Central Bank was reported to this House, I did contribute my quota before the matter was sent to the Committee. Incidentally the Committee has come back again with an Interim Report and, I think, I have to say many thanks to them for the small job they have done. I am to remind them that they have more job to do because this honourable House will be failing the Nation if at the end of the whole exercise this huge amount of money is not discovered.

The first point I want to make is on the comment made by various Members here about the incentive or the salaries of the Central Bank staff.

I think we in this House should not leave the impression to the Nigerian workers that pay packets should be increased so that there will be no forgery or loss of money in the establishments. I think there are so many Nigerians who are qualified to work in Central Bank. Initially when people apply for jobs they normally know how much they will be paid. So, coming half-way to give them such an incentive will encourage other Ministries, other Corporations or Federal Institutions to start asking for increments. One would, therefore, ask that because of the rampant armed robbery in this country, does it mean that this House will recommend a good incentive for the armed robbers? That is quite wrong, Sir. I will really say that we do not need to give incentives to the Nigerian workers with the idea that more money or more pay should be given to them, to avoid rampant loss or rampant forgery in the Central Bank. We will agree that the system might be wrong in actual fact, but then we must find out really what next to do to correct that system to enable the Nigerian workers or Central Bank staff particularly to work effectively.

We cannot be losing money every time through Central Bank, between one branch and the other. So I will suggest that the Committee should very well get into the report, at least, know to what extent the Police have stopped and what exactly the Police are doing, so that we do not just leave it in the hands of the Police to die a natural death. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Committee on Banking and Currency for a job well done. But I am really in sympathy with the Nigerian Police because, as of now, the Lagos Police Command has got over 400 cases outstanding. Most of these cases are cases of armed robbery, theft, forgery, and pilfering. When these cases are charged to courts, they are just adjourned. If the people are detained in the Police custody, Section 32 of the Constitution is applied after a month and they are discharged, unconditionally. You will notice that there are many cases of, armed robbery, stealing in offices, in banks, and so on, because the Police cannot do anything about it. They charge the criminals to courts, the cases are adjourned continuously and after two months Section 32 of the Constitution is applied and they are discharge unconditionally. What the Committee on Banking and Currency should also do is to appeal to Committee on Police to ask the Judiciary to speed up proceedings in courts. Our courts are not doing their work the way they should. There are a number of cases which have been on during the last two years, adjourned one thousand times and, I am saying this emphatically. Some of the cases have been adjourned four hundred times at the instance of the courts, four hundred times at the instance of the police, and two hundred times under other conditions. Under this condition, the Police themselves are frustrated. They find that there is no use going ahead with the investigation when the courts will not carry out their duties. I am appealing, through this medium, that the courts should rise and save this nation. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomoso Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the problem with our institutions in this country is definitely lack of discipline. There is no amount of money you pay to an individual if he is not disciplined he will steal, and undoubtedly he must be corrupt. Therefore, I cannot see anything particularly wrong with the system. There is a lot wrong with the individuals. Unfortunately, this beautiful report lacks some aspects which I would have loved them to include. That is, the mode of operation whereby this money being transported from banks to the Central Bank, how is it transported? There was a comparison made by my hon. Colleague that there is not much stealing or not much pilfering at the Mint. One thing which he did not include is that most of the operational aspect of the Mint are done by machines. Whereas in the case of the Central Bank most of these are done manually.

On the other hand, in terms of the salaries being paid to the individuals in these places, I agree with my Colleague that the salaries should be reviewed. You should not make comparison between the

salaries paid in Central Bank and salaries paid in the Civil Service. All the same, there is complain being levelled against the Judiciary. It is the only arm of the government that cannot strike. Therefore, it is our duty to see to it that adequate salaries are paid to the Judges. Furthermore, I believe that their salaries and remunerations should not be topic for discussion.

Going back to the report, Sir, the report, as I said is beautiful. Another thing that is lacking is the cure. You talked of the problems but you did not include the cure. Therefore, I will implore them to let us have the ideas about how these stealing and all what not can be corrected or controlled. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : I believe the report of Chairman Wanganga has been properly discussed. In view of this, Mr Speaker, I move that the Question be not put.

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

Main question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Interim Report of the Banking and Currency Committee on losses of Nigerian Currency Notes at the Central Bank of Nigeria be adopted.

The Deputy Speaker : Chief hon. Okon Ikpeme, I believe you have a petition to present.

Presentation of Petition

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akamkpa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am presenting a petition under the provision of Rule 11 (1) and (2) of the Standing Orders of this honourable House. The petition came from one Miss Sera Henshaw of 23 Jones Street, Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I accept to present this petition because her prayer, as evidenced by the attached court proceedings and judgment, is worthy of sympathy. I have also personally made inquiries at the Ministry where she worked, and I think, it is also proper that the Committee concerned should study this and give us their findings. The case, Sir, is that Miss Henshaw is a widow and she is a mother of many children.

The Deputy Speaker : No, you do not go into that. Just put it on the table.

Chief Okon Ikpeme : Do I read her prayer ?

The Deputy Speaker : You can read the prayer.

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : Point of order ; Order 9 : *Unless the House otherwise directs, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order :—*

- (1) *Formal entry of Mr Speaker.*
- (2) *Prayers.*
- (3) *Oaths of Allegiance of new Members.*
- (4) *Messages from the Governor-General.*
- (5) *Other announcements by Mr Speaker.*
- (6) *Petitions.*

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker, that this should have been submitted immediately after the announcements from the Speaker. We have done a business and we cannot go back to the submission of petitions. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Speaker : The petition was received this morning and the business Committee brought my attention to it. I quite see the requirements of the Standing Order No. 9. I took the discretion of allowing the report of the Committee to be adopted, and then the petition to be submitted. To that effect, I have another submission here from the hon. Member for Ibadan South (*Mr Lam Adesina*) who wants to submit another petition after this one. *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Members, the rule is that we are just laying these petitions on the table ; they are not for any discussion. We lay them on the table and after that we refer them to the appropriate Committee, the Committee, on Public Petitions.

Mr Ikpeme : Thank You, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Sir, after the court had discharged and acquitted—

The Deputy Speaker : You just lay your report on the table and go ahead.

Mr Ikpeme : Mr Speaker, Sir, I present the Petition.

An Hon. Member : I have not got a copy, please.

The Deputy Speaker : You will get it.

The Leader of the House, move that the petition be referred to the appropriate Committee.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the petition be now accepted and referred to the appropriate Committee. I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, any seconder, please ?

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Petition referred to Committee on Public Petitions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that we have exhausted the item on the Order Paper for discussion today, I beg to move that this House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr George N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Ekiti West (*Prof. Opeyemi Ola*).

Editorial of the New Nigeria on Irikefe Tribunal

Prof. Opeyemi Ola (Ekiti West) : Mr Speaker, hon. Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the Speaker for allowing me to make a point of explanation, a very vital one, at this juncture. I am making the point of explanation in respect of an editorial which appeared in the *New Nigeria* of yesterday, 10th June, 1980, titled *Triumph of Decency*. I do not think I should read it because it is fairly long, unless Mr Speaker would not mind.

The point about this is that the Paper was making comments in what, I believe, is under the Irikefe Tribunal of Inquiry. From my own little knowledge of the Constitution and the Law, nobody, whether he is an institution or a single individual, is expected to make comments on this vital aspect of our national life that is under Judicial Inquiry. I do not see why any Paper should be making any contribution or any comment at this juncture or at this point of time. Well, whoever may make it, whether *Tribune* or anybody, principle is principle and, I think, I am entitled to say what I feel about it. I think in this country, since we have voluntarily, on our own, written a Constitution, written by the representatives of the people, it becomes incumbent and it becomes obligatory on the part of everybody that this Constitution is obeyed *in toto*, particularly when it is in regard of a vital aspect of the economy upon which the lives of everybody in this country including the government depends. If any institution tries to derogate from the law in this regard, it is doing it to the disadvantage of the nation and even itself.

Then, the second aspect of the report that bothers me, Mr Speaker and hon. Ladies and Gentlemen, is that the Paper not only is breaking this point of principle but it went directly to make ridicule of certain members of the public, namely, Prof. Awojobi and Mr Kurufi, who had given evidence. I think, Sir, when there is an inquiry of this nature, a public inquiry, and the Government or the Tribunal calls on the members of the public to come and give evidence every Nigerian has the right to give evidence and, nobody has the right to ridicule or to praise anybody who made a contribution. It is left to the Judicial Inquiry to make judgment.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I hope, I can see—

The Deputy Speaker : There is a point of order, Professor Ola.

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiyan Central) : The hon. Member who spoke last was referring to an infringement (*Interruptions*)

Several Members : What order ?

Mr Omisore : I am coming, he was referring to an infringement of a part of the Constitution. What part of the Constitution that paper has infringed, I cannot see it. I cannot see any infringement of the Constitution in the reference made by the *New Nigerian*. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Professor Opeyemi Ola, can you round up please ?

Professor Ola : Yes, Mr Speaker, Sir, in order to round up I would have this vital point to make that all of us are interested in the outcome of this Tribunal and we should give the Tribunal the chance to give us its findings. It is not proper for any editorial whether *New Nigerian* or *Tribune* to be apprehending and to be projecting into the future what the possible outcome of the Tribunal is going to be. In my judgment, the *New Nigerian* is indirectly telling the Irikefe Tribunal what it should say.

I think, Sir, finally, that if somebody or some institution should do anything whatsoever directly or indirectly to take the Irikefe Tribunal out of the normal course of things then it would make their recommendations and findings to be unacceptable to the masses of this Nation. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Professor Opeyemi Ola, you made a request to contribute in respect of the editorial of the *New Nigerian*. For justice sake, I allowed you to make the comment. But I expect that because of integrity, if you and other Members of this House want us to be looked upon to be fair in whatever we do, we should always make honest comments and bring any paper, irrespective of whether it is sharing our political beliefs or not, to the notice of this House. I would have expected that you, as an hon. Member, should have taken *Tribune* to task on the same issue as raised by the *New Nigerian*. (*Interruptions*)

The Irikefe Commission of Inquiry ended its sitting on Monday and I was at the last day's sitting of the Tribunal on Monday until the time it closed at 6 o'clock. Professor Awojobi was sitting at the Irikefe Tribunal, and whatever comments Irikefe and other Members of the Panel had to say about Awojobi was said in his presence. The fact that people listen to gossips on the bus and that becomes a topic of publication in the paper, has now been substantiated to be nothing but sensationalisation of issues that are not relevant to the Inquiry of the Irikefe Tribunal. I am calling again on another Member who wants to speak on this issue.

Is Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe here.

Several hon. Members : No.

The Deputy Speaker : What of A. T. Lawal ?

Concord's Embarrassing Front Page Comment

Mr Adewara Toyin Lawal (Ifelodun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to belabour the point to be raised on the Floor of this House. I only want to draw the attention of this honourable House to the fact that Press, as an institution, can contribute immensely to the growth of this nation, and at the same time, they can contribute immensely to the fall of this nation.

I have been making an observation for the past few days in respect of the *National Concord*. It has now come to a peak when *National Concord* has to be challenged by me, and if possible to seek a redress in the court of Law. I want to refer to the *National*

Concord of today, front page, *Warrant arrest on M.P.S.* It is very unfortunate that *Concord* as a newspaper can misrepresent one's opinion. It is very unfortunate that *Concord* as a Newspaper can print to disorganise one's idea.

On Monday, I went to the *Concord* to present a copy of a letter I sent to the Chairman of Crude Oil Tribunal and I told the Editor of *Concord* that I overheard my name on the Radio to come and testify but I have indicated my intention not to testify again. As such, some other four people were also invited through the Radio. Now, going through *Concord* of today, I could observe that they have misquoted my idea by saying that five hon. Members of this House are to be served Warrant of Arrest. I regard this as a personal embarrassment to me and I want to inform this honourable House that I may consult a Lawyer whereby I can seek a redress in the court of Law. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : I would like to assure hon. A. T. Lawal that Irikefe is not going to put you into jail. You have claimed your Parliamentary privilege not to testify at the Tribunal and that privilege has been granted to you.

Yes, Mr D. A. Zubairu.

Federal Land Reverted to Lagos State

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jama'a North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members. I would like to make a point of observation. (*Interruptions*) My point of observation is that for a long period of time, land has been reclaimed in Lagos at the expense of the Federal Government, with the money which belongs to every individual in this country. You will find, Mr Speaker, Sir, that places like Maroko where our Chief has 360 plots and places like Badagry— (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will find that the piece of land we were staying at Badagry Road has been given to Lagos State. Please Mr Speaker, Sir, I would want—

Mr O. Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : The point of Order is 26 (2). The hon. Member does not know his geography well.

Mr A. Zubairu Mr Speaker, Sir, a lot of money has been spent in this country for reclaiming this land from the sea and for paying compensation to the individuals who have claimed that this land belongs to them. This honourable House would want the Federal Government to compensate the other States by taking a statistical data of the land that has been given to Lagos State reclaimed by the Federal Government. I want to point out, Mr Speaker, that, the Kaduna State Government is demanding her own portion from the £1 million. We shall then go back to some other areas that have been reclaimed and ask that the Federal Government should pay a compensation to other States of the Federation as she has given this land to Lagos State.

I beg to sit down, Mr Speaker.

Incitement of the Public against the House

Mr Julius O. Odebunmi (Ogbomosho South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I want to speak on inciting of the public against this honourable House. On Friday, the 23rd of May, 1980, it was relayed on Radio O-Y-O network 8.00 o'clock news in the evening (*Irohin*), that in this honourable House we discussed and agreed to earn from ₦200 to ₦260 Basic Allowance monthly. Then their newsmen went around to incite the public against this honourable House. Many of them were saying that these Members were eating free food, they are living in free houses, free water, free clothing, free people, free women and free everything despite this they are now claiming ₦200 to ₦260 Basic Allowance per month.

In this honourable House I have never known of the time we discussed receiving this kind of Basic Allowance every month. (*Interruptions*) I was not present. Hon. members, Mr Speaker, Sir, it means that these people have not desisted from inciting the public against this august House. Mr Speaker, finally, I will want you to call these news men to order so that they may not tear this House into pieces, and that if they want to become members of this House they may wait for 1983 General Elections to become members. So, for this they should be warned. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Inauguration of the Green Revolution

Mr A. E. Ejiga (Otukpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to make a few comments on matters relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. My first item concerns the Green Revolution. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Green Revolution was recently inaugurated by the present Government to replace Operation Feed the Nation. Just recently a Committee on Green Revolution was also inaugurated. Addressing this Committee, the President said amongst other things, that the success of the Green Revolution would depend on the mobilisation and the involvement of all sections of the Community, particularly the farming community. While commending the President for his effort in trying to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food production, I will say that this honourable House has not been carried with it in its efforts to mobilise the masses. I cannot imagine anybody wanting to mobilise the masses of this Nation without involving this honourable House. I can say, judging from the reactions in my Committee, that all of us are in favour of any policy that will make Nigeria self-sufficient in food production irrespective of party affiliations. I am making this comment because I would not wish the Green Revolution to fail the way Operation Feed the Nation has failed because it was so elitist in conception and execution.

Fertilizer Contract

My second point, Sir, concerns the much publicised £333 million Fertilizer Contract. During the consideration of this Year's Budget in my Committee, we wanted to know from the Minister of Agriculture

[MR EJIGA] ... what has become of this contract. There has been so much dark rumour surrounding this contract. Unfortunately, the Minister of Agriculture could not satisfy us, saying that the matter is for the Ministry of Industries. I am now calling on the President to make a categorical statement with respect to this contract. I say this because if we are not satisfied with what has happened to this contract we may find it very difficult to approve any future allocation for supply of fertilizers.

Rice Growing Association of Liberia

My last point, Sir, concerns the West African Rice Growing Association based in Liberia. Just recently I was reading from the magazine, *West Africa*, and it was reported that the headquarters of this Association has been taken over by the present Liberian Authority and has been given to their Police Force as their headquarters.

This year alone this country is contributing to this association a total sum of ₦1,289,000. I am now calling on the Minister that no money should be paid to this Association until the position is made clear and its future is guaranteed by the present regime.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these comment, I take my seat.

Accord Recognition to Liberia

Mr Adebo Adeola (Ijero): In supporting the Motion for Adjournment I wish to point the attention of the President of this Nation, together with the Executives, and the other Heads of State of the OAU to the situation as it is at present in one of our nearby countries, that is, a West African country, Liberia. As of now, we know a new Administration is there, and we know that Administration was brought into existence to that country through Military Coup, and, in fact, nobody will actually encourage that there should be Military Coup in any country in Africa. All the same, we should realise the fact that Military Coups do exist as a result of abnormal situations. In that country, there must have been a situation warranting that coup should have existed, and as a result, we see the situation as it is today.

One will normally sympathise with the lost souls through that Military Coup. At the same time, we should have a second look and feeling that one's stand for a man or a few individuals should not take precedence over the yearnings of the masses of such a Community. The Military Administration, as of now, in Liberia is there not because they wanted coup, but the condition, as at the time, forced that Administration to stage the Coup.

As of now, if we go into that country and we feel the pulse of the masses of the common people in that country, including the educated elite, we would see that the present Administration enjoys the support of the majority of the masses of that country. I wish to state the recent happenings in that country. The Administration has made it clear to the OAU Heads of State that they are out for the cause of the people of the country.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I): I would like to say that a Member shall not in that manner

raise a controversial issue. What he is raising is controversial because others have contrary views.

The Deputy Speaker: The Member came to me this morning insisting that he wants to speak on Motion for Adjournment on this matter. I did all I could to persuade him not to do so, but the decision is that our constitution outlaws Military Coups. It is illegal and I do not see how you can come on the Floor of the House to encourage Military Coups.

Mr Adeola: Standing up to speak on this issue does not necessarily show that I am encouraging coup. In fact, as a good citizen of this country, I would not in any way plead that there should be coup in any country all over the world. What I am trying to emphasise, Sir, by speaking on this issue, is that, for international brotherhood and good relations among our countries all over Africa, I am speaking on this issue. In fact, what the Administration in Liberia is actually telling the whole of the continent of Africa now is that they are out to do justice in the interest of the masses of that country. Realising the situation as it is now, the Nigerians and some other Nationals in that country do not find it convenient to carry on with their former trades. As a true being, and in order to normalise things we should think of a way of recognising that Administration in view of the steps they are taking in the interest of the masses of that country as of now. To substantiate my point, Sir,—(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Adeola, you have made your point known. There is no need for you to belabour the issue. This is not foreign policy.

Make Ibadan-Ife Road Dual Carriage-way

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiyan Central): On Motion for Adjournment, I have to say briefly that our roads in this country are in an appalling State of disrepair and we have got to do something about it.

Quite apart, I am saying to this House, with all respect, that Ibadan-Ife road should be made a dual carriage way because, from what I have seen from the experts, it appears that every day over 200,000 vehicles pass on this road. If we can make it a dual carriage road, it will be easier for members of the public to go through this road.

Dry Taps

Apart from this, the death rate on this road will reduce considerably. On the other hand, our taps are really very dry these days here and there. Even up to the Federal Capital here, if you go out to your friends or relatives in Lagos, you cannot get water from the taps. Something must be done to improve this infrastructure.

Incessant Power Failure

The next one is electricity. The Speaker will probably note that as he come this morning during one of his talks there was a power cut and we could not hear him. We must have to do something about this, because it is very disgraceful that a country which has a big Dam at Kainji, a Dam which serves about one or two other countries in West Africa, cannot serve itself effectively.

Something must have to be done on this.

Improving our Internal Telephones

Another thing is our inability to get through from one person to the other on the phone. This is an extremely bad affair. We must have to improve our telephone system in this country. The external one is quite in order but the internal one is just too bad and something must have to be done on this.

National Population Census

Another thing is that our Fourth Economic Planning cannot take off properly unless we know the number of the people in this country. In this event, I will be calling for another head count. We are still using the head count of 1963. This is out of date. We must have to do another head count. On this I am calling on this National Assembly to take a decision on the national census. This must have to be supervised by the United Nations Organisation. Certainly we cannot do this ourselves. If we do it, we are going to inflate our figures again. That is another.

Ruling of the Crude Oil Sales Tribunal

With respect, I have to say that the ruling of the Crude Oil Sales Tribunal was improper that a person should constitute an institution in this country, or that we should create immunity for a person in this country. I have never heard that in any part of the world. For example, even in the United States, Nixon could have been impeached but for the fact that his action was pardoned by his successor. I cannot see how we can create such a terribly bad precedent in this country by saying that a person in this country will become an *institution* himself.

In this case, Sir, what that means is that if this man happens to have his car, drives it through a street in Lagos, runs down a person or two, he can still go free. I will not agree to this, with all respect. Whoever it may be, let him not be above the law.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I am sure you are enjoying your parliamentary privilege because General Obasanjo agreed to hand over power to you, otherwise you will not be in that position talking the way you are.

Mr Omisore : Thank you, Mr Speaker. On the other hand Sir, I have only this point to make—

The Deputy Speaker : Out of the 80 million Nigerians, he became head of state!

Mr Omisore : The other point I want to raise is that each institution has a right. The press can comment on any issue of this nature. They can clearly comment and in their own comment they have a right to be against any ruling of any court. For example, I will not even agree again with the decision of a learned judge at Ibadan when he likened the workers of the Nigerian Television Authority to a driver of a vehicle and its owner. I cannot agree with such a decision. Such a decision is quite wrong. Gentlemen, we should know here that we have every right—

The Deputy Speaker : Can you have your seat, please.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

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

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.36 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 12th June, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Votes and Proceedings

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 11th June and I have approved them as reflecting the correct position of things that happened in the House yesterday.

Committee Meetings

Yesterday, I called out the names of the twelve Members that would meet in the Joint Committee on Finance and the name of Alhaji Inuwa Ali was included. Unfortunately Alhaji Inuwa Ali is not there, and he is being replaced by Alhaji Muhammadu Bachaka.

Members of the Defence Committee are meeting now, that is 10.30 a.m. The Minister of Defence is going to attend this meeting, therefore, those Members of the Committee that are still in this Chamber should please find their ways to the Committee Room D3.

Hon. Members, the Chairman of the Business Committee has made out a list of all the Motions that have been referred to the different Committees of this House, and on which this House is still waiting for a report. These Motions amount to 48. I believe we are going to cyclostyle all the outstanding Motions that have been referred to the different Committees, just to make sure that the Chairmen of these Committees prepare their reports on the Motions that have been referred to them. The only observation I have made is that item No. 31 which is psychiatric hospital should actually go to the Committee on Health. All the Motions that have been brought to the Floor of this House and referred to the Committees have been listed here.

Immediately after this sitting, we are going to have a meeting of all the Party Leaders again and Chairmen of the Committees plus Members of the Joint Committee on Finance that I announced yesterday.

Petition

Mr Lam Adesina, is your Petition ready ?

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, I have to take advantage of Order 11 in the Standing Order of the House of Representatives of Nigeria to present this Petition submitted through me to the Public Petitions Committee by one Mr G. A. Ogundoku of Bolaji Omugbo Street, Pedro, Shomolu, Lagos.

Mr Ogundoku is a Nigerian citizen. He has been deprived of his regular and decent means of livelihood by an expatriate General Manager of an indigenous Company in this country, and this has been done in a most sadistic, high-handed and inhuman manner.

The Deputy Speaker : Just conclusion. It is left for the Committee on Petition to tell us.

Mr Adesina : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Ogundoku is now praying this House that this Committee, the Public Petitions Committee, should review the case and rescind the Order of summary dismissal served on him about six months ago.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I lay the Petition on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker : Somebody should move that the Petition be referred to the Committee on Public Petitions. Yes, the hon. Member for Okehi Adabvi (*Mr Damisa Jimoh*).

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adabvi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Petition be referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Petition be referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Judges Salaries

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Njikoka South (*Mr Emmanuel Obidi Echetabu*), hon. Member, House of Representatives and retired Chief Magistrate, Kenya. (*Laughter*)

Mr Emmanuel Obidi Echetabu (Njikoka South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to refer the honourable House to the publication in *New Nigerian* of Wednesday, 11th June, 1980, on the right-hand side of the same frontal publication—*New Salary Structure Approved for Judges*. I would like to bring to the attention of the House, and further direction from the Speaker, that Section 78 of the Constitution empowers the National Assembly and not the Senate as an arm of the National Assembly, to fix salaries ; and reading further into the salary structures, Judges of concurrent Jurisdiction are always equal in salaries, but the allowances of the Chief Justice are slightly higher for purposes of entertainment. The structure given by the Senate is so scandalous and it is untenable, and this House should reject it by virtue of Section 78 of the Constitution. (*Applause*)

I would also like to point out that this House should be aware of its own powers by virtue of Section 55 subsection 3 of the Constitution that we are the enabling and the forceable arm in matters of Budget making and by a simple majority, this House dictates the tone. (*Fire ! Fire !*)

I would also like to point out to the House that hon. Members should attune themselves to Section 61, Section 62, Section 140 (1) (c) and part I Third Schedule Clause 6 (c), of the Constitution (*Applause*)

These are in further interpretation of Section 64 (1) (b) to alert hon. Members that, they do not satisfy preliminaries which would have disqualified them for election, like if they are being sacked, then they must vacate their seats. This is for Members to know that people must toe party lines and this House being an august House, we are attuned to our own responsibilities. Thank you very much. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : We now go to the Order Paper for today.

ORDER OF THE DAY

NOTICE OF MOTION

Sitting of the House on Fridays

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Nkwerre/Amaigbo (*Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu*) move the Motion standing in your name.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name :

That the House do hereby resolve to resume formal sitting on Fridays at 9.00 a.m.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, the hon. member for Gwer West (*Mr D. D. Awuna*).

Mr D. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Mr Ihekweazu.

Mr Ihekweazu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am moving this Motion with due regard to Order No. 5 of our Standing Orders which already make provision for the sitting of the House on Fridays. I would also like to remind the honourable House that during the Budget session it became necessary for the House to resolve to utilize Fridays for mainly Committee meetings; and now that the Budget is over, it has become necessary for us to restore our normal sittings.

Furthermore, the Business Committee has been computing and trying to draw up a calendar for this honourable House.

In fact, the calendar is virtually ready and may be laid before you either tomorrow or early next week. In computing the calendar, we were very mindful about the responsibilities of the House under Section 59 of the Constitution which stipulates that the House should sit for at least 181 days. It was not an easy task to compute that length of time, and it became necessary to restore as quickly as possible the Friday sittings in order to enable the Committees and House to be able to live up to their constitutional requirements as provided under the Constitution.

Primarily, this is the background to this formal request and without belabouring the issue, I urge you, hon. Members, to give it your support.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Gamawa (*Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar*).

Mr Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Thank you, Mr Speaker, if I do understand the Mover of the Motion, although there is no cause for me to oppose, it appears to me that an impression has been created that we had not in the past been working on Fridays. But this impression is what I want to correct.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on any day, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, for as long as on those days we have Order of the day instructing Committees 10, 17, 20 of them to go into Committee Rooms to work, and that was considered necessary, and for that reason quorum could not be formed for continuous sitting, that day because there was Order Paper, is a working day and we have worked. So, this is the impression I do not want to be carried. During the Budget almost all the Committees were continuously meeting in order to meet a certain target time which was put, and in those Committees we were all working. So, the impression that we did not work on Fridays, I think, should be erased.

However, Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion. (*Applause*)

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Engineer Ogbobe.

Mr Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to contribute in supporting the Motion. As a Member of the Business Committee, I would like to say that we have debated the question of this Friday Committee work as if it were sittings. If you look at Section 59 of the Constitution, it says :

The Senate and the House of Representatives shall each sit for a period of not less than 181 days in a year.

We are mindful of the fact that if, for any reason, we should fall below this requirement any Member or any Nigerian can take us to Court and dissolve the House. Again, on Thursdays when we do adjourn in the past few weeks, the adjournment Motion always says that *this House stand adjourned till Monday* and not till Friday, which shows that we have not been sitting on Fridays. Therefore, we shall not take any risk at all in assuming that we have been sitting on Fridays for Committee meetings.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, Mr Agi.

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Hon. Members, I think this is a matter that does not really need much debate on. The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives in the relevant section states that *this House shall sit at 9 o'clock on Fridays and wind up proceedings at 12 o'clock*. That Standing Order is provided to make room for Members who, of necessity, would be travelling on Fridays to their constituencies as well as having taken time off to conduct their afternoon Friday worships. I do not think, now that the exigencies of the Budget is over, we should not really revert to taking a proper and good advantage of the three hours we have daily for the activities of this House.

[Mr Agi]

So, I beg to support the Motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody with a contrary view ?

Mr Ekedozie O. Chukwu (Okigwe North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is true that the Constitution requires that we must sit for at least 181 days in a year, but we still have to know the definition of sitting. If, indeed, this House resolved that, because of the necessity of passing the Budget within time, we should divide ourselves into Committees and the Committees should sit on Fridays, I do not know why we should not regard such sittings of the Committees as sittings of the House.

Now, if that is the case, then it is not necessary to bring a Motion to reinstate sittings on Fridays. It appears we are just, by the Motion, trying to emphasise the obvious. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that we have been sitting on Fridays and that the Motion is not necessary.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, since this is not a controversial Motion, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do hereby resolve to resume formal sittings on Fridays at 9.00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House do adjourn till 9.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The Deputy Speaker : Any seconder please?

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Buraimoh Olabode.

Mr Buraimoh Olaniyi Olabode (Ogbomoso Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members of this House, supporting the Motion for adjournment I want to call the attention of the Federal Government—

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Olabode, will you take your seat please?

Hon. Members, please those of you who are leaving this House should please do so in an orderly manner. It is pointless for you to remain in the middle of the Floor to be talking to other people. You should please, if you are going out of the House, do so in an orderly manner. Yes, Mr Olabode.

Deplorable Economic Condition of Ogbomoso

Mr B O. Olabode (Ogbomoso North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I want to call the attention of the Federal Government to the bad economic condition of my home town, Ogbomoso. The economic condition of Ogbomoso as it is now, could be regarded as an economic disaster of Ogbomoso.

Ogbomoso is one of the largest cities in Nigeria, one time the second largest city, but now the

Federal Government has failed to regard this town. Well, as we all know, Ogbomoso is the gateway to the North, a link between the North and the West. The population of Ogbomoso is well over one million, I mean Ogbomoso and its districts. There is no single Federal project or industry in this town. No institution in the town.

Ogbomoso town has been disregarded by the Federal Government. The people of this town have been suffering in silence. Many of the sons and daughters of Ogbomoso have been deserting the town in thousands. So, we appeal to the Federal Government to pity the condition of this town and come to our aid. We need Federal institutions in Ogbomoso. We want the Federal Government to proclaim Ogbomoso as an industrial centre, so that the Federal Government may locate industries in this town. At present, there is no Polytechnic, I mean Federal Polytechnic, in Oyo State. We want a Federal Polytechnic to be located in this town, because there is no Federal institution in this particular large town.

So also, Ogbomoso is a large area. As a result we have many small towns in this particular place. None of these towns has been electrified. They have not been provided with pipe-borne water. We appeal to the Federal Government, particularly to President Shehu Shagari, to help us in this town. So also, I take this opportunity to call our people, that is Ogbomoso people, elsewhere who are well to—do to come back home to set up small-scale industries so as to boost the economic condition of the town.

Again, I would also talk on the bad road condition of Ogbomoso. The only Federal road linking Ogbomoso to Osogbo, the proposed Oshun State Capital, is bad, and so also Ogbomoso road from Ogbomoso to Egbebi is worse than ever. We want the Federal Government to help us repair these roads.

With these comments I beg to sit.

Irresponsible Journalism

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, under the Motion for Adjournment I wish to discuss a few subjects that are of primary importance to the body politic of this nation. I make no apology in starting this discourse with our Fourth Estate of the Realm, our Press. In my observation they leave much to be desired. Those of us who are Christians say that:

To whom much is given, much is desired.

The Press in this country is one of the freest in the whole world. You need to go through the pages of the *Nigerian Tribune*, the *Punch* and what-have-you, to see the amount of criminal libel, the amount of sedition, the amount of irresponsible statements put out which are ignored. But having done that, I see no reason why this Press should not leave up to expectation. I see no reason why the Press of this country should collect bribes in order to report matters that are essential to the body politic of this country. The Press team of the National Assembly calls for activities of the Criminal Investigation

[DR EMEKEKWUE]

Department of the Police. I will not go further because I know it is an open secret. *Verbum Sapienti.*

Equality under the Law

Mr Speaker, Sir, another subject I want to discuss is the question of equality under the law of this country. I mean that in a country like ours, the rich, the opulent, the politically powerful, the poor and the indigent should have equal rights under the law. In this respect, I make a plea for special consideration of the High Court Judges and of the Magistrates. I am not concerned about how much money they are paid but I am concerned that people we put in this position should be able to carry out their duties without fear or favour, without fear of removal from office.

In the near future there may be a Bill coming up to make these people, these law enforcement officers feel secure in their positions. Initially, I had wanted to oppose it, but recent events have shown me that such a Bill is to be supported. If we do nothing, there will be a day when somebody is sentenced to go to prison and somebody intervenes, may be by saying that the Director of Prisons has not been written to prepare a cell to receive this man, and in the circumstance, he cannot go to jail until the Director receives such a letter or some nonsense of that sort. I am afraid that the law of this land is being relegated to nonentity and we of this House must not allow that to happen.

Discipline in Public Service

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to discuss the subject of discipline in Public Service. I want to point out that our Public Service is very indisciplined. It is in this country that it is near impossibility to dismiss a Public Servant because of the rigmarole involved in it. The System of open Confidential Report should be scrapped from now onwards. When I was in the Civil Service, I had to write a Confidential Report about an Officer under me. At present it is demanded that you should call that officer and give him a copy of what you have written. He should vet it and it is only if he agrees with what you have written that you can forward it to the headquarters. I think this is wrong.

Confidential Reports should be confidential so that the officer writing it should be free to express his impression about the officer under him. The lazy, the indolent, should not be allowed to sit like dogs in the manger in our Public Service. They should be ejected and people who are willing to work, who are willing to devote their time, energy, and intellect to the work for which they are paid should be injected into the Service. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am calling for a new Commission to go into the present form of our Public Service.

As of now the Report of the Udoji Commission is out of date. We need another Commission to go in and make sure that there is discipline, that an officer has some power and some measure of authority over those under him. I see no reason why an Executive Officer should not suspend any of the officers under him or interdict him as used to happen

in the colonial days pending the final decision on whatever misdemeanour that officer had committed.

The Public Service Commission should be a kind of Court of Appeal for those who feel victimised, for those who feel aggrieved. They should not be there to settle matters that could easily be looked after by the Executive Officers.

Committee on Creation of States Membership

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I wind up, I want to say a word about what we have decided should be the composition of Members of the Special Committee to look into the creation of new States. To my mind, I think that it is not right to say that people from areas from which States would be created should not be Members of such Committee. I want to submit, Mr Speaker, that to my mind, I would say that those who are directly involved are less likely to withhold any vital information that would help the Committee to decide whether or not the State should be created and I want us to reconsider this our decision.

I beg to submit.

The Garuwa Agreement : Loss of Part of Cross River State to the—Camerouns

Alhaji A. Tuggar (Gamawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to contribute to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to discuss specifically one item, and this is the Garuwa agreement which was promulgated and signed between Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroun during the Gowon era. It is now clear, Mr Speaker, that this agreement is absolutely disadvantageous to the interests of Nigeria. Maybe, we have to delve a little into the history of how the agreement came to be, so that Members will be able to understand exactly, what I am talking about.

There were a number of boarder skirmishes and disputes that started in 1970-71 and these led to a conference between officials of the Camerounian Government and officials of the Nigerian Government. The first meeting was held in Yaounde the capital of Cameroun, but unfortunately at that meeting, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nigeria did not send a highly placed official with sufficient experience. The delegation was led by only an Assitant Secretary. But they met highly experienced officials including a Minister and an Attorney-General in Cameroun. So, unfortunately, our intelligence was played upon and we yielded a lot of ground. This argument was over a piece of land, a piece of land in part of territorial waters. In the final meeting again which took place in Garuwa, the Nigerian Government sent a low level cadre of personnel to represent her, and this agreement was drawn and this led to the loss by Nigeria of a large portion of land in the Cross River State section of the country.

Right now, Mr Speaker, in this land that was signed away by General Gowon unfortunately, inadvertently though—I am not accusing him as a human being, he must make mistakes—the Camerounian Government is having a rig in that portion and it is now getting crude oil. When General Muhammed came, he tried as much as possible to

[ALHAJI TUGGAR]

re-open the issue, but unfortunately his regime became short-lived and since then this issue has never been taken up again.

Mr Speaker, in addition to the oil right now, as happened on Chad, the Cameronian Government is harassing our own Nigerian citizens who are even on their own soil. This is a very unfortunate situation, and this is why I feel that we should invite the attention of this honourable House to help us agitate the mind of the government with a view to reopening this issue so that we can get our rightful position. As it is at the moment our warships and other mercantile ships have to go through the territorial water of Cameroun, which was signed away, before they could come into the territorial water of Nigeria. This I think is a very sad situation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, do you know that the danger is that, now that Julius Nyerere the President of Tanzania has demonstrated that he could make a government in small countries, install any person he likes, most of our small country neighbours will get scared, they will be afraid. You do not know when they are going to invite major powers and give them military bases all around us. So, I want this House to begin to think about this issue very seriously because right now we have a lot of trouble. Egypt is a friend of South Africa and Egypt is a friend—

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : To Israel.

Alhaji Tugger : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr E. O. Chukwu.

Mr E. O. Chukwu (Okigwe North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members in my contribution—

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Mr Iyayi : My point of order is order 8 (2). There is no quorum in the House.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Olinmah, please check the quorum in the House.

(Quorum checked)

The Deputy Speaker : Well, hon. Members, the Clerk has just informed me that there is no quorum. Therefore, this House is adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.25 a.m. without Question put pursuant to Order 8 (2).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 13th June, 1980

The House met at 9.45 a.m.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 12th June, 1980 and I have approved them as reflecting the true position of things that happened in the House yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The only announcement is that the Joint Committee on Finance was inaugurated yesterday evening and those Members of our own House Joint Finance Committee are listed to meet at 9.30 a.m. today. But I believe that since we have just come into the House now, they should please suspend that meeting until we adjourn from this sitting which I believe is not going to be for long.

For the information of Members of this August House I would just like to read an extract from the *Hansard* of the Senate in a contribution to the debate on Motion for Adjournment of 10th of June, 1980. This is a contribution of a most distinguished Senator—

Mr President, Sir, may I seize this opportunity to say that there is a need to draw up Standing Orders for Joint Sittings of both Houses of the National Assembly. We have been to these meetings a few times but there are no Standing Orders. The question about quorum is important. The quorum about the decision making process is important. I think that as soon as possible a Joint Committee of both Houses should be convened to draw up Standing Orders for the Joint Sitting, so that when Senators attend such a meeting, with our qualitative number we shall not be at the mercy of the quantitative number of the other House. (Interruptions)

At this Joint Sitting we are always told that if you disagree, we will use our numbers ; both Houses are equal. We are one complete House and they are one complete House and there must be weighting in such a way that my one complete vote must represent the votes of all those who represent the area which I represent.

Several Members : Shame ! (Prolonged Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! Some Members of the Press came to my office, possibly having heard the contribution of this distinguished Senator and I told the Press people, and it is important for the records, that while there is a Joint Sitting of the Houses, the President of the Senate is presiding, the importance is that one-third of the total membership of the National Assembly, 544 Members, will form a quorum. While 95 Senators can sit in this Chamber

and do not form a quorum, the House of Representatives, when they meet, as long as the President of the Senate is sitting, will form quorum.

Furthermore, that it is the decision of the House of Representatives that will prevail on the decision of the Senate because it is the House of Representatives, as I have said, that represents the people. (Applause) Every Local Government in the Federation is represented in this August House, and unless the Constitution is changed whereby a Senator's single Vote will represent the Vote of the people who are representing him here, I think the Constitution confers the power on this August House.

An hon. Member : Who is the Senator ?

The Deputy Speaker : Read your *Hansard* and you will find his name there. He is a UPN Senator !

It will also interest those Members of the Joint Finance Committee who had the privilege of sitting in the Gallery of the Senate yesterday, and it is very interesting that you read the *Hansard* of yesterday, I believe it will be in your pigeon-holes either today or tomorrow. It will make an interesting reading.

ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Business Committee

Presentation of the House Calendar of the House of Representatives for the Sessions—9th October, 1979-8th October, 1980 and 9th October, 1980-8th October, 1981.

The Deputy Speaker : The Chairman of the Business Committee, Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu, is not here. Engineer Ogbobe will move on his behalf.

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : What is your Order ?

Mr Akande : I would like to remind the House, (Interruptions) I think Mr Speaker has recognised me. Mr Speaker, Sir, my objection. Sir, validly taken, in my opinion, and it is fortunate that you are on seat again today, is that ruling was made by your good self in respect of dressing, and certainly, Sir, when you ruled hon. Ambrose Gapsuk out of Order, you took a very strong position, and I expect that this House must not be over-ruling itself. The hon. Gentleman here is not properly and fully dressed.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, please. (Prolonged Interruptions) I shall give a ruling now. The hon. Debo Akande has made an observation because I made a ruling on dress in the House on Gapsuk, dressed in French safari short sleeves and a shirt inside, with no neck-tie. There is the mode of dressing for the English sector, and there is the mode of dressing for the Nigerian sector. (Interruptions) Please let me rule. The gentleman, that is in the House today happens to have the Vice-President of this country coming from his own ethnic group, and the Vice-President dressed

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER

in the Ibo traditional way of the jumper and the red cap. (*Interruptions*) If Engineer Ogbobe had come into this House with the jumper and without the red cap, I would have turned him back, but as he has dressed as a red cap Chief, I give him the grace to continue.

Mr Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I thank the Speaker for the ruling. I am also a titled man and a titled man in my area wears a red cap. So I thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I make the presentation, I want to make some corrections in the calendar. On the first page of the Calendar—

The Deputy Speaker: Has everybody got the calendar?

Several hon. Members: Yes.

Mr Ogbobe: On the first page of the calendar, the second to the last line October 1st, National Day, under *Public Holidays and Breaks*, write *one*.

On the second page, third to the last line, instead of *long vacation* write *holiday*, that is 10th August to September 18th. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the pleasure to present this calendar, and move—

That the House do receive the Parliamentary Calendar of the House of Representatives for the Session—9th October, 1979 to 8th October, 1980 and the Session 9th October, 1980 to 8th October, 1981.

I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker: Any seconder? Yes, Awuna.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive the Parliamentary Calendar of the House of Representatives for the Session 9th October, 1979 to 8th October, 1980 and the Session 9th October, 1980 to 8th October, 1981.

The Deputy Speaker: So, hon. Members you just accept the report, you look through it and we shall discuss it later. Will somebody move the Motion for Adjournment please?

Adjournment

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South): Mr, Speaker said somebody, and I am somebody too.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House stands adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, my hon. Friend from the disaster area, Mr Chukwu.

Aid for Tornado Disaster Victims in Okigwe—Imo State

Mr Ekedozie O. Chukwu (Okigwe North): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to seize this opportunity to confirm the news item carried by the NTA on Wednesday evening about the tornado disaster in Isuochi Okigwe. On that day, when it happened, over 200 buildings were destroyed completely by the tornado. In fact, in a girl's school, the boarding house was equally destroyed, and over 2,000 people have since been rendered homeless.

The people of the area have made various approaches to the State Government and to some charitable organisations for assistance. Personally I took it up with the Governor of the State and he promised to do something. Now, I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to the Office of the Presidency to come to the aid of the people affected by the tornado disaster. They need resettlement, they need the assistance of all Nigerians, they need to be rehabilitated immediately. I am appealing to hon. Members here to help in their own ways to assist the people so that their suffering may not be more than it should.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.

A University for Each State ?

Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri): My point of observation is on the establishment of seven additional Universities in Nigeria. Of Course, the news is a nice and encouraging one, particularly to the States proposing to build Universities. But going into the X-ray of it, I would like to ask three questions. Why seven additional Universities, or why a University for each State? If the purpose is prestige, certainly the government is creating a very dangerous precedent, because if we can build nineteen Universities now, what would happen in a year or two when we find ourselves with twenty, thirty or more States? Secondly, if the purpose is to bridge the gap or the imbalance in Education, that I find is also a dangerous precedent, because building Universities will not bridge the gap or fill up the imbalance.

At the moment, we have universities in Sokoto, Kano, Maiduguri, Calabar and Port Harcourt. All these universities are not filled; or at least not more than ten *per cent* admission in these universities are the indigenes. So, building universities in itself would not fill up the gap. Thirdly, if the purpose is to admit those who are qualified, that also I would say is mis-calculated, because at the moment I do not think we have many qualified students who are fit for admission and are not admitted.

So, in my humble opinion, I would suggest that, the Federal Government, instead of wasting that money in building seven additional universities, should take the following steps. The present universities should be given more funds to expand their research. Mr Speaker, Sir, at the moment our universities are short of funds. Let us build what we have rather than trying to build extra universities. Give more funds so as to encourage the research

in these universities. We are after the quality of the universities and not the number.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, please. Can you round up please.

Mr Yelwa : The second point, Sir, is that our secondary schools are in temporary sites, why not use the money in building permanent sites for our secondary schools, Teacher Training Colleges and Technical Institutions instead of building universities.

Again, Sir, the UPE is a wash-out. There was complaint about the Universal primary Education Scheme. Why not use the money in building these Institutions and boosting this UPE scheme.

If at all we want to bridge the imbalance, the most important thing is to make Primary and Secondary Education compulsory, I repeat the word, compulsory. In addition to being free, Primary and Secondary Education should be compulsory. By so doing, we would have enough pupils in those backward areas going to school and then when you build universities, these universities would be beneficial to us. Otherwise, building universities without making Primary and Secondary Schools compulsory, would not serve any useful purpose. The imbalance would continue. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want your protection.

The Deputy Speaker : You are protected.

Mr Yelwa : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying this from the bottom of my heart. Building more universities will not help this country. Encourage Primary Education, build more Secondary Schools so that our pupils would go to these secondary schools when they are built. But the mere building of universities for prestigious purpose is as bad as useless. So, with these remarks, Mr Speaker, I would like hon. Members to think seriously over this matter.

Rising Cost of Living

Mr Jimoh Damisa (Okehi-Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to mention the plight of average Nigerians. Before the handing over of power by the military regime, Nigerians started encountering difficulties, life was becoming difficult for them. They were able to maintain peace because they wanted the transitional period to be peaceful and were expecting that probably things might change as soon as we have the civilian regime. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, the price of foodstuffs in some of these places is so very high that it is a real problem buying them. A *mudu* of gari is now more than fifty kobo and even anybody on Level 01 to Level 10 finds it difficult to make both ends meet.

I am appealing to all the State Governors in this country to please find means of making an average citizen of this country to feel more happy and be able to live happily. They should be able to get foodstuffs cheaply in the market. May I appeal to Mr President, who is the father of all, to find ways and means with the Governors that cost of living that is now getting higher and higher should be reduced to a minimum level so that every Nigerian could feel that this world is a worthy place to live in. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Federal Government Roads in Imo State

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to dilate on a few items. The first is the Federal roads as it affects Imo State. The programme of roads being prosecuted by the Federal Government was the plan of 1974, and this has resulted in the exclusion of so many roads particularly the roads from Umuahia, through Uzuakoli, Alayi, Igbere Abiriba and Ohafia. That road is a very important road, and there is no need emphasising on the importance of roads. The area is a food-producing area and there are other factors that would make the Federal Government take up that road. No road remains within a State. Each road connects another State, and by so doing, every part of the country benefits from good roads.

So, I am appealing to the Federal Government that in considering the programme for roads for the next financial year, that road should be taken up by the Federal Government and given a face-lift. There are other roads which ought to be taken care of by the Federal Government in Imo State and, in fact, the budget shows a total absence of Federal Government presence, as far as roads are concerned in Imo State. I am appealing to the Federal Government to take care of that State so that the economy would progress for the benefit of all of us. The Agricultural Revolution cannot be prosecuted without good roads.

I come to another point, Sir, and that is one which is flourishing here and which, I think, hon. Members should be informed of, I am talking about where a Panel or a Tribunal is set up to investigate a particular item and where that Tribunal or Panel is doing its work, some Members take it upon themselves to comment either adversely or favourably on certain items which come within the ambit of the Tribunal or Panel. I refer to the case on Special Committee on Housing before I go further.

A lot of us have read so many articles or comments being proffered by Members of this honourable House why this House resolved that a Special Committee should look into the activities of the House Committee. But in spite of the fact that we have not received a report, some Members have taken the pleasure to write adversely or otherwise on matters which fall within the ambit of this Panel. This should be corrected. This is a Legislature, and if it is a Legislature, any member of it should know the rudiments or the principles of law. A similar ignorance has extended to the Tribunal investigating the Crude Oil business in so much that in the newspaper a few days ago there was an allegation that some Members of this honourable House have been asked to be arrested on Contempt of Court of the Tribunal. You can easily involve yourself in contempt. Principle of Contempt of Court is a very important one. If the Court or a Tribunal set up to investigate any case is not fully respected, then the rules of law will be jeopardised and the liberty of individuals will be at stake. Members should know fully well that when a Tribunal is set up, on no condition whatsoever should an individual comment or refuse to answer to the call of such a Tribunal. If a Member makes

[CHIEF OGWE]

any comment while a Tribunal is proceeding, it could result in Contempt of Court. When it becomes contempt, that person will be jailed without any excuse whatsoever.

Desist from Dishing out Press Statements

Lastly, Sir, the area I would like to comment on is the area in which stability of this country is paramount. I am so happy that eminent Leaders like Alhaji Kaltungo and the rest of eminent people from NPN side have commented on the statement credited to Uba Ahmed. I too worked hard to bring about the understanding agreement with the NPN. I might have stood on the toes of some people, in my part but this is because I love this country, I love the stability, and I love the economic acceleration of this country. I am saying this because some people glory in making statement anyhow, opening their mouths wide, to the jeopardy of this country. Nobody benefits from crisis. If any crisis occurs wherever you may be, you will be affected directly or indirectly. I am asking that Members of various parties should warn themselves if actually we are working for the interest of the masses. Thank you.

Take over of Television Stations by the Federal Government

Mr Muhammadu A. Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Speaker, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to dwell on four cardinal principles. The first has to do with the State ownership of Television. Considering the precipice to which this matter has been dragged and the fact that it is almost a foregone conclusion, I think, it is high time we started addressing our minds to the solution to this problem. Mr Speaker, I think it is very important unless we are being hypocritical to understand the situation, the constraints, many States were placed into with the take over of television stations by the Federal Government. It is in that tone, Mr Speaker, that while not contributing to the overflogging of the matter, I would think it is high time that the Federal Government started thinking seriously of paying adequate compensations to those States that the Federal Government has taken over their Television Stations. If we take into consideration States that have spent quite a huge amount of money up to the tune of over 6 million naira to set up their television stations, like my State, Kano State, it becomes an unfortunate predicament to find ourselves in a situation where the Federal Government has taken over the Television Station and there is no adequate compensation. I think, we are very much in need of that money, and it will be employed in the best use if the Federal Government can pay adequate compensations and release the money with despatch.

Kano Fire Disaster

The second matter, Mr Speaker, has to do with Kano Fire disaster at the Sabon Gari Market. I would like to use the Floor of this House to thank all those States that have shared the grief of Kano

Municipality and Kano State as a whole by contributing in cash or kind towards relief for the victims of this fire disaster. I also thank the Federal Government for the initial steps they took to alleviate the situation. Although the whole exercise was later scattered midstream, and was bedevilled by political considerations, Mr Speaker, I thought the question of that fire disaster was a matter which should have been viewed on a much more humanitarian plane, unlike the plane upon which it was considered which was very political, and hence the Federal Government allowed itself to be drawn into a situation, a quagmire, where it was not able to carry to the last the initial exercise it initiated to help alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the fire disaster.

Non-Completion of the Kano-Hadejia Road

The third item, Mr Speaker, has to do with the long over due completion of the Kano-Hadejia Road which has been lying unattended to. The contract, we were informed, has been awarded for quite some time, but nobody has shown any concern, or any interest, to make the people who have been given the contract to execute the contract. That road still remains a hazard to life, a hazard to motorist, a hazard to everybody who uses it. In the name of everything that is honourable, Mr Speaker, I am calling on the Federal Ministry of Works to look into the matter of the Kano-Hadejia Road and to see to its immediate completion with despatch.

Quasi Police Force in Lagos State

Finally, Mr Speaker, I quite recently noticed the emergence of some quasi Police Force in Lagos State. I do not know how to describe them, but I am concerned with the discharge of their activities because some certain dangerous trends began to develop, when some Members of this honourable House were physically assaulted by those people in the name of road clearance. The Members vehicles were also towed to the premises of this quasi Police Force, the occupants maltreated, assaulted, beaten, and the tyres of their cars punctured. Mr Speaker, this is a very serious situation, because if any State wants to enforce the law, the law is clear and the avenues are clear, it will be in the best interest of the Nation that they use the accredited Police Force to enforce the law. It is very unfortunate and highly uncalled-for, for a completely different subterranean kind of Force to be injected into the system for the sole purpose of the personal aggrandisement of some individuals or a State Government. It is very important, Mr Speaker, that we take into consideration this situation because it touches on the security of all of us.

Even if we are thinking of going to Abuja in the near future, we are still occupants of this town at least, between now and that time. So, I think we deserve some modicum of respectability, certain modicum of recognition, and not only us, but also other citizens of this country. I think this is very important and it is a matter which deserves to be looked into seriously. Thank you very much. I beg to sit.

The Deputy Speaker : Of all the contributions made by hon. Tudun Wada I only want to comment on your item 1, the compensation for Kano Television Station because, I believe, before Kano State can take over that Television Station they must pay compensation to the former ten Northern States. This is because they contributed—

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : I know. I am speaking as a former Commissioner of Information and I can tell you of every penny that my State contributed for the maintenance of Kaduna and Kano Television. The bills are there. Yes, Prince T. O. Olusi.

Independence Fountain at Tinubu

Prince T. O. Olusi (Lagos South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to direct the attention of all hon. Members to the condition of the Independence Fountain at Tinubu in Lagos. This fountain was erected years ago by the Balewa Administration to mark the attainment of independence by this country. It is a shame that the fountain today is an eye-sore. Today the fountain which was built with hundreds of naira is now an eye-sore, is now the abode of beggars, the abode of the insane and the abode of all sorts of people. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is indeed a shame that we would erect a monument to mark the attainment of our independence and our Ministry of Works or the Federal Government would not be able to maintain that monument. It is indeed a shame, Sir, and one is short of words to describe the disgrace.

I therefore, would like to call on the Federal Ministry of Works to do something about it. We have all sorts of engineers in the Ministry, we have those who are qualified and those who are capable, and they should in no distant date try to reactivate this fountain so as to maintain the glory of the country.

One would like to recall that there existed at one time the Supreme Court at Tinubu, and the residence of the Late Dr Henry Carr, the first African Resident. All these historical buildings were pulled down to give way to the fountain. As I have said earlier, it is a shame that we have pulled down very important historical buildings only to erect a fountain which we are not ready to maintain.

Police Closure of Campbell Street in Lagos

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to go to my second point which is in respect of the closure of Campbell Street in Lagos by the Police. Campbell Street, for the benefit of hon. Members, is that street that passes right in front of the Lion Building Lagos State Police Headquarters, and just at the back of the Catholic Cathedral. For years now, this street has been closed to traffic. I would like to explain that Campbell Street is a local government road, and the law is very clear on the closure of roads. Even on Federal roads, there are regulations which the Ministry of Works has to conform with before the roads are closed. In respect of local government roads in Lagos State, the law stipulates that the Local

Government Council has to inform the public, has to receive objections from them before an local government council in the State can close the road. I am sure the law does not empower the Police to close any road permanently either in Lagos State or in any other State of the Federation. It is important that the Police who are supposed to be law enforcement agents of the Government of this honourable House should conform with the law.

It is no use seeing the Police taking the law into their own hands. Therefore Sir, Mr Speaker, through you I would like to call on the Inspector-General of Police to direct the Lagos State Commissioner of Police to open Campbell Street to normal traffic.

Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission and your indulgence I would just like to make one other point which is in respect of Federal roads in Lagos. This is part of the ring road which is in Isale Eko.

The Deputy Speaker : It is not included in the points you have raised.

Prince Olusi : With your permission and your indulgence Mr Speaker, this is a Federal road, and part of the ring road and Members are aware that when the ring roads were being constructed certain areas of Lagos were sand-filled. Part of my constituency in Isale Eko was sand-filled. Members may be aware that by our tradition those of us who are indigenes of Lagos our ancestors and, to some extent, some of us today, are fishermen. When the road was constructed and the edge of the lagoon was sand-filled, the fishermen in this area have to cross the Federal road which is an express road to get to the lagoon. Within the last four months Sir, not less than four people have been over-run, knocked down and killed by motorists. In fact the very last one was a pregnant woman.

I am, therefore, appealing to the Federal Government to construct maybe, an under-ground tube. This is a Federal road and it is the responsibility of the Federal Government. The Lagos State Government has been charged with encroaching on the Federal responsibility. So, I am appealing through you, Mr Speaker, Sir, to the Federal Minister of Works, in the interest of all Nigerians who are resident in Lagos. In this area you will be surprised you have some Ibo people living there and you have some few Hausa people too. You know Lagos is a miniature Nigeria.

The Deputy Speaker : You have asked the few Hausa and Ibo people that are there to leave.

Prince Olusi : They are even in my own house and in Ereko, Kosoko Palace. Hon. Kanti is right in this House, he can bear me out that they are there.

Finally, I just want to make one other point in respect of—

The Deputy Speaker : That is all right, please take your sit. I was going to bring you my petition that I have no water to drink in Victoria Island and you are asking for water for the fountain.

Prince Olusi : Please do. We have just set up a Water Board in Lagos State.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Abiodun Afonja.

Mr Abiodun Afonja (Oyo Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members—

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Alhaji Tuggar : My point of order is Order 8 (2). There is no quorum in this House.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Olinmah, can you check the quorum please.

(Quorum checked).

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, in the absence of a quorum, the House is adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 10.37 a.m. without Question put pursuant to Order 8 (2).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 16th June, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Joint Finance Committee

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! I hope our own Members in the proposed Joint Finance Committee are all here. We will meet in my office immediately after this because it is very important to point out to Members the relevant provisions in the Constitution.

The Constitution says that Members shall come from both Houses and I was surprised to hear over the Radio and Television that a Chairman of the Committee has already been named for the Joint Committee. So, the Chairman has to be elected first. When you go there, you first of all make a nomination and elect the Chairman before you propose to deliberate on the various Amendments. For one person or one section of the House to go over the Radio and say Mr so and so will be the Chairman without consulting us, is, I think, a wrong procedure. (*Applause*)

We are going to have a Joint Session. I have always said it that the Constitution gives us a superior power over financial matters, and that determines the superiority of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Hon. members, I understand the Joint Finance Committee is going to meet at 11 o'clock. That is what I have just been informed, but please, our own members, it is a pity I have not been able to see the members so that we agree on whom you will nominate as the Chairman, because these issues of principle are very important. If you begin to over-look them now and come back next time to say that this is that, the public will just laugh at us. So, it is very important you vote for who will be the Chairman. If there is a stalemate, you come back here and we vote. When you finish electing the Chairman, you vote on the Amendment. If there is a stalemate, you should also come back here and we vote. (*Applause*)

Meeting of the Presiding Officers

Hon. Members, you remember last week we had a Meeting of presiding Officers at Enugu. The Communique in respect of that meeting will be circulated to everybody. So, the Clerk, please ensure that each Member gets a copy of what transpired at Enugu.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Notice of Motions

Preparation of the Rules of the House

Mr Speaker : Yes, today's Order Paper Notice of Motions, suspension of Standing Orders 52 (2) and 55 (1) to be moved by Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu.

I think you were withdrawing this Motion ?

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwere) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have examined the contents of the Motion before you in the Order Paper and I would say that it is not the exact text of the Motion submitted for printing. There appear to be some typographical errors, and in any case, two Motions are interwined in one. It is not as elegant as I originally authorised. If I may borrow the language of the Adviser there would appear to be *an element of the printer's devil*. In the circumstances I beg to suspend the Motion as contained in the Order Paper. Furthermore, by 11 o'clock, the Joint Committee on Finance will be meeting and I think we really need that time to allow them to deliberate and prepare for this meeting.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to apply to suspend the Motions to a later date. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : The Motion is accordingly suspended.

Motion by leave suspended.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Aliyu Mahmud (Yola) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move that the House do adjourn until tomorrow morning by 10 o'clock.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion. Yes, Chief Alete.

Chief Stephen Alete (Ikwere/Etche I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to comment on NPP/NPN Accord—(*Prolonged interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Adeagbo : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give you the historical background of the NPN/NPP Accord. In 1951 (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order : Order ! Please, the hon. Member from Ondo State, let me tell you just one thing. You will still speak. Do you know Lawyers usually say that in contracts belonging to another person, you should not put yourself there. That is what we call (*Interruptions*) Order ! Order ! You will speak. Please, the hon. Member from Ondo State that is what they call *Res inter alius acta*. I hope I am correct ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Bassey Etienam.

Soweto Day : A call for the Release of Matulu

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, as you are all well aware, today is Soweto Day, a day which is being observed throughout the world, especially the Third-World in commemoration of the South African Patriots in Soweto, who were murdered sometime ago by the South African racist Government.

I want to take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to bring to the notice of this honourable House what happened a few months ago to a South African Patriot, a militant political activist who was in the course of the service of his own people and country. Mr Speaker, Sir, one Mr Victor Matulu, alias Zinjiga Okondo of the South African National Congress, was an international passenger on a Lesotho Airways en-route from Swaziland to Masuru, Lesotho, when he was seized by the Racist South African Authorities on December 12, 1979. Mr Matulu, who is a South African refugee, boarded a Lesotho Airways international flight Number T51 from Matupu, Mozambique, via Swaziland to Masuru, but because of bad weather condition in Masuru, the plane landed with permission at Blue Fountain in South Africa. All passengers, including Mr Matulu, were transferred from the plane to a bus to be transferred to Masuru. At the border post, the South African police seized Mr Matulu at gun-point. All efforts to get Mr Matulu released, including the efforts of the Lesotho Government and appeals from third parties have not succeeded in obtaining his release.

The South African authorities had originally intended to bring Mr Matulu before the racist court for trial under the so-called Terrorist Act of South Africa, from 10th to 21st March, 1980 but nothing has since been heard of this matter. It is feared that this young man has now been sent either to Robin Island in South Africa or he has been murdered. I am therefore using the opportunity of this day, Soweto Day, a day when all the free world, when all democratic forces the world over, are expressing their solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa, to appeal to you through this august Assembly and the Government of the Republic of Nigeria to demand, Sir, through appropriate channel, be it diplomatic, economic and political, for the unconditional release of Mr Matulu and of all other South African political prisoners who are now in illegal detention in South Africa.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in conclusion I would like to suggest that this honourable House should formally express, by way of a resolution, its unflinching solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa in support of their struggle for national independence and democracy in that part of Africa. You appreciate, Sir, that Africa is the centre-piece of our foreign policy, and this is quite consistent with the provisions in our Constitution. Our role in Zimbabwe has been applauded by all parts of the world, and our efforts to assist the struggling people of Namibia to gain their freedom has also been saluted by all parts of the progressive world. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think today is a very great occasion in the history of the National Liberation Movement in Africa.

With this observation, Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal to this honourable House to express, in concrete terms, their solidarity with our oppressed brothers in Southern Africa. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Plot to Rig the Local Government Council Elections

Chief Bon Omoruwa (Warri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Ladies and Gentlemen, my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment is in respect of elections to the Local Government Councils.

In accordance with the provision of Sub-section 6 (c) and (d) of part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Constitution, the Federal Electoral Commission has the power to do two things, that is under (c) and (d) I would read with the permission of the Speaker.

(c) *To arrange for the registration of persons qualified to vote and for the maintenance and revision of the register of voters.*

(d) *To ensure that the register of voters is prepared and maintained in such form as to facilitate its use for the purpose of the elections to Local Government Councils.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am fully aware that the President has submitted the list of persons to serve as members of the Electoral Commission. This list is before the Senate and it is yet to be approved. But of recent, there was a circular letter from the Electoral Commission for the recruitment of teachers to prepare the voters' List. This circular letter was dated the 29th of May, 1980. When I went home at the week-end, Mr Speaker, it was discovered that the circular letter dated the 25th May, 1980 was not distributed to some of the Secretaries of the Council until the 13th of June, 1980, and the expiry date for this exercise is the 15th of June, 1980. Before then the Electoral Officers had surreptitiously distributed these circular letters to such Secretaries which they found were in sympathy with the political party that they (the Electoral Officers) favour. So, it is my contention that in the last election which the whole of us contested, we found that teachers had a lot of ballot papers or registration papers, and a lot of people who were qualified to vote had no papers and as a result efforts were made before they were allowed to vote.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now the foundation is being laid again for another rigging, and unless steps are taken, the exercise for the election of Local Government may be another wasteful exercise which may bring the country no good. So, it is my humble submission that those who are affected, those in the Government areas, especially members of the Electoral Commission, should be told that sufficient publicity should be given for such exercise so that those people who feel that they are qualified to vote, if they are not registered, they should take immediate steps to see that they are registered. If this is not done, you will find that thousands of people would be left out unregistered, and that does not augur well for a country like this. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

High Discriminatory Fees for Overseas Students in Britain

Mr Akintunde Rotimi (Ekiti North) : Under Motion for Adjournment, I would like to raise two fundamental issues. One of them affects our international relations, and the other one affects our domestic affairs. The first one that affects the international affairs is the racial policy of the British Government with particular reference to the special tuition fees being charged on foreign or overseas students. This policy which started as far back as 1967 has been going on unchallenged.

As a result of this policy many of our foreign students, particularly those from the Commonwealth countries, have suffered under this discriminatory policy, and many were forced to abandon their studies to do some menial jobs in factories and in various industries.

I am particularly worried that many of these students are from Commonwealth countries, and to my mind, this racial policy is in conflict with the spirit of the Commonwealth and Nigeria is a strong Member of that association. I would like, therefore, to call on the African Members of the Commonwealth to have a second look at this racial policy of the British Government. I am calling particularly on the O.A.U. to accept this as a challenge, especially in view of the fact that education in the past few decades has become a booming industry for the British Government.

After losing their colonial empires, the British Government has now seen a new way of exploiting its former colonies, and that is one of the reasons why education has become a booming industry in Britain. I am sure those, who studied one time or the other in Britain, will agree with me that the British government has taken advantage of our generosity of travelling from our various countries to study in Britain simply because of the language link between us and Britain, and as a result they have exploited us by charging extra fees. Therefore, I would like the Nigeria Government, at the same time with the co-operation of the O.A.U. to review our relationship and economic policy with Britain. If the British Government decides to exploit us through their educational policy, we can also take a retaliatory policy in terms of our trade relationship with the British Government.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Rotimi : My second—(Interruption)

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : My point of order is Order 26 (2) The B.B.C. announced as of last night and the statement of the British High Commission said that they would now review the school fees of Commonwealth Students. In that light, what he is now saying has been overtaken by events.

Spread Housing to Rural Areas

Mr Rotimi : I am afraid, Mr Speaker, Sir, that is not correct. They are to be given a subsidy as beggars. That does not review the policy by itself. Anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, my second point is in respect of our local affairs. I am talking in particular of the Federal Housing policy. I would like the Federal Government to please, as much as possible spread these Housing Units to the Rural Areas instead of concentrating them in the urban cities.

Repatriate Foreign Nationals who abuse our Hospitality

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : I would like to comment on two areas. The first, Sir, relates to the nefarious activities of foreign nationals in Nigeria. Many of these nationals particularly from Ghana, Republic of Benin, and other ECOWAS countries have flooded this country and because of the hospitality of Nigeria, they have been offered work, they are working and moving around every nook and corner in Nigeria. But at the same time they are constituting a danger to our lives and properties. They abuse the hospitality offered to them by Nigeria in so much that we the owners of this country are not safe. If one has read or followed the serialisation in the newspapers of the activities of some of these nationals who come here only to loot our properties and then go to their own countries to sell them at give-away price, and at the same time supported by their law enforcement agencies, then Nigeria would have known or realised that our pride is gone, and that it is time for us to wake up, re-adjust ourselves and maintain our dignity.

I am therefore calling on the Federal Government and the law enforcement agencies in this country, particularly the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and with due respect the Committee on International Affairs, to do whatever they can to see that these Nationals are repatriated for our own safety. They have abused our hospitality, and they merit going back.

Protect our Borders from Foreign Intruders

This brings me to the vandalism perpetrated on the borders. Nigeria is gradually losing its pride and we are only proud in saying that we are over 80 million. We cannot be 80 million indolent people. We cannot be 80 million people who have no nationalism or who have no pride to maintain or who lack bravado. I am asking our Military men and the Navy whose eyes are always on the Parliament to note that Parliament is not the place they should seek power. They should stop thinking of relieving us of our power. They should concentrate their attention on our borders and see that Nigerian properties and lives are secure. The Nigerian Army should be alive to its own responsibilities. The time has gone when people think they can brandish their weapon on us and then take over Government. This time, we cannot allow it. The Army should concentrate in maintaining the territorial integrity of this country by protecting us and reducing terrorism at our borders.

[CHIEF OGWE]

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Civil Servant Closing Time

Mr T. O. Akinbode (Owo) : I would like to speak on Motion for Adjournment on one particular issue. If you read the front page comment of Daily Sketch of Saturday the 14th June, 1980 *Government Offices empty before closing time* one would be much worried about this comment. It went further that offices of the Secretariat should open at 7.30 a.m. and close up at 3.30 p.m., but in Lagos area they are allowed to come to the office about 8 a.m. because of the transport problems. It went further that on October 4th 1977, General Obasanjo visited some offices at 3.03 p.m. but found the offices empty. Only the junior officers who were loitering around saw him and ran to the offices.

Well, it means that the offices being empty has been on for a very long time and I think something has to be done to put a check to this. The pride of any nation is the attitude of the civil servants. In those days, those bye gone days, we were very jealous of the civil service work. We would like to be there because of the discipline in that service. If you go to offices now, you will see a lot. It is not only coming to the office late or going earlier than the usual time that is wrong in our civil service today, but the attitude of the workers in the offices themselves.

If you go to offices you will see junior officers by 8 o'clock sleeping away. They will not even attend to you no matter how very highly placed you may be. It is only the high people up that do the work. The junior officers even do not work at all. If you go to any of the departments of the Ministry, ordinary filing of letters will not be done by the officers in charge. If you have any transaction there and you want your file, it is going to take them three years before they can dig out your file. If you do not tip some of them, you will not get your work done. Sometime you heard about the fire disaster; the P. & T. Why was this? This was because many things were wrong there. The NEPA houses got burnt too many things were destroyed and recently you heard that the Passport Offices were burnt down. These are the attitudes of the present Civil Service.

I think the Committee on Civil Service has a lot to do on these problems. Now, I think they should have to find some solution to this problem. If this problem continues, Gentlemen, it would mean that we would not have a system in Nigeria where the work will go on very low. We have to take these things very seriously.

I was in the Secretariat about three times, I was there between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. I could not meet the officers. They were not there, they had not arrived from home. I left here at 1.00 p.m. to go to the Secretariat by 2.00 o'clock the front of the Secretariat

was already crowded like a market place, people were waiting to take the bus. As I have said earlier, I think the Committee on Civil Service will have to look into this and work out useful proposals to the Government on how to maintain efficient Civil service system in Nigeria. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise on the Motion for Adjournment, to congratulate the Senate for the work well done on the screening of the Budget proposals of 1980. (*Interruptions*) They really convince me that they are mature, and they are in a more mature Chamber. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Hon. Sadiq, please, this is what you wrote in the letter you gave me : *Please Mr Speaker, allow me to speak on the Motion for Adjournment.* You did not tell me what it was all about. Please, you should tell me in advance, what you are going to speak about.

Mr Sadiq : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the first point. The second point, Mr Speaker—

Mr Speaker : That is all right. Go to the Senate if you like.

Abeokuta NTV starved of Federal Government Funds

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Thank you, Mr Speaker, I want to comment briefly on Abeokuta NTV. It will be recalled that Ogun State was created in 1976 along with other seven States. Since the creation of these States, some States have been given the permission to operate Television by the Federal Authority. It is with regret that I have to say that up till today, Abeokuta NTV is yet to function. Recordings were done outside in the sun. No equipment; staff were not provided, and the reason we always hear is that the Federal Government has refused to grant funds. I would not like to believe that because this is a UPN zone, therefore it should be starved with funds. I want the Federal Government to look into this because we all agree that information is a deliberate, planned system to educate the masses. We need to be informed, and the Constitution is being infringed if a section of the country is being penalised because the President has the whole country as his constituency. If this is so, therefore, he should look after the whole country without discrimination, without favour to some other sections. I want the Presidential Adviser on Information to please seriously alleviate the problems of Abeokuta NTV.

Government to cater for our Traditional Rulers

Secondly, I want to talk about our traditional rulers. In 1959, at the Mbanefo Panel was set up to look, among others, at the salaries and wages for the traditional rulers. Under the present Constitution which we are operating, the Chiefs and Obas should be insulated from partisan politics. If this is to be interpreted, seriously, the Government has to look after them. Some of them are now living in peuykr

We say they should not trade. They should not involve themselves in partisan politics, but that is an indirect way to invite them to do these things if they are not well looked after. I am appealing to the President to please, set up a panel to review the salaries and wages of the traditional rulers in the country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : It is not a Federal subject.

Improved Salaries for our Media Artistes

Mr Apollos Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to talk on a matter that may not seem very impressive to most Members here. It is about the people who have been rendering a very good service to this country and they are little taken note of. I am talking about the performing artistes in our various media houses. Members would agree with me that these talented youngmen seem to be one of the groups who have some professional pride in their professions. They have hardly gone on strike in order to draw the attention of the country to their activities. They have silently and very effectively continued to perform well on Television and on the Radio, and Members would agreed that some of these boys have succeeded in relieving tension and anxiety from most of us.

If you think of the people like the producer of Zebrudiah Okorigwe alias 4.30, and others like the Puppet Theatre from Jos NTV, Bassey Okon of the Village Headmaster, Adjo Family of the Lagos NTV, Suze of the Rivers State, Iche Oku of NTV Anambra and Hotel De Jordan of Bendel State, just to mention a few, you would agree with me that these budding artistes are doing such marvellous work which even seems to assist in our education in this country.

The regret, Mr Speaker, is that unfortunately most of these very talented young men are still below level 05 or 06 in their various employments. In fact, some of them cannot even meet a square meal. Assuming that these people were incorporated into a private company operating, some of them for sure could have become millionaires by now. I want to remind the management of the NTV and the Radio to think of this group of artistes and to please, create, if need be, a special salary grade for them. They should get incentives and encouragement which will make them continue long in the service. I am personally satisfied that their output has gone a long way to create a harmonious atmosphere even in families that at times seem to be anxiously involved. They have gone a long way to bring such mellowing influence on the feelings of people who suffer from tension. Those people who suffer from hypertention crave for the programmes to come up on the TV so that their tensions could be relaxed.

So, it will be a great service to this country if this group of people are being taken care of. It should be remarkable if their salaries can be looked into. Otherwise I know, for certain, that we are beginning to lose some of these chaps. Some of them are now trying to opt out into private organisations. Some of them in the government media are trying to go

into private activities, all because they are being frustrated. So, I am pleading on their behalf for encouragement by way of salary increase and other incentives, so that they can continue to play the leading role which they have played in our social life in this country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes Hon. Nuhu Poloma.

Steel Complex at Ajaokuta : Conflicting Reports

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale Waja North) : Mr Speaker and Colleagues, I rise to contribute on Steel Complex at Ajaokuta. For some time now, conflicting reports have been dished out by authorities of successive governments on this project. It is becoming a matter of concern to every Nigerian whether this project will take off. This project is a very vital project and a corner-stone for that matter of the potentialities of this country. These reports have left us in a state of confusion as to what is really the position of the complex. So, I am now calling on the Industrial Committee to please, take an immediate step and visit that site, conduct a thorough investigation and tell the nation what is really happening. Whether this project is taking off properly or it is not taking off, or whether the contract is being reviewed due to some technical problems, we want to know.

Secondly, we have read in the papers and through some various sources of information that about 40,000 to 60,000 Russians are in that site. Is Nigeria being colonised by Russians? We want the Committee on Industries to go there and tell us the number of Russians that are in that place and why they are there. Let them tell us specifically what functions 40,000 Russians are performing at Ajaokuta. So, hon. Members, with these few remarks I beg to take my seat.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Alhaji Abutu.

Ankpa—Disaster Area : Call for Aid

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, some time ago I heard that the Governor of Benue State, His Excellency Aper Aku, declared Ankpa as a disaster area. As a result of this, I went home one of the week ends and discovered that the rainfall had done a great damage to the town. Recently on the 10th of June 1980 the *Daily Times* of Nigeria carried a survey in Ankpa Local Government Area, Anka town, and came out with this report. Mr Speaker, Sir, please, allow me to read :

Erosion renders five thousands homeless : About five thousand people have abandoned their houses at Ankpa in Benue State for fear of soil erosion following heavy down pour. The victims packed away to neighbouring villages around the commercial towns. At least ten buildings had been swallowed by the gorges created by erosion in various parts of the Local Government Area.

Life is no longer safe in our town today. I am making an appeal, through hon. Members, that the Federal Government should come to the aid of Ankpa town. The erosion is so serious that the people have

[ALHAJI ABUTU]

deserted their homes and the Local Government has a meagre amount to spend. The Local Government spends at least over one thousand naira annually to cope with the situation. They cannot spend more because of their meagre resources ; and the State government, I believe, cannot cope because erosion is a very big problem. I also appeal to Charitable organisations and individuals to kindly help the people of Ankpa Local Government Area in this big disaster. Thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Samuel Ogunfuyi.

Reflect Federal Character in Fourth National Development Plan

Mr Samuel Ogunfuyi (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Motion for Adjournment I want to comment on an important issue. This issue is the issue of the Fourth National Development Plan which is currently being prepared by the Executive. Some Members of this House have expressed certain concern about this Plan, and they have wished that the Executive should do something to cover the whole of this country during the five year period.

My contribution is a prayer. The prayer is on behalf of the whole of us in this House. We have been agitating for national character every time in this House. Some people believe that national character can be achieved by just mere appointments to government offices. I believe that our national character can be achieved if we have even development in all the Local Government areas in the country. I believe if the Local Government is developed and the State is developed, inevitably the whole Nigeria is developed. That is why one would support anybody saying that much money should be pumped into each Local Government, and much money should be pumped into the State. If money goes to the Local Governments and to the States, then the Federal Government has little to do.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I said mine is a prayer. The prayer is that now that the Executive is preparing the Fourth National Development Plan, they should take the whole country into consideration ; that is, in most of the things to be included in the plan, every Local Government should have its own share. The Federal Government is one of the twenty governments in the country, and by its own position it happens to be a Federal Government. But luckily for each of the five parties registered in this country, every party has one State or the other through which the party can execute its plan, or achieve its own plan for people. For instance some parties have five States, some two and some one. In these States, these parties can establish their influence. The Federal Government in its own turn should see that all the programmes of the five parties are taken together in its plan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I would not waste your time, the prayer is that the National Planning should see that in the Plan for the following : Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery manufacturing craft, Power, Land

Transport, Water Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Education, Health and Social Development, that all Local Governments should have these things. These are very important to all the Local Governments and when they have all these things we are taking back something to the people who elected us.

Fertiliser Industry in Port Harcourt

Mr E. O. Echetabu (Njikoka South) : Hon. Gentlemen, I would like, in my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, to let the House know that there is a fertiliser industry which is presently to be sited at Port Harcourt. At the moment, certain interested persons are trying to avert the installation of this industry at Port Harcourt for reasons which are not justified. They alleged that the Government signed a contract with Mr Andrew Young, but the Minister of Industries has repelled that rumour and has made all the facts available to the Senate Committee to show that there was no such agreement between the Government and Mr Andrew Young. There was an independent American company that signed this contract.

I think the motive behind the activities of those who want to kill this industry is because, apparently, it is not sited in their states. I think that is very wrong. The fertiliser industry will go a long way in helping the *Green Revolution*. We have one in Kaduna at the moment. If one is sited at Port Harcourt whereby the by-products of oil from the refinery is being used, it will make the production of the fertiliser cheaper, and it will enhance the distribution of fertilisers in the southern States. We deplore the bad taste in which certain people carried the propaganda that perhaps the former government had a hand in it. That was not the only contract the former government handled. There was the Lagos-Badagry Road and so many other things which the former government had a hand in, including the ₦2.8 billion. So, the immunity which goes in for the ₦2.8 billion will still apply in the case of the fertiliser contract. This is no issue at all. We would like to encourage the government that they should continue with that fertiliser industry at Port Harcourt until they complete the task. Thank you, very much, Mr Speaker.

Bomb Explosion in Makurdi

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to contribute on Motion for Adjournment, and my contribution goes direct to the Committee on Defence. I am now appealing to the Committee on Defence to help or intervene in what is happening at Makurdi. There was a bomb explosion at Makurdi, a lot of villages have been damaged but since then nothing has happened. I am now calling on the Committee on Defence to go there themselves to see the damages that had been done to the inhabitants.

NDA Intakes

I am also appealing to the Committee on Defence to look into the intake of people into the NDA both within and outside. I believe if this is fairly done, it must reflect the Federal character of the

country. We have learnt that many of the Army Officers who have been serving for a long time are now being displaced merely because they have not been to NDA. If this is done, I do not think it will reflect the Federal character because most of them come from those areas which have not been serving in the Army.

Federal Government to Take-over Taraku-Makurdi Road

Another point, is the plight of my Constituency. I am appealing to this honourable House to urge the Federal Government to take-over the road from Taraku to Makurdi through Abagbe because this road has a lot of potentialities. If they take-over this road, a lot of food there can be evacuated from that area to Makurdi.

Mr Speaker, with this, I beg to take my seat.

Chadian Incursions into Borno State

Mr Ibrahim M. Ali (Maiduguri) : In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to touch on the wild adventures of the so-called armies of Guokoni Waddaye and Hussein Habre. For the past three or four weeks, there has been consistent incursion across the Nigerian border, violation of our territorial integrity and sovereignty and attack on our peaceful citizens of Borno State, in such a consistent manner that looks like it is being engineered by the imperialists or some agents within the continent of Africa. I am saying this because the border between Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun and Chad is historically a touchy place. The Germans had it ; the English had it ; the French had it and these people are still interested in the huge economic potentials of that particular area. For example, the Chad Basin Development Authority is an area which everybody should visit from this honourable House. The agricultural potential is so massive that it is really going to be one of the bread baskets of this country.

In a Report which is published by NNPC, that particular region of Nigeria has been segmented into 18 oil concessional zones, and at the moment, we have got series of explorations going on. To me, the impression I get from the incursion of the Chadians and some of their agents is to frustrate the efforts of the government in exploiting such a valuable economic commodity. This situation should not be tolerated because I cannot see any nation where its citizens cannot remain safe within her borders.

If we allow the wild incursion of this rag tag armies of Guokoni Waddaye and Hussein Habre to harrass our fishermen and farmers every time, levy taxes on them illegally, confiscate their livestock and just walk away, I do not see what kind of policy we are adopting, because a policy that does not protect the citizens of our country is not a policy that should be cherished. I think we should be hawkish about our attitude in that particular line. We should tell them frankly that we are ready to protect our own territorial integrity by all means. If it means

protecting it by force of arms or economic sanction on Chad, we should really come out and do something very seriously and tell them this is our stand on this issue.

Refugee Problem in Maiduguri

My second point which also touches on the war in Chad is the case of the refugee problem in Maiduguri. Last week Monday I was in Maiduguri and I went round the camps, because it is my constituency, to get a first hand information on the problem of the refugees. I learnt that there are over 2,500 people camped in a school. The kids were taken out of school and the refugees were put in there. At the given moment that I went there, less than 500 refugees were in the camp, and the camp officials told me that all the other Chadian refugees had gone out to work in the town.

There are two things that emanate from that particular issue. First, they come over and enjoy our hospitality, even though they attack us and they take our jobs from our local people, because they offer a very cut rate sort of service and the people there are taking advantage of that. I think the official of the camps there should really put them all in a permanent place. Let our children go to school, and let these people be confined to the camps so that when we start deporting them, we know who is the right person to deport.

On the other issue, the same officials said that there are over 9,000 other refugees who are housed in various houses within Maiduguri town and I refused to agree with this submission. The same officials said that the hosts submit their bills to the officials of the Relief Committee and the Relief Committee settles their bills. There are 9,000 people out in Maiduguri town camped by various hosts and 2,500 in the official government camp with barely fifty tents. This one I refused to agree because if the Federal Government is giving relief money on humanitarian grounds, I think, we should be wise enough to use it properly. If any co-ordinator of Federal programme is misusing this fund for his own ends and for the purpose of channelling it to the pockets of other people because he is not responsible to the public, because he is not party to the Code of Conduct, or because he can easily get away with it, I do not think this honourable House should sit back and watch somebody who claims that 9,000 Chadian refugees are housed in various homes and the hosts are submitting their bills to him for settlement. I refuse to agree with that. I know the hospitality of Maiduguri people, they will not charge you a kobo if they host you, so it is false. The House should investigate and, if possible, try to restructure the relief programme of the Chadian people within the confines of Borno State. I am appealing, through this House, to the President to take the matter seriously and to look at it in a proper way so as to let his special assistant know that the relief programme should be handled properly and not in the manner it is being handled now.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr O. Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members it is time that the Question be put and I move accordingly.

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

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10.00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 17th June 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting of the Joint Committee on
National Assembly Commission

Mr Speaker : Please, hon. Members, the following Members will represent us in the Joint Committee on National Assembly Service Commission. They are all Members of the Civil Service Committee

David Atta

D. M. Onwuzulike

Mr Muhammadu Sanda Oma-Eko

Alhaji Lawal Daura

Alhaji Musa Gammo

Alhaji Garba Jega

Akintunde Rotimi

F. O. Iyayi

F. Omidiji

Umaru Sadiq

Barde Gadaka

Please, the meeting will take place at 11.30 this morning.

Communication

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members we received a letter from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco. The letter reads as follows :—

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Lagos, Nigeria.

Lagos 27th May, 1980

No. B2/SG. 1. AMB/80

Sir,

I have the honour to convey to you hereby on behalf of your counterpart the Right Hon. Dey Ould Sisi Baba, Speaker of the House of Representatives, an official invitation to visit the Kingdom of Morocco with a delegation of ten persons.

I am sure, Sir, that your visit will create opportunities for co-operation and exchange of experience as well as for the strengthening of the brotherly relations that so happily exist between our two countries.

I should be grateful, Sir, if you could set a date for the visit.

Hon. Members the Clerk of the House will write in appreciation to the Moroccan Embassy.

PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDED
BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Presentation of the Amended Programme of Business of the House of Representatives for the

Session—9th October, 1979—8th October, 1980 and the Session—9th October, 1980—8th October, 1981.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu : (Nkwere/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that the House do receive the amended Programme of Business of the House of Representatives for the Session 9th October, 1979 to 8th October, 1980 and the Session 9th October, 1980 to 8th October, 1981. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, any comments ? There is a point of order.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the point of order is that a Member shall rise and speak from his seat. The hon. Member rose from another's seat.

Mr Speaker : The point of order is well taken. Please, go to your seat.

Mr Chikwe H. Obihara (Owerri South) : The point I want to make on this Programme is that I see an error. In the former schedule, if you look at the column August 18th to October 8th, Lagos work period, it says 37 days of House sitting and 25 days of holidays. Now, this definitely is not possible. Over the period there are only 37 working days and there is no holiday at all, so the figure 25 there should be removed.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I would like to draw the attention of this House to the date, July 14th to August 15th ; my comment here is that we Moslems in this House would, probably, start our fasting on the 9th or 10th of that month.

I would like you please to amend this so that we can feel free by having our fasting period in a nice condition. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members I respectfully move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do receive the Amended Programme of Business of the House of Representatives for the Session-9th October, 1979—8th October, 1980 and the Session—9th October 1980—8th October, 1981.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr O. Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr S. A. Adekunle (Iseyin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I beg to second the Motion.

Institute Inquiry on Bakolori Massacre

Chief Olusola Omonira (Ilaje/Ese Odo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on the Motion for Adjournment, I wish to make just one point.

[CHIEF OMONIRA]

I regard the point as very important because it affects the lives of human beings. It is a fact of history, our latest history that when our black maria victims were involved in Lagos here, the President promptly acted by setting up an Inquiry to look into the matter for us to get the facts out of the situation and those that were involved have been appropriately dealt with. We are having a similar thing right now at Bakolori. The Bakolori is happening at the far end of the country; maybe, this is why some of us will say, let us move nearer to the centre of the country so that we can all see what is happening all over the country. (*Applause*) If we are, for example, at Abuja, I am sure, we can know what is happening in Sokoto State. There are conflicting reports and these reports smear of very bad rumours. There are certain reports, exaggerated, I believe, that over 1,500 were slaughtered. I cannot believe that. There are some other reports that say 285 people were reported massacred. How can this be true?

There are some reports saying that these people are innocent, they are in support of our Green Revolution, they were doing their farming and the Police went round at the instigation of the Basin Authority there and began to shoot them.

An hon. Member : Soweto.

Mr Omonira : As law makers of this country, I think, it would be right for us to call on the President to do something urgently. The lives of people in Sokoto are as important to us as the lives of people in Lagos. We have to do something about it. This happened since the 26th of April. The Police are under the Federal Government, they are not under the State Governments. It does not matter whether these people are poor, what is important to us is that something be done now. We therefore, would like to pray the President to please set up a high powered judicial commission to find out the truth about this situation, the number of people that were slaughtered, what has happened to them. If we leave this unattended to by us, we would be a victim of the situation. Gentlemen, this is my point. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much. Chief Wodi.

Cater for all Irrespective of Party Leanings

Chief Godwin B. Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel often satisfied that when I talk in this House I am talking to the whole of Nigeria. (*Applause*) I am satisfied that this feeling stems from the fact that this is the highest law making constitutional institution in this country and so when I talk here—

Mr Speaker : That is yet to be decided.

Chief Wodi : So, when I talk to my colleagues here I feel that my message has gone all the length of the Federation. I want to say, Mr Speaker, that in my opinion I see that we are not making any progress in practising democracy in this country. I want to refer this House to Section 39 of our Constitution and, if the Speaker can allow me, I want to read Section 39 (b) :

Every person in this country must be accorded either expressly by, or in the practical application

of, any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative action, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions. If I would read Section 39 (1) : A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not be treated otherwise.

The point I want to make by saying that we are not upholding democracy in this country is that virtually all the States Governments in this country are actually denying the citizens of this country their *bona fide* rights. I want to exemplify this by some of the incidents that have taken place in this House. For instance, there was a time that this honourable House received a report that in one of our States in this country, particularly, Bendel State, somebody was denied his accommodation because of his political leanings. It did not stop there. In Imo State we have received reports that the present government there is denying non-party members opportunity to exist.

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Wodi : Mr Speaker, Sir, I also want to say that this is more rampant in the Rivers State. (*Interruptions*) If Members can allow me, I am making this statement to get to the point I want to make. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that in the Rivers State, no individual who does not belong to the party in power is entitled to any rights or privileges in the community.

Several hon. Members : Shame !

Chief Wodi : This is a rape of democracy and infringing on the rights of the people. You have got to produce a party identity card before you get anything. We are not talking of appointments which are here stated in the Constitution requiring that cognisance should be taken of the whole community irrespective of what ethnic group you belong to, what political ideas you have and what have you. This is the rape I am talking about. So, I am sending this message through all my colleagues here to the various parties, because they are all represented here, that we must improve. This was the situation during the previous regime, we are now repeating it. It then means we have not made any progress at all in the practice of democracy. I do not want to flog this issue further but I think I have made my point.

**Discriminatory Compensation Payment
by Oil Companies**

I also want to say another thing, Mr Speaker. This is in connection with the discrimination by the oil prospecting companies. We know all the oil producing States in this country; that is not contested. What I want to say is that information has reached me that these companies discriminate as to what damages they pay for in Bendel State, in Rivers State, in Cross River State and even in Imo State. I do not know why. This country is one. Damages paid for crops and for what have you by Shell BP to Bendel State is different from what they pay to Rivers State, or to Cross River State. Is this another form of apartheid or what? Mr Speaker, Sir, I want the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation to call for information about this.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr S. O. Adesida (Somolu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Order 28 (5) says :

Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

Mr Speaker : That is a good one. Please, round up.

Chief Wodi : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I, therefore, want to say is that the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation should look into this matter and try to seek redress.

Connected with this also is the question that there has been many oil spillages since we had a spillage near Sangana. I hope my Colleagues in this House will not be tired of this incessant talk about oil spillage and the oil prospecting areas. It is a problem there and we would like this—

Mr Speaker : It is time. Yes, hon. O. J. Ekpenyong.

Pay Outstanding Oil Royalties to Cross River State

Mr Okon J. Ekpenyong (Uyo I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is with deep regret that I have to place on the record of this House the ill-treatment meted to the Cross River State people, oil-revenue wise by successive governments of this country, and to call for immediate payment of about ₦27,000,000 owed by the Federal Government to the Cross River State. This amount could be found in the books of account of the NNPC. Mr Speaker, it is true that in 1978 the Shell-BP tapped oil from Cross River State through a pipeline laid there from Bonny in Rivers State. Since then no royalties or rents have been paid to the Cross River State even though these rents and royalties are shown in the books of which, I have the record here, signed by the Managing Director of the NNPC to the effect that these monies were allocated to the Cross River State. I also have authority to show that these monies have not been received by the Cross River State government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the past, it was generally accepted that the people of Cross River State did not have a fair share of amenities because they belonged to the opposition group. The State is now entitled to 28 Members in this House and of these number more than 20 are in the NPN, now the governing party. We are looking forward to a change of attitude. We are not prepared any longer to tolerate cheating. We must be treated like other sections of the country. When the majority group have their own share, please give us our meagre share, do not withhold it. Otherwise I want to warn, that when next in 1983 we hold elections we will not listen to any party, we will be prepared to go all independent. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say also that the Mobil Oil Company is producing 220,000 barrels of oil daily in that section of the territorial waters of Nigeria which is situated within the Cross River State, and despite the hazards of drilling, the Federal Government cannot give us even one kobo. The

equipment which is used in extracting this oil is built on land and not inside the river or the sea but still they do not want to give us anything. I also know, Sir, that when the department incharge of paying royalties prepared vouchers to pay the Cross River State the share of rents and royalties in respect of this oil, there was a civilian Commissioner for Finance who advised the Military Government against it and the people of the Cross River State will not take it kindly again. We want something to be given to us so that we can—

Mr Speaker : Time, it is time hon. Ekpenyong. Yes, hon. Abiodun Afonja.

Population Census

Mr Abiodun Afonja (Oyo Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak today on a topic which, I think, should be the concern of every Member of this august Assembly and that is the proposed population census for this country. There is no doubt in my mind that it is very important for us to have accurate figures of our population for the purpose of planning effectively for the progress of our great country, Nigeria. However, the history of our experience in taking head count, forces me, with a deep sense of responsibility, to call for caution in this exercise.

Mr Speaker, Sir, from the so-called geographical expression of 1914 to the present Federal Republic, we can look through our history and see a lot of difficulties which we have encountered in trying to forge national unity. If you look at a lot of things that have happened, especially when censuses were taken and the acrimonies that always follow censuses, we can immediately summarise that it is very difficult for census to be a technical exercise that it is supposed to be. If there is anything that best reflects the federal character of this country, it is the fact that census is a political issue always and it starts from the local level. Anybody or any area which used to have two Councillors before as opposed to three from the next area will also want to maintain that superiority of number. Because of this, no matter how many times we invite the United Nations to come to this place to take our census for us, we will always discover that while they emphasize technical expertise, we as Nigerians will emphasize the political implications based on the national cake mentality.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying this with a deep sense of responsibility because the unity and stability of this country depends on a lot of factors, some of which we have not been able to solve or unravel up till today. Mr Speaker, I would like to mention also that the difficulty of taking accurate census figures in a country like our own is not peculiar. It is general characteristic of multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual societies. Therefore, I will not dress Nigeria down for blame on this issue. What I would rather say is that we should face the reality of our situation and refrain from anything that can tilt the balance of uneasy peace which we seem to have now, as far as the sharing of national revenue is concerned.

[MR AFONJA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have taken part in census exercise before and with your permission I would like to say that I was the Chief Programmer for the National Census Body and what I would like to tell everybody, and I would like you to believe me, is that in spite of all the other lies that have been told about our difficulties in the census, the real problem with the last census we took was not because some people were not interested in getting accurate census, it was because it was a very ambitious plan that was frustrated by the very fact of the political implications of census taking. That is why I feel that this should be serious because this is not a moment when we should tell lies against one another.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member for Oyo State (*Mr T. A. Afonja*), Members of the House of Representatives, in their capacity, will never tell lies.

Mr Afonja : Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact I am just emphasising that only in the negative way. Thank you, very much for the correction. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, what I feel is that our reliance on the United Nations for this technical exercise is in itself admission of our own inadequacy or the inopportness of this moment to take a census.

Rather than have us go into another period of acrimony and money wasting, I would make some suggestions as to what I think we should really do instead of going through having a head count. I think right now we have our National Identity System which I think should be taken very seriously. I also think that the registration of births and deaths should also be pursued vigorously and whoever is left out of the population, not taken care of by the National Identity System, which expects to have everybody's identity from the age of eighteen upwards, and the Births and Deaths Registration which will help us to take care of all the children, all the people in between, most of them can be taken from the schools.

Mr Speaker : Time ! Hon. P. O. Eleke.

Deplorable Condition of Trunk A Roads in Imo State

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you, very much for recognising me to contribute to this debate. The purpose of my contribution, Mr Speaker, is to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the poor condition of Trunk A roads in Imo State, with a special reference to my own constituency, Obowu, in Etitu Local Government area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have in mind the following Trunk A roads in Imo State ; firstly, the Federal Government road which runs from Owerri through Mbaise, Obowo and then to Umuahia. Secondly, the Federal road that runs from Okigwe, Mbano, Etitu, Umuahia and then to Aba and, thirdly the Federal road which runs from Enyigugu, to Ahiara, Ikenazizi and Etitu Local Government. Mr Speaker, Sir, these roads have been badly neglected. They are not being maintained or being reconstructed,

with the result that they are mere skeletons of roads and constitute death traps. What is more, Mr Speaker, Sir, the above-mentioned roads have not been provided for in the Current Estimates which is now being passed. I am surprised to see that old Trunk A roads, roads that have been Federal Government roads for many years, have been left out this year. I, therefore, urge the Federal Ministries of Works and Transport to please, include this in the next Budget so that the roads may be reconstructed. With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you, very much.

Standing Orders 5 and 7

Mr D. A. Ukpong (Itu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, even though I am from the Cross River State, I am not going to talk for the Cross River State at this time. I want to talk on what is of interest to the generality of Members of this House. In doing so, I want to draw the attention of this House to the provisions of the Standing Orders 5 and 7 which we have either neglected or refused to implement. Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to read the relevant section so that I can talk on it. I read :

The Clerk shall prepare from day to day, and keep an order book showing all business appointed for any future day, and any notices of questions or Motions which have been set down for a future day or an early day if no particular day has been selected. The order book shall be open to the inspection of Members at all reasonable times at the office of the Clerk or at the Table.

Mr Speaker, Sir, why I am saying this is that we have always been asking and pressurising that we be given the proposed business in advance so that we can study and then come here to deliberate effectively ; but you will agree with me Mr Speaker, Sir that it looks ultimately puerile and even myopic for us to come every day and be served with the day's work. This does not, in fact, augur well for efficient contribution in this House.

So, Mr Speaker, what we are saying is we are not asking them for a favour, we are asking them for our right which is enshrined here in the Standing Order. We want, by next week, to have the Order Book kept at the office of the Clerk or at the Table so that we can inspect it from time to time and know fully what we have to do. With this, Mr Speaker, I believe you will use your good office to make this possible and those of you, members of the Rules and Business Committee, should liaise with the Clerk so that we have what is our entitlement. Thank you.

NPN-NPP Accord

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : I would like to congratulate Chief M. K. Abiola, the Chairman of the NPN, Ogun State. I want to congratulate him because he has achieved what no Muslim has achieved throughout the world. He has become Field Marshal of Islam.

In the Concord of 9th June, 1980, it was written on the third page that Alhaji Abiola has been made Field Marshal of Islam. This shows what the power of money can do. The power of money can make a man to become what he has not been before.

Mr Speaker : There is a Point of order.

Alhaji L. N. Daura (Daura West) : I do not think that it would be fair to bring religious matters here.

Chief Oduntan : Secondly, I would appeal to my friends in the NPP to take note of what Chief M. K. O. Abiola said on the same issue of the Concord of June, 1980, when the Chief said that the Accord between the NPP and the NPN is not needed at the Executive level where it now operates, since Alhaji Shagari needed no such Accord to be elected the President of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want my friends of the NPP to take heart and also to learn their lessons, because in 1959 there was a marriage between the defunct NPC and the NCNC. There was a still-born child at that time. In 1964, there was another still-born child, and by 1980 I think there should be no child at all. Therefore, my friends in the NPP, I think you have to study Chief Abiola's statement critically because Alhaji Shagari does not need you within the Executive. In fact, he does not need you at all and, therefore, you should withdraw from the Accord. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, Chief Oduntan. We may now listen to hon. Yusuf Ibn Muhammed.

Datsun and Fiat Industries in Nigeria

Mallam Yusuf Ibn Muhammed (Moro) : In contributing to the Motion on Adjournment of today, I would like to address myself and the House to two important issues. The first one is that before the era of this present government, that is during the Military Regime, there was a proposal to establish a Datsun factory at Ilorin in Kwara State, and the Fiat factory at Enugu in Anambra State. But since the beginning of this Administration, nothing has been heard or said about it. Even during the deliberation on the Estimates for the present financial year, 1980, I was eager to see in a corner where they would put the establishment of these two important factories in Nigeria, but nothing was said about it.

I am, therefore, appealing through the Committee on Industries to the Federal Minister of Industries to make a statement whether these two important factories, that is, Datsun manufacturing company at Ilorin in Kwara State and the Fiat company in Anambra State, are still going to take off.

Establish a Federal Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

The second point I would like to address myself to this morning, Mr Speaker, is that, having considered the importance of the Local Government system in Nigeria, and especially as the third tier of government under the system we are now operating, it is my candid view that we need a Federal Ministry of Local Government and Rural Develop-

ment. During the debate on the Budget, we saw a lump sum of money voted for the Local Government Areas, but this is going to be expended through the executive office of the President. I think the Local Government, with all its importance to the national development, ought to have been given that priority of having a Ministry of its own. So, I am using this opportunity to call for a Federal Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, so that whatever is allocated to the Local Government for their development would be properly accounted for.

President to speak up on Steel Project

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowapo) : Mr Speaker, in contributing to the Motion for adjournment, I would like to say a few words on the question of the delay of the steel project at Ajaokuta. A lot of noise has been made on why there was delay in the taking off of the Ajaokuta steel project for the nation. It is on record that at least over ₦350 million has already been committed by the Federal Government on the project, with little or no progress. As a matter of fact, it does not appear that the project will take off within the next four years. The Minister of Iron and Steel, Mr Paul Unongo, has blamed the Russians for their apathy on the one hand, while the Russians on the other hand blamed Nigerians for not honouring their obligations under the contract. The question is who are we to blame?

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is for this reason that I am calling on the President to institute a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the cause of the delay. Nigeria can no longer afford to depend on foreign countries to supply us with Iron and Steel especially when Nigeria is blessed with an inexhaustible deposit of iron ore. Nigerian government functionaries and civil servants in particular who guide our economy have never thought of profitable ventures. They are interested mainly in making journeys overseas.

The Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Areku Yahaya (Ilorin East) : I believe the member is reading from his notes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Akinbisehin : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Order has been suspended and up till now it has not been reinstated. In any case, I am only making reference to my notes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier Nigerian functionaries and especially, the civil servants are not interested in challenging ventures; all they are interested in are ventures in which Nigerians businessmen and individuals try and make profit. When we think of these ventures, we know that Nigerian functionaries, the government functionaries and the civil servants are interested in the National Supply Company Limited-in trading. But when it comes to matters where the projects are challenging, you find that they are wanting. Another example is the monopoly of the Nigerian government over motor vehicle assemblage, where they do not allow private individuals to take interest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would say that when it comes to muddling up of accounts, the civil servants are always in the forefront. This one brings us to the

[MR AKINBISEHIN]
question of the 2.8 billion naira of the NNPC, which has created problems. In any case, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is high time Nigerians knew what is wrong with Ajaokuta project and that is why I am calling on the President to speak up. Thank you, very much.

The Speaker: Yes, Hon. D. O. Agi.

Implementing Resolutions

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have two points I would like to talk upon very briefly on the Motion for adjournment. The first one is in connection with the number of Motions debated on the Floor of this honourable House and subsequently referred to the various Committees to handle and report back to the House.

When many years ago, Lenin told his Communist Party in Russia that power is for the people, and here, I am not trying to sound the slogan of my good friend, the NPP, Lenin was referring to the articulate section of the society. He went on to say that since the people are not structured articulately enough, that power was going to be exercised for them by the vanguards of the people, and by this he was referring, in the context of the Nigerian society, to the hon. Members of the National Assembly, of the various State Assemblies, the Executive and, in fact, the civil servants.

We are the articulate section of the society and in that context, we are presumed to be holding or exercising the power of the people and we have become the vanguards of the people in that respect.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is really to draw attention to a number of Motions that we have talked about in this honourable House, including Motions like the one taken on the 13th February, 1980 which had to do with minimum wage and living conditions for low income workers, which was referred to the committee on Labour. There was another one taken on the 5th February, 1980 which had to do with the National Provident Fund and which was referred to the Committee on Public Service Matters. There is also the other one which was taken on the 11th February, 1980 and had to do with vehicle basic allowances for workers, and which was referred to the Committee on Public Service Matters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that these Motions really touch on the immediate concern of a part of the articulate section of the Nigerian society. That is the civil servants. All along, these matters, particularly the one on motor vehicle allowances for workers have been allowed to be toyed with between the Executive and the various legislatures either at the Federal level or in the States. In fact, some State Assemblies have stolen the show by restoring these allowances and the basic that goes with them to what they were sometime in the military era. But, at the Federal level, we have allowed what has come out from the Executive to stand, that people should go to the banks, and when the civil servants go to the banks, the banks would tell them they have no clearance from the Executive. Yet, the Executive comes up to tell the world that

workers have been directed to go to the banks to collect their loans and then to enjoy the basic.

This situation is not satisfactory. We cannot expect members of the public, in fact, the masses who are not literate to follow and to condone all that we are doing in this House, if the corporate sector of the articulate section of the society, the civil servants and the public servants are not with us because they are the people who will be explaining the actions of the National Assembly to the very grass roots where we may not, at the material time, be present to explain to the people. It is time that we take adequate and appropriate action on the Floor of this House to tell the Executive that we would want this matter decided once and for all, the whole issue of vehicle allowance—I am citing this as a strong example. The whole issue of vehicle advance and basic allowance, as reported to this House by the hon. Chairman of the Committee on Public Service Matters should be resolved once and for all, and then we pass it to the Executive for their action. The members of the public are suffering. In fact, we have taken our own advances for cars and we are voted into this House by these people that are not in a position to take these things now. (*Interruptions*) car loan is a Car advance, that is what I am saying.

Anyway, whatever you want to term it, members of the public are not happy that this matter has not been decided cut clear for them. It is time that this House directed its attention to some of its pressing resolutions or took proper decisions on them in order to pass them to the Executive so that people will know what we are doing.

Business Calendar of the House

I would like to go to the second matter, which is contained on the tentative amendments brought by the Business Committee on the calendar for this House. Under 1980, it is being proposed that we are expecting the President's Budget Proposals for 1981 some time in September. Now, this is very good because it is going to warn the Executive that they should bring this thing in good time, so that we are not hurried over it because of the feelings and sentiments of members of the public who may not know what we are doing. At the same time, it is important and timely to warn the Executive that they should involve members of the National Assembly, Heads of Departments of the various sectors of the parastatals, the Ministries and other departments to forward their ideas of what is supposed to go into the proposals, so that by the time the proposals are brought and laid before this honourable House, there will be very little quarrel, because very little would have been there that does not really satisfy each Representative or each Senator from the Senatorial and Representative constituencies. It is now that they have to take this into consideration. When this current budget came in, a lot of amendments were sent in, but the hands of Committees were tied down. They could not implement these amendments. Everybody wants something to take home to his own constituency, and that is all what democracy is about. If we cannot get something for

our people, then of course, we might as well say there is no difference between this civilian government and the Military government.

So, I want to let it be known to Members of the Executive that they should involve all of us here as an arm of the Consultative Requirement for the proposals for 1981, so that each Member will have the opportunity to send in something that is pressing to his people, and when the time comes it will be included in the Budget. When the debate comes here, all of us will look at the whole proposal as having something for everybody. In fact, there will be no need for the accord at that time, because the accord will be contained in the proposals. (Applause)

Mr Speaker : It is time.

Mr Agi : Mr Speaker, Sir, just to round up, Members of the Executive should please hearken to this advice. Thank you, very much. I am grateful.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Afolabi.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, on that happy note, I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.27 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 18th June, 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Finance Committee

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. members, there are very few announcements. One is that the Meeting of the Joint Finance Committee which is scheduled for this morning has been cancelled.

Several hon. Members : Why ! Why !

Mr Speaker : The Meeting has been suspended until Tuesday next week.

Several hon. Members : No ! No ! (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker. : Order ! Order ! The members of the Committee coming from the House of Representatives should please meet in my office immediately after this sitting for detailed explanation. (*Interruptions*)

Order ! Order ! Please, hon. Members, the members of Joint Committee on National Assembly Service Commission Bill will meet at 11 a.m. in Committee Room A1. I understand that yesterday when they went there, our members were not there and the Senators wanted to start the Meeting without our members. Please, try and go there.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Request for the Creation of Anioma State

Mr Speaker : There is a Motion Standing in the name of the Leader of the House. Yes, Mr Ihekweazu you can carry on since the Leaders are not here.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion Standing in the name of Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo—

That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, the representatives of the people of Aniocha, Ika, Ndokwa and Oshimili Local Government Areas within the present Bendel State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a new State to be known as ANIOMA State, comprising the said four Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr Agbamuche.

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Any comments ? There are no comments. There is a point of order.

Prince T. O. Olusi (Lagos South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Standing Order stipulates that five days notice must be given in respect of any Motion that is coming before the House ; and the Business Committee must clear that Motion. This Motion which is on the Order Paper has not been approved by the Business Committee.

Mr Speaker : What Order ?

Mr Olusi : Mr Speaker, Sir, Order 19. This Motion has not been cleared nor examined by the Business Committee, and since the necessary notice has not been given, it cannot be placed on the Order Paper. It is therefore irregular to bring this Motion before the House.

Mr Speaker : I do not agree with you. These documents have been with me for the past two months.

An hon. Member : But not with the Committee, Sir.

Mr Olusi : Mr Speaker, Sir, no notice was given and this was not placed before the Committee.

Mr Speaker : These Papers were filed with the Clerk of the National Assembly and a copy passed to the Senate and the House of Representatives. It is not only this one, there are about seven of them, and as far back as seven months ago they have been with the House. Any comments ?

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to move that the question be now put.

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

Resolved : That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, the representatives of the people of Aniocha, Ika, Ndokwa and Oshimili Local Government Areas within the present Bendel State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a new State to be known as ANIOMA State, comprising the said four Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Request for the Creation of New Kaduna State

Mr Speaker : Yes, the next one is the request for the creation of New Kaduna State.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion Standing in the name of Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo—

That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, the representatives of the people of Zaria,

Ikara, Saminaka, Kachia, Jema'a, Birnin Gwari and Kaduna Local Government Areas within the present Kaduna State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as the new Kaduna State comprising the said seven Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr Zubairu.

Mr D. O. Zubairu (Jamai North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second this Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Members, any comments ?

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Edet Bassy Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move that the Question be now put.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Resolved : That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979, the representatives of the people of Zaria, Ikara, Saminaka, Kachia, Jema'a, Birnin Gwari and Kaduna Local Government Areas within the present Kaduna State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as the New Kaduna State comprising the said seven Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet B. Etienam (Oron II) : In view of the fact that we have exhausted all the items on the Order Paper for this morning, I rise to move that this House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : I beg to second the Motion.

Multi-Party System is Best

Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to express my views on two-party system. A number of Nigerians have called for a two-party system in this country.

Those requests may sound reasonable, but with the current events, it is not timely. All the measures suggested by these people appear very unrealistic. The 1979 Election is not a yardstick that one could use to weigh the strength of the political parties. For example, there have been wide complaints of victimisation and rigging in the last election. Different political parties have been accusing one another of rigging. The accusation ranges from GNPP accusing

NPN of rigging in Sokoto States ; NPN accusing PRP of rigging in Kano States ; NPP accusing UPN of rigging in Lagos State and UPN accusing NPN of rigging the Presidential Election. Who then is guilty of rigging in this country ? We do not know.

It is clear that the voting pattern in the last general election has been based on affinity and sentiment. Anybody following the events or the results of the last elections would clearly see that the voting pattern has been based on affinity and sentiment. Now, how then could one expect the present five political parties to merge or fuse into two or three political parties ? Some of the suggestion were that NPN and NPP should merge and form a political party, another was that UPN, GNPP and PRP should merge and form a political party. What people should realise is that people are aware of the existence of these political parties when they decided to go into a particular political party. Therefore, it is unreasonable for anyone to think that these parties can easily merge or melt into two or three political parties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the stability of this country greatly depends on the multi-party system that we have adopted. Also, we should be grateful to the multi-party system for the rewards that we have got from it, that is, that each political party at least controls two state governments in this country.

Despite the multi-party system, as reported daily, there is victimisation of political opponents on the mere excuse that one does not belong to the camp of the governing party which is a violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Section 35 (1) of the Constitution provides that every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and religion. Also, Section 36 (1) provides that every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression including freedom to hold opinion, receive and impart ideas. How do you compare this provision with what is happening in this country today ?

News go round of victimisation, oppression and what not in places like Ogun, Kwara, Bauchi, Imo, Borno and even in Sokoto state where the President comes from. In other words, there is violation of the provisions of the Constitution right on now even with the multi-party system, then how do you expect us to fall into two or three parties ? Except we are calling for a dictatorship.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the present atmosphere in this House is encouraging, only if we can expand the atmosphere here into our respective constituencies. In other words, we should try to propagate the understanding that is existing among the different political parties in this House to be applicable in our respective constituencies. There should be no victimisation and there should be no oppression. The provisions of the Constitution should be allowed to survive and should be strictly adhered to.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my advice to every hon. Member here is to make a solemn declaration and for the interest of this country, firstly, that the provision

[MR YELWA]

of sections 35 (1) and 36 (1) are strictly adhered to in words, deeds and actions. Secondly, that future political parties, if at all there will be two or three should, as far as possible, cut across any hindrance based on religion or affinity. Those who are calling for two or three parties are only trying to take us back to the old days. If, with the multi-party system, we cannot respect the provisions of the Constitution, Sections 35 (1) and 36 (1), if there is victimisation everywhere in this country, if we call for two-party system, all we are calling for is to kill democracy in this country.

With these remark, Mr Speaker, I think we had better preach the entrenchment of these provisions of the Constitution, let us respect them, let us put them into practice, let us see that each State Governor is following them. Governors have sworn on the Holy Quran or the Bible that they will uphold the Constitution, yet victimisation and oppression are taking place everywhere in all parts of the Federation. It is our duty and the duty of this honourable House to make a solemn declaration that we shall see to the implementation of these provisions.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I think the Multi-party System should continue.

Illegal Excesses of Customary Court Judges

Mr Aka Ogbobe (Igbo-Etiti): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I wish to call the attention of Members of this august Assembly to something that is gradually eroding the personal liberties of our fellow country men and women especially in the rural communities of this country, something that has contributed in a large measure, to the break down of law and order in the first Republic. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am referring to the activities of some Customary Court Judges in some parts of the country.

These Judges who are supposed to dispense justice are using their positions once again to victimise political opponents and to make money illegally. If I may refer to a particular case, Mr Speaker, Sir, in my Constituency, Igbo Etiti, a President of a Customary Court, by name Chief O. C. Nmanu, is known to have imprisoned people without trial recently. This man has also formed a bribery syndicate in the locality and each member of the syndicate is allocated some area where he organises victims on whom cooked-up charges are brought. These victims will never gain their liberty till they make some money available to these judges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think we have a duty here to protect the liberties of our people all over the country. We shall also, as a national body, make sure that the Prisons Authorities receive into the prison only those who are legally convicted. I shall also appeal to the Police, through this Assembly to make sure that they do not collude with corrupt judges like this man whose name I have mentioned. We have a duty to protect the Constitution which we have sworn to defend and protect. Sections 14 and 17 of the Constitution make it abundantly clear that every citizen of this country has a right to liberty, to justice and to existence. We cannot allow this to continue to happen in our midst.

Mr Speaker, Sir, furthermore, it is no use saying that the customary courts are the responsibility of the States. If we do not take care there would be a break down of law and order in some areas of this country with the advent of these customary court judges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Inaccurate Daily Times Publication

Mr A. Afonja (Oyo Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make an observation on the purported report of the proceedings of the House yesterday which is contained on page 11 of the *Daily Times* of today. Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel greatly aggrieved that I was completely misquoted in this particular issue of the *Daily Times*. Apart from a lot of sentences which have no verbs and for which I do not want to take responsibility, there are other places where, I feel that, the exact opposite of what I said or intended was erroneously quoted. I think what is most outrageous, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the fact that this was put in quotes to represent what I exactly said. I would like to quote one of the most outrageous sentences. It says that I, Afonja, said we should distribute money instead of a head count. I am sure hon. Members will bear me out that at no point in my speech yesterday did I say that money should be distributed instead of a head count. I would therefore, like to appeal to the news media and particularly to the reporter of the *Daily Times* to be careful about the way they quote what others say. A lot of people would have read this morning and people would wonder about the integrity of my own character when I am quoted as saying that money should be distributed instead of a head count. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the papers through you to be careful so that when other people are quoted they are correctly represented.

Thank you, very much, Mr Speaker.

Stop Employing the Services of Crown Agents

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode): Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to comment on the use or the continued employment of the Crown Agents by the Federal Government, the State Governments and other Institutions financed by the Federal Government. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is disappointing and ridiculous that twenty years after independence, and with 79 Missions abroad, some State governments still find it preferable to employ the services of Crown Agents for the procurement of equipment and recruitment of services overseas. My investigations, Sir, reveal that nine out of ten requirements on equipment and staff are made from Britain, thereby preventing the State Governments choosing from the International markets.

Apart from the fact that through the Crown Agents, South African goods find their way into Nigeria personnel and South African with British passports are recruited into Nigeria to the detriment of the security of this country, the Crown Agents charge exorbitant commission. Apart from this, they charge expenses which, in its totality, drain our foreign exchange. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to the

Federal Government to ensure that our 79 Missions abroad are made use of so that we may save foreign exchange and ensure that our Members overseas and at home enjoy the services of our foreign Missions. Our Missions are there to serve the need of our country whether at State level or in whatever we may require, their services economically. Mr Speaker, Sir, on this matter, I would like to tell the Federal Government that we have been losing a lot of money through the employment of the Crown Agents which is a reminiscence of the colonial mentality. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1980 Budget

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to refresh your memory about past events. Some time last year, all of us here started talking through the mass media—radio and television screens, telling the whole nation what we would do for them if we were mandated to this House. Today, we are mandated to come here, and instead of looking after their welfare, we are today disturbing and delaying the Budget. I want to urge the members of this House who are in the Joint Finance Committee to appeal to their brothers in the Senate so that the Appropriation Bill may be passed for the benefit of the masses. We have been mandated by the masses to come and deliberate for them, to come and give authority to the President to perform. We are delaying the President in performing and the failure of anything is the failure of the National Assembly and not of the President.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Bayo Akinbiseyin (Ifesowopo) : Order 26 (2). What my Friend and Colleague, Mr Bob-Manuel, is saying is irrelevant because we have already deliberated on the Appropriation Bill, as far as we are concerned in this House and it has been passed so, it is not a matter to be raised.

Mr Bob-Manuel : I congratulate the hon. Member for correcting me that the Budget has been passed in this House and we want to maintain that this Budget has been passed finally in this House and should not be amended at all. Thank you.

House and Senate : Equal and Complementary

Mr Apollos Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to comment on some statements made on the floor of the Senate by some distinguished Senators in respect to this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am speaking from a committed sense of honour and respect for constituted authority, and I am also a student of cultural respect to anything that is worth it. In this wise, I am speaking with due respect to the Members of the Senate.

My information is contained on page 7 of the Proceedings of the Senate on June 12th, 1980. Earlier on last week, a distinguished Senator did make mention of the qualitative and quantitative membership of the two respective Houses. I think Sir, that this was an allusion in bad spirit to this House. Again, during the debate on the Joint

Finance Committee, two distinguished Senators made some references to this House which, I feel, should not be left unchallenged. In the first place the relationship between these two Houses is contained in the Constitution. Except, perhaps, for the screening of certain appointments in the Federation, I do not think that there is anything very peculiar about the functions of these two Houses in respect of their authorities to the National Assembly. It has become a matter of regret that Members of that distinguished House are becoming very fond of making references to the extent of giving the impression that this is a junior House to the Senate.

I would like to quote some relevant portions of the speech I am referring to. With your permission, Sir, one of them had this to say :

The House of Representatives is complementary to the Senate, and in the same vein he goes on to say : Mr President, we have always carried the House of Representatives with us. We should not be in a position whereby they will say we are being unnecessarily recalcitrant or stubborn. Another distinguished Senator went further to say : If we are looking at the two Houses we will say that the Houses are equal ; in fact we are the superior House but we are equal. He went on to say, Sir, Our arrangement in this Senate and by taking into consideration the Representatives from each of the parties, 11 is our number, nothing is wrong telling the Members of the House of Representatives that we have agreed on 11. We will appeal to them to make theirs 11. Nothing is wrong about that. It is not a constitutional issue.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if my interpretation of these statements is correct and in order I do feel that it is unethical for a constituted House to sit in their own chamber and, perhaps, focus attention on what they would do with another House having equal right and equal decision with them. I do not believe that these statements augur well for the joint activities of the National Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, even our Standing Order number 26 (2) takes note of some unwarranted language and, I think, that that distinguished House by allowing her Members to use this type of language is actually breaching that provision. I feel personally worried that if a House of that honour should indulge in making statements of this nature, they are only calling for trouble.

I want to say, Mr Speaker, that in this House we have distinguished Members who are intellectual equal of any other Member there. I know too we have Members who financially or otherwise could be reckoned with. So, it is unnecessary for that House to assume that they have anything superior either in terms of intelligence or moral quality or otherwise in comparison with Members of this House. It may be noted, therefore, that if this type of thing continues I am afraid we shall not be striking the balance which is desirable. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

UPN Believes both Houses Equal

Mr Lam Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the authority of the UPN Leader in this House, hon. Mabrama Jen, to make a point of correction to last Fridays proceedings of this House. The Deputy Speaker was in the Chair that day when the Speaker was not around as he was busy attending a meeting at Enugu. That day the Deputy Speaker was referring to what transpired in the Senate on the composition and working of the Joint Finance Committee. He was trying to refer to what a Senator said that day which was derogatory to the dignity of this House. When an hon. Member asked the question, *who is the Senator*, the Deputy Speaker that day said : *Read your Hansard and you will find his name there, he is a UPN Senator*. We want to correct the impression that this Senator was a UPN Senator. In fact, he is Senator Onyeabo Obi, an NPP Senator. We of the UPN believe that the two Houses of the National Assembly are very equal. We do not refer to any House as the Lower House or the Upper House. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Make Federal Mortgage Bank more Effective

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : Mr Speaker, my contribution on the Motion for Adjournment is on the Federal Mortgage Bank. For the Federal housing programme to be successful, it has to be assisted by the Federal Mortgage Bank. In view of this, the President, in one of his Budget Speeches, planned to achieve the Housing Programme by initiating some fiscal measures, and one of these fiscal measures which the Federal Government brought to being was to give directives to Commercial Banks to reserve 5 per cent of their lending to financial institutions. One of these financial institutions, I believe, is the Federal Mortgage Bank. In view of this I would have thought that the Federal Mortgage Bank would try to make use of this facility. If it does at all, I believe there is still much more room for the Federal Mortgage Bank to assist the masses of this country.

The impact of this Institution, we all know, is only felt, if at all, in Lagos here and, perhaps, in Kaduna. I am sure that the efforts being made by the Federal Government to make this institution viable are satisfactory. The Federal Mortgage Bank due to its bureaucracy has not been able to come to the assistance of the poor masses who might need housing loans. I am, therefore, calling on the Federal Government to please try and see to the effectiveness of this Federal Mortgage Bank. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Mr Adelu.

Remove the Justice Minister

Mr Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say that Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the President of this country, is a hard-working President. He is also a dynamic Leader. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say further that those—

Mr Speaker : Please, Order ! Order ! Hon. members, you do not know whether he now wants to join the Accord. (*Laughter*)

Mr Adelu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say further that such a Leader who is dedicated to hardwork should be very well surrounded by very good Advisers. Unfortunately, this is not so. It is a pity. We have the Constitution of this country to protect and to obey, but most unfortunately, we have come to the stark realities of the moment that the very people who are in government, who are controlling this country, have come round to bring down the Judiciary.

It is a pity indeed that even the very Minister of Justice and Attorney-General advised the Senate against the observance of the verdict of the Court in Maiduguri. Instead of allowing the great Abubakar Ibrahim who won the Senatorial election in Keffi to take his seat in the Senate, they—

An hon. Member : It is Plateau State.

Mr Adelu : I am sorry, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am referring to the Court in Plateau State. This is a serious thing. We all must get round to help this Government to succeed, but if we see a Minister who is trying to bring down this Government, all of us must join hands to fight against him. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Yes, go on.

Mr Adelu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am calling on the President of this country, the Great Alhaji Shehu Shagari to remove without further delay the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Yes round up.

Mr Adelu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am referring to Mr Richard Twelve Two-Thirds, otherwise known as Akinjide.

Mr Speaker : Time ! Yes, Alhaji Sidi Ali.

Thanks to the DPO in Potiskum

Alhaji H. Sidi Ali (Danbatta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I travelled last week-end to Borno State. I am taking this opportunity, and I believe, on behalf of Members of the National Assembly, to express my most sincere thanks to the DPO Potiskum for something he did while I was there on Saturday. I entered Potiskum without any official notice and booked at the Rest House. Somehow, somebody saw the label of Member of the House of Representatives and while I was in the Catering Rest House, the DPO came there, introduced himself and said he was posting a Police Officer because I was there; not because I am Sidi Ali, but because I belong to this honourable House. The Police stayed on guard until six in the morning on Sunday when I left.

I feel, Mr Speaker, Sir, that with the trouble taking place there at that time, it is a very fair thing that the Police in Potiskum have respect for Members of this House. So, I feel it is important that this gesture should be noted, and some of us when we are going to other places should at least, inform them so that we would be given the honour this House deserves.

Mr Speaker : Yes, thank you, very much. Hon. M. S. Kaugama.

Seminar on Presidential System of Government

Mr Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama (Kaugama): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to this Motion for Adjournment, I have some observations to make on the Seminar held on Presidential System of Government some two or three weeks ago. This Seminar was said to have been held for Members of the National Assembly, the Executive and the Judiciary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, while we do not know how the nominations to attend the Seminar were made, after the Seminar that was said to have been organised on our behalf, nobody out of the participants of that Seminar came out with a report to tell us what happened in that Seminar. I think if the Seminar was truly held in order to help Members of the National Assembly on the one part, we should have copies of all the papers presented during that Seminar; at least photo-copies of those papers should have been made available to us so that we would know what had happened, and what was supposed to be transmitted to us in terms of benefitting from the Seminar. Thank you, very much.

Discourtesy to Governor Bisi Onabanjo

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake): Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I would like to raise this morning is a complete contrast to what hon. Sidi Ali has just said. While he praised the Police in Borno State, I would like to condemn the activities of the Police in Ogun State. Last Saturday, 14th June, the Governor of Ogun State, Chief Bisi Onabanjo, visited a place in Kenta. He met a group of people at a spot and greeted them as a matter of courtesy. On realising that he was the Governor of the State, they gathered themselves together and started drumming and chanting rival Political slogans as they followed the Governor. Now this is—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Omidiji : The Governor of Ogun State, by the result of the last elections represents about 96 per cent of the people of Ogun State. To that extent, he deserves respect from all nooks and corners of the State.

I would like to appeal to President Shagari to warn Alhaji Abiola seriously. He is not the alternative Governor of Ogun State. Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to sound a serious note of warning ! If my advice is not heeded, if Alhaji Abiola and his party supporters allow us to engage in the same kind of activities, it would be worse and it would be hot. These types of activities which the NPN and Alhaji Abiola have engaged themselves in Ogun State would be disastrous if we have to follow it to its logical conclusion.

Well, I would like to condemn the activities of the Police, particularly the D.P.O., Mr Alonge, who released the people arrested on bail without clearance from the authority. I think this is an insult. Where

is the life of a citizen of Ogun State if the Governor has to be rebuked without check, with ignominy I think this is rather unfair.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. That is all right. It is time. Yes, the right hon. Mr Tom Egbuwoku.

Increasing Incidence of Armed Robbery

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to take your attention to a very serious matter that affects the security of our lives and properties. I want to talk this morning about the ever-increasing incidence of armed robbery, theft of property and the humiliation that house-holds suffer in the hands of armed robbers. In particular, the incidence of armed robbery is taking a new turn in Lagos State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are all aware and there is no pretence about this any more that the Police, and they also have admitted it, are inadequate and incapable of fighting the problem themselves. Therefore, we all must join hands in this business of fighting armed robbery and we must find a solution to it right now.

Firstly, I am appealing throughout the length and breadth of this country, to all traditional rulers and their chieftains to join hands with the Police to help fight this ugly incidence.

Of old, when local communities were raided traditional rulers worked with their chiefs and ward leaders, and established civil defences which were meant to curb robbers and thieves. I believe, Sir, that some of our police formations are not better than the civil defence. I take the case of, for instance, where I went to once, the Isolo Police Station. I visited there just for interest. They had no telephone. I asked why they had no telephone and they said that nobody gave them telephone. There was no light. *Why do you not have light? Because NEPA had cut light.* They had no vehicle. I decided, on my own, to check with the P and T to see why a place like a Police Station could not have telephone and, of course, the answer I got from the P and T was : *Go and tell them ; let them apply, and that they preferred not to have telephones so that nobody would disturb them.* Well, these are stories we hear everyday. What I am saying, Sir, is that, in that circumstance, if you are in trouble, even if you pick your telephone to report an incident, they cannot command their various units or talk to them to come to your assistance. In this case, if the traditional rulers are worth their salts, I call on them today, wherever they are in this country, to organise their chiefs and start to establish civil defence in collaboration with the police authorities.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I am also telling the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as enshrined in Chapter 2, Subsection 13 (b) that the fundamental principle of the Constitution is for the State to ensure individual liberty and social welfare. Where are we now, Sir, is a situation of emergency. Armed robbery has taken a new turn and I would want the President to take measures that borders on emergency in order to arrest this situation.

[MR EGBUWOKU]

I am also calling on the House Committee on Internal Affairs and the Defence Committee to liaise immediately with the President and the enforcement authorities to put their heads together to find an urgent solution to this problem otherwise, Mr Speaker, Sir, you and I are not safe.

If you go to the Police Stations everyday, if you walk along the roads, you will see how people are shot dead everyday. Most of them do not appear in the newspapers. Housewives too are raped by certain irresponsible people. It needs to happen to you to believe. I went to Benin the other day. At about 8 o'clock in the evening a gentleman was having a meal in his house, he was gunned. His eyes were shot and he is now blind. You can never count these stories.

I am also seizing this opportunity to say that it is time for those who enjoy the bounties of this country, the businessmen, the business houses, to come and assist the Police Force, to donate equipment, to donate transport, to donate communication equipment and even in the sites where they build, to build basic Police Posts so that the Police could be assisted. Otherwise, Mr Speaker, all those who today are enjoying the bounty of this nation, most of whom we do not know where they got their wealth from, can as well count on their comfort as bye, bye.

I appeal also to the Speaker. I think I will have a cause to speak to this House again to make some specific suggestions as to what you and I can also do. Indiscipline is getting too much. I, as a member of the National Assembly, you as Speaker, the Permanent Secretary, the Heads of the Services, in fact, the time has come for us to decide at certain levels to give us various powers of Justices of the Peace, so that we can arrest people on the road and deal with them at the time they come. I think all of us must join hands in solving this problem of lawlessness and armed robbery.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Federal Agricultural Projects in Imo State

Mr Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Thank you, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I go the other way round. Hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*), has talked about security, and the danger surrounding us. I am talking about feeding ourselves before we die. Permit me, Sir, to talk about the Federal Agricultural Projects in some areas, particularly in Imo State, which are the food-producing areas. I would like those areas to be considered. While I am talking on that, I would remind the Federal Government of the former Farm Settlements which are now moribund. They are not operating now, but before the war these Farm Settlements helped a great deal to feed this nation and food was very low in price. During that time nobody was talking about increase in his salary or that the government should do this or that, simply because food was available everywhere.

We should develop the various farms, particularly in Bende Local Government area where we have very fertile soils. I would cite some areas. If you go to

Igbera, Ugwueke, Umuhu-Abam, Ozuitem and some other areas in Imo State, you will find that these areas are very good for producing farm products.

This brings me again to what is happening with reference to palm trees. In fact, to harvest palm fruits now is a difficult matter simply because the crude way in which we were harvesting this a century ago continues even today, and most of us here train our children in the modern way. None of them can climb and many of those who were climbing have died. Unless we find a modern method to harvest these fruits we will continue to import palm oil when we have the land and we have the trees growing wild. I am asking the Federal Government to take account of this in its Agricultural Project. The Government should think of evolving modern methods whereby we can harvest these palm trees. This is what I am saying.

There is another area in which we can improve our standard of living. I am talking about the by-product of oil. Many of the oil companies are interested in milking us in order to make their areas very rich, and make them look more and more decent at our own expense, when our own people from those areas where the oil is got are looking very haggard. I am talking about the production of drugs or pomades, and in fact, anti-car rust. Some of us do not know that some of these things are got from oil. The main interest of oil companies is to take away our crude oil to their own areas and bring the by-products back to our country and sell them at exorbitant prices. I am asking the Federal Government to check these oil companies by reviewing their contracts. In fact, a clause should be put in the contract whereby these Oil Companies should utilise these by-products here to help our own people to reduce costs and increase standard of living.

The Speaker : Hon. Members, there would be a very short meeting immediately after this sitting.

I received a letter from the President's Office which I would like to discuss with Members in our meeting.

Also, I would like to refer Members to Order 15 Rule 2 :

The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to Mr Speaker before the commencement of the day's sitting, and Mr Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

Please, anybody who wants to speak during the Motion for Adjournment should bring the matter to my office so that I would look into it and then sort out those who will speak, depending on the urgency of the matter.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : I rise to move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.26 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 19th June, 1980

The House met at 10.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Please, Leaders of the Political Parties, remember that we shall meet in my office immediately after this sitting, along with the Members of Chief Eleke's Committee, the Accountants.

I hope Members have received copies of the list of Resolutions referred to various Committees. It is very necessary that the Chairmen of the relevant Committees should try to bring their reports as soon as possible. There are about 48 Resolutions passed on to various Committees. Please, hon. Members, take action immediately in respect of these matters.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Petroleum and
Energy Conservation

Presentation of the Report on National Petroleum Refinery.

Dr Taribo J. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise for the presentation of the Report on National Petroleum Refinery and move—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the National Petroleum Refinery (Referred to the Committee on 4th December, 1979)

I beg to move.

Mr P. D. Awuna (Gwer West) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Any comments ? It is simply to lay the Report on the Table, I do not think there is need for any comment.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the National Petroleum Refinery.

Special Investigation Panel

Presentation of the Report of the Special Investigation Panel into the Activities of the House Committee between 19th October, 1979 and 14th May, 1980.

Mr Edet A. Ekpo (Uyo III) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move a Motion standing in my name on behalf of the Panel of Investigation and move—

That this honourable House do receive the Report of the Panel set up to investigate the happenings and allegations made against the suspended House Committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do receive the Report of the Special Investigation Panel into the activities of the House Committee between 19th October, 1978 and 14th May, 1980.

Mr Speaker : The Business Committee, it is very important that the Report is listed as early as possible. You know we have not got a House Committee now and so many things are going wrong. So, please list it in good time so that we debate it and take a firm stand on the Report.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Request for the Creation of Osun State

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move a Motion standing in the name of Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo—

That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979 the representatives of the people of Ede, Ejigbo, Ifelodun, Ila, Irepodun, Irewole, Iwo, Odo-Otin, Ogbomoso and Oshogbo Local Government Areas within the present Oyo State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a new State to be known as Osun State comprising the said ten Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I beg to move.

Alhaji Y. N. Gaya (Gaya North) : I beg to second. (Applause)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, any comments on the Motion ?

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979 the representatives of the people of Ede, Ejigbo, Ifelodun, Ila, Irepodun, Irewole, Iwo, Odo-Otin, Ogbomoso and Oshogbo Local Government Areas within the present Oyo State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as OSUN State comprising the said ten Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Mr Speaker : The request is referred to the Committee on the Creation of States along with those of yesterday. Yes, the next one.

Request for the Creation of Port Harcourt State

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, I beg to move the Motion standing in the name of Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo. That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979 the representatives of the people of Ahoada Local Government Area (excluding Odual Community), the entire Ikwerre/Etche Local Government Area, the entire Port Harcourt City Local Government Area and the Tai, Eleme and Obiogbo Districts of the Okrika/Obiogbo/Tai/Elleme Local Government Area within the present Rivers State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a new State to be known as PORT HARCOURT State comprising the Areas enumerated above and accordingly request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Dr O. Ogunkoya (Ijebu Remo) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Any comments, hon. Members ?

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam : I beg to move that the question be now put.

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

Resolved : That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979 the representatives of the people of Ahoada Local Government Area (excluding Odual Community) the entire Ikwerre/Etche Local Government Area, the entire Port Harcourt City Local Government Area and the Tai, Eleme and Obiogbo Districts of the Okrika/Obiogbo/Tai/Elleme Local Government Area within the present Rivers State pray the House of Representatives to receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as PORT HARCOURT State, comprising the Areas enumerated above, and accordingly request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Mr Speaker : The request is also referred to the Committee on Creation of States. Alhaji Tuggar the requests are referred to your Committee along with those of yesterday.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet Bassey (Etienam) : In view of the fact that we have exhausted all the items scheduled for consideration on the Order Paper for today, I beg to move that this honourable House do stand adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Dr Gordon J. Idang (Etinan II) : I beg to second the Motion.

Atomic Energy Agency of Nigeria

Dr O. Ogunkoya : In seconding the Motion for Adjournment, I crave the indulgence of the whole House and I want you to please be kind enough to listen attentively to my statements. I do not want to bore you with some scientific facts, but for the advantage of this great nation of ours, there are some things that must be said, and be said with all emphasis.

In 1975, a so-called Atomic Agency for Nigeria was established with all the pomp and pageantry of a new establishment. But unfortunately, like many other Nigerian institutions or establishments, the whole thing started on a drawing board and died apparently on this drawing board. I was involved so much as to look into the expenditure in the current budget whether the Atomic Energy Agency has anything for this coming year. But unfortunately, no kobo was voted for this arm of government.

There are historical reasons for wanting to develop atomic energy in this country. I would say that Nigeria has reached an important stage in its life history that this leading role must not elude us. I will say categorically that Africa which produces almost two-thirds of the uranium and the plutonium that are being used in America and Western Europe for the development of atomic bombs is exactly the same Africa which has not developed a single means of energy.

I would want to refer to some facts that in Plateau State in Nigeria, uranium is being produced in a reasonable quantity. Up till now, we do not know what the Government is doing with this uranium. Uranium is finding its way to South Africa through the help of Israel and Western Germany and they are utilising this opportunity to develop some means of atomic war head for this country. Nigeria must wake up and get out of the situation where we still continue to rely on conventional military weapon. I believe in militarism because it is the only way to get peace. If you have weapon of defence you are an agent of peace and I say, sincerely, that when Einstein developed his energy quantum theory of ENC squared he knew what he was doing. Othoham who split the atom knew very well the importance of this atom. We have uranium. Uranium from Zaire can find its way to Nigeria. Atomic energy reactor is a total replacement for the present oil energy, for the coal energy, for the generation of electricity. I sincerely crave and I pray the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that Nigeria must re-enter the atomic age so that we can give Africa the leadership it deserves.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Mr Zubairu.

Flyover for Kontagora-Kaduna Railway Level Crossing

Mr Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jamaia-North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to contribute on the Motion for Adjournment, by making a comment

as regards the road between Kontagora and Kaduna State Railway junction to Kano. Mr Speaker Sir, maps and designs on several occasions have been made by the Ministry of Works for the construction of a fly-over at this particular place, because of the number of accidents that have been caused by the collision of trailers and trains on one hand and trains with cars on the other.

Lives have been lost in this place and Kaduna State has always insisted that the Federal Government should come to her aid on this particular thing. Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1978, there was a design from the Federal Ministry of Works in their Kaduna office, and a vote was set aside for the construction of this fly-over. But the Federal Ministry of Works consistently refused to honour this promise. I would like to call on the Committee on Works and the Federal Minister of Works that Kaduna State will not tolerate this long delay any longer. As such we call on the Committee on Works to do all they can to bring this matter to a fruitful conclusion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit down.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Abdul Kadiri Lanko.

Local Government Elections

Mr Abdul Kadiri Lanko (Sawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in the interest of the whole country, and in the name of democracy I would like to appeal to the Governors of the nineteen States in the forth-coming Local Government elections to set a good example. First of all, they must stop the Emirs, the Chiefs, District Heads and the Civil Servants from participating in party politics. Most of these people are the ones who are causing trouble in this country. I hope that all the Governors will not fear or favour anyone of them. Thank you, very much.

Establish Nigerian National Examinations Council

Dr Mike Ukpog (Abak) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. gentlemen, as usual, my point is in the interest of the generality of the people of Nigeria. I want to talk on the education system in Nigeria and certain constraints which make it practically impossible at times to meet our local needs. Nigeria has been independent since 1960. But the content and the conduct, particularly the conduct of our education programme, to a very large extent, is still characterised by traits of colonial philosophy of education. It is true that Nigeria has reached a point where it should decide to make its own programme in education to meet the needs in technology, economy and in very many things in order to shake off some of the colonial traits off education. In order to achieve this, and to assume our political and economical independence, we really have to shake off the shackles of colonialism, imperialism and, in fact, the excessive foreignisation and unnecessary or out-moded theory of internalisation of our own educational system.

For instance, it is very unnecessary to talk about the system of education in the United States to be transferred into Nigeria, or the system of education to be transferred from Australia to Nigeria *verbatim et literatim*. I think, it has come to the time that I request this honourable House, through the Speaker and hon. Members to establish Nigerian National Examinations Council and to abolish the out-moded West African Examinations Council.

The creation of the West African Examinations Council was to ensure the systematic indoctrination and Europeanisation of West Africans through the so-called system of education. Our own space of development, that is Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone and the rest are not exactly the same. If we are able to run our own primary programme, and it is acceptable ; if we are able to run our own University Degree and it is acceptable ; what is wrong with the middle system of education being run by Nigeria ?

Most of the so-called examination leakages are caused because we are so much examination centred. With the permission of the Speaker, I want to read certain laws about the dissolution of this.

The Examination Council for Nigeria was established by Decree No. 27 of 1973 in the case which it can be appealed and in the case of the Minister responsible for education, may by order declare the council in Ghana shall be dissolved and cease to exist as from the date so specified in the order. The President may, by order established in the Gazette declare the council in Sierra Leone shall be dissolved as from the date as the order may specify.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what prevents Nigeria from acting accordingly in order to have a number of us to take care of different examinations and to have that autonomy. I think, the West African Examinations Council is over-loaded and they cannot be very efficient in this. (Applause)

Restoration of Undergraduate Scholarship

Finally, I would like to call upon the Speaker, who is very close to the power centre, and Members of this House, to make sure that scholarship for undergraduates is restored. It is very wrong to allow post-graduate scholarship to go on when the undergraduate scholarship is not going on. The abolition of the undergraduate scholarship was synonymous with Land Use Decree. Please, Mr Speaker, you understand that in the Southern or Eastern States people were dependent on their own land, landed property. If the Land Decree deprives a person of his own inalienable right to property and does not pay school fees to his own children, where are they going to get school fees ? Mr Speaker, Sir, with this I beg to support.

The Place of Religion in our Schools

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I wish to dwell briefly on two important issues which, in

[MR IYAYI]

my opinion, cut across political, ethnic and tribal considerations. I do so with a great sense of responsibility in the confident expectation that the appeals and suggestions flowing from my comments will be favourably considered by the Nation's Chief Executive. The issues are :

1. Shelter for the people ; and
2. The place of religion in our schools.

I would take the latter issue first, that is, the place of religion in our schools. I think it is generally agreed among our church leaders and social reformers that, with the advance of civilisation, especially in the technological field, and with the growing insatiable, acquisitive appetite of every *stratum* of our society for the good things of life, our sense of values has degenerated and morality in our public life is on the decline. A more disturbing aspect of the emerging permissive society is indiscipline in all its ramifications among our youths especially those in primary, secondary and other levels of education throughout the country. In my view, these institutions, that is, primary, secondary and post-secondary institutions, ought to constitute the workshops for fashioning and nurturing our youths into responsible and responsive citizens of this country. We all know that on these youths the mantle of leadership will fall at one time or the other. Now, therefore, is the time not to point accusing fingers at parents, teachers, church leaders and the government in an attempt to pass the buck to other people, whereas all of us have a stake in the morality and discipline of our youths and society as a whole.

It is now time for us, as leaders of this country, to reflect, re-orientate and act positively to make Nigeria a disciplined, hate-free, God-loving, united and progressive society. It is not enough to teach the three R's in our schools. Religion must be accorded its rightful and proper place in our school curricular by employing either part-time or full-time moslem and christian teachers to inculcate in our youths right from their formative years sound moral values and the spirit of worship of God, thereby catering for the spiritual well-being of our youths. In this connection, the Federal Government should give special grants to the States to enable them build small, but commodious churches and mosques in all our educational establishments.

Now, in his paper to the Principals' Conference on Discipline and Motivation in Schools, held at the University of Lagos on the 12th and 13th July, 1977, Professor S. D. Onabamiro, a well-known authority on education, recommended, among other things, as follows with regard to secularisation of education. Mr Speaker, I would like to quote :

Every effort should be made to cater for the spiritual welfare of students in our institutions. To achieve this objective, far more needs to be done than merely putting Bible knowledge and Islamic Studies on the curriculum. The spirit of worship, wherein the presence of God in the life of every child is stressed, must be inculcated.

Funds should be provided for building small chapels and mosques in every institution. Religious leaders in the vicinity of every institution should be

invited to render service in an honorary capacity as Chaplains and Imams.

To reinforce my observation, Mr Speaker, on this all-important question of religion in our educational establishments, I now quote our late and revered Head of State, General Murtala Ramat Muhammed, who, in his good-will message to the National Episcopal Conference of Nigeria held at Onitsha on September 9th to 14th, 1975 said, and I quote :

I am aware of the concern which our various religious bodies in the country have always felt for peace, orderly progress and a good and effective Government for our Nation. The task before us is great and challenging. In this task, it is vital that the various religious bodies should identify themselves with the present tempo of the country. We are all conscious of the influence of religion in our lives. Many of us have gone through strict religious discipline right from childhood ; our lives to a large extent have been moulded by our various beliefs. Our religious leaders should therefore be prepared to use their elevated positions as spiritual heads of our people to infuse sound moral principles in the people, especially the youth who should be properly guided from childhood if they must grow up as responsible and useful citizens.

Mr Speaker : Time up !

Alleged Abortive Coup in Lagos

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to emphasise on one point and call upon the Chairman of the Committee on Defence. The point I want to make, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that it was on the 26th of May this year that one of the Dailies, *The Concord*, carried a caption *An attempted coup in the country*. After 24 hours, Radio Nigeria came out with a statement saying that one man was trying to gain access to the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria. Since then, we have never heard anything. Barely 48 hours later, the very paper carried another story saying some people or some Army Officers were arrested. Since then, nothing had been heard.

We, who are the eyes and the leaders of this country are being worried because people are asking :

Was this true ? If it was true, who were the people that were arrested ? If it was true that this boy was really a retired army officer who was declared last year as insane and was treated in the Army Hospital, where is he now ? Is he being sent back to the Army Hospital or where is he ?

I, therefore, urge the hon. Chairman of the Defence Committee and its members to invite the Minister of Defence and ask him to make a statement on this issue. Also, I would like the hon. Chairman to call upon the Minister of Information to tell the Committee why it took Radio Nigeria more than 48 hours to explain how this man gained access to the Broadcasting house.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Discriminatory Issuance of Import Licences

Mr O. Olarewaju (Oranmiyan North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to highlight the evils being perpetrated by some shylocks in this country. I want the Committee on Commerce to take note of these people who are exploiting the situation in this country to make the workers suffer. But, before I go on, I would with respect, Mr Speaker, cite some provisions in the Constitution on the economic and social objectives.

Chapter 2, Section 16, Subsection 2 (d) says, and I read with your permission, Mr Speaker:

that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment and sick benefits are provided for all citizens.

on the same page, Section 17 Sub section 2 (c):
In furtherance of the social order, governmental actions shall be humane.

Subsection (d):

exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of the community shall be prevented.

Now, I am talking on the inflation in the country. To alleviate the sufferings of the toiling masses in this country, the former Military Regime made a Decree establishing the Nigerian National Supply Company and the Price Control Board. I am not talking at present on the success or the failure of the exercise, but at present, the President, in order to alleviate the sufferings of the workers and peasants in this country, lifted the ban on importation of certain commodities in this country.

But what is wrong with the exercise is that the Importation Licences are being given to the party supporters who are out to exploit the situation. I will reveal, Mr Speaker, my personal investigation to some companies and markets in and outside Lagos. I have gone to the Nigerian National Supply Company at Isolo and the Trade Fair Halls 2 and 3, Oke-Arin Market and Oyingbo and these are the revelations and results of my investigations.

At the National Supply Company, a 45 kilo bale of stockfish which costs at the National Supply Company ₦235.00 is now being sold to the public at 450.00. Some of these emergency importers even went as far as going abroad to Japan to tell the manufacturers to inflate prices and to stop importing or selling to the Government Agency, that is the National Supply Company, and when they bought and brought this article to Nigeria they inflated the price, and even went as far as asking the National Supply Company to buy from them.

Mr Speaker, hon. Colleagues, if we want productivity, we must find the way and how to provide a satisfactory and conducive environment for the workers. Are the workers being born to suffer? Should they continue to suffer? A bale of stockfish on getting to Oke-Arin Market in Lagos Island is sold at an exorbitant price. If this thing is so dear in Lagos, I do not know what the price will be in far away places like Enugu, Kano or Sokoto.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues I appeal to the President of this country to look into this affair so that importation Licences should not be given to our party boys to compensate them.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Establishment of a Primary School for Members' Children

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Ogbomosho South): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to make an appeal for a primary school to be built at Victoria Island for Members' children. On Tuesday, 10th June 1980, the Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande, made mention of this school when he was opening some primary and secondary schools at Mushin in Mushin Local Government Area. He itemized the role of the State Legislature and the National legislature concerning the establishment of schools and he was correct. (*Applause*) The only thing that bothers me about this is what he called *illegal school* that the Members wanted at Victoria Island. He said that we want to isolate our children from the public but this is not the idea behind that school. The suspended House Committee sent Mr Olatinwo Otegbeye to the Education Management of Lagos State—

A Member: Are you a Member of the Committee?

Mr Odebunmi: Yes, I am a member. The purpose of the delegation was to see those people concerned so that they could staff and equip the school at Victoria Island from primaries I to VI for the Members' children because when we came here last year, since October, we brought some children here and they could not find schools in Lagos to go to. For the purpose of receiving instruction, we want this school to be staffed and equipped. We do not want a special school for our children. We do not want to isolate our children. So, we want the hon. Governor to help us establish this school from primaries I to VI.

That is my comment, Mr Speaker.

Plug the Loopholes in our Insurance Law

Chief E. I. Efiom (Odukpani): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to speak on the need for the review of our Insurance Law and the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. Our Insurance Decree of 1968 gave guidelines for the operation of insurance companies in Nigeria. Since that time, no expatriate insurance company is operating in this country. Under Workmen's Compensation Ordinance too, expatriate construction firms are to insure their staff and workmen against death, accident, fidelity and so on with the insurance companies. But it appears the Decree did not specify that construction companies must insure only with Nigerian indigenous insurance companies, with the result that most expatriate companies operating in Nigeria still use this loophole to insure our Nigerian staff with their overseas insurance companies. Their inner desire to defraud this government makes them exploit.

[CHIEF EFIOM]

I want to quote a passage from the *Pulse Magazine* of March in which one of these overseas insurance companies refused to pay a doctor's bill which was presented here in Nigeria to a German company operating here in Nigeria. The bill came from a doctor in charge of the medical treatment of the staff of that company; the company normally sends their bills then to the overseas insurers for settlement. When this particular bill was sent, they returned it. It was only then that the doctor knew that the insurers were overseas.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote a little passage. The extracts are as follows :

Attached you shall find medical bills returned without action for the following reason :

In order to claim some of our medical expenses back from German Health Insurance Companies, we are required to forward medical bills for individuals treated separately to different Health Insurance Companies. Medical bills must bear detailed information about diagnosis, kind of treatment applied, medicine prescribed and physician's signature.

The above extracts are self-explanatory. If this is so, how much less valid would the demands of such third parties as insurance companies be.

The truth is that this company and many others operating in Nigeria are fooling our system. The point to ponder about is : Why should a company registered in Nigeria insure its Nigerian workers with an insurance company based in Germany? All the workers listed in the said bill are Nigerians except three. I would not like to take you too far on the extract but it is in the *Pulse Magazine* of March, page 6.

The purpose of Indeginisation Decree was the conservation of our foreign capital. If these expatriate constructions firms are allowed to continue to insure Nigerian workers with their overseas insurers the purpose of Indeginisation Decree is defeated, and nobody will be sure how much money they will milk out of this country above their normal quota in the name of insurance premium. It is on this strength, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, that I would appeal to the Committee on Commerce to look into that aspect of the law and if the flaw is there to get it tightened up or the appropriate Ministry should investigate this allegation and punish defaulters.

Thank you.

Provide Amenities for Oyo North

Mr Michael A. Ojo (Irepodun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Motion for Adjournment. My area comprising four local government areas, Irepodun Local Government, Ifedapo Local Government, Kajola Local Government and Iseyin Local Government, has a population of almost 1 million, but this area is the most neglected areas in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : Disaster area.

Mr Ojo : It is not a disaster area as such.

Mr Speaker : It is almost a State. (Laughter)

Mr Ojo : It is almost a State but there is no single industry, no higher educational institution. The most important is roads. Some roads were taken over by the last regime from the State Government. I will mention a few of these roads. Kishi—Aguare road, Iseyin—Shaki road, Igbeti—Kishi road.

An hon. Member : Which State ?

Mr Ojo : I said Oyo North. All these roads were taken over by the last Administration, by the Federal Government, and since then the Federal Government did not do anything on these roads up to the present moment. I think last year, the Minister in-charge of Works, in his press release of November 19th, 1979 mentioned that 190 roads were to be repaired throughout the 19 States, but I could observe that only two roads were mentioned in Oyo State. These roads are Federal roads number 118, Oyo to Iseyin, only 34 kilometres ; then Oshogbo to Ilesha road, 34 kilometres, all totalling about 64 kilometres. He promised in his statement on that day at least 150 to 200 kilometres will be rehabilitated or repaired in each State but nothing was done on these roads. The Contractors who were given these roads are Inolaji Construction Company, for Oyo—Iseyin, Iseyin road, the other one is Bight Construction Company for Oshogbo, Ilesha road.

An hon. Member : UPN.

Mr Ojo : I want to tell you that during the electioneering campaign all the political leaders including the President visited these roads. It took the President more than three hours to travel only 40 kilometres. Even if you like you can ask him. These roads belong to the Federal Government and, therefore, I am appealing to you to make the people of this area happy because they are all Nigerians instead of carrying your money outside Nigeria to other places. Do not make that area another South Africa, please. I beg to submit.

Misleading Concord Publication

Mr Okon Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for Adjournment, and in doing this, I want to make a very brief comment on the publication made in some of the national newspapers of June 6th, 1980, in respect of Cross River State. The issue I am going to comment on is the publication made by the *Nigerian Concord*. With the permission of the Speaker I beg to quote : *Senators on war path over State*. This was the caption made by this paper. The paper went on to publish that the following Members from Cross River State are Senators. These Members are Christopher Udomesit, Chief E. U. Okon, Chief John Esin, Chief Andrew Bassey. I am afraid none of these Members is a Senator. The Cross-River State has five Senators and we have five Senatorial Districts. The five Senators we have are Dr Wayas who is the current President of the Senate, we have Senator D. D. Etiebet, we have Senator G. Daniel, we have Senator Victor Akan, and Senator Ansa. There is nothing wrong in a competent and popular journalist going straight to find out facts from the correct source, and if possible, to meet the characters of the event before going to publish anything. In fact the information was misleading.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of Order. Yes, Alhaji Dikko.

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : My point of order is Order 8. There is no quorum in this House.

Mr Speaker : Thank you.

Mr Okon Eddy : I said that there is nothing wrong if a popular and competent journalist goes straight to find out the correct facts of an issue and the characters concerned from the source of events before going to the press to make some publication. This information was a very misleading one and has caused a lot of trouble in the State. In fact, I am not here to express my anger. I would advise that in future the press should be more careful. With this, I support the Motion for Adjournment.

Reconstruction of Omu-Aran-Ado Ekiti Road

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to comment on Omu-Aran-Ado Ekiti-Otun Road in my constituency. I regret to say after 20 years of Nigerian Independence, this gate way to Eastern State is still neglected despite the fact that the Military, within the 13 years of their rule, were able to amend other roads and reconstruct them. From my knowledge of these roads, Manfe-Abakaliki Road, Aba-Ikot-Ekpene, Oron-Aba Road, Jos-Akwanga Road, Gusau-Sokoto Road and a host of other roads have been reconstructed. I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, Sir, to really appeal to you that Omu-Aran-Ado Ekiti Road, is a road that passes through three of the States in this country, Kwara, Oyo and Ondo States, and the constituency which I belong to, Ero Local Government, is an area where agriculture is the bone of contention or the supply of food to the generality of the people of this country.

I will appeal through you, Sir, that the recent job being done on this road should be intensified. I would say that I have called on the construction company looking after this road and was told that the inability to really do the job is due to lack of funds and secondly, I have not been able to see for myself the activities of the liaison officer in Kwara State or that of Ondo State whose responsibility and duty is to supervise Federal projects. To this

end, I therefore call on Mr President that once these people cannot execute their duties, I take the opportunity to say that they should be given an immediate sack. I now call on the Committee on Finance to take serious note of my comments on the PLO. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Auditor's Report

Chief Olusola Omonira (Ilaje-Ese Odo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in making my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, I intend to deal with the currently circulated Auditor's Report which was put in our pigeon holes yesterday. In doing so, I am aware that Members are anxious to leave here but I have one or two points to highlight in the Report and one of the points is this. The Report contains a lot of matters which leave much to be desired. For example, there was an expenditure of ₦277,000,000 spent without authority. I am not here to mention any Committee or Ministry, it is in the Auditor's Report and you can make reference to this Audit Report on page 10.

As if that is not all, there was a situation in one of the years where over ₦1,000,000 in cash and stores were missing. As if that is not enough, unclaimed wages are wrongly kept and their accounts are not balanced. Personal advances, when they are repaid for over a year, according to the Auditors, were not paid to the Treasury and they were kept maybe in the drawer of the person receiving the money. I have highlighted just few of these points to serve as a guide for our Public Accounts Committee. Let them note and take appropriate action.

Finally, I would like to mention that the reason for these anomalies may be because we have no qualified Accountants in the Ministries. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.52 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 20th June, 1980

The House met at 9.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Approval of Programme of Business of the House

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on behalf of the Business Committee that the House do approve the Programme of the Business of House of Representatives, as amended for the Session 9th October, 1979 to 8th October, 1980 and the Session 9th October, 1980 to 8th October, 1981 (*Laid on the Table Tuesday, 17th June, 1980*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, any comments ?

Mr Ihekweazu : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Programme has already been laid before the House, and it provides for a total of 184 Days of work for the First Session and 181 Days for the Second Session. The Calendar is primarily designed to afford Members the full opportunity to discharge their duties as laid out in Section 4 (1) and (2) of the Constitution and is also in keeping with Section 59 which provides for a minimum of 181 Working Days.

The Programme also provides for Public Holidays and also for Religious Holidays ; again this is in keeping with the contents of our Constitution as *per* Section 35 (1) which provides for the right to religious worship and observance. Also, you will notice that under the Public Holidays, the total period is 67 Days and not 68 as contained in the amended paper. Also, there is in the Second Session a total of 20 Days provided for what is termed your Constituency Work Period, this again added to the 181 Days provided in that Session, in a sense, makes a total of 201 Days which Members are expected to utilise in the interest of the performance of their duties as provided. Also under the Programme, there is the indication for the Budget which shows that we expect this Budget to be delivered to the House about the 22nd of September, that is towards the end of this Session, and that would give Members ample opportunity to deliberate on the Budget so as to make it available in good time before the commencement of the next financial year.

Finally, hon. Members, I urge you to accept the Report and the Programme as laid before you. It is entirely within Section 56 of the Constitution which gives you powers to stipulate your period of sittings ; also lay your Public Holidays and also iron out your Programme of Work.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Chairman, I am very worried. I am surprised that we have only four weeks holidays. It appears it is only four weeks because, taking into consideration that we had no holidays during Christmas, we had only a break of about ten Working Days. Then, during Easter we had around eight or ten working days. I was thinking that we should get much more than four weeks. Why I am saying this is that you can see how hectic the work here is, and I think Members are entitled to a fairly good period of holidays to go and consult in their Constituencies and then have various treatments. If there is no other way you can push it p a bit, then we have to—

Mr Ihekweazu : Mr Speaker, you can see that the problem of 25 days for your holidays in the First Session is as a result of the amount of time, I would say, we lost particularly in not sitting on Fridays earlier on until the recent resolution of the House.

Mr Speaker : You remember we have been sitting on Fridays. I think that it was when I went to the United States that it was revoked. But you remember that the Committees were meeting on Fridays, and as I have said earlier on, unless my own interpretation is wrong, the sittings of the Committees mean a sitting of the House, because you cannot sit in the House and sit here at the same time. Let us hear from the hon. Member for Ibadan North (*Mr Debo Akande*).

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity. Whilst I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Business Committee for taking the trouble to give us a working time-table so that we can map out our schedules on how we make our movements, it is unfortunate that they have regarded those Fridays when we were holding Committee meetings, because we were not holding formal Sessions, as not countable for the reckoning of the required section of the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is in my own humble submission that the business of the House shall be conducted either in the full Session or at Committees. Therefore, Sir, Mr Speaker, once we hold or held Committee meetings on Friday, I believe, Sir, that the House was sitting because as you rightly put it, we cannot be sitting at Committees and be sitting here. I remember very clearly, Sir, and the Chairman can bear testimony, we formally resolved at one stage that the Committees will be taking Fridays and that we would not be coming here again.

Mr Speaker : I agree with you.

Mr Akande : Therefore, if the House resolves that and we were sitting at Committees on Fridays, and I remember also, Mr Speaker, and this is also a

legal point, once the Order Papers showed Business of the Day for a Friday, there was a working Session that day. I believe, Sir, that sometimes we showed the business on Fridays on Monday or Tuesday, so it is already on the Order Paper. So, it is my belief, Mr Speaker, Sir, that about nine or fourteen Fridays that were not reckoned should be reckoned. We need a much longer holiday than four weeks and I would agree with you, Sir, that the Chairman and his Committee should see some adjustments whereby we can, at least, go for a continuous period of six weeks holidays so as to attend to our Committees, take some rest and may be take some treatment, if we need any.

Thank you, very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu Ode) : It is my submission, Sir, that the House of Representatives is not properly constituted without the presence of the Mace, the Speaker, and his formal entry into the House. Mr Speaker, Sir, when the House is in Committee—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Let us hear him. It is in our own interest.

Mr Olukoya : When the House is in Committee, we sit in bits, and the provisions of Section 50 of the Constitution has no relevance. Section 50 of the Constitution speaks of the quorum of the House and not of the Committee.

In addition to the theory propounded, there must be an Order Paper for the day, which summons Members to attend the sitting of the House. Further, Order 7 of the Standing Orders of 1962 specifically lay down Session of the House of Representatives. I would refer also to Order 9 of the Standing Orders of 1962 of the House of Representatives which we are still using now, that unless we comply with those orders and the provisions of the Constitution the House sitting in the Committee should not be regarded as a sitting of the House of Representatives.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Section 59 of the Constitution speaks of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives is not constituted in Committees. It is the House fully assembled.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to address myself to the point last mentioned by the hon. Member who spoke last. I associate myself with his view that the House is not sitting on Fridays, but for different reasons. Mr Speaker, Sir, one cannot approbate and reprobate in the same breath. When we were rising on Thursdays if we go through the *Hansard*, the Speaker would say *the House is now adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday*. There is no way in which you can justify (Interruptions). When you adjourn, you are not sitting. It is so simple. It is not a matter of law, it is a matter of common sense and logic. You cannot be sitting when you are formally adjourned. I am saying that it is unfortunate—

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member from Bendel State has carried the day.

Mr Uwechue : Thank you, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Do we go on with the adoption of the Time-table or are there any other comments ?

Alhaji Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would still like to bring a sort of compromise on this issue. We regard working in the Constituencies as a working period. Why do we have two Constituency work in the 1980-81 sitting ? Why can we not shift one into the present sitting so that we have one week for Constituency work and then the holiday so that the holiday will come up a bit earlier. Let us have one Constituency working week before the holidays, so that a day after we could continue with the holidays. It is a part of the whole sitting. The Time-table could be readjusted. We should bring forward one Constituency working week before the holidays, rather than having the two in the next session. It is a form of compromise, Sir.

Mr Speaker : I do not know whether the Business Committee thought of giving us some time to go back to the Constituencies and come back within the session. Since we are going to set up our offices, it is necessary that we must go to our constituencies in order to know what is happening there and come back again. If you can build it in within the session, that will form part of the Business of the House. Do you think we can do it ?

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwerre/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure hon. Members that before this Time-table was produced, it was very carefully considered. I know that this is a matter that has to do with the leisure of Members, the private interest of Members. I would like to assure hon. Members that the Time-table was very carefully considered and that all the implications contained in the Constitution were taken into consideration. The points have been very well made that when we adjourned on Thursday, we did adjourn till Monday. That was what made it difficult for us to add the Friday sittings. If we had been able to do that, we would have been able to add eleven extra days to your holidays. You can see that in the next session you have a much longer holiday period. If you have looked at that, you would see that we have in advance taken care of that situation about Fridays I do not see how else we could have made our 181 days without having a programme as tight as we now present before you. Hon. Members, I still appeal that you reconsider it and accept it as the best exercise we can produce.

Mr Speaker : Is there any further comment ?

Mr E. Ejiga (Otukpo) : My comment is very short, and that is with regard to the timing of the long holiday. We all know that this particular time is time for farming, and I am sure most of us here are not farmers. When we go home for holidays we want to be able to contact and meet with our constituents and discuss with them. At this particular time, you will find all of them in the farms. So, I am appealing to the Committee to consider fixing the long holidays to coincide with the dry season.

[MR EJIGA]

Mr A. Rotimi (Ekiti North) : With due respect to the learned brothers here I would like to speak as a layman on the interpretation of this question of holiday. Too much emphasis seems to have been placed on holidays as a matter of asking for leisures for Members. I would have thought that when we ask for more time off, it should be for us to have more time to concentrate on our Constituencies rather than having more leisure to ourselves. As a matter of fact, the question of attendance in this honourable House should be a matter of administrative interpretation rather than legal interpretation. If we go by administrative interpretation, as an individual, if I leave my house every morning to attend to my duties here, either at Committee level or on the Floor of the House, I regard myself as being present in this House. If you go by legal interpretation, then it means that my attendance at the Committee level is not relevant to my function here as a Member, and I think that will be very misleading.

So, I will draw the attention of the Chairman and the Committee of Business to look into this aspect. If we need more time it should be for the purpose of going back to our constituencies to attend to our various demands and then where necessary to report back on what we have been able to do during this Session. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr S. M. C. Ihekweazu (Nkwere/Amaigbo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Resolved : ~~That~~ the House do approve the Programme of Business of the House of Representatives, as amended for the Session 9th October, 1979 to 8th October, 1980 and the Session 9th October, 1980 to 8th October, 1981 (*Laid on the Table Tuesday, 17th June, 1980*).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr D. Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House stand adjourned and resume sitting on Monday 10 a.m. I beg to move, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Salawu Atima (Okehi-Isunwe) : I beg to second the Motion.

Scrap Daily-paid Structure in Nigeria

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to comment on is the issue of Daily-paid workers in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that it is most unfortunate that this calibre of people who put in their services, some 30 to 35 years, end up one day being sacked or retired without any benefit at all, all in the name of his having been a daily-paid worker.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in all parts of the world, Nigeria is regarded as a very rich and buoyant country. If Nigeria could afford to buy Mercedes Benz cars for OAU summit meeting which lasted for about four days, I do not see what stops Nigeria from converting all the daily-paid workers into permanent staff wherever they work. Mr Speaker, Sir, we can

understand that this is completely inhumanity to human if we allow this grade of people to perish and suffer in the way they are suffering. Imagine somebody earning precisely, as it is now fixed, ₦100 a month and he is a daily-paid worker. After suffering for about 30 to 35 years, he is paid only two months salary and thrown off his job. Mr Speaker, Sir, this grade of people, sometimes do not last more than six months or a year before they die away out of sheer poverty, because they cannot cope again with life.

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East) : Point of order; Order 26 (vi) :—

No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.

What I am saying is that the hon. Member said that the Nigerian Government bought Mercedes Benz cars for OAU. It was not the Nigerian Government that bought Mercedes Benz, it was the OAU that bought the Mercedes Benz.

Mr Ochiama : Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the complete protection you have accorded me. What I am saying is that this grade of people, as I have specifically emphasised, should be completely protected in this society. They should be made permanent wherever they work. The question of daily-paid should be completely eradicated in this country. It should be completely wiped off. Anybody who is working should be made a permanent staff wherever he works, so that in the rainy day when he must have got old, whatever he gets as his full remunerations and rewards for the services he had rendered to that particular department will take care of him till the rest of his life. Nigerians being what we are traditionally and culturally with extended families, we know that we have problems as regards taking care of our families. For somebody to retire without something reasonable to take care of himself and the entire family as many, as we used to bear them, frustrates human nature, and at the same time contributes to untimely and sudden death.

So, Mr Speaker, I am soliciting on the Floor of this House that this grade of people should be properly taken care of and made to be permanent wherever they work and the question of daily-paid workers should be brought to a stop.

With this, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I would like to take my seat.

Probe the National Orthopaedic Hospital

Mr M. O. Okun (Owan) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House in general and that of the Health Committee in particular to the recent happenings in the National Orthopaedic Hospital. In this hospital in recent times, the technicians of the radiography department have laid down their tools against what they described as the prevalent mal-administration in the hospital. The situation has so deteriorated to an extent that there is mass resignation of Doctors and Nurses. There appears, to my mind, to be a lack of direction and purposeful leadership in the Institution

with the result that incidents of assault among the various factions are now becoming a daily occurrence in the institution. I want to say that law and order has broken down in that institution. I would want to call for a commission of inquiry to ascertain the facts of the situation with a view to protecting the interest of the staff in general, and for the maintenance of the image which the hospital very much deserves.

With these few words I beg to have my seat.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. F. O. Iyayi.

Shelter for the People

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on a matter which I consider very important and which, in my opinion, cuts across political, ethnic or tribal considerations. It is about the shelter for the people, or to borrow the popular official parlance, the National Housing Programme. As hon. Members are aware, the Federal Government has promised to construct 2,000 housing units in each State during the current financial year. As a matter of fact, Mr President has already laid the foundation stone in Gongola State, no doubt in pursuance of his election promises to provide adequate shelter for the population of this country.

It seems to me, however, that the number of housing units earmarked for each State during the current financial year falls far below expectation when we consider the needs of millions of our people especially in the rural areas. In the rural areas, there are at least three-quarters of the population of this country. Of all the millions who live in the rural areas only about ten *per cent* can boast of suitable housing accommodation. The remaining 90 *per cent* live in ramshackles, ill ventilated, unhealthy, unsuitable, and without amenities. These cannot actually be regarded as houses in the real sense of the word. I am saying that they are barely ramshackles.

We are all agreed that there is need for adequate housing for our people. All the five political parties have promised in one way or the other to provide adequate housing for the people of this country. I think the only difference is the matter of priority rating and the manner in which the houses will be built.

It has been said that the Federal Government is faced with certain difficulties, particularly financial constraints, having inherited huge debts from the Military Administration. This is appreciated. Besides, we all know that our experiment with the new dispensation has been comparatively short. I think it can, therefore be appreciated that Mr President has a lot of problems on his hand providing housing amenities for the whole of this country. That being so, I am prepared to commend Mr President, although with some reluctance, for what I would call appetite-whetting gesture.

Mr Speaker, I think that having considered all these aspects, the 1979 constitutional provisions on the respective roles and functions of the different levels of government in this country is quite clear.

Housing, in my opinion, is a residual issue. It is neither in the Exclusive Legislative List nor on the Concurrent Legislative List. Therefore, my suggestion is that the provision in the approved Estimate (that is, the Estimates already approved by this House), one fifty million naira should be passed over to the States in the form of grants. Also, the sum of ninety million naira provided under the National Housing Scheme under the aegis of the Federal Housing Authority should be used to provide Housing and other infra-structural requirements for the Universities. This amount, no doubt, will provide some measure of relief to the Universities which we all know at the moment suffer from acute shortage of accommodation not only for the staff and students but also for their academic functions.

Of course, the Federal Government can constitutionally, in my opinion, handle its office buildings, research laboratories and staff quarters anywhere in the Federation since these are incidental or supplementary to its functions as is enshrined in paragraph 67, Part 1, of the Second Schedule to our 1979 Constitution.

Now, as regards the mechanics of implementing the national housing programme, I further suggest that contracts for the jobs should be awarded by the appropriate State Tender Boards on which the Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment should be represented. Besides, the allocation of the housing units among the Local Governments in the States and within each Local Government area should be cleared with the Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment as a preliminary to the award of contracts. This procedure is recommended for three reasons, namely ;

- (1) to ensure equitable distribution of the housing units ;
- (2) to obviate discrimination on the grounds of political, ethnic or linguistic association ; and
- (3) to keep the Federal Government (which provides the money) fully in the picture about the implementation of the national housing programme.

In this connexion, I also suggest that a National Housing Advisory Committee be set up without delay. The duties of peace, stability and progress of this country and its teeming population demands that we should respect each others' rights and obligations under our Constitution and recoil from the path of avoidable confrontation and unnecessary show of strength which, in the final analysis, are tantamount to an ill-wind that blows no one any good.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Hon. M. A. Olukoya.

A Breach of Parliamentary Privilege

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu Ode) : Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I rise to comment on the campaign of calumny being circulated by the so-called Patriotic Members of the House of Representatives. Members of the House should not hide under the cloak of privilege to

[MR OLUKOYA]

attack the character of fellow Members by malicious publications. The freedom of speech which Members of the House enjoy is not covered by Members publishing malicious and libelous statements either of the Chair or of any Member of the House. We received some publications yesterday and there was a caption in the newspaper today that Mr Speaker will be censured.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that some of the Members do not really understand what they are doing. This type of campaign—

Some hon. Members : Sit down !

Some hon. Members : Fire ! Fire !

Mr Olukoya : If any Member has anything against the Chair, the House of Representatives is open to launch the attack. It will be out of decorum for any Member to publish malicious statements about the Chair. (*Applause*) The Speaker, in his capacity as the Presiding officer, has the right to conduct the affairs of the House. Mr Speaker, Sir, if any Member of the House is aggrieved, in a civilized democracy, there could be a redress through back door complaints or by a Motion on the Floor of the House.

It is my view that the action of the so-called eight patriotic Members of this House is a breach of privilege. I call on this House to set up a Committee to look into the matter.

I would support my authority by citing a case in Abidan in 1795 where Lord Abidan accused his Attorney of improper professional conduct in a speech in a House and later published that speech in a newspaper. It was said then that it was a breach of privilege and, as a result, he was found guilty of breach of privilege. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would refer to certain section of the said publication, and I quote :

So, your reckless behaviour in an attempt to protect certain interest against the interest of the whole nation must be deplored, and that your responsibility to any outside interest, however materially influenced.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the whole of paragraph 4 of this particular publication is disgraceful and against the dignity of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, this House of Representatives is not a forum for vengeance, emanating from party caucus or lust for office. We are here to find ways and means of helping the populace and not for personal interest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, finally, in a Parliamentary system, the system of guillotine is not strange. It is my contention that there is nothing unconstitutional in the habit of Mr Speaker because at the moment we are operating between the Parliamentary and the Presidential system of rules. The only solution which this House requires is that we should set out a rule for the House of Representatives rather than applying medicine after death. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Yes, thank you very much.

Make Geological Survey Reports Available

Mr J. Opakanmi (Iwo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on geological surveys in Nigeria. I am aware that the Federal Government is spending a lot of money on geological surveys in Nigeria, but no report has been given to the public. At one time a team visited my area at Iwo, but up till now there is no report. They have been worrying us to know the fate of this visit to Iwo but there is still no report.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think, before the oil dries up, we should know the various revenue resources of Nigeria, otherwise we will not be able to know where there are mineral resources in Nigeria. All the hon. Members of this House should be able to know whether there are minerals in their areas so that they can know when those minerals can be tapped.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am now calling on the Minister for Mines and Power as well as the Committee on Mines and Power to see that they give us the reports of all the various geological surveys in the country so that we can know how they affect our areas or Constituencies.

Face-lift and Upgrading of Existing Postal Agencies

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday I read in the papers that the Federal Government will soon establish over 8,000 postal agencies in the country. Now, there was nothing said about the existing ones. I think the existing ones should also be given a face-lift, and wherever possible some of them can be upgraded to sub-post offices and provided with telephone facilities. I think the existing ones deserve attention as well. Mr Speaker, thank you Sir.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Yes, hon. S. A. Adekunle.

Apply Force of Action to Motions on Adjournment

Mr S. A. Adekunle (Iseyin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the debate on Motion for Adjournment, I crave your indulgence to make this observation. If our debate on Motions for Adjournment will have any real meaning and not just for mere formalities, I would want us to devise a means whereby these Motions will have a force of action. Hon. Members would agree, as I have observed, that there are many Motions moved and passed in this honourable and respected House and nothing happened to them. However, I pray Mr Speaker will take note of this my observation.

Our Roads and Our Contractors

My main contribution to this debate on Motion for Adjournment is on our roads and our contractors. Of a fact, many Members have made speeches on this important issue as it affects the nation and their Constituencies in general. On this same note I want to make my contribution. I want to recall an announcement by the Federal Government which appeared in the *Daily Times* of November 20th, 1979, on the award of contracts to our indigenous contractors to rehabilitate some roads in the Federation.

[MR ADEKUNLE]

I have no doubt that this announcement will make the people in the areas concerned very happy. But one shudders at the way our contractors are handling the work. In spite of the huge money that is involved and the time limits which is part of the contract agreement, I would wonder if any of these contractors would finish the work in a record time. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is pertinent here to say that these contractors should be made to be aware that the old order had changed. By this, I mean that the time is gone when contract money was diverted or contracts were not executed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, please permit me to give a case in view. This is Oyo-Iseyin road. The road contract was awarded to one Inaolaji Building Contractors. Well, ever before this road was considered to be rehabilitated by the Federal Government, one who is familiar with this road will be very sorry and sympathetic with the people of this area, not even to talk of other roads further Oyo North which are worse. But what happened? Those contractors have made the condition of this road worse and even more dangerous to motorists. There had been many fatal accidents on this road owing to the poor work of those contractors.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that it is unfortunate that the only benefit which the people of this area would have enjoyed from the government is this 36-kilometre road but the contract for its construction has been awarded to a building contractor who I think had, perhaps, never tried his hands on road work.

So, Mr Speaker, I would want to call on the Federal Ministry of Works to be alive to their responsibility. They should go on this road and oversee it so that they can rescue the people of this area from further accidents and from further loss of lives on this road. Thank you.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House stands adjourned until Monday 10 o'clock.

The house adjourned accordingly at 10.38 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 23rd June, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the meeting of the Party Leaders fixed for today at the end of the sitting has been shifted to tomorrow because the various reports are not ready. So, the meeting will be held tomorrow.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of last Friday and I confirm that they are in order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Special Investigation Panel

Approval of the Report of the Special Investigation Panel into the Activities of the House Committee between 19th October, 1979 and 14th May, 1980.

Mr Speaker : We shall now hear the Report of the Special Investigation Panel to be presented by the Chairman, Mr E. A. Ekpo. We will now argue your report, come and move that your Report be approved by us.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr E. A. Ekpo (Uyo III) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am the Chairman of the Panel of Investigation into the Activities of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives. I rise to move that the House do approve the Report of the Special Investigation Panel into the Activities of the House Committee between the 19th of October, 1979 and 14th of May, 1980.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Okon A. Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Ekpo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Special Investigation Panel derived its authority from the House Resolution of 14th May, 1980, pursuant to section 58 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. House Resolution :

That in view of the recent happenings and allegations made against the House Committee, the Committee should stand suspended forthwith and that this House do set up an investigation panel of five Members to investigate the activities of the House Committee starting from 19th October, 1979 when the Committee was set up until today 14th May, 1980

and to report back to the House with recommendations within two weeks of the setting up of the Investigation Panel.

Membership

Rep. E. A. Ekpo	.. ..	(Chairman)
Rep. M. A. Olukoya	.. ..	(Member)
Rep. A. B. Idokula	.. ..	(Member)
Rep. M. A. Yelwa	.. ..	(Member)
Rep. A. Y. Bichi	.. ..	(Member)

Inaugural Meeting (*Interruptions*).

All right, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, as you may have seen in the report, the Panel was a fact-finding one. We were only to establish the truth or the falsity of the allegations brought up against the House Committee.

Mr Speaker : Mr Chairman, just give us the high-lights of your findings so that we debate them. Leave it for us to debate it.

Mr Ekpo : Mr Speaker, Sir, your Investigation Panel is a fact-finding one and shall not involve itself in witch-hunting in order to find avenue to destroy the reputation of any member, but shall base its views and recommendations on evidence which are supported by concrete facts which are uncontroversial. We are, therefore, not concerned with flimsy allegations against any individuals based on pettiness and hatred.

From the evidence adduced before the panel, we found as a fact that although the Nigerian Breweries Limited had been supplying beer and maltina to Nation-wide Organisation since November, 1979 for use at the National Assembly Flats, Restaurants and Bar, there is no shred of evidence adduced before the panel, direct or circumstantial, as to give rise to the allegations that either the Chairman of the suspended House Committee, hon. Adigwe or his House Committee collectively or individually had received supplies of beer from Nigerian Breweries for their own personal use or for sale as to lend support to the allegations that Members of the House Committee had become beer distributors and are making profits at the expense of the Members of the House of Representatives.

We also found, as a fact, that the Chairman of the suspended House Committee constituted himself and the Secretary as the House Committee and held series of meetings with external bodies and took important decisions without receiving mandates or ratifications from the Committee. These series of actions lend support to the view that the Chairman ran the Committee as a private estate.

We found that on the 30th October, 1979 there was a meeting with Mr Allen the General Manager of Nation-wide at which he requested Mr Allen to enumerate the problems which hindered his efforts to make members comfortable. It will therefore be incorrect for the Secretary of the Committee, Mr B. N. Ogbah, to state before us that he did not know Mr Allen when in fact, he was the Secretary at that meeting. It is also wrong for hon. Adigwe to assert, as he did, that he did not know that there was any previous arrangement between the Nation-wide Organisation and National Assembly.

That hon. Adigwe made himself the errand boy of the Committee without their prior consent by embarking on negotiation with West African Breweries to supply 1,000 cartons of Top beer for the benefit of members at the Victoria Island Complex.

That the visit of Mr Adigwe on the 28th April, 1980 to Mr Ohiwerei, the Director-Marketing Manager of Nigerian Brewery which precipitated the well written defensive and explanatory letter of the 29-4-80, to Mr Adigwe was very untimely, suspicious and cast doubts in the minds of members as to the rationale behind the visit and the letter.

That Members of the Committee had failed in their duties for not alerting the House that all was not well with the Committee.

That neither the Estate Manager, the Housing Manager nor the House Committee and its Chairman could give accurate account of the unallocated flats at the Victoria Island Complex. The rest of unallocated flats were made free for all thereby allowing squatters to occupy some of them illegally.

That at the meeting of the 30th April the Committee agreed on the number of cartons of beer to be allocated to Members if and when supplies were commenced. The Committee agreed amongst other things that 2 cartons would go to each member. But when the supply of 1,000 cartons of Top beer was received the Chairman of the suspended House Committee allocated 20 cartons to one hon. Member and one carton to another. He also gave keys of two flats at the Complex to an hon. Member without the authority of the Committee. We regard this action as undemocratic.

We have also made recommendations.

The Investigation Panel therefore recommends :

(i) That the dissension between the Chairman on the one hand, and the other members on the other, is so deep that they can no longer work together in the best interest of the House, and therefore the House Committee should be dissolved, a new House Committee set up under a new Chairman who will be more democratic in his outlook.

(ii) That if and when beer is to be supplied to members for use in their flats, the contractor who will be in charge of the supermarket will be responsible for the issue of beer to hon. Members on a price to be fixed by the House Committee. That such supplies should be distinct from those that the contractor may receive for the running of the restaurant and bar.

(iii) That the remaining stock of Top beer be sold forthwith to enable West African Breweries to get its money and that further supplies be suspended until the new House Committee decide otherwise.

(iv) That if the Nation-wide Organisation is to continue with its services at the hon. Members. Quarters, it should operate under the strick terms and conditions of the New House Committee.

(v) That the new Committee should look into the yet unfurnished flats, and ensure that hon. Members not yet provided with T.V. sets are so provided.

(vi) That it is the duty of the House Committee to cater for the welfare and comfort of the hon. Members and not that of the Committee on Commerce as it is believed in some quarters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these were our findings and recommendations. We, unfortunately, could not meet the dead line as provided in the Resolution owing to certain circumstances beyond our control. We had various administrative problems, headache, and so on and so forth. For these reasons, it was difficult for us to complete the investigation at the time or date fixed. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, we hereby, on behalf of the Committee appeal to you to view the report as coming from the mode in partial panel and you should therefore approve it.

Mr Damisa Jimoh (Okehi-Adavbi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to thank the Committee and Members for helping us at least to assemble the materials involved in the work of the House Committee but at the same time there are some salient questions one would have loved to ask after going through the report of the House Committee. Such questions are : what happened to the contract awarded to the Nation-wide ? Was it by the House Committee or by a staff of the National Assembly ? This question was left unanswered in the report. Secondly, when they started receiving some supplies from the Breweries, some quantity of the beer was meant for allocation to Members to pay back to the Company and some were meant for commercial purposes, what happened to these allocations ? The Committee was unable to give us adequate answer here too. We are told that the House Committee Chairman and the Secretary ran the Committee single handedly. I do not think we have to thank Mr Otegbeye who brought this matter to the House for us to know before we resolved to get the Committee and to investigate the issue. One thing I would like to note is that the Press and the public have cried out so much about Members asking for things that we do not even have knowledge about and we have got enough black paints. We do not want any further black paint on Members.

I would therefore suggest Mr Speaker, Sir, that since the Nation-wide Company, distributor or whatever it is called, has failed us, we need a very good bar and restaurant there. Let us get somebody who would be able to handle it. Members do not need special concession for any beer, let us have a place where we can buy things for our strangers and if you drink one you take care of yourself. Enough of the painting and enough of this problem. Let us get somebody who would run the bar for us probably at a cheap price or whatever he decides. Any Member can go there and buy and any Member who does not like can leave the place. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to thank the Committee for the fact finding, and at the same time, I would suggest that we accept their recommendations on the House Committee, we dissolve it and set up a new one. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members firstly I would like to congratulate this Special Panel which was set up to investigate the allegation involving the House Committee. I would like to congratulate them in the sense that they have really done a good job—good job in the sense that they have actually kept to the time given to them to produce this Report for the information of the House.

Now, I would like to comment on this Report, by saying that the Nation-wide Company has really taken this honourable House which is made up of representatives from the whole country for a ride, in as much as they have succeeded in taking the Committee that was charged with the responsibility of taking care of the welfare of this House for a ride. How has that Nation-wide really taken the Committee and finally this House for a ride?

Going through the Report, in September the Nation-wide Company was contacted, and was called upon by the Clerk of the National Assembly to take on the welfare of this House at the Badagry flats. I discovered that when the House Committee was set up under the able Chairmanship of hon. Adigwe, that Committee sort of shirked its own responsibility by not finding out from the Clerk of the National Assembly the terms and conditions under which the Nation-wide Company was assigned the responsibility of looking after the welfare of the hon. Members at Badagry. I feel that was an intentional act on the part of the Committee by failing to find out the details, the contractual agreement that bound the Nation-wide Company and this honourable House. I feel that was a terrible omission on the part of the House Committee.

Now, if you go through the Report, you will discover that the Committee did not, in fact, find out these details from the Clerk of the National Assembly, and I feel that the way they answered the questions of the Panel has sort of given me the impression that they were just trying to gloss over the matter. There is much more to it than meets the ordinary eye. The report has given us details about the quantity of beer that was collected from the various Breweries, and the sum total of the number of cartons is 11,040 just for the period from October up to the time that this House Committee was suspended. If you go through the Report, hon. Members, you will discover that a carton is collected from the Breweries at a cost of ₦6.80, that is, 80k for deposit on empties, that means the liquid contents of a carton is ₦6 and that broken down to the value of a bottle is exactly 50k per bottle.

If I am right, we have been told that the Nation-wide Company was instructed to sell out a bottle to Members at the rate of 90k per bottle, that means a gain of 40k per bottle on each Member. Because 50k which is the cost price and 90k the selling price, I consider this gain rather too exorbitant on the part of the Nation-wide. You see, the Nation-wide was given this assignment to make sure that it caters for the welfare of Members, but I cannot see how a company which was charged with the responsibility of

looking after the welfare of the Members making a gain of 40k per bottle. In fact, on the average, it is discovered that every month the Nation-wide was receiving from the Breweries a total of 1,577 cartons of beer per month.

Mr Speaker : Please, round up.

Mr Okoi : Yes, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you multiply that 1,577 by the gain which is about ₦4 on the average, in fact, a total profit of almost ₦60,000 has been made by this company for the six months, and I think this is too exorbitant a profit to be made on Members like that.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am making the following submissions. One, it appears there is a move to allow the Nation-wide Company to come in and continue taking care of the hon. Members at the Victoria Island, I do not subscribe to this. I am recommending that the Nation-wide Company should not be allowed to have access as far as the welfare of hon. Members at Victoria Island is concerned. In fact, that company should be blacklisted.

Secondly, I support the idea of the House Committee being dissolved.

Mr Speaker : Time, is time. Hon. Agi.

Mr D. O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, an hon. Member has just pointed out that the findings and recommendations of this Special Committee as contained in their Report is not really in depth, is not adequate and in fact, it paints a picture that falls far short of what one can possibly get out of the scandals that led to the setting up of this Committee. I think the Committee has deliberately refused to bite even where there was substance for doing so. When finally it came up with a Report that the activities of the Chairman of the dissolved Committee had become very unbecoming in certain regard, but it refused to say or recommend what the House should do in a circumstance of that sort. The Committee was empowered to look into the matter and to make recommendations. A situation where this Special Committee comes to tell the House that the activities of the dissolved Committee chairman was unbecoming, is not a recommendation. If he has done this and you know that under normal circumstances it was wrong, then you should recommend to the House what should be done in a case like that so as to prevent other Committee Chairmen falling into this type of trap. (Applause)

For instance, it went on to say arrangement for supply of beer and other commodities and the suspension of this arrangement was never brought to the notice of either the Committee or the House but it stopped at that.

I would think that a Committee that is serious with its job would say, *Well, this type of action is rather dictatorial and unbecoming of a Committee Chairman* and to recommend to the House what should be done to this particular Chairman. I would say at this point that because of this type of dictatorial behaviour and taking decisions without due consultation with the Committee, over which this man has

been placed as Chairman, let alone trying to get the House on the know of what is happening and what is delaying the entire House from getting these privileges that accrued to us by virtue of our position, I would recommend that this House, as from today, prevails on the Chairman of the dissolved Committee that he be rendered incapable of holding any position of Chairmanship of the Committees of this House for the next four years or for the duration of this House. (*Applause*)

Some of you are scared by this recommendation because you feel when somebody behaves in this way, he should be allowed to go scot-free, but some of us are not prepared to condone this in this House. He should be given an appropriate punishment that matches what he has done so that it would serve as an example to other Committee Chairmen. There are situations where Committee Chairmen have taken the rest of the House or even their Committees to ransom. It is the Committees and the Houses that are the supreme authority. It is on the mandate of the House and the Committee that any Chairman can act, and not the Chairman acting before he comes to pull the House to rubber-stamp the action. So, I strongly recommend that this ex-chairman be rendered incapable of becoming Chairman of any Committee of the House for the next four years. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr E. N. Nweke (Nkanu) : Mr Speaker, Sir Fellow Members, I stand to comment on these findings about the House Committee. My first point, which all of us might have known by now, is that the House Committee fell into the hands of this company, Nation-wide. Nation-wide is a well-established organisation that is ready to trick any Committee such as the House Committee. The Nation-wide has gone too far wide by playing this honourable House to such a Ashame. If the House had not been a well-organised House we could have found ourselves in such a position that the whole world will come to ridicule us. all these are the handwork of Nation-wide.

I am, therefore, recommending that Nation-wide should not be allowed to do further business in this country. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, this very House will, under no circumstances, allow this very company to cater for us any more in our new accommodation, because there has been so much crookery that we can look for other companies to cater for anything that is meant for us. They have not been good to us whatsoever and no second chance should at least be given to them.

On the findings of the Committee, we should be very careful to make sure that in the next House Committee that would be appointed, that none of the Members of the old Committee should ever work there at all because they have no confidence whatsoever in themselves. This Committee has taken its work so lightly, without knowing really the need of its job. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am saying that the new Committee should be made up of men of proven ability to cater for us. Thank you, Sir.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the debate on the report of the Special Panel on the House Committee. I would like to say that the Special Panel failed to lay the blame where it ought to be. It is my submission, Sir, that all the Members of that suspended House Committee, without exception, bear the blame for the mal-functioning of the Committee. With due respect, it is not the sole responsibility of the Chairman of the Committee. All Members of the Committee have a right to summon a meeting of the Committee at any time. Hon. Members, may I have your ears. If the Chairman of the Committee fails to perform his function in accordance with the rules and regulations of this House, Members of the Committee have a right to bring a Motion either to remove him or to report to the Speaker of this honourable House. There is no evidence whatsoever that any Member of the Committee, at any given moment, tried to approach the Chairman of that Committee or to report him to the Speaker, or to bring it before the Floor of this House either on a Motion for Adjournment or as a preliminary matter to complain against the actions of the Chairman of the Committee.

It is my submission that there were too many issues that gave rise to the investigation. One was the allegation that Members of the Committee were receiving and selling beer ; we have to be relevant ; there were two allegations ; the first one was that Members of the Committee received and sold beer. The second allegation was, of course, in connection with the allocation of the flats in Victoria Island. But the most important one is the one relating to the receipt and sale of beer.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Committee at page 15, paragraph 59, found the Chairman and the Members of the Committee absolutely free, that was the finding of the Committee. Let us read page 15, paragraph 59.

It is our candid view that based on the evidence adduced before the panel we found as a fact that, although the Nigerian Breweries Limited had been supplying Beer and Maltina to Nation-wide organisation since November 1979 for use at the National Assembly Flats, Restaurant and Bar, there is no shred of evidence adduced before the panel, direct or circumstantial, to give rise to the allegations that either the Chairman of the suspended House Committee, hon. Adigwe, or his House Committee, collectively or individually, had received supplies of Beer from the Nigerian Breweries for their personal use.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as this honourable House is concerned, if we are going to accept the report of this Committee, we must accept that the first accusation against the House Committee and the Chairman is absolutely unfounded and it should be dismissed forthwith.

Mr A. N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the report of the investigation Committee in respect of the allegations. Just like my hon. Friend George Uwechue has just mentioned—

Mr Speaker : I hope you are not a Member of the Panel.

Mr Njoku : I am not, Sir. I think the issue for which the inquiry was set up was to prove or disprove that this Committee ever received a bottle of beer in the interest of this National Assembly, and from the report on page 5, it is very clear that all the beer received by Nation-wide was on the strength of a letter already issued to them by the Clerk of the Senate, and this was meant for the use of Nation-wide as an organisation and not for Members of the National Assembly as such. Secondly, it must be noted that page 3 of the report, paragraph 6, said that no Member came forward to give evidence in support or against these allegations. But I do remember that at the time this thing was mentioned, there were a lot of rumours among Members and a lot of tales were told, and I wonder why those who had the facts could not come forward to this Committee to give such evidence where it was material and necessary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the strength of this, I wonder why some of us will stand up here to condemn the activities of the Chairman and his Committee. I think, on this score, we did not seem to have performed our duties if we knew the facts.

On the recommendations of the Committee, Sir, I would like to say that the accusation against the Chairman of running the Committee as an individual is one of those faults of our Committee system here. Sometimes, Members jump into these Committees hoping that it was going to be all gold and silver. When they found it was all nothing they shrank from their duties. I wonder if the Chairman could have sat quiet when the Committee Members could not meet. I rather would congratulate the Chairman for taking some initiative in arranging on behalf of Members, because if the Chairman had failed like other Members of the Committee failed, nothing practically could have been done by that Committee. We too could have turned round to accuse them of being indolent. But when the Chairman saw that his Members of the Committee were not effective, he undertook on himself to arrange for certain things. What happened at a point? It was the Chairman who gave instruction that this thing should stop, because he wanted to make sure that what he was arranging for got on very well.

So, Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the special Investigation Panel for having done a thorough job at least being able to prove that at no time did the Committee receive a single carton of beer either for themselves or for the Members of this House.

Mr M. J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to comment on the report of the Special Investigation Panel into the Activities of the House Committee. May I take this chance, in the first instance to congratulate the Special Committee for what I will describe as a job well done.

Be that as it may, there are certain issues in the findings of the Committee that are inconclusive. May I refer the House to page 17, paragraph 66.

It seems to strike me as funny that the Committee after finding that the Chairman of the House Committee, on his own, allocated twenty cartons of beer to one hon. Member whose name has not been mentioned, and one carton to another Member whose name has not also been mentioned, did not go further to tell this House what action has been contemplated as regards the twenty cartons of beer and one carton that have been given unilaterally to only a Member of the House Committee. Mr Speaker, I consider this not as the Committee put it as undemocratic but felonious, I beg to say.

I am, therefore, suggesting that this House should call upon that particular Member of the Committee to whom twenty cartons of beer were allocated to return the twenty cartons of beer forthwith to the pool. The one who was allocated one carton of beer, should similarly be called upon to return the one carton of beer forthwith to the pool. I further support the recommendation of the Committee that the whole House Committee should be dissolved with immediate effect by a resolution of this House. In fact, I am so surprised that the report has failed to condemn the Chairman of the House Committee, to condemn him wholly for arrogating to himself the functions of the entire House Committee. He was only the Chairman and he was not assigned to parade himself around the whole place looking for beer from the Breweries or what have you.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Akpabio : Mr Speaker, Sir, I further ask that the new House Committee should be warned not to behave the way the outgoing Committee has behaved.

Alhaji Sidi H. Ali (Dambatta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I find the recommendations of this Panel much more short of what I would have expected them to bring out. From my fellow Members who have been discussing this issue, we seem to have ignored a very vital point and that is page 6, concerning Mr R. I. Amaefule who admitted having introduced the Nation-wide with a letter signed by him. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a civil servant, the Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, taking upon himself the duty on behalf of this honourable House and did not even feel that it is important to brief the Members of what has taken place. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this with a heavy heart because only on Sunday, yesterday, we read a report by a Nigerian High Commissioner in London against distinguished Senators in which they were called names. We are not a branch of the Executive. No Ministry has power on the National Assembly. We are completely independent of them. If there is any report from the High Commissioner it should have gone to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives and not to a different Department finding itself in the National Newspaper and disgracing our honour.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order. What happened in London about Senators does not form a part of this report.

Alhaji Sidi Ali : Mr Speaker, I have taken note, but what I am saying, is that we must do everything possible to protect the honour of

the National Assembly and make ourselves respected by our actions. We should not take it from a sentimental point of view or of political attachment to protect anybody we feel has done something wrong that will bring us into disrepute. I believe that the Committee Members of this House should not be blamed because at least it is on record that they had protested. One of the Committee Members, hon. Otegbeye has got up several times on the Floor of this House to protest about the high-handedness of the Chairman of the Committee but it was ignored. Therefore, today nobody should come here and say that all the Committee Members should be blamed. In this case, I believe that the Chairman of this Committee has erred. The least thing we could do to him is to remove him from the Chairmanship and probably appoint a new Chairman but some of the Committee Members should remain. Mr Speaker, with this I come to an end.

Mr Mohammed Shu'aibu Kaugama (Aliyo/Kaugama) : Mr Speaker, Sir,—

Mr Mohammed Lawal Na-Rogo (Karaye) : Point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order is a constitutional one. It is Section 52, subsection 3 (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979. Mr Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I beg to read :

A member of the House shall declare any direct pecuniary interest he may have in any matter coming before the House for deliberation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge and to the best of my ability, my hon. Colleague is a Member of the suspended House Committee.

Mr Isaac Ayodeji Olaleru (Oyun) : Mr Speaker Sir, my few observation on this Report is especially Section 66 of the Report, page 17. I have three things to note on this section. The first one is that after a thousand cartons of beer had been submitted to the House Committee, twenty cartons of those thousand cartons of beer went to an hon. Member of this House. I want to note, Mr Speaker, that the name of that hon. Member is conspicuously missing from this report.

Secondly, one carton of beer also went to another hon. Member. This is another serious omission in this Report, because the name of that hon. Member is not mentioned. Keys to two flats were also supplied to hon. Members. The names of the hon. Members who got the keys to these various flats were not mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these extra flats were in addition to their various flats that have been allocated specifically to them by the National Assembly. What are these hon. Members using these extra flats for? Are they for their guests? Are they for their extra wives, or for their girlfriends? Whoever got these flats should be mentioned in this Report.

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! Do not use that language. It is not parliamentary.

Mr Ayodeji Olaleru : Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw that language. Finally, Mr Speaker, I think the dissolution of the House Committee in the recommendation of the Panel is a very welcome relief to those of us who think that the Committee

has not done a fine job. So, I strongly support that this Committee be dissolved forthwith. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Ononokpono.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to say that I am not really satisfied with the contents of this report. The Members of the Panel seem to have been beating on the periphery without puncturing the actual depth of the incident.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we believe, from the report and by the strength and status of this Assembly, that Nation-wide would not have been supplied with the one, two, three thousand cartons of beer without the letter written by a staff of the National Assembly. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I strongly believe that the thousand cartons of beer supplied were meant for the service of Members of the National Assembly. Then, the question to be asked is, how many people in the National Assembly benefited from the low cost of the supply made by the Breweries?

Mr Speaker, Sir, if there is somebody or there are people representing the interest of the National Assembly, who are to work in Committees as others work in Committees and were not able to bring the benefit of these low cost supply of beer to Members of the National Assembly, then, they have offended us. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying that from the reports given of the number of cartons of beer supplied and the fact that the Chairman of that Committee did not make available the cartons of beer to the Members and some of us had to look round to buy empty cartons from outside to get beer, the Chairman of that Committee should be seriously reprimanded by this National Assembly to prove to the public that we are not what the Press think we are.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the third point I would like to raise is that we have got the flats in the National Assembly quarters, are all the occupants of these flats Members of the National Assembly?

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono : The Press cried out that Members of the National Assembly had deprived civil servants of the occupation of the flats. Now, we can see and observe that not all the occupants of the flats are Members of the National Assembly. The Committee should report this to us, and tell us the occupants of the National Assembly quarters, who are not members and how they were able to occupy the flats without the authority or clearance of the Committee of this Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not taking a long time, I would briefly say that this Report has been on the surface. The Chairman of the House Committee of this Assembly has not been able to convince us that he did not have some foul deal with the Nationwide Company. This is my conclusion, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we will consider the Report on two points. One is that we will vote on the findings first, then, we will vote on the recom-

[MR SPEAKER]

mendations. I know it might be an oversight on the part of the Panel, but I would have thought that they should have included in their findings that in no time did Members ever have any Disco in their flats, and that in no time did we ever dance any Disco. I would like it to go on record too that we never had that sort of rubbish in Victoria Island. I know it is an oversight, so it should be included in the Report that we never had any Disco or anything of the sort.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members having listened to the contributions of Members I think it is time to put the Question that this House do accept the findings of the Special Investigation Panel on the House Committee as amended by Mr Speaker. I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members please take your seats. We are going to vote on the recommendations. But I will make a very small suggestion in respect of paragraph 3 which says—

That the remaining stock of Top Beer be sold forthwith to enable West African Breweries to get its money and that further supplies be suspended until the new House Committee decides otherwise.

I think the money of this company has been tied down for quite a long time because of the activities of our House Committee. You may wish to authorise the Special Investigation Panel to sell the beer to those Members who may want them so that this company could be paid. *(Interruptions)*

All right let us finish with the recommendations, then we shall come to that later. Yes, Mr Afolabi, move the next one. Hon. Members please we shall take the recommendations one by one.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, may I move that the recommendations in respect of paragraph 67 (1)—

That the dissension between the Chairman on the one hand and the other members on the other is so deep that they can no longer work together in the best interest of the House and therefore the House Committee should be dissolved, a new House Committee set up under a new Chairman who will be more democratic in his outlook.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be put in respect of paragraph 67 (2) which reads as follows :

That if and when beer is to be supplied to members for use in their flats, the contractor who will be in charge of the supermarket will be responsible for the issue of beer to hon. Members on a price to be fixed by the House Committee. That such supplies should be distinct from those that the contractor may receive for the running of the restaurant and bar.

I accordingly move.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the next one.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, may I move that the Question be put in respect of 67 (3) :

That the remaining stock of Top Beer be sold forthwith to Members to enable West African Breweries to get its money and that further supplies be suspended until the new House Committee decides otherwise.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Finally, Mr Speaker, may I move with respect, in respect of item 4 :

That if the Nation-wide Organisation is to continue with its services at the hon. Members' quarters, it should operate under the strict terms and conditions of the new House Committee.

I accordingly move that the Question be now put.

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : There is an Amendment.

Mr Speaker : There is an Amendment here.

Mr F. O. Iyayi : Mr Speaker, I suggest that item 4 should be re-worded as follows :

That if any contractor is to provide services at the hon. Members' quarters, it should operate under the strict terms and conditions of the new House Committee, subject however to such a contractor being appointed on a competitive basis.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I want to add this Amendment :

That in view of the fact that we have been deceived and controlled unnecessarily by Nation-wide Company, the Company should be excluded from the list of contractors to come into this issue.

Mr Speaker : Please, write your Amendments. Let us vote on these two Amendments. Mr Iyayi and Mr Bob-Manuel, please bring your Amendments. *(Interruptions)*

Order ! Order ! There is a reconciliation now. Hon. Members, there is a merger of the two Amendments because the Amendment by hon. Mr Bob-Manuel has been taken care of in hon. Mr Iyayi's Amendment. So, the Amendment reads as follows.

That the recommendation in paragraph 4 should read as follows :

That if any contractor is to provide services at the hon. Members, quarters, it should operate under the strict terms and conditions of the new House Committee, subject however, to such a contractor being appointed on a competitive basis and provided further that under no circumstances should Nation-wide be considered. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : I raise a constitutional point of order, Section 16 of the Constitution : *Economic Objectives*. With your

permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to read : *That the State shall, within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this Constitution—*

(a) *control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity ;*

(b) *without prejudice to its right to operate or participate in areas of the economy other than the major sectors of the economy, manage and operate the major sectors of the economy ;*

So, we are prejudicing a Nigerian from operating in a section of the economy.

Mr Speaker : It does not apply. Hon. Members, let us take the recommendation as amended. The recommendation now reads as follows. The Question is that—*If any contractor is to provide services at the hon. Members' quarters, he should operate under the strict terms and conditions of the new House Committee, subject however to such a Contractor being appointed on a competitive basis and provided further that under no circumstances should Nation-wide be considered.*

Question put and agreed to.

Mr O. Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move in respect of item 5,

That the new Committee should look into the yet unfurnished flats and ensure that hon. Members not yet provided with T.V. sets are given.

I accordingly move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr O. Afolabi : Finally, in respect of item 6 :

That it is the duty of the House Committee to cater for the welfare and comfort of the hon. Members and not that of the Committee on Commerce as it is believed in some quarters.

Mr Speaker, I respectfully move that the question be put.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Chief Frank Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of Order is Order 16 (2). I want to explain that a report cannot say *as believed in certain quarters*. Which quarters believe that the Committee on Commerce was interested in controlling or running the Members' canteen? We would like to know. So the report should be re-worded to absolve the Committee on Commerce.

Mr Speaker : I think there is no point mentioning the Committee on Commerce. We will simply say that it is the duty of the House Committee to cater for the welfare and comfort of hon. Members. That is all.

Question as amended put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr O. Afolabi : I move that the House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr A. B. Yahaya (Ilorin East) : I beg to second the Motion.

Save Tolbert's Son

Mr J. U. Uyeh (Vandeikya East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to a cartoon on the issue of *Herald* of Friday, 20th June, 1980. The cartoon reads *Father killed, his property seized, and son under arrest*. I want to call upon the President of this country to use his good offices to prevail on the Leader of the Government in Liberia to protect the son of the late President Tolbert of Liberia and I also want to seize the opportunity of this House to call on the President of this country, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, to also use his good offices to ensure that the Embassy of any country should be regarded as that country's sovereignty and nobody should trespass by entering into any Embassy, be you a government, be you an individual to go and arrest people who are taking shelter in any of the Embassies.

This can happen to any country and it can happen to any group of people. What happened in Liberia, as depicted in this cartoon, was that Mr Tolbert, the President of Liberia was murdered in a bloody coup. His son was looking for shelter and found himself in the Embassy of France. For some time, this young man was staying there. The report reached the authorities that he, and the house was entered by force by that authority, and the young man was arrested. I am appealing to the President to use his good offices to see that the young man is released unmolested. I also want to seize this opportunity as I said earlier on to request that the President should use his good offices to see that the Embassy of any country is regarded as the sovereignty of that country and should not be trespassed by any country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deplorable Conditions of our Cities

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to talk briefly on a matter of very crucial importance to all of us in Nigeria, and that is the conditions of our cities generally. When we look at our cities in Nigeria, whether we talk of the capital city of Lagos or we talk of Ibadan or Enugu or Port Harcourt or Kano, you will find that the conditions in all these cities are generally deplorable.

This is because there has been no planning, no execution of any plan, so to say, and you will find that expansion still continues day in day out. If you look at Lagos, expansion continues there, if you look at Ibadan, expansion continues there, if you look at Kano, expansion also continues there.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : My point of order is Order 8. There is no quorum in the House.

Mr Speaker : We are already on our way, we are closing. Allow him to finish so that we can close.

Mr Adesina : As a result of this generally deplorable conditions, you find that several times our cities are visited by various natural and human disasters.

[MR ADESINA] For example, anytime there is rain in Nigeria, the whole place would be water logged. Because of the slum conditions of most of these areas, you will find our cities prone to natural disasters like fire, drought, diseases like cholera and so on. I think we have come to a situation where something has to be done about it.

I want to strike a note of warning that in our planning in Nigeria we should have sufficient foresight and we should not wait until such an occasion that a natural disaster befalls an area before we rush in relief materials there. If we know that drought is coming or that we have been visited by drought sometime or by cholera at one time, then we should be able to plan ahead so that these things will not come again.

I want to refer particularly to the city of Ibadan. You will find that day in day out the conditions there are generally deplorable. I want to refer to this publication of last Saturday in the *Tribune*. Every year there is flood in Ibadan. What I am trying to say, Mr Speaker, is that one of the reasons why this flood

has continued in Ibadan is the fact that those roads maintained by the Federal Government are not properly maintained. Sometime ago, the Minister of Works mentioned that no State Government should go and maintain any federally-controlled roads and so the State Government in Oyo State went in to maintain the federally-controlled roads. This is causing trouble and, in fact, it is one of the reasons why we have flood in Ibadan. I want to appeal to the Federal Government to quickly come to the aid of Ibadan and ensure that all those roads controlled by the Federal Government are adequately maintained and catered for because I believe that *you should give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's*.

Thank you.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 24th June, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of Hon. Members

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, after today's sitting, we will sit down again together and discuss a very small point.

Votes and Proceedings

Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order. They are always in order. (Laughter)

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Petroleum and Energy
Conservation

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
PETROLEUM REFINERY

Mr Speaker: The Chairman of the Committee would please move the Motion standing in his name.

Dr Taribo J. Sekibo (Bonny II): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to lay before this House for approval the Report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the National Petroleum Refinery.

Mr Speaker: Yes, have you finished?

Dr Sekibo: No. It is to be debated today.

Mr Speaker: That is right. Anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, the hon. Member for Bori II (Mr Kemte Giadom)

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II): I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Yes, the Chairman of the Committee.

Dr Sekibo: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this Report is based on increasing the refining capacity of the country in respect of the Nigerian Petroleum Refinery near Port Harcourt in the River State.

On 14th December, 1979, this honourable House, after one of the best, non-controversial debates ever witnessed on this floor, referred the following Motion to the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation for further examination:—

That this House urges the President to expedite action on the extension of the Nigerian Petroleum

Refinery near Port Harcourt as projected within the First National Development Plan in view of Nigeria's need to attain a high level of economic sufficiency and in view of the fact that this can be attained not only by the production of crude oil but also by the production of finished petroleum products.

The mover of the Motion **DR TARIBO J. SEKIBO** in his contribution alleged that contract was signed in respect of this project and that Nigeria paid out over two million naira to a foreign company without doing anything on the project. Many honourable Members who spoke in support of the Motion amongst whom was **Dr Ogunkoya** emphasised the necessity to include units for by-products ranging from materials for road constructions to medicaments.

Your Committee was guided in its investigations by the above mentioned factors and the following people were invited and all appeared before your Committee to give evidence.

Mr A. K. Hart (Suspended Chairman NNPC)

Mr F. R. A. Marinho (Suspended Managing Director NNPC)

Mr Kufeji (Suspended General Manager NNPC); I think he has been reinstated.

Mr U. G. Galtimari (Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power)

Mr C. C. Koko (Head of Administration, NPRC, Port Harcourt)

Mr J. J. Akpieyi (Acting General Manager, NPRC, Port Harcourt)

A copy of the agreement in respect of the project was produced by the mover of the Motion for the use of the Committee and it reads in part:—

This Agreement is made this 1st day of April, 1975 between Philip Chikwuedo Asiodu, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, Lagos, for and on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (hereinafter called the Purchaser) of the first part and DET NORSKE OLJE SELSKAR A/S (DNO) a company incorporated under the laws of the Kingdom of Norway and having its principal office at OVRE SLOTTSGATE OSLOI (hereinafter called the Seller) of the other part.

There were incidences of severe sporadic shortages of petroleum products by mid-1974 and early 1975 in the country, it therefore became imperative, for the Petroleum Resources Department in the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power to find immediate and acceptable solutions to the biting problems of fuel shortage in the country.

Both short and long term solutions were considered. The short term measures considered involved the installation of skid-mounted units as the quickest way of increasing on-shore capacity at Port Harcourt refinery and the off-shore refining of Nigerian crude oil in overseas refineries for internal consumption. The long term measures were to be achieved

[DR SEKIBO] through quick realisation of the Warri refinery project and early implementation of the Kaduna project.

NPRC at a Board meeting of 30th October, 1974 decided to send a team to evaluate skid-mounted refineries which NPRC or Ministry officials had not previously seen.

A team consisting of Mr I. J. J. Ordor, then General Manager, NPRC, Mr J. J. Akpieyi, then Head of the Refining and Marketing Division in the Ministry of Mines and Power, Mr D. T. Bowen, an expatriate senior operator in NPRC left for Athens and Houston on 21st January, 1975. The team was joined at Athens by Mr John Redshaw, an expatriate Technical Adviser from BP London. The tour lasted till 3rd February, 1975.

A memorandum was submitted to the Executive Council in March, 1975 on the skid-mounted units as a means of containing quickly the sporadic shortages and it was envisaged that the Howe-Baker units to be installed in Port Harcourt refineries could become operational within six months.

Anticipatory approval for the installation of 20,000 barrels per day (bpsd) skid-mounted Howe-Baker unit at Port Harcourt refinery and 2×5,000 barrels per day units possibly at Ughelli Quality control centre was given by the—

Mr Speaker : The hon. Chairman, you know we all have got the Report and we have read it. Just give us the Highlights. Hon. Members will make contributions. We have all read the Report.

Dr Sekibo : All right. However, this idea of mounting skid-mounted units was reversed by 1975 with the change of Government and change of top Executives in the NNPC. They laid more emphasis on the off-shore refining as a means of solving the problem of fuel shortage in the country.

However, it was known that some money was paid out as a result of the recommendation by a Commission headed by Justice Oputa. This idea of installing these units was reversed and the amount paid was contained in a receipt supplied by the Permanent Secretary to your Committee. I think all amounted to ₦4.48 million. However, it was revealed to us by the General manager in charge of refineries, Mr Kufeji, that this amount was not recoverable because the decision to reverse the mounting of these skid-mounted units was made by the Federal Government, and according to the terms of the Agreement they were not to get back any money from the amount paid.

However, it has been discovered that despite the Warri and Kaduna Refineries being in operation, by 1983, Nigeria is going to be faced with fuel shortage and if nothing is done, by 1987 this shortage will be doubled. So, the NNPC commissioned a foreign company called BEICIP, these are foreign consultant, to survey the possibility of increasing the refining capacity of the country and they came up with a report which was submitted to the Management of NNPC in October, 1979. Your Committee was concerned why this report was not released both to the Federal Government and also to the Board of Directors of the NNPC.

However, the management concerned with the project explained that they had passed the stage when they should just swallow recommendations from a foreign firm, that they were to come up with their alternatives. Your Committee however was not convinced with this argument because if they were competent enough to handle this project, there was no question of calling foreign consultants to waste plenty of money and then to re-consider them. So, we came to certain conclusions after going through the basic reports, that, to increase the refining capacity of the country, the extent we require, will take about thirty to thirty-six months to complete, and if it is export oriented it will take about seventy-six months to complete. So, the delay on the part of the management of NNPC in releasing this report was not, to the consideration of the Committee, in the best interest of the nation, because we do not want a situation where like in 1975 when there were shortages then, management then had to run around to look for ways and means where money could be paid out, without due consideration for whether it was being properly spent or not.

These are the conclusions your Committee arrived at. Nigerian lost 4.4 million dollars for a project that never took off the ground, as alleged by the Mover of the Motion and this amount is irrecoverable according to the terms of the contract agreement as revealed by Mr Kufeji. With the projection of fuel shortage in 1983 which will double by 1987, it becomes absolutely necessary to increase Nigeria's refining capacity before then. The situation where Nigeria is still importing refined petroleum products including motor spirit from Europe amounts to a type of economic dependence and thus negates the Nation's policy on economic self-reliance. Your Committee recommends that in order to make optimum utilization of opportunities offered by the oil industry all future refineries to be constructed should be highly by-product oriented so as to minimise the cost of our road construction industry as well as other areas of our industrial development. That all future refineries should be modern, very large, with provisions for the addition of chemical units for the valuable by-product obtainable in the process of refining crude oil. That in order to avoid problems of fuel shortage in the near future, 1983, which is likely to double by 1987, it is recommended that the refinery to be constructed near Port Harcourt should be pursued with vigour and should be the Kaduna type or bigger.

Mr Speaker : Please, round up.

Dr Sekibo : Yes, and should be on the extensive piece of land shown to Members of the Committee during their visit to the existing refinery. So, these are the recommendations, I beg to present to the House. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, anybody wanting to contribute to this wonderful Report ? Yes.

Mr B. A. Chaha (Katsina-Ala) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, before I go on, I would like to congratulate the Chairman of this Committee on

a job well done. At the same time I would make a few observations on what I think is proper in considering the Report submitted by the Chairman.

First of all, I would like to assure this House and the nation that at no time in this country was there any shortage of fuel, but what happened in 1974 to 1975 was calculated attempt by the oil companies in Nigeria to sabotage the Military Administration. This was in reaction to their suspicion that the Military personnel in Nigeria were making personal gains out of oil. So, there was instruction from the oil companies to their selling agents all over the country that the sale of oil should be made difficult so that the country will try to find out why there was shortage of fuel. I am pretty sure that the oil companies in Nigeria were trying to reveal a secret here which was connected with the loss of 2.8 billion naira in Nigeria. But instead of coming forward to tell the people that there was something wrong in the sale of crude oil in Nigeria they went about telling their selling agents in Nigeria here to make things very difficult.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say briefly what I practically experienced in my own area. My home town is Zaki-Biam. Zaki-Biam is in Katsina-Ala in Benue State and it is a centre of attraction for black deals. These people, the Petrol Dealers, would always have tankers upon tankers, but the only thing is that they would not enter this town in the day-time; they would come in the night. I think arrangement was made with the local people surrounding this areas to collect drums. Every filling station in Zaki-Biam had more than two hundred drums standing. There was no time we could not get petrol in Zaki-Biam, but the arrangement was that any person going down to any of the refineries to get petrol will pay a sum of one thousand naira or one thousand five hundred in cash. I know this because I was attached to one of the selling agents. The instructions were coming from the oil companies. That was why we had this sporadic shortage of fuel in the country.

Therefore, I am alerting this country that it is not difficult to find out. I am pretty sure that whatever is missing in the way of money connected with the sale of oil in Nigeria here is with the best knowledge of the oil companies in Nigeria, and if care is not taken Nigeria is going to lose more money because they are not satisfied with the way Nigerians are handling the money realised from the sale of crude oil. This is still happening even till today. Therefore, Mr Speaker, to say that there was shortage, I disagree.

I may go straight to the recommendations. In order to avoid the projections of shortage of fuel in 1983 which may double in 1987, I would say it is much better to construct refinery, not in Port Harcourt, but extension work should be done in Port Harcourt while the construction of a new refinery be done in the remaining parts of the country, probably in Gongola or Benue or Sokoto.

Mr Speaker : Time up, please.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have to thank the Committee for producing that Report on an important aspect of

our economy, that is, oil. The oil refinery in Port Harcourt particularly had served enormous purposes, but we have also, through the Judicial Tribunal, found out certain gaps through which oil companies could manipulate the economy of this country and I would like to advert our attention to those areas.

First, there should be a check on all the gaps. I would not like to repeat the Judicial Commission of Inquiry which has not published its report but I would advert our attention to the activities of the oil companies.

This reminds me when I wanted to move a Motion here in January with reference to oil companies and to the fact that some of our crude oils were being diverted to wrong hands, well the Business Committee thought it wise to invite me first for a rehearsal before it could come to the main House and I refused that invitation.

The oil companies had not done enough job to help the economy of this country and I have said it times without number with reference to the by-products of oil. The by-products of oil, if this company wants to help the economy of this country, could boost our economy, but they have refused bluntly to help us. I would say as the report has highlighted, that they should, by all means, endeavour to produce such by-products as anti-car rust. For example, many cars in this country do not last two years before they start rusting.

In civilised states where these oil companies do their work well, they produce this anti-car rust, and every person trying to buy a car would always pay an additional money; maybe a sum of money which is not up to ₦90 as addition so that his car would last longer. We have oil in our country, but these companies cannot produce these things.

You can see that motor spirits, which the report has illustrated, are still being imported, even though Nigeria ranks high in world oil producing areas. The companies should be re-organised, and as I said in a previous Motion on Adjournment, there must be a review of their contracts whereby these companies should take care of the by-products of oil and produce them in this country so that we too, can benefit from such products.

Another area I would like to talk about is the area of the administration of the oil companies. Nigeria should be awake. Now, oil constitutes about 83 per cent of our National Income which is more than what agricultural products were producing before. Agricultural products have sunk down below level, to one-third of what it was in 1951 when it was contributing up to 50 per cent. Now agricultural products contribute less than 17 per cent. If oil is now the mainstay of our economy, Nigeria should actually watch these oil Companies and close the gaps whereby they make money out of us, dry us and bleed us to death for the purposes of increasing their own revenue abroad. With this, Sir, I would like to support the adoption of the report.

Mr David G. Gbaaondo : (Takum) Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, looking at the Committee's report, on page 6, (the recommendations), they talked about the extension of the refineries avert the fuel shortage in the country. Nigeria produces 2.3 million barrels of crude oil everyday. This, I believe, is a very great quantity of oil and consequently we are supposed not to be having any shortage of fuel in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, every part of this country used to suffer from this shortage of fuel. In support of what the hon. Member for Katsina-Ala (*Mr B. A. Chaha*) has just said, instead of using this money for another refinery near Port Harcourt, I believe it should have been somewhere in the North that a new refinery should be built so that it would also create employment for our brothers in the North like those in Southern Nigeria now enjoy.

Another fact I would like to bring out here, Mr Speaker, is that all the States in the Federation have pipelines running through them except Gongola and Cross River States. If part of this money is used to lay pipelines in these two States so that we enjoy the same amenities like the other States, I believe it will be better. Or the Federal Government should start a new refinery somewhere else in the country.

With these few comments, Mr Speaker, I thank you.

Mr Muhammadu Tudun Wada (Waje) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, against the background of my party's avowed position for the need of an independent, modernised, self-sustaining and rapidly expanding economy, I find no option but to open my comments by congratulating the Committee on Petroleum for this splendid report. Mr Speaker, Sir, the need for an independent economy and the rapidly expanding economy for a country like Nigeria, which is a fast developing third world country, cannot be over emphasised.

What we have come to understand oil to be today in modern economics and in modern politics puts oil at a very strategic focal point in the economy of Nigeria today. This factor, Mr Speaker, has been added to the fact that we all realise the mainstay of this nation's foreign international savings in terms of monetary reserves and internal economic boost depends largely on oil. It is in the light of all these, Mr Speaker, that I believe that one of the key elements that would determine and ensure a future for Nigeria's economy lies in the creation of a strong and virile industrialisation within the sphere of oil.

It is in that light, Mr Speaker, that I think it is of paramount importance that the need is pointed out for the construction of more oil refineries in this country, especially when we know that the oil refineries that are existing and those that are already in the pipeline about to be completed would not meet much of the demands of this country. Here, Mr Speaker, I remember the Oil Refinery now being set up in Kaduna. We all know, Mr Speaker, the inadequacies of that refinery before it even takes off. There are various sectors within the oil industry that are not going to be touched by that refinery, despite the mammoth and gigantic

expenditure that was carried out to set it up. So, it is very important for us to understand the need for our political independence and the need for us to realise that some of these aspects can only be ensured through an independent economy and oil is one of the basic structures in our economy today.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a great need for the creation of a comprehensive petro-chemical industry that would be geared towards the production of fertilizers and synthetic fibres and other by-products of petroleum. It is unfortunate for all this length of time, Mr Speaker, that Nigeria has been an oil producing country, Nigeria has not been able to set up a proper petro-chemical industry in this country. We still import fertilizer, we still import very many by-products of petroleum. This, Mr Speaker, can do nothing but dwindle our foreign reserves and diminish the position of our economy in the international economic system.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I think it is very important for us to underline the importance for us to maintain oil, as it is today, away from politics. We must not allow any country, however powerful or however close to us to get to us through the back-door and to siphon our wealth through the exploitation of our oil in such a way that the position of Nigeria in the international political system would be so diminished to the position of mockery. Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to sit.

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Though I have a few comments and reservations about the Committee's Report, one of the points I intend to raise I am happy, has been mentioned by the hon. Member who spoke last. It is the inadequacy in the Kaduna Refinery. It is rather unfortunate that the Committee tends to be unnecessarily jealous of the Kaduna Refinery in preference to that of Port Harcourt. It addressed itself to saying that the Port Harcourt Refinery should be remodelled to the standard of that of Kaduna, whereas the Kaduna Refinery has its own shortcomings. This is rather unfortunate.

I would also like to point out that some time ago the NNPC said that it was going to operate independent marketier. By this independent marketier they mean that petroleum products would be available throughout the length and breadth of the country. Ever since this announcement nothing has been heard. I think the Committee should look into this.

I would also like to raise the issue that the Committee should not also give the impression that it is partisan. Very recently, the Oba of Lagos, Adeyinka Oyekan, said that oil is in Lagos. I feel the Committee should not only look into this but also the oil which has been discovered in Ondo State. Oil is an important weapon. I think it is now being used as a political weapon. I do not think we should give the impression that we are partisan.

Again, Mr Speaker, it has also been said that Nigerian oil is superior to those of some Members of the OPEC. I am calling on the Committee to look

[MR OMDIJI] into this assertion, and, therefore, in that respect, I am calling on the Committee to examine the desirability of Nigeria's continued Membership of OPEC. If our oil is superior, is in high demand and is likely to command higher price than that obtainable in OPEC, I see no reason why we should not pull out of the OPEC. I think this is the point the Committee should properly examine.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have never been to the Arabian countries. But, I am told that things are very cheap there. People of Mecca and Medina do not pay tax because of the abundance of oil in that country. I am aware that the income tax that we pay in this country is rather very high. We used to call it progressive taxation. I think the impact of oil should be brought to bear on us so that the income tax we pay in this country should be a little less if at all we are going to benefit from the revenue from oil.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I am also disappointed that the Committee has not raised the issue of liquefied natural gas in Bonny, Rivers State. People have been talking of the by-products of oil. I think if this is properly developed, there is no doubt about it that Nigeria's oil revenue would be higher because from the liquefied natural gas it is said that a lot of revenue will be accruing to the Federal Government. I think that is why Mr President attached great importance to this when he appointed Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy. I think we should help the Government to alleviate the suffering of Nigerians. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr T. O. Akinbode (Owo II) : As a Member of the Committee investigating this affair, I have these few comments to make. In reply to the last speaker, the term of reference given to us did not cover the gas matters. We were only to investigate that there was a contract to extend the refinery at Port Harcourt, and that a certain amount of money had been paid, but that the work, had been stopped. We did not know the reason. That was the term of reference given to us.

During the investigation two things came to my mind. It was during the military regime that the contract was signed during the Gowon's regime. Immediately General Murtala Muhammed came there the contract was terminated. There was no continuity between one regime and the other. I think we should learn a lesson from this that if a Government winds up and another Government takes over, the assets and liabilities of the former Government or whatever the former Government decided should be honoured by the succeeding Government.

Another thing that we could learn from the report is that the Ministry of Mines and Power did not consult experts in the NPARC before they signed the agreement. So, when Murtala Muhammed became the Head of State, he set up an inquiry into it. It was then, the members of NPARC, the experts there, were able to voice out their opinions that they were not properly consulted before the agreement was signed. The Ministry of Mines and Power rushed to pay about 4.4 million dollars without proper agreement. In the agreement, it was said

that the work should be completed within seven months. The agreement had been signed more than eight months before there was a change of Government, and nothing was done before the change of Government. In actual fact, if the agreement was duly honoured by the foreign company, they should have set up this small refinery before there was a change of Government. We have to learn another lesson from this that before any Ministry takes a decision, experts in that Ministry should be well consulted and their views respected before they rush to sign an agreement. This rush-rush made us to lose about ₦5 million naira.

Another point is this. Why do we have shortage of oil in Nigeria whereas we produce oil and we export oil to our neighbouring countries? The problem is in the management and the short-sightedness of the people in power then. I think something has to be done as a matter of urgency, and as we indicated in our report to the Ministry so that we would not have shortage of oil in 1983, to speed up action in extending the refinery at Port Harcourt. Well, some people have asked why we should have to extend that one and not site another one somewhere else. The report shows that it is cheaper for us to extend the existing one since we have manpower, and we have acquired land at Port Harcourt refinery. It is a matter of extension instead of going to have another survey at another area.

I would want to make you know that the oil by-products produced at Kaduna refinery is quite different from those produced at Port Harcourt. They are different categories.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these comments, I have to stop.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, I think it is not controversial. I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Petroleum and Energy Conservation in respect of the National Petroleum Refinery (*Laid on the Table 19th June, 1980*)

The Speaker : Hon. Members, remember that I said that at the end of this sitting, we shall come together again and discuss a little point.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, Chief Akintola.

Mr Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Development of Cash Crops in Karimu Lamido, Gongola State

Mr B. M. Mabrama Jen (Karimu Lamido) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for

[MR JEN]

adjournment, I would like to speak on some issues concerning my Constituency. My Constituency is one of the largest local government areas in Gongola State. It consists of one hundred and forty-four thousand, four hundred and eighty registered voters. Its population is about half a million inhabitants. It also has a central market around the river Benue since 1885 to 1966.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two companies in the area. They are the UAC and John Holt. These companies have their depots located at the bank of the River Benue in the following places: Igborua, Kwato Usmanu, Lau and Jen. These companies used to purchase cash crops like groundnut, cotton, benniseed, wax and natural rubber. I think that if a rubber plantation is established there, staffed with rubber experts, I am sure that the area will as well be producing rubber like Bendel, Imo or Anambra States. But, contrary to what I expect, this area has been neglected by either the Federal Government or the State Government.

Improvement of Roads and Bridges in Karimu Lamido in Gongola State

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have one other point to make. I would like to appeal to the Federal Ministry of Transport to bring out the Highway Decree of 1971, Number 4. There is a road which starts from Lankoviri through Lau across the river to Mutumdawa, and from Mutumdawa to Filiya and from Filiya to Biliri in the South of Tangale Waja which is about 645 kilometres to Gombe. There is another road which starts from Wamba through Langtan, Wase, and joins this road which I have already mentioned at Bambru which is within my own Constituency.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these roads should be considered for purposes of their rehabilitation and improvement. There are also some bridges, the construction of which was estimated to cost ₦21 million in 1974, but till today, no action has been taken on them and no consideration whatsoever has been given to them. I would, therefore, like to appeal to the Federal Government that we need at least one good road through Karimu Lamido area so that the farmers and other inhabitants of that area could enjoy the same privileges that other citizens are enjoying in their own Constituencies. There are some people in these areas who fought during the Second World War of 1939 to 1945. So many of our people died so as to bring peace to this country. But today, they are neglected. Therefore, I am appealing to the Federal Government to consider these areas in Karimu Lamido so that the inhabitants of the areas could enjoy the privileges that Nigerian citizens elsewhere in the country are enjoying. Thank you very much. *(Prolonged Laughter)*

Mr Speaker : Thank you very much, Mr Mabrama Jen.

Able Guidance of Mr Speaker

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, as I would always say, on a more serious note, I feel that we should

condemn the action of an hon. Member, who circulated amongst hon. Members of the House, a release on 19th June, 1980, in which he used a very unparliamentary language on our respected Speaker. I make reference to the release of hon. Member Amos Sunday whereby he said that the hon. Speaker, Mr Edwin Ume Ezeoke, lied to the House. I believe strongly that the Speaker is a symbol of this House and whatever we do, we should respect him. He is a man who deserves our respect and whatever we say, he has guided this House honourably and ably for the past nine months. If he perchance went wrong, we should quietly call him and correct him. This type of thing is bad and we should, in no uncertain terms, condemn it and warn the said Member that this type of action should never be repeated. I would equally request that he should be asked to apologise on the Floor of this House. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Unfair Salary Structure

Secondly, Sir, I feel also that the salary structure, as we have seen it presented to the nation by the previous Governments, should be struck out. Unfortunately I cannot see how you can expect honesty from a man who issues out contracts worth millions of naira to be earning ₦10,000 or ₦14,000.

Contract Awards

Thirdly, Sir, I was reading through the newspapers yesterday and there was an advertisement on NEPA that some contracts or some tenders were to be awarded. I saw that the award would be made by the World Bank. I remember in 1973 when a Company tendered for the same job in NEPA and the cost of the contract was about ₦2,000,000. The said Company unfortunately came from the Eastern Block which is not a member of the World Bank Countries and the quotation was, I think, about ₦600,000 whereas the next person to him quoted ₦1.3 million. Due to this anomaly which was the trick of those of us in the Western World, the contract was not awarded to the man who quoted ₦600,000 but was awarded to the man with the quotation of ₦1.3 million. This type of situation should not continue. We are going to pay for these contracts, and as such we should get the best for this country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Chief P. O. Eleke.

Plight of Nigerian Private Students Abroad

Chief P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on the Motion for Adjournment this morning, I would like to comment on the plight of Nigerian private students abroad; and I appeal to the Federal and State Governments to come to their aid.

Mr Speaker : I thought there has been a Motion on this subject and the Motion was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. So, hon. Member, you know that our rules say that if you have discussed and taken a resolution on a certain issue, it should not be re-opened except on a substantive Motion.

Chief Eleke : Mr Speaker, I have already said what I wanted to say. I am talking about their plight and I want the Federal Government to help them. That is all.

Mr Speaker : Chief Oduntan.

Chaos in the Orthopaedic Hospital

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Otta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, last Friday, the hon. Member for Owan (*Mr Femi Okun*) spoke about what was happening at the Orthopaedic Hospital. After that day I tried to investigate the allegation he made here. I came to know that, as matter of fact, at the Orthopaedic Hospital law and order has broken down. Doctors have been fighting themselves.

I want to refer to 14th May, 1980 when two Doctors fought themselves physically ; they were Dr J. Cring and Dr Essien. They fought themselves because of bad administration. Dr F. A. Owosina who is the Medical Director believes in gossiping and only those who gossip to him are his friends. The source of the quarrel there is because Dr Owosina is ineffective and he cannot control the—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is based on the facts—

Some hon. Members : Order what?

Mr Olukoya : It is based on the facts that the allegation made against Dr Owosina is unfair because he is not around to defend himself. It is a controversial matter.

Some Hon. Members : No.

Mr Olukoya : It is Order 26 (2).

Mr Speaker : Chief Oduntan, go on.

Chief Oduntan : Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, Dr (Miss) Vaughan Soneye, Consultant Radiologist, was also creating ill-feeling with the Medical Radiographers. There was an Arbitration Tribunal and there was a ruling over that Tribunal's Award. The Federal Government upheld the Tribunal's Award, but Dr (Miss) Soneye Vaughan refused to implement this award. This has been creating a lot of trouble in the hospital. As a matter of fact, at present the Radiographers are at war, they are planning to go on strike. We cannot afford in this present day Nigeria to see any part going on strike especially that very important Medical Department.

The history of that hospital reveals that there was a Public Inquiry and all the Departments in that hospital were found guilty except the Nursing Departments and the Radiography Departments. We cannot again overlook the excesses which the people at the helm of affairs are creating in that hospital. I want to call on the Committee on Health to investigate this particular incident of two doctor fighting and to also ensure that the Arbitration's Award is implemented.

Widening Gap between the Poor and the Rich

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk on the widening gap between the poor and the rich. As a matter of fact, there is an alarming

state of unemployment in Nigeria today ; we all know it. This will be attributed to the carelessness of the Federal Government which creates the impression that—

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Oduntan : If you look at the last budget, you would see that the Federal Government provided a mere ₦3,000 to rehabilitate beggars and destitutes whereas they provided ₦20,000,000 for purchase and maintenance of vehicles. How could you reconcile a Government that provides only ₦3,000 for destitutes and beggars as looking after the affairs of the people, and yet provides ₦20,000,000 for the purchase of cars. Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand, as a matter of fact, that Chief M. K. Abiola alone can provide ₦5,000 for every adult in Nigeria and yet he still remains a multi-millionaire. He is a money monster. Therefore, if a single man can make such money and the majority of Nigerians are neglected then it is a shame on those who have this money.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to call, especially on Chief M. K. Abiola, to use some of the money which he has got to rehabilitate beggars and destitutes instead of going about shouting slogans and wasting the money on calling you for dinner. You are going to lunch this afternoon, that is why you are interrupting my comments. Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

Oyo-Oshogbo-Ilorin Federal Road Project

Mr J. A. Abiona (Ifelodun East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to speak briefly on two issues and these issues, although particularly affect my Constituency, but I am sure that what happens in my Constituency is what happens in many other Local Government Areas of Nigeria.

Firstly, I want to speak on the Federal Government Road Project, linking Oyo State with Kwara State through Oshogbo then to Ilorin. For a start, I want to inform you, hon. Members, that this road project has a rather fascinating contractual history. I am sure you will be surprised to note that every Military Governor of Oyo State has, at one time or the other, awarded this same road on contract, and up till now that same road has not been commissioned. What is even disturbing about it all is that the alternative road that is available to motorists in this area is so bad that it has constituted itself into an easy death trap. Whereas the new road has been completed since the last six months now, what happens is that the construction company, Solel Boneh, that is handling the road project blocked this road in various parts and allowed only its officials to make use of the road knowing fully well that the alternative road is very bad, so bad that people cannot use it and they, themselves do not use it.

I think this is an insult to our people, because the road is meant for the use of the people. Moreover, since the road has been completed, there is no reason why this construction company should prevent people from using it. I, therefore, want to use this medium to appeal to the Federal Minister of Works to commission, particularly the sector Ikirun to Oshogbo, so that motorists can start to use that road

[MR. ABIONA]

For your information, I want to say that this is the sector that links my Constituency to Oshogbo. I hope, after this, the Federal Minister of Works will quickly commission the road and also order that the maintenance should commence.

Distribution of Telephone Exchanges in Ifelodun L.G.A.

There is another issue. This issue relates to the distribution of Telephone Exchanges in my Local Government Area. I have the privilege of seeing the circular letters distributed among Members of the relevant House Committee on Communications. In that letter, it was stated that there are 500 telephone exchanges in my local government area, that is, Ifelodun Local Government Area, but surprisingly all the telephone exchanges are concentrated only at the Headquarters. I am sure this is what happens in so many other local government areas, but happily enough it is also projected that the present 500 telephone exchanges will be increased to 2,000, and accordingly the contract has been awarded to Dave Engineering Company Limited.

What is disturbing about it all is that this Dave Engineering Company has started to lay its cables and has only done so for less than half a kilometre from Ikirun. I wonder how it is going to be possible for that company to load 1,500 Telephone Exchanges only over half a kilometre of cables. I want to appeal to the Federal Minister of Communications to instruct the Dave Engineering Company to start to extend its cables to Ada, Oro-Oruwo, Agba, Igbajo, Okerun, Iresi, Ire and Eripa. This is not an occasion for me to start explaining the advantages we can derive from having telephone exchanges in the area, but I think it is only fair that when the Federal Government is spreading its amenities, such amenities should be spread to every nook and corner of this country. I hope after this speech the Federal Minister in charge of Communications will effect this plea of ours. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Security in the National Assembly

Mr Godwin Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : The question of security in the National Assembly has been of great concern to me. When I say this, I think I should have witnesses to my testimony because this august House has sent a number of people to the United States of America and probably to United Kingdom and they have seen, no doubt, the sort of security around those places.

Yesterday, I would suppose that a good number of our Members here saw the publicity in the paper about an alien coming right into the Floor of this House and almost ready to take photographs when he was spotted by one of our Members. I think this cannot happen elsewhere. It is just because of the laxity of security around here that makes this possible. Hon. Members are witnesses to the fact that the security table in the Lounge there is no more for security but for photographers. Members have also observed that the Lounge there is often crowded, not by real visitors of Members of this House, but by people going to eat in the canteen there and because that place is hot, after their meal they come here to cool down. I do not think this is good enough.

A Member : The Speaker is not listening.

Chief Wodi : I am not talking to him, I think they are taking record there. Mr Speaker, I think this should be of great concern to Members of this House. We are probably living in the past. Members will argue that this place has always housed our Parliament and no precautions were taken probably security-wise, but all of us will agree that times are changing. The type of armed robbery we have now and the use of automatics was not the case many years ago.

I would always like us to show some foresight. We should not sit here and wait until one Member is shot down there, God forbid, before we take adequate security measures in this place. (*Applause*)

We did not see Policemen when we came here anew, but I think it is an improvement that we have Policemen around this place now. But I am not happy where they are now obscured. These Policemen were there when this alien entered this Chamber. Where they are hidden now is not good enough. I do not see why we should not have security kiosks right at the gate so that the people entering these premises could be queried. In ordinary companies, before you enter the company, a gate man would ask you where you are going and what you are for, but here there is nothing like that. The whole place is crowded everyday.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not sure which Committee is responsible for the security of this place. If there is none, I think a Committee should be made responsible for this because I am not sure our Sergeant-at-Arms is actually acting on this sort of thing we see here. In my opinion, he is not a strict person and so, no strict action can ever emanate from him.

Retrain Typists at Members Typing Pool

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am definitely sure that Members will share my experience. The sort of secretaries and typists we have here are costing this body a great amount of money. The learning cost is too much indeed. You can never get a letter done in three or four attempts. Why are we not making special efforts to recruit better hands. I am not asking for the ones already recruited to be dismissed, but I should think that adequate training programme should be arranged for these folks so that we can get the best out of them.

Guard against Over-Staffing the Assembly

I also feel that we are going to run the risk of over-employment in this place. I am very happy that we are setting up a Commission of this House and probably it would be their responsibility to look into recruitment and what have you, but the sort of thing I am seeing here is that soon we shall over-recruit and we will find people staying idle as is the case in many Ministries, and this will not augur well for us. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you very much. That was a very good speech.

Announcements

Mr Speaker: The Committee on Science and Technology will meet today immediately after this Sitting. The NPP intends to substitute another Member of the Joint Finance Committee and the name of their substitute is—

Several hon. Members: Why are they substituting at this time? (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: The name of their new substitute is Mr P. C. Deme.

Mr O. Afolabi (Oyo East): Mr Speaker, hon. Members I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.55 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 25th June, 1980

The House met at 10.50 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, this is to remind the Party leaders that we will still have our meeting today after the sitting, and the accountants, the chief elected committee, please, you will come because you are going to make a report.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and I confirm that they are in order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Industries

Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Industries on a Bill for an Act to make provision for a Reconstitution of Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the report of the Committee on Industries and I move—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Industries on a Bill for an Act to make provision for the Reconstitution of Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Members, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Chief Okon Ikpeme (Akampka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Afolabi.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Industries on a Bill for an Act to make provision for the Reconstitution of Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr Speaker : I think that the first Motion is an error because we already have a House Committee. All what we did was to remove the Members, so we only have to appoint new Members. All that we will do is to ask the Party Leaders to bring the names of their nominees. That is all. We did not abolish

the Committee, we simply dissolved it. Please, will the Party Leaders bring the names of their nominees because the absence of a House Committee is giving us a lot of headache. The deadline is tomorrow, please bring it today.

The next Motion is on the delegation to 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Yes, the Chairman of the Committee, the hon. Mr M. D. Shuaibu.

Delegation to the 1980 Olympic Games

Mr M. D. Shuaibu (Kanan) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move this Motion standing in my name :

That in view of the importance of sports and the need, constantly, to keep the National Assembly abreast of developments in the sporting arena both at the Local and the International levels, as well as the need to sustain a dynamic national policy on sports, the Committee on Veteran Affairs, Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture urges this House to send a twelve-member delegation to observe and assess the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games with a view to observing the prospects of Nigeria in International Sporting Competitions and the possibility of Nigeria playing host to such competition in future.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Chief Eleke.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Obowo) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the Chairman, tell us something about your Motion.

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move this Motion with the confidence that this august Assembly may use its foresightedness and exclusive right as the representative of the people to support me in this vital issue.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Shuaibu : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, although it is an admitted fact that this august Assembly has been demonstrating its interest and support for the development of Sports in this country, I feel it would be better if we could extend it further to explore ways and means for the future development of sporting activities in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, as legislators we are supposed to legislate on any given subject with the hope of improving or creating a system of administration for the benefit of the masses. As far as our legislative role is concerned, sporting activities will not be an exception. Before we could be able to legislate on any given subject, we must have necessary materials, convenient venue to facilitate our legislation. I feel, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the 22nd Moscow Olympic Games provide both the materials and sufficient venue in this aspect.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, we should not forget that it was only a couple of months ago that Nigeria registered her first greatest achievement in the field of soccer when the Nigerian Golden Green

Eagles won the 12th African Cup of Nations. The efforts put and the anxiety shown by the Executive through the Ministry of Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture is still fresh in our minds and it needs the commendation of everybody.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this achievement does not only remain in the African Continent but it has gone far to classify Nigeria as one of the countries capable of emerging victorious among the developing countries. Mr Speaker, Sir, it would be very unfortunate if this honourable House fails to send a delegation to the forthcoming Moscow Olympic Games, bearing in mind that the next Olympic Games will come when we shall have completed our four-year term of membership.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few comments, I beg that hon. Members would support me in this issue so as to facilitate our work. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*)

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Ononokpono : My point of order, Mr Speaker, is Order Number 3 (1). If I may read, with your permission Sir :

Mr Speaker shall allocate a seat to each Member.

The hon. Member for Epe (*Mr G. B. Sadiku*) is not on his seat presently and, therefore, he should vacate the seat.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*)

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think that the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Sports Committee is a very serious one, and I thought that I should comment on it. But in commenting on it, I would like to appreciate the fact that the Chairman of this Committee is a man, I think, who is very hard working. Nevertheless, I feel that we should oppose this move for this honourable House to officially send Members of this House to Moscow at the expense of Government to watch the Olympic Games. I am saying so for certain obvious reasons.

Hon. Members, I crave your indulgence, if you go round to watch the happenings in most of the State Legislatures, you will discover for yourselves the manner in which some of them approve salaries and allowances for themselves. In certain places, they even want to earn, four times, what we earn here. We in the National Assembly must be prepared to set examples for this country to follow. I think, in this regard, we should not set such a bad example.

With due respect to the Chairman of this Committee, I am sure, that as they say, charity begins at home. If we want to develop Sports, first of all, we must show interest in the internal development of our sports. As far as I know, this Committee has not come out with any measure or concrete approach to the issue of sports development in this country,

and the next thing they want to do is to send Members to watch the Olympic Games. I think the public will laugh at us. If I ask this Chairman to tell me the name of the Director of Sports, I am sure he does not know. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! Please, the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*), do not say that.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that the hon. Gentleman from Isoko Local Government Area of Bendel State (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*) has used a most unparliamentary language. I am applying Order 26 (5). I would like him to withdraw the language before he is allowed to continue.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! It is all right.

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, Sir, by mentioning that the Chairman of the Committee does not know the name of the Director of Sports, I was just being humorous. If it is not well taken, I beg to withdraw that statement.

What I was trying to say, in a nutshell is this. I believe that if our duty is to guard the honour that is due to this honourable House, then we must be very careful in the way and manner we send our Members abroad. Politically and financially, I do not think that this trip is opportuned.

Therefore, I am submitting, Mr Speaker, with every respect, that this Motion lacks substance. It should be opposed and the opposition should be overwhelming in this honourable House to demonstrate that we are not here to spend the nation's money in a frivolous manner.

I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. member for Ukanafun II (*Mr Akanenyene Ukpanah*), you will speak but allow the Chairman of the Committee to speak because I think he is changing his mind in respect of the Motion. (*Interruptions*)

Order! Order! Hon. Members, please, take your seats. Yes, the Chairman of the Committee, what do you intend to do ?

Mr Mohammed Shuaibu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I intend that the Members should continue with the Debate on this Motion.

Mr A. Ukpanah (Ukanafun II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I rise to support the Motion on the floor of this honourable House. Now, the Committee on Veteran Affairs, Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture is moving a Motion urging this House to send twelve Representatives of this House to observe and assess the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Ukpanah : Some months ago, we shared the same views as the non-aligned countries, as far as the Olympic Games are concerned, and it is on record that this country—(*Prolonged Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Please, hon. Afolabi move that the question be put.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

*Question that the question be now put and agreed to.
Main question accordingly put and Negatived.*

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! There is an Amendment to the Motion that was distributed this morning. It was not properly drafted. The Amendment should be :

The House of Representatives shall operate a common pool of Vehicles to be used by all Members for Official duties.

Yes, Please move the Motion.

Suspension of Standing Order 19

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, first of all I want to crave the indulgence of the House to suspend Standing Order 19 to allow me to move a Motion on a matter of urgent administrative importance. I so move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion.

Prince A. O. Awa-Ekpo (Eket II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 19 be suspended.

Control in the purchase and use of official cars :

Amendment to House Resolution 142

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Motion standing in my name reads as follows :

That clause (ii) the use of Peugeot 505 Cars as official cars by Party Leaders or any of the Officials of the National Assembly shall stop forthwith and clause (iv) All further purchases of cars for the use of the National Assembly shall be in the category of Peugeot 504 Model be expunged from the House Resolution 142. So that the Amended Resolution shall read as follows :

(i) That only Mr Speaker, His Deputy and the Leader of the House of Representatives shall be specifically allocated official cars ; and

(ii) That the House of Representatives shall operate a common pool of vehicles to be used by every Member for Official duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved : that the House of Representatives shall operate a Common pool of vehicles to be used by all members for official duties.

Mr Speaker : The Committee on Industries will not meet today, they will meet on Monday. The Committee on Aviation will meet at 11.30 a.m. instead of 1.30 p.m. at Committee Room 4.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do adjourn till tomorrow 10 o'clock in the morning.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion for Adjournment ?

Mr Johnson Oyedeji Opakanmi (Iwo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have 28 applications for speaking on Motion on Adjournment and the applications are recorded here in order of the date of filing. The first person is the hon. Member for Oyi (*Mr S. B. Abodunde*)

Tar Federal Road in Oyi

Mr S. B. Abodunde (Oyi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, each time I get up to talk about Oyi, I am sure not many of us know the area. If I were to say Kabba, which has a longstanding name in the former Northern Region, I believe many of you will have in mind this geographical area. Presently, the Oyi Constituency consists of Kabba, Buru, Ijuwu, which is the largest group, and East and West Iyagba. These four areas are found in Oyi Constituency. We also have Federal Roads, one starting from Aiyetoro to Iya to Ayangunle Gbede to Akutupa and bursting out in Niger State at Agayi.

I am now calling on the Federal Government to come to the aid of the State in tarring this road so as to foster inter-State unity and the much-desired unity of Nigeria. Of course, the economic aspect of this road is very important. Oyi has produced sons at Federal level who have been serving in high and low positions. Unfortunately, we have no political giants that will draw the attention of the government to this area. Despite the fact that we have educational industry, there is no single Federal Government institution cited in Oyi. I am therefore sounding the clarion call to the government to please come over to Oyi to help us.

Grasshopper Invasion in Oyi

Besides, in this year of Green Revolution, I am making it known that Oyi produces the greatest number of coffee in Nigeria, but at present all our crops, either coffee, yams, cassava, etc. are being threatened by grasshopper menace. The grasshopper menace is on a serious note, almost like that of the locust invasion. I am calling on the organisers of the Green Revolution to have it in mind that not only locust invasion is a threat to agricultural products in Nigeria, but also grasshopper invasion in Oyi. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Honour this Gallant FRC Officer

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I very much like to urge this honourable House to put on record the excellent and calm performance of the staff of the Federal Radio Corporation on duty on 24th of May, 1980, when a man said to be of unsound mind, walked into the Broadcasting Room and attempted to broadcast to the nation, that he and his colleagues had taken over the power in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, but for the calm and very intelligent behaviour of this FRC Officer the whole country could have been in chaos. One cannot imagine the stampede, possibly even murder and looting that might have followed but for the very calm behaviour of this gentleman who was on duty. I do not know him but I urge this House to express appreciation of his conduct.

Mr Speaker, I also, wish to request this House to urge the President of this country to put the name of this staff on the next list for National Award. Mr Speaker, that is my contribution.

Combating Armed Robbery

Mr S. A. Famuyide (Ilesha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contribution to the Motion on Adjournment, I just want this House to listen attentively to a matter of importance, that is, about armed robbery. Armed robbery spreads all over the country and chaos reigns supremely all over the country. We are the first Civilian Legislators who are operating under the new Constitution. During the campaigns, as politicians, we went round telling the electorate that we would try as much and make our country a peaceful one. But now today, the armed robbery is spreading all over the country. Section 30 (1) and Section 38 (1) of the Constitution

make it incumbent upon us to find a solution to this armed robbery. The electorate are just watching us and they are suffering in silence. The Senate has made plans about it and one of the 19 States we have is just preparing to make a Bill to amputate any robbers when caught. Now, I think this House must think of doing something. There is a problem which I think the Committee on Internal Affairs should sit and find solution to, the problem is that, the armed robbers, in the night, would wear police uniforms and if anybody is just passing through, they would flash the torch-light. If you wait you are in trouble, if you do not wait you are in trouble. We cannot just know the genuine policeman when going in the night. This is one problem which I think we must try to find a solution to.

I have to mention that the Police and the Press are helping in their contributions. On Sunday I read four papers. The Press in the four papers mentioned about robbery which means they do not keep us in the dark about what is going on in the country. I think the police should be encouraged because theirs is a delicate job. Nowadays the type of armed robbers that are in the country have got strong weapons and I think modern weapons should be provided to the Police and be given reasonable salaries. Mr Speaker, with all these points I beg to take my seat.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the House is getting very thin.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : I think it is time that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 26th June, 1980

The House met at 10.10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings for yesterday, and they are in order.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

**Message of Condolence to Mrs Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India**

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name and the names of my other Colleagues—

That this House regrets the tragic death of the son of the Prime Minister of India, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, and hereby sends a Message of Condolence to his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and to the Indian Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion?

Alhaji Sani Dandare Kalgo (Bunza-Kalgo) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Fagbamigbe : Mr Speaker, Sir, before I start discussing my Motion I want to correct the typographical error in the spelling of my name. My name is **Fagbamigbe** and not **Fagbemigbe**.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, this is a very solemn and sorrowful duty indeed which I now call on this honourable House to perform. It is solemn and sorrowful because it relates to the demise of a political star in one of the most populous countries of the world. I have in mind India with a population of 660,000,000 people representing approximately one-sixth of the world. The youngman on whose tragedy we are sending this message of condolence was a budding world leader. His name was Sanjay Gandhi, the son of the Prime Minister of India. Sanjay was a youngman with great assets which could have easily seen him to the top. He had behind him the names of two illustrious families in India, the Gandhi and the Nehru. He himself was a very pragmatic youth who was loved by most of the people in India. In fact, it was said that he was the only person of his age who was known throughout the sub-continent. He was said to have had a computer mind which enabled him to make friends and to remember people. He was a good mixer. With all these assets it would have been an easy task for him to become the Prime Minister of India in succession to his mother. As a matter of fact, that was the aim and objective of his mother in bringing him into politics. Although I must not say that Sanjay—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

An hon. Member : The hon. Member is trying to make an oration.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member for Plateau State is in order. It is just a Motion of Condolence. So, make one or two commentaries. There is no need for a funeral oration.

Mr Fagbamigbe : In rounding up, Mr Speaker, I must say that this is a very serious occasion for Mrs Gandhi and that it is only meet and proper that this honourable House should express its condolence to Mrs Gandhi on this occasion of her irreparable loss. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) : As they say, death knows no sympathy ; accident is indifferent to personalities. If a thing like this were to happen, it should not have happened to the family of Nehru. Before independence in India, Nehru spent the greater part of his life in jail, ditto for his daughter. Mrs Indira Gandhi also had quite a long spell of imprisonment in the struggle for India's independence. The only hope of the Nehru family, the only hope of the Gandhi family was Sanjay. As a matter of fact, nobody brought Sanjay into politics. He brought himself there. Politics was inborn in him. That he should die so young, that he should die in the flower of age, that he should die at a time when he was the only hope of the whole of India, is a great loss.

Mr Speaker, we can only learn from the efforts of this young man. At the age of 33, he became so known throughout India and it was by his efforts, almost mainly, that his mother came back to power of recent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will not say much, but I would call on the Members of this House to copy the good record of the late young man. He knew no boundaries of tribe, no boundaries of economic difference. He knew no poor, he knew no rich ; everybody was his friend. Let us copy this young man, although dead, and let his memory continue in the rest of us. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Is there any other comment ? Yes, put the Question Mr Fagbamigbe.

Mr Fagbamigbe : Mr Speaker, I am very happy at this promotion. In fact, that is the position I look up to in 1983. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg now that the Question be put.

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

Resolved : That this House regrets the tragic death of the son of the Prime Minister of India, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, and hereby sends a Message of Condolence to his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and to the Indian Parliament.

**Message of Condolence to the Japanese
Parliament**

Dr Junaidu S. Muhammed (West Ward) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to submit this Motion standing in the name of my humble self and our distinguished

[DR MUHAMMED]

Members in the persons of hon. S. U. Wanganga, hon. Prince Sangha, hon. Hamza Nganjiwa, hon. Chief O. Omonira—

That this House regrets the death of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr T. Ohira and hereby sends a message of condolence to his family and the Japanese Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the Motion ?

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : I rise to second the Motion.

Dr Muhammed : Mr Speaker, Sir, those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Japan as a country, those of us who have had the privilege of meeting Japanese people, those of us who have had the fortune or misfortune of reading the history of Japan before the Second World War and after the Second World War must have been enormously astonished at the level of industrialisation, at the level of reconciliation, and at the level at which the Japanese people took their defeat at the end of the last war.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the history of every nation you find that certain individuals are bound by destiny and providence to play very important roles. These individuals, some happen, by chance, to be born into certain distinguished families, some make it through sheer dint of hard work. The man, Mr Speaker, Sir, in respect of whose death I beg this House to send a message of condolence is no other than Mr T. Ohira.

Mr Ohira belonged to the generation of Japanese people who, like their Nigerian counterparts most of whom are in this House, were young to have witnessed the Second World War. At the same time, they were too young to have known what the war was all about. They knew nothing about the Old Japanese Imperial Empire, they did not know the issues that were involved and the issues that dragged Japan into the Second World War.

Mr Speaker, Sir, those who have had the privilege, to read the history of Japan before and after the Second World War must have been astonished at the level of responsibility, at the level of patriotism that has kept and sustained this nation, that was defeated only thirty or so years ago, by the allied nations, but a nation which, today, is the third most distinguished, and most powerful industrial country in the world. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Japanese people have distinguished themselves in one thing. They have not been copy-cats. They have evolved their own democratic institutions, they have evolved their own industrial institutions, without having to rely on the United States of America, or Western Europe or on any other country for that matter. I think this has been most distinguished.

Mr Speaker, Sir, quite a number of people played a number of very important roles in evolving present day Japan, the Japan that we hear about today. To this distinguished group of people belonged Mr Ohira. Mr Ohira started his political career forty years ago as a young member of Parliament. He rose by dint of hard work to become the Minister of

Foreign Trade and, incidentally, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ministry for Foreign Trade is the most important and the most powerful bureaucracy in Japan. At the tail end of his political career, he was Japanese Foreign Minister and he played a very important role in reconciling Japan and China, two powerful nations in South-East Asia that have always been at war with each other throughout history. This was a very important role that had been played by Mr Ohira and this role is bound to have institutionalised the name Ohira in the history of Chino-Japanese relations. At the very tail end of his career, Mr Ohira became the Prime Minister after defeating Mr Fukuba—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Otta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that we are sending letters of condolence and not oration and I would say that the hon. Dr Junaidu Muhammed should limit himself to making very brief statements.

Dr Muhammed : Mr Speaker, Sir, at the tail end of his career, as I was saying, he became the Prime Minister of Japan. As we are all aware, he lost the Premiership of Japan as a result of a vote of no confidence. He took it like a gentleman and he agreed to go to the country.

There is quite a lot that we can learn from the life-style and the political institutions which Mr Ohira helped to build.

First, Mr Ohira accepted defeat, without looking for excuses and alibis. Secondly, Mr Ohira was always ready to go back to the people if he was not sure the mandate given to him was either misunderstood by him or was being threatened. Thirdly, we have something to learn from Japan, Sir, that we do not have to be copy-cats, and I think Japan owes this to Mr Ohira more than to any Japanese leader in modern history. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to move. Thank you.

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Motion that this House sends condolence to the family of Mr Ohira and the Japanese Parliament. Japan, as my co-sponsor of this Motion has already said, is an example in many ways to many nations of the world, and she has been very fortunate in having leaders like Mr Ohira who were acknowledged as leaders and regarded as such. So, it must have come as a shock to them that a man of the gigantic political prowess of Mr Ohira has fallen at this point in time. It is a great loss to Japan and as Japan is a good friend of Nigeria, we in Nigeria also feel that we have suffered the same loss in that it is not easy to get an international figure of the stature of Mr Ohira as a friend of a country such as Nigeria. Nigeria has always got on well with Japan, in recent times, a lot of industrial developments in this country have had links with Japanese Industry either in personnel know-how or in actual importation of technology. To that extent, we regarded the leadership of Mr Ohira in Japan as a strong foundation for this type of relationship to grow. Unfortunately, the terrible hand of death has come at this most

[MR. WANGANGA]

unreasonable time to snatch him away. Nevertheless, the Japanese people have gone through a lot of tremors and difficulties in their lives. They have witnessed a major war that nearly destroyed them, but they came out of that way to be an example, to be a leading industrial power in the world today. To that extent we hope that the Japanese people will get over the death of their great leader and be able to show their historic ability to master situations and come out tops.

Mr Speaker, Sir, furthermore, the death of Mr Ohira shows that Japan, even after the war, still maintains that once you are a leader and you have suffered, the people will rally round and help you and regard you as their leader. I am saying this because Japan has the biggest army in the world and yet, Japan, since after the war, had never had any military coup. The army goes and does the work as an army. So, we hope that Nigeria will emulate Japan so that no matter how big our soldiers are, they will stay in the barracks and leave the leaders to lead the country.

As Mr Ohira has gone, I am sure, another civilian leader will emerge in Japan and lead his country peacefully. This is an example which should not be lost on Nigeria that leaders rise and are respected; when they go other leaders rise by democratic means. To that extent, we wish that Condolence Message be sent to the Japanese Parliament and the family of Ohira to show that the Nigerian Legislature is deeply sorry and sorrowful with the Japanese at the death of Mr Ohira.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Alhaji Hamza Nganjiwa.

Alhaji Hamza Nganjiwa (Biu North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with my Colleagues in moving this Motion that this honourable House sends a message of condolence to the valiant, peaceful and energetic people of Japan. I say the Japanese are valiant because in the pre-war period the Japanese led one of the most aggressive foreign policies in the world that actually made them enemies with their immediate neighbours—the Chinese. I say they were peaceful because after experiencing nuclear baptism during the Second World War the Japanese became the most peaceful people in the world and pursued an energetic economic policy that has made them the third economic power in the world today.

Mr Ohira, through the Liberal Democratic Party of which he was the head, was, right from the beginning, the architect of the Japanese political and economic policy. The loss of such a great man to the people of Japan is certainly irreparable and certainly has created a vacuum that is really difficult to fill in the economic and political life of Japan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like also to declare to and pledge this honourable House that the loss of Mr Ohira has actually deprived the people of Japan and the people of the Third World of a most peaceful leader, a leader who believed in peace as a masterpiece in a foreign policy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is in the light of this that we pray that the successors of Mr Ohira, especially now that his party has actually made a landslide victory in the last election in Japan, should continue with this most peaceful foreign policy as an incentive to maintaining world peace.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker : If there is any Member here who is for the Moscow Parliamentary Delegation, let him go outside because transport is now waiting to take them to the Airport. Yes, Mr Fagbamigbe, let us put the Question.

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That this House regrets the death of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr T. Ohira, and hereby sends a Message of Condolence to his family and the Japanese Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I now move that this honourable House should adjourn until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr Ochiama.

Mr Tobias N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. S. A. Oduntan.

National Minimum Wage for Workers

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Otta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on the issue of National Minimum Wage for Nigerian Workers. Section 16 (2) (d) of the Nigerian Constitution says that :

suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment and sick benefits are provided for all citizens.

Mr Speaker : Chief Oduntan, you applied to speak on Igbobi Hospital.

Chief Oduntan : No, I have spoken on that. This is a very important issue.

Mr Speaker : No, leave it.

Yes, Mr Ogunfuyi, but before you start let me remind you that you applied to speak on the equality of Members of House of Representatives and the need for regular report by Committees.

Equality of Members of House of Representatives

Mr S. A. Ogunfuyi (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, while speaking on the Motion for Adjournment, I want to say that Members of

[MR OGUNFUYI]

this National Assembly are equal—equal in the sense that we represent our people from various constituencies. I want to draw the attention of this House to some Members who parade inside and around this Chamber that they feel they are superior to some other Members, maybe because they are serving in one Committee or the other. I want to remind Members that the fact that they are serving in a particular Committee does not make them better than other Members. We cannot all sit in one Committee. So, hon. Members, if one is serving on the Committee of Banking and Currency for instance, it does not mean that he has the whole naira of this country or that he can get to any Bank and do as he likes there. Also if one is serving in the Petroleum and Energy Committee, I do not feel that that is a licence for him to ride his vehicle with free petrol. If one is serving in the Committee on Youth, Culture and Social Development, he is as important as anybody serving on Banking or Petroleum Committees. Through the Report given by the Special Panel that investigated the House Committee, I could see that some people felt, because they are in a particular Committee, they are better than other Members. If I refer to the elections that took place last year, some people had only four thousand votes to bring them here; while some others had seventy thousand. If anybody should brag in this House, I feel it is those with fifty thousand or seventy thousand votes.

The second point is the question of Committees reporting to this House.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that we do not know whether the hon. Member is speaking in English or in Yoruba. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! The hon. Member is speaking in perfect English. Yes, go on, hon. Ogunfuyi.

The Need for Regular Committee Reports

Mr Ogunfuyi : Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that prompt protection. The second point is, that some Committees are not pulling their weights in this House. I doubt if some Committees do meet because some Committees would have their meeting scheduled in the Order Paper but for lack of quorum they would not meet for two or three times. I strongly feel that all Committees should report to this House from time to time. Even if they hold one or two meetings, they should report and not wait until they hold a hundred meetings before they report.

I think it is very expedient for this House to have minutes of the Committee meetings which are circulated to Committee Members. If we other Members could have the minutes, we would know what they are doing in their Committee meetings.

The Need to extend Social Amenities to Ijebu East

If I may conclude on this point, I come from Ijebu-East Local Government Area as I have earlier said.

That Local Government Area is one of the remotest parts of this country. I say that because all these beautiful things like roads, electricity, water, post offices and other things are lacking in the Local Government Area. I want to call on the Executive to please stretch their hand of fellowship to that area of Ijebu-East Local Government Area.

The Zontal Club of Lagos

Mrs Abiola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : I wish, on this occasion, to pay compliment to the Zontal Club of Lagos. This is an elitist women's club in Lagos, but of late they have gone a long way in enhancing the productivity of women in the professions as well as in the various establishments. Last week, they had the 10th Anniversary Celebration of their club and during the celebrations they dedicated a Day Care Centre at the General Hospital, Lagos for the women working in Lagos Metropolis. I think this is a commendable effort on the part of members of this club because the Day Care Centre has been built from their own finances, alone.

The Zontal Club, as I said, is an organisation of women in both the professions and in executive positions. They want more members in their club. Men in this country have the tendency of looking at women who take part in civic activities as women of loose moral standards. Taking part in such an activity is a better pursuit to my mind, than belonging to the cliché of women liberation. By this way, educated women who usually have a sense of self sufficiency will be able to make the lot of the ordinary woman in the street better.

The Constitution, in Section 17 Subsection 2 (a) and Section 3, accords the same status to men and women in this country, but in practice we know that there are some imbibed prejudices in the establishments. These prejudices can only be eradicated if the women themselves come together and present a joint effort in fighting the men's prejudices against us. I am, therefore, appealing to Members in this House to go back to their Constituencies and impress on the men in their Constituencies that they should allow their wives and their daughters to join viable women organisations in this country so that they too can contribute their quota to uplifting the status of womanhood in Nigeria.

During the dying days of the Military Administration in this country, there was a revised regulation as regards maternity leave. These days, both married and unmarried women are entitled to 12 weeks maternity leave. The credit for this often goes to Mrs Emmanuel. We also want it in the life of this Legislature that regulations will be enacted which will make the lots of women better, and it is only in this way that productivity can be enhanced and Nigeria will not boast only of its manpower but also of its women resources. As I said earlier, we need to broaden the outlook of our women and we can only do this by giving them a free hand to pursue that aspect of life which they think is in the best interest of womanhood in this country. So, it is left to you Members of this honourable House to support the Bills and Motions which we intend to bring up on making the lots of women better in this nation. Thank you.

Lagos-Ibadan Express Road

Mr O. Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : I would like to speak on the situation of the Lagos-Ibadan Express Road. The road I am talking of in our Budget is Code No. 022902000287. This road was constructed at a cost of about ₦155,000,000 and yearly we have been expending an average of ₦3,000,000 to repair it.

Mr Speaker : Mr Oni, you could remember that this matter has been a subject matter of a substantive motion and it had been referred to a Committee.

Mr Oni : There is something different I want to mention.

Mr Speaker : Go to the Committee and tell them. The Lagos-Ibadan Expressway is with the Committee on Works. So, please go there and tell them.

Mr Oni : Thank you.

Oil Royalty to Ondo State

Mr Olusola Omonira (Ilaje/Ese-Odo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, in making contribution to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to raise this salient point. Although we have not had any new oil wells in the country, the Federal Government has tried to establish the basis for justice in 1980 by paying royalties and rents to Ondo State Government amounting to ₦2.17 million. The basis for this payment is not known, nevertheless we thank the Federal Government for allowing this payment to be made to Ondo State Government. However, what it has indicated is that Ondo State Government which is now receiving oil royalties and rents for the first time ever and without any new oil well and oil exploration points, ought to have been receiving this oil revenue for the past eight years. Unfortunately, the Military Administration never thought it right for Ondo State Government to be given any royalty whatsoever. This is why I consider that the Government of President Shehu Shagari is to be thanked for this magnanimous gesture.

However, we hope that having paid this royalty to Ondo State Government, it would be necessary for us to know the basis because we believe that we have two important oil exploration stations, each of them having about nine oil wells surrounding it. In that respect, we hope that the oil revenue from Ondo State should be perhaps five times more than what we are being paid at the moment.

We thank the Government, but we want to appeal, through this House, that those areas where oil exploration is in progress at the moment should not be left uncared for. The unfortunate aspect is that they are in the riverine areas and it is very expensive to develop riverine areas. We pray the Federal Government to please do something about this area. Thank you very much.

Toll Gate for Shagamu

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to call on the Federal Ministry of Works to execute the plan to set up Toll Gates at the exit leading to Shagamu and Abeokuta. My investigation reveals that Ogun State uses the Express Road more than any other States in Nigeria, and as a result, the Express Gate fee to Ibadan is ₦2, and we travel about one-quarter of the Express Way and pay ₦2.

There is, already, a plan to instal Toll Gates at these two points. It would just be fair if the Toll Gates could be installed so that we could have a fee of ₦1 for Ijebu-Abeokuta and ₦1 for Abeokuta-Ijebu through the Toll Gate.

Linking Ogere Town with the Express Way

Another point which I would raise is the fact that the mistake which the contractor or the company that built the Express road made in respect of Ogere people and the people within that locality, which makes it impossible for them to veer off into their town from the Express Road, should be avoided in the new Shagamu-Benin Express road.

I am calling on the Federal Ministry of Works to ensure that there is a cross-over at Odogbolu junction, the Ososa-Agoro Road, the Ikoto-Ijebu-Ode-Epe Road, there should be an over-head bridge so that these towns and villages are not cut off permanently as was the fate of the people of Ogere, when this inter-State Express Road was constructed.

With these few remarks I beg to sit.

Invasion by the Chadians

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to develop on this topic, Sir, about the homeless Nigerians in Imo State.

Mr Speaker : No, that is not your topic. The topic here is peace between Borno State and Chad.

Chief Ogwe : There were two applications, Sir. I was thinking of the one I submitted earlier.

Mr Speaker : No, the one I have here is peace between Borno State and Chad, that is your application.

Chief Ogwe : Mr Speaker, Sir, I can develop that ; you did not refresh my memory. I will speak on the invasion by the Chadians. I would like to appeal to the President with reference to the incessant invasions in Borno State. The Police have had enough job to do there, and I have to commend their efforts. I should think that the Police had done so much that the foreign aggressors should be checked by our own Army. The President is the Head of the Nigerian Army. I want Mr President to know that the incessant invasions by the Chadians through the borders, are becoming too much on us. If we are to restore our pride, the President should make it a duty to call on the Army to take over our borders and restore peace there.

Recently, in the *National Concord*, the number of Nigerians who were killed there by the invading Army was published. They came into our country to commit arson, and all types of crimes. They loot our property and get away with it in their bid to survive because of the devastating internecine war in their area which has impoverished them. Because of this, they have resorted to coming into our own country to loot and do all sorts of harm. I am, therefore, appealing to the President to look into this case and to relieve the Police of such arduous job of checking foreign aggressors. This duty, in fact, is that of the Army. The Army, which has rested for so many years, should take it upon themselves to check these foreign invaders so that Nigeria's pride could be restored. I beg to sit.

Mr Speaker : Hon. J. A. Abiona, you are to speak on Federal Road Project ready for commissioning and Telephone Exchanges.

Mr J. A. Abiona (Ifelodun East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I spoke on these yesterday but if you call me again, I would emphasise on them since you are giving me the chance.

Mr Speaker : No, that is all right. Hon. D. A. Zubairu.

NNPC Zonal Office in Kaduna

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jama'a North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to contribute to the Motion for Adjournment by appealing to the officials of the NNPC that have Zonal Office in Kaduna, that the purpose of the Zonal Office there is to distribute employment among the inhabitants of Kaduna State.

Mr Speaker, even for little contracts of supplying books, employing messengers, the officials of the NNPC will have to go outside the State to employ the services of people from other States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the purpose of industrialisation in every part of this country is for employment. I know that this is so. I would like to inform the officials of the NNPC that an observation has been recorded in Kaduna State, that the establishment of Zonal Offices in Kaduna State is to the detriment of the State because most of the employees, the messengers, the labourers and other people on the lower cadres have always been employed from outside. I cannot see the reason, Mr Speaker, why, at this stage of our development, with the same equality as entrenched in the Constitution, people should be sectional on the issue of employment and other things.

It is pertinent to mention here that even a small kitchen that has always been given to the indigenes of the State has now been taken over from them. I want the officials of the NNPC to note that we have observed this, and we will take this very seriously if changes and amendments are not made to these anomalies. I beg to sit down, Mr Speaker.

Drastic Measures to curb Armed Robbery

Mr Bisi Olarewaju (Oranmiyan North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to appeal to the President of Nigeria and my hon. Colleagues in this House, and I want to highlight the seriousness of and the threat being posed by the menace of armed robbers in this country. Just last week, a car belonging to a member of this honourable House was stolen at the premises of this National Assembly, and hon. Olukoya's car was also snatched just at the premises of this House. It is very disheartening to note that despite the threat posed by these robbers nothing has been done by the Government of this country. The Military regime, in order to curb the wave of armed robbery, enacted a Decree whereby armed robbers were executed in this country. Just last month also, about ten cars belonging to the members of Lagos State Assembly were stolen. It got to a stage in my own Constituency where a first Class Oba ordered a curfew because of the seriousness of the atrocities of armed robbers, these enemies of progress in this nation.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, some members in the Lagos State Assembly have suggested that the limbs of these robbers be amputated. We have national heroes in this country and they are compensated for their heroic acts. So, by this amputation, these armed robbers will not be easily distinguished from people who, through natural phenomenon or war, had their limbs amputated. I would, therefore, suggest that traditional mark, an identifying mark, like traditional tribal mark, should be placed on their cheeks so that they could be identified as national saboteurs. It could be like a cross or a multiplication mark put on their foreheads or on their cheeks. Mr Speaker, Sir I want us to think seriously about this suggestion. We need drastic measures for these enemies of progress, and if nothing is done, I think it will get to a stage where the President himself, Mr Speaker, and the hon. Members are not safe in this country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Soil Erosion in Imo and Anambra States

Mr Tobias N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment I want to emphasise on the Soil erosion problem facing Imo and Anambra States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some time ago the Federal Minister of Agriculture was in Imo State. He saw things himself.

We are talking of Agricultural Revolution, and also the provision of shelter for the entire masses of this nation. The ones already established have to be properly taken care of. If you go to some places, with more emphasis on Imo State, places like Abriba in Bende, Okigwe, Noliagoro in Aba even some sections in Ikeduru, these places are very disastrous. They are disastrous in the sense that if you go to these areas that I have just mentioned, most of the schools, hospitals, in fact, both private and commercial houses are almost sinking and every day in the media of Imo State, IBS, the Government has been soliciting for help. Just about two weeks ago a

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disaster relief fund was established in Imo State with an initial amount of ₦100,000. Mr Speaker, Sir, the masses there are over-strained.

I am now appealing to the President, through this honourable House, that since the amount of ₦75 million has been set aside for unforeseen disasters in this country, that something more positive should be done to assist these two States, particularly Imo State. I am soliciting for a serious help to go to this particular State.

The problems of the States differ. Some States might have Oil Spillage and the Federal Government would run to them for help. Some States might have locust invasion. Some States might have desert encroachment. So, the problems of the States differ. Since the problem right now in Imo State is that of Soil erosional problem, which has almost taken the major share of the State's revenue, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am now soliciting that something more substantial be done to this particular State. I think it will be more appropriate and wiser if Mr President could send a team to that particular State to see things themselves, to see the volume of disaster that is involved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with this, the situation could be ascertained. I am saying that the suffering of the masses there is enough ; so enough is enough. With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I would like to take my seat.

Geological Survey of Kwagol Hill

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to say something about my constituency, that is, Maiha. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to the Federal Minister of Mines and Power to send Geological Surveyors to Kwagol Hill in order to make a search for Mineral. This search was made in 1963 by the A.B.U. Team, and their findings were submitted to the former Northern Nigeria Government. Since then nothing has been done in that area.

Zinc Industry at Karau

My second point is that, I am appealing to the Minister of Industry to establish a Zinc Industry at Karau because the area is extremely rich in zinc and actually, if you have a Zinc Industry at that area, it will help both Nigeria and Cameroun, our neighbouring country.

Iron Ore in Paka Hill

Mr Speaker, Sir, my third point is that, I could remember when this part of my Constituency was under British Administration in 1960, one of the Governors of the area by name Sir Pattson Wilharry approved that Paka Hill in Mandara Mountain in the former Northern Cameroun, contained a lot of rocks to establish a cement industry there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will quote the file number. The file number is TT/P/23 but I have forgotten

the page number in 1963. I have made my own research. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to the Minister of Mines and Power to send expert surveyors to make a research of that area. Mr Speaker, Sir, with that contribution, I thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : The Hon. Mr L. A. B. Kataiye. He is absent. The hon. Mr A. A. Waba. The Hon. Mr Edet Bassey Etienam. The Hon. Mr Yusuf Ibn Mohammed.

History of Nigeria since Independence

Mr Yusuf Ibn Mohammed (Moro) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment I would like to talk on the recent announcement and publication in different National Dailies that a Committee has been set up to re-write the History of Nigeria since Independence. Historically speaking, this is a commendable effort on the part of the Federal Government. It is very disheartening that the history of Africa as a whole, or West Africa, and Nigeria in particular, are based on the writings of the white men who did not know the history of this continent as it truly was.

The re-writing of Nigerian history since independence, therefore, is a step forward by the government to see that the proper historical records of the activities of the various governments and personalities in this country are well recorded. Since Nigeria is one of the leading African countries, I will use this opportunity therefore to suggest that in any meeting of the Economic Community of West African States, a similar body be set up to re-write the history of West Africa for the educational development not only of Nigeria but of other West African countries. I am also suggesting that, in the coming OAU in Freetown, Siera Leone, a suggestion by Nigerian delegation be made to set up a similar body to re-write the history of Africa as a whole since other histories of Africa being written were based on white men's writings. Let African history be written by Africans, let West African history be written by Africans and let Nigerian history be written by Nigerians. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : The Hon. Mr J. C. Ojukwu.

Locust Invasion

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I want to refer to the recent news item in the various media regarding the warning of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. F.A.O., that there is an impending invasion, locust invasion in some parts of the country. It is delighting to note that the Ministry of Agriculture, to be specific, the hon. Minister for Agriculture has set up a task force in readiness for that invasion. This is about the first times, as far as I can remember, that a positive step has been taken to check an impending disaster, an impending catastrophe in the country. For too long we have been used to tackling our problems on *Ad Hoc* basis, only as they arise. We find ourselves running helter skelter. It is therefore commendable and praiseworthy that this early warning is being taken care of.

Since the Ministry of Agriculture is also responsible for checking a number of other natural disasters and the menaces to human lives and property, I humbly take this opportunity to call on the Ministry to set up task forces also in areas to check desert encroachment because, for a long time, we have been receiving warning about desert encroachment, we think it is a matter for joke. Some day we may find ourselves on the brink of the desert.

The same thing goes for the encroachment of the ocean. We find that the road in front of the Bar Beach, before long will no longer be there unless something positive is done. That brings us also to the very threatening dangers of soil erosion which also comes under this same Ministry. One notes that action is being taken, but one is pleading that such actions be expedited for right now there are schools whose life span has been given as 15 years, some 10 years. In my local government area, Idemili Local Government, there are three secondary

schools, the Nnobi Community School, St. Anthony's Oraukwu and there is another one which is on the verge of being sunk completely right now. So, while commending the Minister for Agriculture for setting up this task force to fight the locust invasion which I understand is likely to be as grave as the one experienced in the late thirties to the early forties, when some of us were not born, we appeal to the Ministry to take a global look at some of these other threats. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Put the question.

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.20a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 27th June, 1980

The House met at 9.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Committee On Public Service Matters

Presentation of Conference Report on National Assembly Service Commission Bill.

Mr David Atta (Okpokwu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, with your permission, before I proceed to move the Motion, I would like to make the following corrections on page 4 of the report. The report is that of the Joint Conference on National Assembly Service Commission Bill. The report are in your pigeon holes.

Mr Speaker : Have Members not got their reports? In any case, do not forget that we have treated this matter. It is just a report of the Conference between this House and the Senate. I understand the Senate accepted all our amendments.

Mr Atta : May I continue, Mr Speaker, Sir, with the amendment?

Mr Speaker : Yes, please.

Mr Atta : The amendment is in respect of Section 58 (4) of the Constitution which has been wrongly quoted. Section 58 (4) of the Constitution states that :

Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorising such House to delegate to a committee the power to decide whether a bill shall be passed into law or to determine any matter which it is empowered to determine by resolution under the provisions of this Constitution, but the committee may be authorised to make recommendations to the House on any such matter.

This has not been correctly quoted in page 4 so I plead with Members to make reference to Section 58 (4) of the Constitution.

Having done that, Mr Speaker, Sir, I formally move that the House do receive the report of the Conference of both Houses in respect of the National Assembly Service Commission Bill for an act to provide for the establishment of the National Assembly Service Commission, referred to Conference on 15th May, 1980. I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, Mr Agbamuche.

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Chairman.

Mr Atta : I go on to page 2 of the report. The National Assembly Service Commission Bill (S.1-80E) titled :

A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the National Assembly Service Commission and to empower the Commission to appoint the Clerk to the National Assembly and other staff of the National Assembly and for purposes connected therewith was referred to the Conference Committee of the National Assembly by order of the Senate on 4th June, 1980 consequent upon the Senate disagreement with some of the amendments proposed to its Bill by the House of Representatives. The Conference met to consider the Bill on 18th and 24th of June, 1980.

The three points on which the Senate and the House of Representatives differed were in respect of

(a) Clause 2 (2) page C.2, lines 7 and 8 and it relates to the provision :

The Clerk to the National Assembly shall be a member of the Commission with no voting rights ;

(b) Clause 6 (1) (f), page C.5, lines 1 and 2 which reads :

Such other officers as the Commission may appoint subject to the approved provisions in the Estimates; and

(c) Clause 6 (2) page C.5, lines 9, 10 and 11 :

The Commission may, with the approval of the National Assembly, at any time, by resolution, increase, reduce or vary the strength and categories of the staff prescribed in the Schedule.

The above matters were thoroughly deliberated upon, and on the Question being put, the Conference ordered that :

(1) The amendment proposed by the House of Representatives as Clause 2 (2) lines 7 and 8 :

The Clerk to the National Assembly shall be a member of the Commission with no voting rights should form part of the Bill.

(2) Clause 6 (1) (f) lines 1 and 2 :

Such other officers as the Commission may appoint subject to the approved provisions in the Estimates, be deleted from the Bill.

(3) Clause 6 (2) lines 9, 10 and 11 which reads :

The Commission may, with the approval of the National Assembly, at any time, by resolution, increase, reduce or vary the strength and categories of staff prescribed in the Schedule, be deleted from the Bill.

The above decisions were based on the following reasons :—

(1) In respect of the membership of the Clerk to the National Assembly of the Commission, the

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point of argument for the inclusion advanced and accepted by the Conference were :

(a) to provide the link between the Commission and the National Assembly ;

(b) to enhance the Clerk to the National Assembly's co-ordinating role as the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the National Assembly ;

(c) to make available to the Commission such officer's expertise on a continuing basis ; and

(d) to provide functional relationship between the Commission and the National Assembly.

Then in respect of Clause 6, sub-clauses (1) (f) and (2), the Conference agreed to delete them from the Bill because their retention would amount to giving the Commission powers to amend an Act passed by the National Assembly, a prerogative which the National Assembly is not obliged to delegate. The Conference decided that if such powers were granted to the Commission it would be *ultra vires* the provision of Section 58 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In summary, the Bill stands amended as follows :

(a) At page C.2, lines 7 and 8 now form sub-clause (2) of Clause 2—*Membership of the Commission*—thus—*The Clerk to the National Assembly shall be a member of the Commission with no voting rights.*

(b) At page C.2 also, the former sub-clause (2) lines 9 and 10 now become sub-clause (3).

(c) At page C.4, Clause 6 now ends at sub-clause (1)(e) line 28, instead of (f) thereof.

(d) At page C.5, lines 1 to 11 stand deleted from the provisions of the Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am delighted to conclude that all the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives were upheld at this Joint Conference.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Yes, hon. Members, any comments ?

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I just wish to suggest that it would not be enough for the House to receive the Report but to formally adopt it, which is tantamount to approval.

Mr Speaker : Yes, but that is what we are going to do. We are going to either approve or reject the Report. You are saying that we have to adopt it first.

Mr Iyayi : No, I mean we should receive and adopt it.

Mr Speaker : It has been placed on the table this morning but we decided to go on because it is not controversial. I understand what you are saying, you are perfectly in order. It has to be laid on the Table, then we adjourn for another day. But, if you still want that procedure we can go on, otherwise it is not controversial.

Mr Iyayi : I am not in any way suggesting any debate on it. I am saying that it is merely a formality to accept and approve it.

Mr Speaker : Yes, you are quite in order. These were amendments taken to the Joint Committee and they were all accepted. Who will ask that the Question be now put ?

Mr. B. M. Mabrama Jen (Karimu Lamido) : I move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do approve the Report of the Conference (of both Houses) in respect of the National Assembly Service Commission Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the National Assembly Service Commission (*Referred to Conference 15th May, 1980*).

Mr Speaker : So, we have now got a National Assembly Service Commission because this has been holding up our business. Yes, Notice of Motion on Nigerian Foreign Policy—Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa.

Mr M. A. Agbamuche (Oshimili) : Point of order. Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no quorum now before the House.

Several hon. Members : There is.

Mr Agbamuche : Count.

Mr Speaker : Are you moving a point of order ?

Mr Agbamuche : Yes, Order 8.

The quorum of the House shall be not less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House. Even if, Mr Speaker, those who are absent are allowed, we have still not formed a quorum. That is the order.

Mr Speaker : It is one-third, not one-sixth. Section 50 of the Constitution says one-third.

Mr Agbamuche : Mr Speaker, the Standing Orders on which we still rely says—(*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : That is superseded by the Constitution. There is another point of order. Let us take all the points of order.

Mr S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : Order 5 (2)—Sitting of the House.

On Fridays and Saturdays the House shall meet at 9 a.m. and if not previously adjourned shall sit until noon.

It does not say anything about quorum.

Mr Speaker : Chief Oduntan, you are a trade unionist, you know. This is not your field. Leave the hon. Member for Ijebu-Ode (*Mr M. A. Olukoya*), the hon. Member for Aniocha (*Mr G. N. Uwechue*) and others to argue it out.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in raising the point of order by my hon. Member from Oshimili (*Mr M. A. Agbamuche*), I think he ought to establish before this House that this House Sitting is not competent to continue to transact

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business. It is after that that we can say that the House could be adjourned in accordance with the said Section 50 of the Constitution. He must establish that the House is not competent to transact any business.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Ijebu-Ode (*Mr M. A. Olukoya*), I think if we have not formed a quorum the implication is that we are not competent to go on. So the basic question is whether or not we have formed a quorum.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think at this point, it would be pertinent to refer to Section 50 of the Constitution because it appears to me that there are two conditions required by Section 50. The first is there being less than one-third of the people, and the other is that, in the opinion of the Speaker, we cannot deliberate. So let us read Section 50 carefully. Let us just go through it first.

If objection is taken by any member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives present that there are present in the House of which he is a member (besides the person presiding) fewer than one-third of all the members of that House and that it is not competent for the House to transact business, and after such interval as may be prescribed in the rules of procedure of the House, the person presiding ascertains that the number of members present is still less than one-third of all the members of the House, he shall adjourn the House.

So, the point here is that he has said that he suspects there are less than one-third sitting. But he has not said, Sir, and I presume he will not say so, that it is not competent for us to continue to deliberate today, being a Friday.

Secondly, Sir, apart from that, it is still within the discretion of the Speaker himself to allow the time, because it says after the time allowed, to allow such time, as in his own opinion is necessary before he calls for the counting. So, Mr Speaker, we can deliberate until you are satisfied that no quorum is formed.

Mr Speaker : I think Section 50 does not give the Speaker any discretion, but I think the absence of our colleagues from NPN for which they obtained permission is not enough to prevent us from being competent to carry on the business of the House ; and particularly as the business of Government must go on, I think the sitting of this House must continue.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Nigeria Foreign Policy

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : I am going to lead the debate on this Motion in the absence of hon. Mohammed A. Yelwa. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion is—

That this House re-affirms its total commitment to the foreign policy objectives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and hereby calls on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to

continue to promote African Unity, total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation and to combat vigorously racial discrimination in all its manifestations.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Mutari M. Adamu (Dutse) : I beg to second.

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, as you will see, this Motion is not controversial at all. It is one of the parts of the Oath we have taken in this House that this Motion has been brought forward. If you refer to Chapter 2 of the Constitution, the fundamental objectives and directive principles of State policy, Section 19, it is clearly stated there that :

The State shall promote African Unity, as well as total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and States, and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations.

In order words, Mr Speaker, Sir, we are hereby moving this Motion to encourage and to strengthen the hands of the President in the prosecution and fulfilment of this vital aspect of our Constitution. Mr Speaker, Sir, the concern for African Unity and its progress becomes more realistic if we look at the woes and tribulations of the Blackman's right from history. I say here without any equivocation and with every pride that old Africa was a source of pride to the world in terms of civilisation and learning, but with the wake of modern economics, the spread of slave trade, the African peoples were subjected to a type of humiliation that has tended to hamper their sense of horizon. Now, it is our duty to recapture the lost glory of Africa.

Hon. Members, as you go on your short recess, some of you may be privileged to travel abroad. If you have some chance, go on tours and visits and see for yourselves the great domes of Europe, the great palaces of Europe, the centres of attraction. In America there are all the by-products of African wealth. I happened to have seen a dome in Rome that weighs from calculations, twenty tones of nineteen carraet gold. Most of these were the things that colonialism brought to Africa and we were robbed of our wealth and our right.

Therefore, the time has come that Nigeria being a great country should now muster her resources and give Africa a new direction and purpose in the comity of nations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, coming specifically to the liberation struggles in the remaining enclaves of colonialism in South Africa and Namibia, I would like to say that it is one thing to give assistance to these areas, but it is another thing to make the world aware of what we are doing, because the substance of our efforts more often may be thwarted unless we tell the world what we are doing. Sometimes in politics you need to tell the whole world what you are doing. This is why I want the Federal

Government to be very closely associated with the Front-Line States in such a way that we in Nigeria should continue to occupy the position we did when we were fighting for the liberation of Angola and South Africa. Even though Nigeria was not a Front-Line State, physically, we were regarded as a Front Line State. Therefore, for the rest of the battle for Namibia and South Africa, Nigeria must seize the bull by the horn and take the leadership as it deserves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think in this regard too we talk about economic freedom. Nigeria should not only concern itself with ECOWAS but as it is doing, and it is commendable, it should continue to encourage both geographical, economic co-operations as well as total African Common Market.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to be a strong force in this respect, I think that Nigeria must need a powerful defence capability. As the hon. Chairman of the Defence Committee had cause to report to this House, our defence system should be such that it could serve as a deterrent to any doubting Thomas. I am therefore calling on this House as well as the Executives to work very closely with the Defence Arm to provide us with a coherent, efficient, and acceptable defence policy, equipments and directives.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, we come to internal political consensus. You can never foster a strong political front in terms of foreign policy unless you have the domestic consensus. I am saying here, Mr Speaker, that developments in your local administration have repercussions on your foreign policy. If we are condemning racism which, of course, we are now saying we should condemn with all the fibre of strength that God has given to this country, we are condemning oppression, we are condemning inhuman treatment, it goes without saying that as they say, *practice starts at home*.

It is enshrined in the Constitution that it is the duty of all of us here to ensure that :

The State shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various peoples of the Federation, to the end that loyalty to the nation shall override sectional loyalties.

Mr Speaker, it is also stated, I am reading from section 15, subsections 4 and 5, that :

The State shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to give pride to a citizen, he must have a sense of belonging. On this Floor of this House, we have said times without number that our students abroad, our businessmen abroad, our workers abroad, even the embassies and foreign Relations officials abroad, must be inspired with pride to make them feel Nigerian. Every measure must be taken that wherever you are and you are called a Nigerian, you should feel proud. Unless people are prepared to feel proud to be called Nigerians, they may not owe that type of loyalty that will give the backing that will sustain a Foreign Policy. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am saying that every effort should be made by those in authority to ensure that that domestic consensus is there so that we can nip this problem of

internal sabotage in the bud. Without that, Mr Speaker, Sir, we cannot have the will. Even when you are prosecuting a war, the will of the soldiers is very essential.

I refer here, Mr Speaker, to some efforts made during the Military regime when this country had to collect money in large sums in order to send to South Africa. It was because the people felt committed to the cause that the donations came quite freely and in large sums. I believe, Mr Speaker, that we should do everything to ensure that those who are in power, wherever they are, whether in the States or at the Federal level, even here in the National Assembly, including Mr Speaker himself and myself, we should do everything possible to encourage Nigerians to feel a sense of greatness among themselves, within themselves and throughout the length and breadth of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are others who are going to speak on this Motion, and I, therefore, will not like to take much time. I am, commending this Motion to this honourable House that as a part of our sworn objective, this is one Motion that should be uncontroversial.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the co-mover.

Mr David Atta (Okpokwu East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, hon. Tom Egbuwoku has very ably dwelt on the essential elements of this Motion which you have all been told is non-controversial. It is in consonance with the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, and he has rightly derived his authority from Section 19 of the said Constitution and with your permission, I may like to reiterate :

The State shall promote African Unity, as well as total political, economic social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and States, and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations.

From this, we can see the key elements in our foreign policy objectives. The Constitution has rightly made Africa the centre piece of our foreign policy, and we know how psychologically committed we are to this vexed issue of liberation in Africa. Africa is the only continent in this entire universe where its people are denied their birthright. We have been plundered, we have been toiled, we have been exploited and this is the time for us to do something. That is why we are looking for ways of giving our government some backing in the pursuit of her foreign policy which has placed an emphasis on the complete liberation of Africa from all forms of subjugation. Nigeria was instrumental to the establishment of Angola ; Nigeria played a leading role that made it possible for Zimbabwe to be a reality today.

We need to ask ourselves, why does it devolve on Nigeria to take this extra responsibility for Africa. I think the answer is not far-fetched. We have the resources both human and material and we have the will to act. Our inaction and reticence in the past have been responsible for the babyish treatment we have

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received from the world community and until we prove practically to the world that we have come of age, they will continue to treat us, not as adult members of the world community, but as people who do not know their rights.

With your permission, I would like to make reference to a statement credited to a great son of Africa, and a Pan Africanist in the name of Dr Kwame Nkrumah of blessed memory who once said :

I can see no security for African States unless leaders like ourselves have realised beyond all doubts that salvation for Africa lies in unity. If we are to remain free, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of Africa's enormous wealth, we must unite to plan for our total defence and full exploitation of our human and material resources in the interest of our people.

It is in this light that I endorse completely the leadership role that Nigeria is giving in respect of ECOWAS. I would like to state, too, that our President has really made a good start, which deserves the support of all of us. Mr Tom Egbuwoku, in his contribution, drew attention to the need for internal vigilance and for internal cohesion. I would like to believe that foreign policy or foreign relation is the projection of the domestic situation on to the external environment. So, there is need for vigilance, there is need for unity within the internal domestic community without which a divided public cannot be expected to give enthusiastic public backing to issues and policies of government in respect of foreign policies. There will be disagreement. Nobody is asking for a world in which all men are agreed. It is not even desirable, but we should allow our disagreement to co-exist with harmony. There is nothing extraordinary in people disagreeing with one another, but in everything we do, in all we do, the national interest of the country should be paramount.

The decisive and vigorous policies that Nigeria is playing in the external environment has certainly created a disturbance we all know for international imperialism. We know that they have adopted a strategy of choosing the least line of resistance. We do not want them to capitalise on our domestic problems in order to retaliate and really punish us for our role in foreign relations. If Nigeria is divided and we are unable to take a concerted action in respect of Africa on liberation struggles and in other forms of international relations we will be unable to assume the so much talked about leadership role.

So, internal unity is at the base of our effectiveness in all we do in the entire external community. This is a point that has to be borne in mind and the leadership of the country has a role to play in this in wielding the people together and in giving every Nigerian citizen a realistic hope in the system without which we are not likely to give him any enthusiastic backing to all his policies in respect of African liberation or other economic measures that the leadership might want to introduce.

As you have all been told, this issue is not controversial, it is consistent with the Constitution of the country, so, I would call on all of you this morning to give the President of the country all

the necessary support and encouragement to pursue our foreign policy objectives as contained in the Constitution of our land. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : Yes, any other Co-Mover who wants to speak ? Yes, Mr Mustapha.

Mr Muhammed Mustapha (Ringim Gado) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a mistake in the name here, my name is M. Mustapha and not M. I. I hope this will be corrected in the records.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that I support and recommend this Motion because, as my two previous Colleagues have said, Nigeria's role in foreign affairs especially in the African sphere is very important. It is important because it is through a dynamic and forceful foreign policy that we have been able to achieve the last independence of the great country of Zimbabwe and we are poised to go down south and get the mainland of South Africa.

Mr Speaker, I noticed that Mr Tom Egbuwoku has ably highlighted the constitutional backing for this motion as well as the last Member who spoke (hon. D. Attah), who gave us the political inspiration from his quotation from Dr Kwame Nkrumah. I would now give a practical suggestion for the President to look into in ensuring a strong foreign policy to bring about all these goals we are mentioning.

I would recommend that in the Ministry of External Affairs we immediately establish a bureau of African Affairs like the great leader Dr Kwame Nkrumah did because of the benefits and usefulness of such a bureau. Such an organisation should co-ordinate and bring about a centre for all remaining African guerrilla fighters and the African leaders who are still fighting for independence in the mainland of South Africa or in South-West Africa. All these should be centred in a place. There is no place in Africa today where these people can gather apart from occasional meetings of the OAU where they lobby Heads of State and Heads of delegation and apart from going from State capital to State capital. There is no part of Africa where they can sit, as a matter of permanent rendezvous and sort out their plans to go ahead with the fight to redeem the rest of Africa. I am, therefore, strongly advising that a bureau of African Affairs be set up in our Ministry of External Affairs not to deal purely with diplomatic affairs but to make these people plan the military aspect of the struggle to win South Africa, to use the economic weapon which we successfully used in the fight against Zimbabwe and many other things.

An example of the usefulness of this bureau is this. Many African leaders were trained in Accra when Nkrumah had this in that country. I refer to people like the late Dr Augustino Neto of Angola, who was trained in Ghana and he was able to fight to get his country free. The late Marcias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea was also trained there, Amilcar Cabral of Guinea Bissau was trained there ; Holden Roberto was also trained there. Those who are still living but were trained there as well include Robert Mugabe, Dr Hastings Banda, and Mr Sam Noujuma. Somebody has brought to my attention that Mr Ikoku was trained there. I think he was a lecturer there. (Laughter)

So, Mr Speaker, I have given an exhaustive list of people who benefited from that bureau. It is with great pride that Ghanaians should look to this as a sacrifice their country made. Incidentally, Nigeria has taken the place of that great country now in African Affairs. We ought to have a centre where these people would come together and sort out their plans to go ahead with the fight to free the rest of Africa.

I will now go on the economic aspect of it. Many people knew, as President Kaunda ably said when he was here, that the economic weapon Nigeria used against Britain and the West for that matter, led to their agreement in Lancaster House for a truly one man and one vote election which led to the freedom of Zimbabwe. This is a very important weapon we have. All the economic statistics and studies have shown that the West realises that their economic future lies with Nigeria and Africa as opposed to South Africa and its enclaves. If this is so, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, therefore, in addition to the Ministry of Trade should sort out all ways and means to enforce this and see that Nigerian foreign policy becomes not only clear and effective but also efficacious to achieve its goal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this is the contribution I have to make. I recommend this Motion very strongly to this House.

Mr Niyi Adelu (Ibadan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. As a matter of fact, in the views of our foreign policy we are the standard bearers of African Unity, African oneness and African irredentism. Mr Speaker, Sir, at the same time, our foreign policy objectives must ensure that Nigeria is neither pro-West nor pro-East but pro-Africa and pro-Peace.

Mr Speaker, in view of this, I wish to say quite frankly and without fear of contradiction that Nigerian attitude towards Liberia is very wrong. It is, as a matter of fact, in opposition to the rules and regulations of the present foreign policy. When Sergeant Doe seized power in Liberia, it was with due regard to the aspirations and interest of the Liberian people. Why should we in Nigeria assume the role of a judge and think that Doe was wrong. If the Liberian people think Doe is right, we should agree with the Liberian people and say Doe is right. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I have to say frankly that Nigeria should change its attitude towards Sergeant Doe of Liberia. We must support the people of Liberia; we must support everything that is in the interest of the people of Liberia and, therefore, we must support Sergeant Doe of Liberia. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Aba (*Mr S. U. Wanganga*).

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to add my support to this Motion, and in doing so, I wish, in fact, to congratulate the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, for the firm stand he has taken in many issues of African Policy. I have in mind his stand about the Liberian issue. I believe that Nigeria has gone through a lot of turmoil. We have suffered and lost a

lot of lives in the hands of Military dictatorship. We have now become a democratic country by the will of the people and the decision of the electorate. We would like other African countries to emulate us. We would like to say that where a leader is dictatorial and he is removed from power, he should not be butchered, his wife and children should not be butchered making Africa look like a barbaric continent.

So, what has happened in Liberia is a disgrace to any man of decency. (*Applause*)

We are not arguing that the Liberian people have no right of self-determination, we are saying that the manner in which this sergeant has come to power is most disgraceful. I think Nigeria is setting a new pattern, perhaps, without realising it. We are now trying to determine which are really legitimate governments in Africa. It is not enough—

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Omidiji : My point of order is under the Constitution. Nigeria should not interfere in other African sister-country's internal affairs. That is under the Constitution.

Mr Speaker : Please, let him go on.

Mr Wanganga : The point I am making is that Nigeria made an error of omission when the Charter of the OAU was originally drawn up because Nigeria pioneered the Charter of the OAU. We were very anxious to please all African countries, so the most important clause was not inserted : that while we fight for freedom and self-determination in Africa where foreigners are concerned, that is where the colonial masters are concerned, that we should also see that when a country has gained independence, people should not be suppressed by the rulers because there is no need to have our selective conscience that if the whites are against a particular African country we are against it too. When we get a leader like Idi Amin suppressing his people and butchering them, African Statesmen say nothing about it. That is a serious omission and I think that Nigeria is going along the right path now and we hope it will not be too long when our President will propose a slight amendment to that particular clause in the Charter of the OAU.

One of the other things I wish to comment on is the practical aspects of Nigeria's foreign policy. The previous speakers have very ably laid out the outline of what Nigeria is supposed to do. I am not going to delve into that. What I am going to talk about is South Africa. We know that a lot of Africans are being killed for purely non-violent demonstrations. Enough is enough. This time, we should save the ordinary people of South Africa the agony of being slaughtered without any arms. We should now have a practical guerilla group who are hired to fight, to kill or be killed. Nigeria has done enough of staying on the side as far as South Africa is concerned. Our policy on South Africa needs to be re-energised so that we can start now to train guerillas for South African war and let them actually go in and operate.

[MR WANGANGA]

I was very pleased when the major oil refinery was blown up in South Africa, I said that was a sign of something to come. I would like to see more of such explosions because when it happens, I am sure that the racists will lose control, they will get frightened and they will give up power to whom the power belongs, that is, the majority Black people in South Africa. So, there should be no more shadow boxing. We should now have a frontal attack on the racist enclave in South Africa.

Mr Speaker : Yes, round up.

Mr Wanganga : One of the points I would like to make on this Motion is that before you can prosecute a successful foreign policy, you must have stability at home. At the moment, we have stability up to a point, but the average Nigerian is feeling insecure. It is no longer easy for any Nigerian to move about and feel that he will be safe. I am asking our President to get the Army out to fight the armed robbers.

Mr Speaker : No, this is not part of the Motion.

Mr Wanganga : It is. All right, the comment has been made. Finally—

Mr Speaker : We are talking about foreign policy. Armed robbery is not part of our foreign policy.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Speaker, Sir, with the greatest respect, armed robbery is part of the destabilising factors within the country.

Mr Speaker : Yes, but do not argue it. It is not part of our foreign policy. Go straight to our foreign policy.

Mr Wanganga : Well, I do not argue with the Speaker. Somebody said he is the judge of the Parliament and I entirely agree.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to urge this honourable House to support this Motion which is not controversial.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Keffi (*Mr Amos Idakula*).

Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion if for nothing else, for the mere fact that Nigeria today has been described as the home of democracy in Africa. It is in this context, Mr Speaker, that I would like to speak.

If you look very carefully into the various African States today, you will discover that every Head of State has constituted himself into a small god or a king or a dictator. Mr Speaker, it is very unfair to this country, if we are going to assume the role of the centre of African democracy, and seem to have our eyes shut to all the dictators which are being gradually formed in Africa.

Some few years back, Military rule was the order of the day in Africa, and now some of these Military Heads of State have changed their titles to become Kings like the Central African Republic's Bokassa who has become an Emperor; some of these

rulers have stayed for ages claiming to be the right rulers of their people. I think that if Nigeria wants to strengthen her foreign policy, she should begin to look into this issue in the most appropriate way so that Africa as a whole will return to democratic rule.

Talking about South Africa, Mr Speaker, Sir, you will notice that a country like Zaire is the stepping stone to South Africa. Everything that is consumed in Zaire is imported from South Africa. Every wine, every beer, every food that is eaten in Zaire is imported from South Africa, even their meat. Even water, the good water which they drink is imported from South Africa. If you go to their airport in the night, you will find mighty South African planes landing and putting down cargoes which have come from South Africa and yet our Embassy in Zaire is one of the weakest. Nigeria seems to have forgotten completely about that Embassy; their office accommodation is very, very small; every place is leaking and their staff strength is very small, and yet we are at the verge of confronting South Africa. We have left a very big stepping stone to South Africa. I want to advise the Ministry of External Affairs that they should do something very pragmatic in a way to aid our Embassy in Zaire in order for us to have a stepping stone to get into South Africa.

As one of my hon. Colleagues from Aba (*Mr S. U. Wanganga*) said, I think it is very important for us to have a political base in Nigeria.

Democracy, is not something that is born and got. It is something that you practise, it is something that you all agree to get into, and it is something that you like to continue. It appears to me as if the President of the country is trying to move towards dictatorship. You find out that he is more or less in favour of a one-party system in Nigeria. He has succeeded in getting NPP to go into accord with the NPN. The party has succeeded, as far as I am concerned, in causing a rift in the PRP; GNPP is not safe and UPN is just coming. We are not going to have a one-party system in Nigeria. (*Applause*)

The issue of the Liaison Officers in all the 19 States is purely because he wants to win in every State when the next election comes, so that his party will be the only party to win. Mr Speaker, we are not going to have a one-party system in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker : Mr Idakula, the Motion is about Nigeria's foreign policy.

Mr Idakula : Mr Speaker, I think it is best for us to have a situation whereby everybody could look up to us as a more mature political country, where we do not fear the existence of any other party and we fear no opposition. By so doing, our foreign policy will be much more dynamic. Thank, you very much.

Mr A. K. Lanko (Sawa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to oppose the Motion. (*Applause*) First of all, may I ask the hon. Members what we are after. Are we after our popularity or are we after dignity or gentility? Nigeria has been contributing a lot in other countries. First of all, what is happening in Chad? The Chadian Army

has been killing Nigerians and yet Nigeria was all out to assist that country. What happened in the Arab countries that we should be proud of? After the Hajj many Nigerians were killed there. We had a similar experience in Ghana during the time of Dr Busia. Let us go to Congo, it was the same story. Even among West African countries we are suffering.

Why are we in Nigeria putting all our interest in encouraging our leader to support African countries while we ourselves are suffering in Nigeria? If you go to Gongola State you will see what is happening there. In Sokoto, and Bornu States we have the same problems. Are they not Nigerians? They are Nigerians: they are suffering, yet we are still encouraging our leaders in this country to send all our money to other countries. Apart from that, you know that in Africa we have many leaders. We have imposed leaders and we have born leaders. Therefore, please let us not encourage our leaders to send most of our resources to other countries.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Chief Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani): Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Members, part of the Motion is that this House reaffirms its total commitment, and it goes on to say total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa. I want to agree with the last hon. Member (Mr Lanko) who spoke about the insecurity at home while we are going ahead with foreign policies. I want to ask: is this the type of co-operation we are going to have? While a part of Cross River State is being annexed to the Cameroun Republic, Nigeria sits tight, folding her arms and looking up to the liberation of South Africa. The NNS Nigeria cannot patrol the waters around the Cross River State and you think the NNS Nigeria will go to South Africa to fight a war? I think we are kidding. Let us set our houses in order first. Today, the Cameroun Republic issues tax receipts to indigenes of Cross River State. Today, the Cameroun Republic gives them passports. They travel with passports from Calabar to Eket, a part of Cross River State which is being patrolled by the Cameroun gendarmes and the government of this country keeps quiet. We are preparing to fight South Africa while we cannot even control the Cameroun Republic. Let us take all these things into consideration before we make our plans for total liberation! *political! economic! social, bla, bla, bla of Africa. (Laughter)*

Hon. Members, it is only the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches. Some of us who have seen wars of recent, even though they were called Police action, we have seen sophisticated weapons used and I think the record of South Africa is that they have the greatest number of sophisticated weapons, war ships and air planes in the continent. It is not yet time for Nigeria to run all the way down to South Africa. Let us start from the Nigerian borders down to South Africa.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Chief Bon Omorua (Warri): Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for recognising me and giving me this opportunity to speak. I rise to oppose this Motion. My reason is that this Motion gives the

impression that Nigeria, since the new Republic, has been doing nothing. Only recently we buried 18 souls in this country in pursuit of our foreign policy. I think we should be grateful and thankful to this country for all that it has done. Yet, we are not appreciative, we still want Nigeria to go to South Africa. How can we fight South Africa? We have to be very factual in this matter. It is not a question of coming here to start talking quite a lot of things that we can never achieve. How can Nigeria face South Africa? I have heard people saying that we should train guerillas in this country and take them to and South Africa to fight; If they are recognised—

Mr Speaker: There is a point of order.

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jemaia North): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Order is 26 (2). The Motion is not asking that Nigeria is going into war with South Africa, so I would like the hon. Member to speak on the Motion.

Mr T. O. Olusi (Lagos South III): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of order is a Constitutional provision, Section 19 which deals with the foreign policy objectives of the Federation. The hon. Member for Warri (*Mr Omorua*) declared his opposition to the Motion and having sworn to protect the Constitution of the land, I think it is irregular for him now to oppose this Motion.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Member, our rights to comment on any issue is unlimited in the House of Representatives. We are not going to do what he has said, it is when we are going to do it that the provisions of the Constitution will come into play. But the freedom of speech is unlimited here.

Chief Omorua: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful for giving me the protection. As I was saying, it is one thing to say that the country is not pursuing foreign policy as avowed to in our Constitution, it is another thing to say that it is not doing enough. I am saying that Nigeria has done more than enough. We have been spending quite a lot of money which should have been used for the development of this country on foreign matters, to the neglect of our own country. As it has been said, there is a lot of trouble all around Nigeria and if we watch what happened to Nigeria before the soldiers took over, we saw that our Head of State gave so much time to foreign affairs and neglected Nigeria. Exactly, that is the policy the present government is pursuing. We have more than enough of trouble in Nigeria and the first thing to do at this time is for the five political leaders to meet and look into the trouble in this country so that when we are united here then our foreign policy will be such that will be emulated.

So, it is my humble submission that the present Head of State should be congratulated for all that he has done and he should pay more attention to our internal security. Thank you.

Dr Junaidu S. Muhammed (West Ward): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion before this House qualifyingly I take the

[MR MOHAMMED]

liberty under Section 19 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria which, with your permission, says :

The State shall promote African Unity, as well as total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and states, and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations.

In saying so, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear that this section or any section of the Constitution thereof does not give this country the right to interfere directly or indirectly in the internal affairs of another country.

I am saying so because the issue of Liberia has been brought before this House. I do not think it is the business of this House, nor is it the business of the Government of this country, to be seen to be interfering in the affairs of Liberia, but as my hon. Colleague for Aba (*Mr Wanganga*) has just indicated the question of Liberia is not just the question of Liberia's internal affairs; it is a question of morality, it is also a question of certain precedents. This country has seen a civil war and we know the consequences of what a bloody coup is. I think it should be clear that while we reserve the right not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states, those states must also realise that those soldiers who feel they can wake up in the morning after a drink and go and gun down their elected leaders shall not have our support.

Secondly, on the issue of Liberia, I think there has been so much deliberate misinformation on the part of the Nigerian Press about the role of the Nigerian Government in the Liberia affairs. It was not Nigeria alone that said we should not admit Liberia into the OAU Economic Summit or into the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, it was the entire OAU leadership. So, if you will blame, you do not blame your country or your Government alone, you blame the entire OAU and its obnoxious Charter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue which has also been partly touched on, that is the issue of South Africa, especially the situation in Zimbabwe. We are all aware of the circumstances which led to the independence of Zimbabwe, especially the election which ushered in the democratically elected government of Mr Robert Mugabe. It is sad to note, Mr Speaker, that as late as yesterday his colleague who was defeated roundly at the polls, Mr Joshua Nkomo has not accepted defeat. His Soldiers, the ZIPRA Forces have been busy harassing innocent people all over Zimbabwe. He has virtually declared his own tribal land, that is, Matabele land in Zimbabwe a Republic. Law and order has broken down, and from all indications, Mr Joshua Nkomo, having failed to win at the poll is trying to destabilise Zimbabwe, and by so doing giving the South Africans a chance to come and re-colonise that country. I think this is absolutely shameful.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I am speaking now the Security Council of the United Nations is also debating another issue on Southern Africa, that is

the invasion by South African Forces into Angolan territory. I think, as we talk about Southern Africa we have to realise that so long as Namibia and South Africa itself are not liberated, no meaningful definition of African Liberation can be concluded.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we must also realise that it is in our own security interest to make sure that the entire African Continent is free from colonialism and imperialism. Those who think that South Africa is so far away from us and as such what is happening there is none of our business here, with due respect, are mistaken. South Africa today has its own agents in Nigeria. I have seen South Africa's goods being put on sale at Kingsway and Leventis here. By strengthening South Africa economically you are strengthening *ipso facto* the South Africa Military machine which is dependent on the economic strength of South Africa. So, Mr Speaker, with due respect, we must make the total liberation of Africa our responsibility; it is our concern and any effort to disengage us from what is happening elsewhere will just be a total folly.

I would like to speak about the relationship between us and our neighbours, especially countries like Niger, Chad, Togo and other far off places like Ghana. It is a clear evidence to all who go around that we have more than our own fair share of Ghanaians and other people from the so-called ECOWAS countries. I do understand, of course, that they are here by virtue of the provisions of the ECOWAS Treaty which has been ratified by Nigeria and other countries. To my knowledge, Sir, there are 13 countries that have gone into the Treaty and that are supposed to ratify the Treaty. Nigeria and five other States have ratified the Treaty and that is why we have an influx of Ghanaians in Nigeria. Unfortunately, however, other countries have not ratified the Treaty. As such, Nigerians do not have the right to go into those countries. My own understanding of foreign policy is the fundamental principle of reciprocity, that if you allow your Nationals to come into our country without a visa, you must allow our Nationals to go into your country without a visa, pure and simple. Those ECOWAS States that have not yet ratified the ECOWAS Treaty should not enjoy the privilege of having their citizens coming into this country and work without visas and without any hindrance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one word or two about our relationship with Cameroun. Our relationship with Cameroun has been a very touchy one, and I am glad that an hon. Member has raised this issue. It all started with the folly of Mr Gowon who, by a mere stroke of the pen, gave a portion of this country to Cameroun and now oil has been found there, as was raised by the hon. Member from Gamawa (*Mr Tuggar*). Secondly, he did it naively, thinking that by giving a portion of our country to Cameroun he was going to, more or less, pacify the Cameroun/Nigeria Border. History has proved him wrong. Now, it is about time that this Government and this Legislature took the necessary steps to make sure that the Agreement, Accord, Treaty, Executive Agreement, or whatever you call it, is negotiated so that what belongs to Nigeria returns to Nigeria and so that our people who are living in

[DR MUHAMMED]

Cross River State are protected from the harassment of the Camerounian gendarmes. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr B. M. Mabrama Jen (Karimu Lamido) : I think it is time that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House re-affirms its total commitment to the foreign policy objectives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and hereby calls to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to continue to promote African Unity, total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international co-operation and to combat vigorously racial discrimination in all its manifestations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Mabrama Jen : I move that the House do adjourn until 10. o'clock on Monday morning.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : I beg to second the Motion.

Save Igbonodo the Escravos from Sinking

Chief Ben Omoruwa (Warri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in my contribution to the Motion for adjournment, the matter I wish to dilate upon is that Ugborodo, which is Escravos, about which you have known, which supplies about 50 per cent of the total oil in the country, is sinking. Ugborodo, the area from which the oil comes, is sinking. The inhabitants of the town have sent a telegram to the President urging the President to send some people to come and see for themselves so that they may know the plight of the people. Only yesterday we sent messages of condolence to those who lost their people, the Prime Minister of Japan and the son of the Prime Minister of India. But now, we are faced with a population of over 5,000 people who have been contributing immensely to the welfare of this country. The place has been so neglected that it is sinking. Before the exploration of oil in this area, the people had not got the problem which they have now. The oil companies have dug their wells, canals, and ditches and all what nots, the exploration of which has brought about pollution which has rendered the people in that place virtually without means of livelihood. That plight was still with them when the Atlantic Ocean waves started gushing into the town. When it comes, it carries away buildings with properties and this is followed by loss of lives of people. The situation now is that this town, from which so much oil is got, that led the Federal Government laying pipelines of ₦205 million to Kaduna, is sinking. If it happens that that place sinks, then the ₦205 million which has been spent will be money wasted. For Nigeria to lose 5,000 lives, I think is something which the House should look into very carefully. So, it is my submission that since the Petroleum Committee might be going to Warri to see the Warri Refinery, they should take upon themselves also to go and see this area which is not too far from Warri. It is on the Atlantic Ocean, at the extreme end of Warri.

The pollution and the flare of gas make it impossible for any game or anything to be in that place. So, the fishermen have to go far into the sea before they can catch fish which they use for their daily bread ; and there is no means of transportation. So, it is my submission, Mr Speaker, that this matter should be looked into as early as possible to get the Federal Government to build sea walls to prevent the Atlantic Ocean waves from sinking the place. Thank you.

More Banks for Ondo State : Existing Ones Unhelpful

Mr E. D. Adu (Ekiti North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion for adjournment, I would like to make brief comments on the role of the Commercial Banks in the relatively backward States of the Federation and in particular Ondo State. About two and a half years ago, Mr Speaker, a programme of rural banking was launched by the Federal Government whereby the Commercial Banks were expected to establish within the Federation about 184 branches. Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, if you go through the established branches in Ondo State, we are at a disadvantage, in particular my constituency where we have relatively large towns like Oye, Ayede and Ilupeju. In these areas, we have 14 Grammar Schools, two Advanced Training Colleges and one of the major industries in Ondo State. There is not a single branch of these banks there. Mr Speaker Sir, I think in this respect the National Bank, the Wema Bank and the Co-operative Bank, which are supposed to be owned by these States, are not doing very well at all. If I should remind these banks, I think they are established (i) to lend money to willing investors ; (ii) to inculcate the banking habits among the rural communities ; and, of course, to help them do their savings. If you go through these functions, it is very disappointing that these banks are not doing well. I will go to *Lending Money to Willing Investors*. In Ondo State, Mr Speaker, the people who go to these banks do suffer a lot.

What do we have ? In Ondo State when you have contracts, those who get the contracts have not got the money to mobilise. On going to these banks they are asked to produce unusual securities which they can never produce. What do you expect the indigenes to do ? They cannot mobilise and these contracts go to the non-indigenes of Ondo State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that some of the regulations of the Central Bank are not helping the banks. What we are told is that under the Central Bank regulations, the Commercial Banks are limited to certain areas of operation. Some areas are termed preferentials while some are not preferentials. What do we have ? Where you have no industries, they can not be preferred areas. I am appealing to the Central Bank, through you, that this sort of regulation does not help these poor States of the Federation.

Secondly, Sir, we have in Ondo State Branch Managers who are very unprogressive. If you go to their Banks, they cannot even understand the ABC of the lending policy of the Banks which they operate. You are told that you should go and bring your security. Our poor people bring their securities. After two or three weeks they are told to go and

[MR ADU]

bring this and that with the result that after 8 weeks or even 8 months in some cases they are not given any definite answer of yes or no. This is very bad.

Mr Speaker : Please round up.

Mr Adu : Mr Speaker, I will round up. I think it will be in the interest of the country and investors in general that the Central Bank should change this policy. Secondly, there should be a sort of investment allowances of up to 30 percent to induce the Commercial Banks to go to the rural areas. Thirdly, Sir, in the absence of mobilisation money, I think the government who award contracts should give written undertakings so that when the contract fees are ready, they should be paid so that they do not have difficulty in getting mobilisation money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think finally before I sit down I have to say this. Most of these young States think of establishing Commercial Banks. What they need is not Commercial Banks but Merchant Banks. Ondo in particular needs Merchant Bank where they can give medium and long term loans, and not Commercial Banks.

Fraudulent Practices and Cheating in Nigeria

Mr L. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I want to talk on a very serious topic, and that is fraudulent practices and cheating in Nigeria. Honesty, people say, is the best policy, but it would appear as if in this country we have decided to throw this important saying over-board. This is why in our daily lives we find talk about bribery and corruption, fraudulent practices here and there, cheating here and there. bribery and corruption, so to say, have become a bane to our society today. The past Military Regime fought against bribery and corruption. One wonders whether it is the Military Regime that won the battle or the bribery and corruption won the battle against the Military Regime. Be that as it may, as I am talking in the House of Representative right away now, people who are getting *ten per cent*, people who are getting bribes, are still doing so. I think we have to call ourselves to order in this country. That is about bribery and corruption.

Along side bribery and corruption is this talk of fraudulent practices and cheating. The ordinary innocent Nigerians suffer day in day out from the hands of cheaters. I want to give certain examples.

One discovers in the lives of those cheated that there appears to be nobody officially or unofficially to deliver them from these cheaters. For example, we have the Standards Organisation in Nigeria. I do not know what they are standardising. If you look at ordinary Coca Cola or Fanta, or any type of beer, at any given time you buy any of them, you can never see them having the same measure. It is either they are half full or they are full or they are three-quarter full. This is a type of cheating, and officially, this should not be so. Apart from that you find that there has been cheating in a sort of organised form in this country. You find people advertising in the papers that they want to award scholarships and they want to employ people. They will ask innocent Nigerians to send money for forms, to send money for this. When they collect this money, they just use them for their own purposes. I think it is time something is done about this.

For example, some time ago I read in the *Nigerian Tribune*, I think last Saturday, that one Alhjar collected almost three thousand naira. He said he was a car dealer. He collected this from somebody. He said he wanted to sell the car, 120Y Datsun, or something like that, to that particular person. He did not sell the car neither did he hand over the money to the man. Fortunately, the police came to the aid of the man cheated, and this man was sentenced to prison for about two or three years.

There are similar cases in this country today. Mr Speaker, with your permission, I want to mention four important cases of people who have been cheated and most of them are civil servants. They cannot go to Court. If they want to go to Court, they are afraid of either the G.O. or something else. There is one Mr Abimbolu. He said he paid to Vidbors General Agency owned by Mr David Uduebor, a Benin man. He paid ₦3,500 since 30th March 1978 to purchase a car, 180B. Up till now, this gentleman has not been given a car neither has he been given his money.

Secondly, you find another lady who is a civil servant, one Mrs Oluwadare. She paid ₦3,000 to Awaie Motors here in Lagos. Up till now the Awaie Motors neither gave her the car nor gave her the money back. Thirdly, there is one Mr Ambrose Onyeaka who paid ₦3,580 to the same Awaie Motors, since last year. Up till now neither the car nor his money has been given back to him.

Finally, there is another person who paid for the purchase of a Band saw machine in Ejigbo in Oyo State to one Chief Lawal. This man paid ₦5,000, but up till now, neither the machine nor the money has been given back to him. You find that when they reported this case to the police, the police would not do anything in most cases, and these people who cheated them would be boasting about that the police are in their pockets and there is nothing they could do. I think today we should call on the Inspector-General of Police to look into all these cases and similar other cases in Nigeria with a view to getting justice for those cheated.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to send a message to the Minister of Commerce. These cheaters these so-called Motor dealers, should get their licences withdrawn if they want to live on cheating others. I think their licences should be withdrawn, and let there be justice for everybody in the society.

Federal Government takes 75 Percent of Budget

Mr M. Bukar Mele (Matchina) : In contributing to this Motion for adjournment, I want to speak on the development at the grass-roots. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is the duty of we Members of the National Assembly to see to the needs and aspirations of the masses, and also to see that no development can be achieved without giving necessary social amenities like water, roads and so on, to the masses in the rural areas. Also, we should note that the present policy of the Federal Government, that is the policy of Green Revolution, industrial revolution, and so on and so forth, can hardly be achieved without fulfilling the promises made as regards the welfare of the common.

man. When we look at the 1980 Appropriation Bill, which we have just concluded debating on, we should note that out of the estimated sum of ₦11,859,824,789 going into the Federation Account, the Federal Government has unilaterally and unconstitutionally decided to help itself to ₦9,400,000,000 that is taking almost 76.3 per cent, leaving only ₦2,819,828,726, that is 23.7 per cent to be shared by all the 19 States and 318 Local Governments put together.

Mr Speaker, this is ridiculous and it should not be tolerated any more. This is because most of this amount is going into things like the Nigeria Airways, NEPA, P and T, et cetera institutions or organisations which have failed us and proved their incompetences beyond reasonable doubts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Executive that the 1981 Budget which we are expecting in September should reflect the needs and aspirations of the common man. Mr Speaker, as the first Nigerian Development Plan also starts very soon, the Federal Government should at least give 20 per cent of the estimated sum to local government areas.

With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit.

Accord no Recognition to PLOs

Mr Adebo Adeola (Ijoro) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I have few comments to make on the PLOs generally appointed in the 19 States of the Federation. As we all have observed, it is true, through the Budget which was recently passed by the Joint Finance Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives, that they have no column as to be in existence any further in the States. Even then, in the proposed protocol order of precedence in this country, ranging from the President to the least Civil Servant the PLO's have no recognition there.

After all said and done, we heard from the Presidential Adviser on National Assembly Affairs that through the present Budget passed, the salaries meant for the Liaison Officers are not going to be taken from the Vote meant for the Federal Government offices in the 19 States, but there is another way by which the President can meet the Vote. In this case, we should set the National Assembly at alert and call the attention of the Auditor-General of the Federation to be vigilant and look through the expenses of the Federation during the current Financial year, if by error of commission or omission, there is going to be any money spent in respect of the Liaison Officers, whoever may be responsible for such expenses, whether the Executive President himself or any Minister or any individual, such individuals should be surcharged and be made to refund such money, if spent.

The points I have in support of this are as follows. Reports reaching us from the States, specifically from Ondo State through a delegation which came here, told us the type of role which these Liaison Officers are playing as at now. Their roles are not conducive to the interest of the Federal Government ; they only play the role of Administrative Organising Secretaries of private political parties. To substantiate it, this very week, certain organising and field secretaries of certain political parties specifically NPN are being appointed from the PLO Offices and these people are being given money as well as motor-cycles in order to work in the interest of NPN.

Mr Speaker : Hold on. It is not fair when they are not here. When they are here, you face them.

Mr Adeola : All right, Mr Speaker, I accept your correction. So, I just want to alert the National Assembly to the fact that the PLOs are not doing the work in the interest of the Federal Government, but private work. Therefore, in its entirety, that office in any of our states should not be recognised.

Thank you.

Green Revolution and Agricultural Credit

Dr J. E. Eburuche (Agbaja/Uvuru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am interested in addressing the House on a very important topic, namely, the Green Revolution and Agricultural Credit throughout the Federation. In my opinion, central to the success of the Green Revolution is an effective credit system. In spite of the President's appeal to the commercial banks in the Federation to liberalise their lending policies in the interest of the farmers all over the federation, it has come to our knowledge that the banks are not budging from their insistence on colaterals such as buildings in the townships, life insurance policies, to say the least.

Mr Michael Akpabio (Uyo II) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Akpabio : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is proper now to raise this point of order under Order 8. There is no quorum, Sir, and I hope Mr Speaker will uphold this point at this time. It has come to a point we can no longer go on, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Yes, that is true, but this is a Motion for Adjournment. I do not want our record to carry it like in the Senate when they said over the news yesterday that only 17 of them came and they formed no quorum. I would not like that sort of Report to be on record.

Mr E. M. Mabrama Jen (Karimu Limido) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.15 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 30th June, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings for Friday, and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, the Appropriation Bill, 1980, will be signed into law this afternoon at 12 noon, and this being the first Appropriation Bill in the first Executive Government of this country, the Leaders of the parties are requested to please attend the signing ceremony at the State House at 12 noon.

Please, after the sitting this morning we shall meet so that I will let you know the latest development relating to our entitlements, and as usual we shall meet here.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker, on point of explanation, I would like to refer to Section 58 of the Constitution in respect of what you have just announced to us. It appears that we have not had the report of the Joint Committee back here, notwithstanding the fact that we have already passed our own section here. Do you not think that the report needs to come back to us ?

Mr Speaker : I really have the same feeling. I was thinking that since that is a Committee, that the Committee will at least tell us the outcome of their deliberations, then we give formal blessing. But you see, the problem is that the country is saying, please release money. I think since this is purely a matter of procedure and it does not affect the substance of the Bill we can waive it.

Mr Akinbisehin : Thank you, very much.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic
Research (Amendment) Bill, 1980

A Bill for an Act to make provision for the Reconstitution of Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE

Chief Yomi Akintola (Ogbomosho Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, for the convenience of Members I wish to refresh your memory about the Bill because

I presume most Members are complaining that they have not got the Bill. So, I will read the preamble so that you can follow my arguments. The Bill reads thus : *Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Federation of Nigeria and by authority of the same as follows :*

1. For Section 2 of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Decree 1977, there shall be substituted the following new section, that is Membership of the Council. The Council shall consist of the following members,

(a) a Chairman to be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Ministry,

(b) eight persons, chosen by the Minister on their individual merit and appointed by the President ;

(c) one person to represent the Ministry charged with responsibility for matters relating to the Institute ; and

(d) the Director of the Institute.

2. This act may be cited as the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (Amendment) Act 1980.

The Senate came up with some Amendments. In the first preamble, *be it enacted by the National Assembly, of :* the portion reading the Federation of Nigeria was changed to Federal Republic of Nigeria, and we agreed with the Senate recommendation on that.

Secondly, the Council shall consist of the following Members, *a Chairman to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.* We also agreed with that. *Eight persons chosen by the Minister on their individual merit and appointed by the President, one person to represent the Ministry charged with the responsibility for matters relating to the institute but we also added to that who will have no voting rights and the Director of the institute.* The House Committee on Industries introduced a new subsection to be known as Subsection 2 (e) and to read, *the composition of the Membership of the Board shall reflect the Federal Character.*

An hon. Member : How can it ?

Chief Akintola : It can, four from the North, four from the South.

Several hon. Members : Ah ! There is no North and no South.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Chief Akintola, we have not seen your Amendments. You have made some Amendments ?

Chief Akintola : Yes, we have.

The Chairman : Mr Ojo, why are they not shown on the Order Paper ? The Amendments should be shown on the Order Paper so that we know what the whole thing is about.

Chief Akintola : That was why I had to read the whole Bill.

The Chairman : We always incorporate the Amendments in the Order Paper. I do not know whether Members have got copies of the Amendments

Chief Akintola : They all have.

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Akintola : You all have copies of the Amendments.

The Chairman : Go on with the Amendments.

I know that Members have got copies since last week. I know why Members have not read their copies. I know what is happening to Members. Do not worry, it will be settled this week. (*Laughter*)

Chief Akintola : Mr Chairman, Sir, in conclusion, we invite the hon. Members to examine critically our Amendments clause by clause and approve them as recommended. By the same token we request the honourable House to arrange as soon as possible a conference of both Houses of the National Assembly to resolve the few discrepancies as required by law. Thank you, Sir.

The Chairman : So, it appears that there will be a conference then?

Chief Akintola : Yes, Sir.

The Chairman : Let us take the Amendments one by one. When you move one, we shall vote on it, and then you will move another one, and so on.

COMMENCEMENT

Chief Akintola : In the Preamble, I move that the words *the Federation of Nigeria* should read *Federal Republic of Nigeria*.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Amendment?

Mr Yunusa Folorunsho (Asa) : I beg to second the Amendment.

The Chairman : Hon. Members, any comments on the Amendment.

Several hon. Members : No comments.

Chief Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Amendment put and agreed to.

COMMENCEMENT—*Ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

The Chairman : Yes, the next Amendment.

Clause 2—MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Chief Akintola : Mr Chairman, Sir, under membership of the council, Subsection 2 (c) *one person with no voting rights to represent the Ministry charged with the responsibility for matters relating to the Institute.* I so move.

The Chairman : One person with no voting rights. So all you are adding is with *no voting rights*.

Chief Akintola : Yes, Sir, *one person with no voting rights to represent the Ministry.*

The Chairman : Anybody in support of this Amendment?

Mr Folorunsho : Mr Chairman, hon. Members, I beg to second the Amendment.

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman : Yes, what is the next Amendment?

Chief Akintola : Mr Chairman, Sir, Section 2, we should add (e) after (d)—*The composition of the membership of the Board shall reflect the Federal Character.* I so move.

The Chairman : Anybody seconding the Amendment? Yes, Dr Sekibo.

Dr J. T. Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to second the Amendment.

The Chairman : Yes, any comments?

Mr J. K. Ugo (Gwer East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this Amendment is not necessary because it is contained in the Constitution. It is superfluous because all individuals, institutions and authorities are enjoined to operate in such a way as to reflect the Federal character. Thank you.

Mrs Abiola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I also wish to comment against this addition because I think it negates Section 2 (b) which says *8 persons chosen by the Minister on their individual merits and appointed by the President.* I think the President has been appointing his men in conformity with the provisions of the constitution, and if we add this Section 2 (e), it negates what we have in Section 2 (b). I think Section 2 (b) should be the overriding provision. There are only 11 members in the NISER and one of them has no voting right. So, there are only 10 who have voting rights, and to say that they must reflect the Federal Character, is likely to bring some complications. How do you make 10 go round in 19 places? So, I think, we should just leave it and the emphasis should be on Section 2 (b) *8 persons chosen by the Minister on their own individual merits and appointed by the President.*

Thank you.

The Chairman : Yes, any further comments?

Alhaji Yusufu Nadabo Gaya (Gaya North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this Amendment is unnecessary because we had earlier this year passed a Motion saying that any appointment or anything like that should reflect Federal Character. As to this Federal Character, if you watch the gazettes that are being handed to us, Federal Character is just meaningless as it is not being followed. So, we should not be mentioning Federal Character just by words of mouth or by either yes or no. Therefore, there is no need making this Amendment. Thank you.

Mr Debo Akande (Ibadan North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment. I believe, Sir, that it does not go against 2 (b). If you choose people on individual merits, it does not mean that you cannot look round the country to see men of proven abilities. Eight out of nineteen, yes, but that

[MR AKANDE]

is not the only council that will be fixed by the President. So, in supporting this Amendment, I accept that it is necessary. Infact, the reason the Member who spoke last gave for opposing it is the reason I will advance for supporting it, because we passed on the Floor of this House a Motion to that effect. If he feels that the President, up till now, is not following it, that is the more reason why we should restate it so as to make him realise that the National Assembly expects the President to follow its directives. So, Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to oppose this Amendment. The Member who spoke last, in making his contributions, said earlier appointments have not reflected the Federal character by the President. I rise to say that it is not true. (*Interruptions*) He quoted an earlier speaker. He said *if*. The word *if* leaves much to be desired, because we have all seen earlier appointments. We do not have to emphasise on the Floor of this House that Federal Character is to be reflected on appointments. This is already in the Constitution, and all appointments on Boards have reflected the Federal Character so far. I cannot understand how nine appointments can go through 19 States. It is not Federal. If you give it to 9 States, then it is not Federal in character, and you are saying we should incorporate it as Federal in character. A Bill is a law. When we make a law, we are asking the President to divide nine by 19. How is it possible? With this contributions, Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to sit.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Chairman Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support the Amendment whole-heartedly. This Amendment is a realistic one because we are just only trying to re-emphasise our earlier Motions and also Section 2 of the Constitution. Therefore, I appeal to hon. Members not to oppose it, not to waste our time. It is in order and it is very realistic. Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I whole-heartedly support. Thank you, very much.

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo (Tangale Waja South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2—MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members the report is that the Committee of the whole House has approved the report of the Committee on Industry and has accepted some of the Amendments.

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Bill be now read the Third time and passed into law.

Mr Michael Ugwu (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

Mr Speaker : The Gentlemen of the Press, we have passed another Bill into Law. There is a disagreement between us and the Senate in respect of this Bill, so the Clerk of the House, you will write to the Senate for a conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Y. Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Deplorable Federal Roads in Ibadan

Mr J.O. Fatola (Akinyele North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, what I would like to say this morning is on Federal Projects in Ibadan. The Federal Projects consists mainly of Roads in the town. All Federal Roads in our town are very deplorable. They are all in deplorable condition. (*Interruptions*)

The Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi and the Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, entered the official box of the Chamber. (Prolonged Applause.)

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! Yes, the hon. Member for Akinyele North (*Mr Johnson Fatola*) have you finished?

Mr Fatola : The roads are very bad due to heavy rainfalls or traffic jams. On behalf of my hon. Colleagues in the House, I seize this opportunity to welcome the—(*Continuous Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Please, hon. Members, take your seats. Yes, the next person is the hon. Member for Mushin Central II (*Mrs Abiola Babatope*). Are you ready to go on with your speech on the Motion for Adjournment?

The Lagos State Road Transport Workers Union Seminar

Mrs Abiola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : About two weeks ago the Lagos State Road Transport Workers Union held a seminar in which they deliberated on ways and means of reducing the loss of lives on our road through negligent driving. It was a very impressive seminar similar in content to what they have in the United States as Defensive Driving Seminar. At this seminar they made a lot of recommendations to this House which, I feel should be passed on to the Committee on Transport.

One of their recommendations was that anybody who is to be issued a professional driving licence, I think, it is licence C, should be literate because they believe that some of these drivers cannot read the road signs hence, they are unable to read the road ahead. They also decided that the Government should regulate the Driving Schools such that it is not anybody that can take his car and teach another person, except it is your spouse. In this way the mushroom driving schools which are usually constituting rackets with the VIOs, the Vehicle Inspection Officers, will be scrapped. In this way,

it is only the proven and tested drivers that will be issued with the professional driving licences. We all know what goes on, that most of the licences are issued even before some people put their hands on the steering wheels. They believe that this should be minimised so that valuable lives will not be lost on our roads.

If you look through the *Daily Times*—some people have said that it is now an Obituary Paper—you will see that many valuable lives, especially of those in the prime of their youths, have been lost on our roads. They think that the Government should take the lead by prescribing regulations so that our nation will be saved and those in the prime of their youths will be spared to contribute immensely to the progress of this Nation. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Visit of the Governors of Kaduna and Kano States

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I will seize this opportunity to announce the presence of the Governors of Kaduna and Kano States, Alhaji Balarabe Musa and Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. (*Applause*)

Mr Governors, you know you do not answer your Excellencies now, you are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Yes, the hon. Member for Okpebho (*Mr F. O. Iyayi*). You have to be very brief because we are going for the signing of the Appropriation Bill this morning and we have a meeting too.

Development of the Okpebho Federal Constituency

Mr F. O. Iyayi (Okpebho) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this morning I wish to make a special appeal to Mr President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria through you Mr Speaker and my hon. Colleagues. It is in respect of Okpebho Federal Constituency. Okpebho is a neglected area. Some have referred to their areas as disaster areas and others as special areas. Okpebho is neither a disaster area nor a special area but a neglected area, neglected not by the present Administration but by the past successive Military Administrations.

In particular, Mr Speaker, it is the wish and desire of Okpebho people that the Federal Government, through the appropriate Executive Agencies, should come to their aid in the following ways. We want road development especially the following roads which we consider are of economic importance not only to Okpebho but to the whole of Nigeria :

Ugbegun-Ebudin-Izogen-Ugiogba Road,
Ehor-Emuhi-Ekpoma Road,
Irruah-Ibore-Atuagbo-Ujabhole-Uromi Road,

Mr Speaker : Please, round up.

Mr Iyayi : Uromi Ugbegun-Igueben-Ebelle-Ekpon Road,

Ewu-Idoa-Ukhun Road,
Ebelle-Amahor-Ugun-Ogwa Road,
Ekpoma-Egoro-Ebudin Road, and
Iruokpen-Ekpoma Road.

Mr Speaker : Time ! Time !

Mr Iyayi : Mr Speaker, I hope that you will give me an opportunity to continue this contribution because it is not fair to me.

Mr Speaker : Please, the Leader of the House move that the Question be put.

Alhaji Yinusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I believe that hon. Members have enjoyed the discussion this morning, and having discussed fully well on the Motion for Adjournment, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, before I put the Question, I will remind party Leaders again that we will be going to the State House for the signing of the 1980 Appropriation Bill at 12 noon.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.20 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 1st July, 1980

The house met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday, and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : I will seize this opportunity to announce the presence of very distinguished and powerful delegation asking for the creation of new Anambra State in this House. The delegation paid a courtesy call to the Head of State, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, and they have decided also to pay a courtesy call to the House of Representatives.

Hon. Members, the delegation is led by His Highness, Chief G. E. Okeke, the Onuoha of Ihiala. Also in the delegation, is the leader of the PRP in Anambra State and their Gubernatorial Candidate Mr Ezenwa, the Agbala Nze. Hon. Members, also in the delegation is Igwe Chief Nwakobi, Dr Menakaya, the Secretary for the State Movement, and the Chairman of NPP Anambra State, Mr V. C. Ikeotuonye. Also we have the Chairman UPN Anambra State, Mr Nonyelu; we have for the NPN the former Acting Secretary of the Party and Presidential Adviser, Dr Chuba Okadigbo. Hon. members you will agree with me that this is a very, very powerful delegation.

Several hon. Members : Yes. (Applause)

Nominees for House Committee

Mr Speaker : Please, this is to remind Party Leaders that I still require the names of their Nominees for the Membership of the House Committee. You will remember we are having a problem over not having our House Committee set up. Please, we require the names today.

ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Education

Presentation of a Report on Leakages of West African Examinations Council's Examination Questions, and delay in releasing West African Examinations Council's Results.

Dr E. C. Emekekwe (Onitsha South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Education on the leakages of West African Examinations Council's Questions, and delay in releasing West African Examinations Council's Results.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr G. N. Uwechue.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : I am sure all Members have got the Report.

Some hon. Members : Just this morning.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker : So, please, you should go through the Report and it will be listed for Debate.

Yes, the next one.

Committee on Public Relations

Presentation of a Special Memorandum on proposed guidelines for launching the National Assembly Public Relations Department.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am happy to present to this august House this morning the Special Memorandum of our comprehensive work for your consideration. I move that the House do receive the Memorandum of the Committee on Public Relations on proposed guidelines for launching the National Assembly Public Relations Department.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Okoi.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : I hope Members have all got the Report ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that the House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Ononokpono.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, for contributions to Motion for adjournment I call on Chief E. I. Efiom.

The Need for a Bridge Across Atimbo River

Chief Efiom Ita Efiom (Odukpani) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to speak on the need to bridge Atimbo River in order to save Calabar which is the Capital of Cross River State from Starvation and invasion. Atimbo River links Calabar, the Capital of Cross River State, with a section of Odukpani Local Government which is Akpabuyo. The River is about 200 metres wide. The total distance from Calabar to Iking which is the border between Cross River State and Cameroun Republic is 24 miles. The aspect of starvation

I want to deal with is that because of this Atimbo River, all foodstuffs produced from Akpabuyo (and Akpabuyo happens to be the feeder of Calabar municipality and a good part of the State. In fact Akpabuyo produces two-thirds of the food consumed in Calabar and half the food consumed in the rest of the State. Because of this River and the difficulty posed by crossing with canoe, gari which is sold at 30 cups per naira in Akpabuyo is sold at 6 cups a naira in Calabar which is only six miles from the River point. Generations of Administration upon generations of Administration have come to Akpabuyo and seen the plight of the people and have promised. During the campaigns, the President sent a touring team of Akpabuyo and they saw the plight of the people.

There can be no development, there can be no good communication and the food produced there is so cheap in the area, but so costly in Calabar and vice versa. A tin of milk is costing as much as 50k in Akpabuyo when it is 25k in Calabar, just a distance of seven miles away. This river should be bridged. It will take a bridge span of about 300 metres, since the river itself is 200 metres wide. The feasibility study for this river in 1976 was submitted to the then Military Administration at ₦12,000,000 and a road which was proposed to be built during the 5-year Development Plan from Calabar through Atimbo to Ikang was to cost ₦60,000,000, but in this year's budget it was cancelled and a token figure of ₦10 was put there, which has really baffled and embarrassed most of us.

On the security aspect, Mr Speaker, Sir, I did mention here on Friday last week that a part of Cross River State was being annexed to the Cameroun Republic. Those who know Ikang know that the Cameroun gendarmes come over to Ikang which is 24 miles from Cameroun to molest the people. They do not have good communications to link with Calabar headquarters to invite the Police or the Army when there is the need.

Mr Speaker : Time !

The need for disciplined Society

Mr John O. Okoye (Aguta South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in my contribution to Motion for Adjournment today, I want to make it clear to all the political parties and the Governors that what the nation wants from them is not their intransigent and uncompromising statements, but what the nation wants from them are as follows :

- (1) To restore discipline in the Civil Service ;
- (2) To check corruption at least to a minimum in our society ;
- (3) To wipe out entirely from the society the wave of armed robbery ;
- (4) To build new roads and maintain the old ones properly ;
- (5) To supply electricity and water taps to the people in the rural areas, where the people suffer mostly from lack of them ;
- (6) To clear pick pockets from the rural areas and elsewhere in the country ;

(7) To provide employment to jobless people of this country ;

(8) To provide well equipped hospitals to the people in the rural areas.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr David Afaityo (Gboko East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my Point of order is 28 (3).

Mr Speaker : Yes, read it.

Mr Afaityo : An hon. Member is reading a newspaper there, Sir, and 28 (3) says :

Members shall not read newspapers in their places and shall only read such books and letters as may be connected with business under debate.

Mr Speaker : Yes, go on.

Mr Okoye : (9) To give sound Education to the country. Any political party that follows these lines and can fulfil them in a number of States under her control will surely have the votes or almost the votes of everybody of this country, come 1983. Ganging up will not help any political party in this country. Talking too much, busy-doing-nothing attitude of the whole politicians should be avoided.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my belief that whatever happens, this country looks on to us for a better change in our political life. I would like the Governors to concentrate in the implementation of their political promises and programmes and I would also want them to show more political maturity in the sense that they brush aside political hatred and maintain the welfare of everybody in their States irrespective of one's political leanings.

I know very well that it is the duty of the President of this country to see that the life and property of every individual in this country is protected, and I also understand that he will be equal to the task provided that every individual in this country co-operates with him. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Yes, thank you, very much. Hon. Fola Omidiji, I hope you still remember your topic ? This year's Hajj.

This Year's Hajj

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I intended talking about this year's Hajj, but I am happy to note that the point I intend to raise, Mr President has used his Executive power to increase the number. It means we were thinking alike, but nevertheless—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : So, you now want the Accord. (Laughter)

Mr Omidiji : You mean the Concord ? The point that I would like to register is that limiting the number of Nigerians to perform Holy Pilgrimage to Mecca, I think, is rather in bad taste because it could be used as political victimisation against opponents. Part of the reasons for making the journey to the Holy land is to reform the would-be Pilgrims. If that is so, I do not think that Nigerians should be denied the right to visit the Holy land,

[MR OMIIDI]

more so when it is part of the Moslem religion that a true one should make at least a Holy journey to Mecca once in a life time. I think what the Government should have done actually in this respect, is to eliminate those professional visitors to Mecca and Medina, rather than denying new comers from going to Mecca. I also feel that limiting the number to 50,000 per annum is rather inadequate for a population of 80 million. I think this is the point we should also note.

Armed Robbery

I will also take this opportunity to talk briefly about armed robbery in this country. From my own impartial assessment of the whole situation, I think Chief Richard Akinjide should be blamed partly for the wave of armed robbery in this country and I have my reasons. On the 22nd January of this year in the *Daily Times* issue, front page, Chief Akinjide stated *inter alia* that armed robbers would no longer be executed; that in the minds of men of the under-world is a backing. We all know that in this country behind a successful man there is a woman.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Egba Alake (*Mr Fola Omidiji*) you are speaking on this year's Hajj. Armed robbery is not part of the Hajj.

Mr Omidiji: I have to say a little bit. I am seeking your permission to do so.

Mr Speaker: It is time.

Mr Omidiji: We should do something about armed robbery in this country.

Improve the Lot of Teachers

Mr Tobias N. Ochiama (Ikeduru): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to emphasise on the conditions of teachers throughout the whole country. Mr Speaker, Sir, everyone of us should understand that teachers are like second mothers to everyone of us. They are just like spring-boards from which everyone of us has taken off, and the services of the teachers cannot be relegated to the background. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the entire Members of this House to understand that there is no civil servant who will agree to be posted to the rural area, and if he agrees he attaches a pre-condition to it. It is only the teachers who have agreed, right from the Primary School may be to their Teachers' training Course, after that they are posted to rural areas.

I think teachers should be paid extra for that. Mr Speaker, we owe a special duty to teachers in this nation because of the way they are being treated. No civil servant has ever been deprived of the regularity of his salary monthly. The other day, in Cross River State, some teachers protested that their salaries for May had not been paid and it is throughout like that all over the country. You find out that in all the States sometimes the teachers complain because of irregularity in the payment of their salaries. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is quite unfair to these people who form at least part of the society and also contribute in moulding the characters of the entire masses of this nation

Nobody has ever risen to a higher status, as we are today, or anywhere in the country or in the world without the contribution of teachers. So, they should receive special respect and whatever is due to them should be accorded to them. They should receive special treatment or at least be compensated adequately for having agreed to stay in the rural areas because anybody who is in the urban centres, who enjoys the amenities that are being provided by the Federal Government, if you send him to the rural area where there is no electricity and no water he would not agree to go. But these people who have agreed to go, I think, should be paid extra for that and anybody who feels that they are being paid extra, then let him retire from his own profession and go to the teaching field. With this, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I would like to take my seat. Thank you.

Indiscriminate Use of Police Orderlies

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I want to speak briefly on three very important issues. One is on an issue which affects the integrity of this honourable House, the second one is on the indiscriminate use of police personnel by certain public functionaries as police orderlies and the third item, Sir, is on Mr S. G. Ikoku's call for an all-party talk on so-called National Goals. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, you will observe that for some time now every Dick, Tom and Harry who happens to hold a public office, a political office, anywhere in this country goes about with a police orderly and a police orderly who is always armed.

You will observe, Sir, that the dearth of high-level manpower in the police force does not need any emphasis. The increasing incidence of armed robbery in this country calls for the mass mobilisation of police officers of all ranks to combat this situation. But what do we find, Sir? Despite the very few police men that we have in this country, everybody, Minister, Commissioner, Adviser on this and that, goes about with a police orderly and this depletes the force which is grossly understaffed at the moment. The point I am making, Sir, is that the Executive President of this country should be called upon to formulate a National policy on the use of police personnel as orderlies so that it is only people who deserve the use of police orderlies for their official duties who should be allowed to go about with police orderlies.

In this respect, Sir, I want to submit that it is only Ministers of Cabinet rank and other senior officials of Government who should be allowed to use police orderlies for their official duties. All these Advisers and all the other people who go about with armed police constables do not deserve the use of police orderlies. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker: There is a point of Order.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako): My point of Order, I will quickly just say, is 26 (2). The appointment of such and regulations of Members of the Police Force who are to use arms and those who are entitled to orderlies, are vested on the Commissioner of Police and the Public Service Commission and not the

President. The Police Service Commission is responsible for the appointment and organisation of that, Mr Speaker, Sir. It is not the President.

Mr Speaker : I know you are correct, but we have freedom of speech here. We can speak on anything. Yes, go on, Mr Etienam.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I was making the call because I am aware of the fact that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is also the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of this country. Therefore, Sir, I am submitting that Mr President should formulate a national policy on the use of police personnel as orderlies. (Applause)

Dr Ufondu's Circular Letter to Members

The second point I want to make, Sir, and this is a very serious point, is on a circular letter dated 30th June, 1980 which one of us, Dr Ufondu, has distributed to the Members of this honourable House. It is titled: *Parliamentary Study Group, Brief Case Discount for Members*. I want to say, Sir, with the greatest sense of responsibility that this letter was written in very bad taste. It does not reflect the dignity and integrity of this honourable House. You will all remember the case of the House Committee's scandal concerning the issue of beer distribution and other commodities to hon. Members. This Parliamentary Study Group is a private organization of Dr Ufondu which he has been trying to build around the image and goodwill of certain Members of this honourable House. He has not got the mandate of this House to negotiate with any commercial organization for the manufacture of brief-cases for hon. Members of this House. It is very wrong, very immoral, for him to have gone to private company to negotiate for the manufacture of brief-cases on a commercial basis for Members of this House. I think the excesses of this youngman should be called to order. Up till now, he has not moved into the flat which was given to him officially. This is flat No. 420E. He is still staying at flat No. 116F and going about in an official CVU car.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : The point of Order stems from Order 26, Sub-paragraph 6. With your permission Mr Speaker, I read. *No Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who is trying to elaborate on this issue of hon. Ufondu, I am pretty certain, is a Member of the PSG.

Mr Speaker : Please, do not impute motive.

Mr Etienam : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was not imputing motive, and it is not correct that I have ever been associated with the so-called PSG. I know Dr Ufondu was merely using my name without my consent for his own ends. I have never enrolled as a Member of his so-called PSG.

Sam Ikoku's call for All Party Talks

The last point I want to make, Sir, is on the *Daily Times* back page publication of yesterday titled: *Sam Ikoku seeks All-party Talks on National goals.*

He said with your permission, Sir, I want to read just one brief paragraph.

Mr Sam Ikoku, the PRP Secretary-General at the week-end, called for a convention of all parties. He said the meeting should formulate what he called, Common national goals and objectives as an axis for them to rotate upon. Mr Ikoku said the existence of five parties, five policies and goals was detrimental to national interest.

I want to say, Mr Speaker, that this call for all-party talks by Mr Sam Ikoku is alarmistic and uncalled for. The Constitution of this country is very clear on the national objectives of the country. The Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principle of State Policy as contained in Chapter II, Sections 13-22 of the Constitution represent our national goals. Ours being a democracy, I think the existence of five parties so far is no threat to the healthy development of the democratic process in this country. We do not want a dictatorship of one Party State in Nigeria. We are aware that Mr Ikoku and other theoretician marxists in this country are having problems in their parties. If the centre can no longer hold in the PRP, they are welcomed in the NPN. (Applause)

Service Conditions of Miners

Mr P. C. Okeke (Agwu North/East/West) : In contributing to the Motion for adjournment, I wish to speak on the Nigerian Coal Industry, and secondly on the plight of the Coal miners of this pioneer industry. We all know that the Nigerian Coal Industry is one of the pioneer industries in this country dating back to 1926. But it is a surprise that up till now over fifty years the industry is not doing well. Partly, we have to blame the past government for not showing much interest in the Coal Industry. At this juncture, I must praise the present Administration at least for showing a little more interest in this Coal Industry, at least for allocating 8.8 million naira for this current financial year of nine months as compared with the 5.6 million naira allocated by the past regime for 12 months. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the government of Nigeria which owns this industry has not much interest, because since the Nigerian Railway Corporation has discovered the use of diesel instead of coal, the government has made no effort to find alternative uses of coal or at least establish a coal industry in Nigeria to make use of the coal. For this reason, the coal industry has not been performing well.

Coming to the aspect of the coal miners, these people are a set of workers who work under the most hazardous conditions compared with any other set of workers in this country. One wonders how they are being remunerated. It will interest this hon. House to hear the comments that the out-going Chairman of the Nigerian Coal Corporation made. If you permit me, I read from the *Nigerian Statesman* of June 28.

The out-going Chairman : Alhaji U. T. Gagmari said at the Enugu Airport about the condition of work of this set of people. I quote :

[MR. OKEKE]

He pointed out that in Britain miners set the pace on salaries for other workers, and wondered why Nigerian Coal miners are made to suffer and survive on substandard salaries noting that some workers had been on one grade level for 30 years.

If no other person other than the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power who works as a Chairman with this Corporation could come out with this statement, Mr Speaker, it proves that these people are being tortured. Somebody can be on one grade level for 30 years. This is not false at all because last April I met a colleague of my uncle who is a coal miner. During a chat I found that he joined the Nigerian Coal Corporation on the 17th April, 1956 and he was rejoicing that he was made a staff. Then, I asked him on what grade. He said Grade Level 01.

So, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to this honourable House to come to the aid of this grade of workers. I am calling on the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Mines and Power, at least, to go to Enugu and find out the salaries of these people, as well as the Okada Coal Mine in Benue State and help them because they are fellow Nigerians. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Security at the International Airport Car Park

Mr R. I. Uneh (Agbazilo): Mr Speaker, Sir, my contribution to the Motion for Adjournment is on the lack of security at the International Airport car park at Ikeja. Mr Speaker, Sir, any regular user of this park would realise that when you enter into this car park, the boys at the gate would take your money and then get you out of the park. Your driver is also told to leave the park. As a result, your car is left there at the mercy of the car snatchers who come from behind and make away with your vehicle.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will give you an example of what happened on the 11th June this year, where a car, a Land Cruiser with the registration number LA 6547 SBA was parked in this particular car park. The driver got out of the place and the car was left there for only 35 minutes. By the time they came back, Mr Speaker, the Land Cruiser was nowhere to be found. It had been stolen. A similar incident happened in the previous week, and this is how cars have been stolen from this particular car park. If anybody goes there, he will discover that the back of the car park is not fenced and this is why the car snatchers are able to get there. They have made a very good inroad for themselves through which they take away these vehicles.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the NAA, that is the Nigerian Airports Authority should be called upon to make sure that this car park is adequately fenced to ensure that the cars that are left in their care are properly taken care of. Mr Speaker, if this is not done, I do not see the justification for the NAA's continued collection of parking fares, tolls, or whatever it is at that particular car park. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The 4th National Development Plan

Mr David H. Gbaaondo (Takum): Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to comment briefly on the 4th National Development Plan and the 1981 Budget. I would like to draw the attention of the Presidential Adviser on Budget Affairs, that is Chief T. Adeleke Akinyele, and appeal to the President of the Federation, through this august Assembly. The 3rd National Development Plan is now over. I believe it was planned by the defunct Military Administration.

We are now facing a new plan of our own which will be 1981 to 1985 Development Plan. Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray that the plan should focus its attention and consideration mostly on Section 15 (3a), 16 (1a), (b) and (c); Section 18 (3a), (b), (c), and (d) of the Nigerian Constitution and take into consideration the 449 Federal Constituencies in this country for its rural development. I believe over 90 per cent of our people are living in the rural areas. Mr Speaker, if we do not come to their aid I believe what we are doing here is all useless and it will not help us. If the rural areas are taken into consideration in the next plan period, I believe it would mark the beginning of a practical democracy in this country and create a peaceful atmosphere in the history of Nigeria's politics since Independence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, the National Assembly would also find it very easy to deliberate on the next 1981 Budget. If this is done, I believe we would not have any headache at the next Budget. I, therefore, have to suggest to the planners that they should concentrate (*Interruptions*)—

Mr Speaker: Do not read your speech.

Mr David Gbaaondo: I am not reading, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: That is what you are doing.

Mr Gbaaondo: I am suggesting now, Mr Speaker, that the people should (*Interruptions*)—

Mr Speaker: Yes, go on, but do not read your speech.

Mr Gbaaondo: I am not reading, Mr Speaker. I have only some points here.

Mr Speaker: That is what you are doing. You are doing exactly that.

Mr Gbaaondo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I suggest that they should concentrate their own planning on rural electrification, pipe borne water, telephone lines and post offices, improvement of road transport system, health centres, educational institutions to combat illiteracy and modern agricultural equipment for all local areas.

Finally, Mr Speaker, more revenue allocation should be made to the local governments than State Governments. Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to sit.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, very much.

The Assembly is One Indivisible Legislature

Mr A. Adeola (Ijero) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to support the Motion for Adjournment, and in doing this, I have a few comments to make about certain observations which I have made since the inception of the National Assembly as from last October relevant to the House of Representatives and the Senate. To me, I have seen clearly that there are certain zones of disparity exhibited greatly between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

One specific area to which I have to point is the question of the crest, that is the car stickers that we use as of now. The type made for the Senate and the type made for the House of Representatives indicate more of disunity than unity. We all know that the National Assembly is one and only one indivisible Legislature, and I see no reason why certain things made in the name of the National Assembly should indicate disparity. Now, the National colour for this country is Green-White-Green. I see no reason why Green-White-Green should be assigned to the Senate while something yellow is assigned to the House of Representatives. Now, if the car stickers, would be made in the way it has been made, the one made for the House of Representatives which is round in shape could equally be made round for the Senate and then the inscription should read *National Assembly, Federal Republic of Nigeria*. Then in the middle, you have something like *Senate* or *Representatives*. I see no reason why that of the Senate should be Green-White-Green and that of the House of Representatives should be yellow. In fact, when I make this point, I would expect that the Leader of the House (*Interruptions*)—

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member, are you saying that one colour is superior to the other?

Mr Adeola : What I am saying is that the colour should be the same. We should all be entitled to use the National colour.

Mr Speaker : There is no superior colour.

Mr Adeola : Yes. Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am saying here is not that one colour is superior to the other. I feel the supreme colour for this nation is Green-White-Green. I feel the National Assembly is the accredited authority of this nation. This same colour should be used in the two Houses. This is what I am saying, Sir.

Secondly, I observe that while the National Assembly officials are assigned to do certain responsibilities in respect of these two Houses, it appears that they pay more premium to that of the Senate than to that of the House of Representatives. I feel it is high time the Speaker, the Leader of this House, together with the Leaders of the five political parties, called the attention of the officials of the National Assembly to the awareness that both the Senate and the House of Representatives are the same and one is in no way better than the other, and that

there should be no disparity that should call for disunity between the two Houses. This is what I am speaking about, Mr Speaker. Thank you. (*Applause*)

UCH, Ibadan

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : I rise to contribute to the Motion for Adjournment by talking on the teaching hospital which is popularly known as UCH, Ibadan. For history sake, this University Teaching Hospital was opened in 1956 with all pageantry at the reception of Queen Elizabeth II of England and today, nearly 25 years of existence, this hospital is suffering from various insufficiencies. (1) Accommodation—Right now, in the University College, Ibadan, accommodation for Senior Staff, parastatals Doctors and Nurses are highly inadequate, particularly the Nursing School. Furthermore, the equipments being used from yester-years have neither been replaced nor repaired. The incoming patients to the University Teaching Hospital are suffering what I can regard as incalculable problems particularly the Orthopaedic Section. If you make a visit to UCH, Ibadan, it is very sorrowful to find inpatients, accident victims being lying down on the corridors of the Teaching Hospital. They stay there, at times with no drugs, at times with no attention.

I call on Mr Speaker, through you, to appeal to Mr President to please assist us in remedying the lapses in the Teaching Hospital, and I also call, as an opportunity, that more Teaching Hospitals be cited in all the States of this country, particularly the emerging states like the new Anambra State. (*Applause*), Mr Speaker, Sir, while commenting on this, I like to talk finally on the conditions of the mortuary of the hospital. At the time of my report, corpses over-flooded in the mortuary and secondly, the cost of keeping dead bodies is now becoming more expensive than when you are alive. Mr Speaker, I beg for your assistance.

Bridge Ofi Uda/Ukon Ntigha River in Cross River State

Mr M. O. Effiong (Oron III) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members I rise to contribute to the Motion for Adjournment. In doing so, I would like to bring before this honourable House the frequent incidence of drowning by the people of Ukon Ntigha, Enwang, Effiat and the school children who are attending School at Ofi Uda when crossing Ofi Uda/Ukon Ntigha River. When Dr M. I. Okpara came to Oron in 1965, the people of Effiat/Mbo reported to him the frequent loss of lives and he came by himself to this River to see. On his return to Enugu, he directed that the River should be bridged. The work started in earnest and they went half way before the civil war broke out in 1966. Since 1966 to this date nothing has been done. Though there was a Military Rule for 14 years, they did nothing.

I now appeal through the medium of this honourable House to the President to direct the Federal Ministry of Transport to start the bridging of this River so that

[MR EFFIONG]

many more lives may not be lost again. If it is unable to do so, it can provide enough funds to the Government of Cross River State so that the Government of Cross River State can undertake the completion of this bridge. I also appeal to the Chairman of the Committee of Transport to create an opportunity to undertake on-the-spot inspection of this River so that every Member may have the privilege to see things for himself. Thank you, Sir.

Mr O. Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.22 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 2nd July, 1980

The House met at 10.55 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I have seen the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday, and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there will be a meeting of all the Party Leaders and their Whips to handle a very ugly incident that happened here yesterday. You see, it is not what I will say here but most people heard it over the news and saw it on television too. It was a very disgraceful incident. So, Party leaders will meet and we will take a decision on what to do.

Nominees for House Committee

Hon. Members, please, only the UPN, NPN, and the GNPP have submitted the list of their nominees for the new House Committee and their nominees are as follows :

UPN

The hon. Mr D. A. Adelu
The hon. Mr L. Labiyi
The hon. Mr E. D. Adu
The hon. Mr S. A. Abodunde
The hon. Mr Ayodeji Olaleru
The hon. Mr N. A. Ojo

GNPP

The hon. Alhaji Iliyasu Hong
The hon. Alhaji Mohammed Dagari

NPN

The hon. Mr Mohammed Shamaki
The hon. Mr Garuba Maradun
The hon. Mr T. Bob-Manual
The hon. Chief Etuk
The hon. Mr Salawu Atima
The hon. Mr A. Ayomanu
The hon. Mr Lawal N. Daura
The hon. Mr Lawal Mohammed
The hon. Mr J. K. Ugo
Please. NPP and PRP bring your own lists.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Road Accidents

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to step down this Motion for some amendments.

Mr Speaker : Thank you, very much. So, you want it to be suspended.

Motion by leave stood down.

Tour of the River Basins Development Authorities

Mr Speaker : As regards this Motion I have spoken to the Chairman of the Water Resources Committee, because we have taken a similar Motion before and we will not take it again.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I move that the House stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

Homeless Nigerians in Imo State

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the homeless Nigerians in Imo State, those who have been uprooted by one event or the other. That is my subject. Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Army Barracks in Ohafia was to be established some villagers were driven away from their villages. These villages comprise Ndiokala, Ihenta, Ndianyaorie, all in Ebemoha autonomous community in Aro Ohafia Local Government area. These villagers have not been re-settled and their man there is one Chief Abosi Uduma. They have been living in camps.

My concern, Sir, relates to the villagers generally but in particular to Chief Abosi who, by the Constitution, should be protected because Section 20 of the Constitution talks about protecting and enhancing our Nigerian culture. I do not consider our culture to be protected and enhanced by making a Chief live in a camp for years, and I happen myself to be a Chief. I think it is an assault on Nigerian personality for a Chief and his people to live in a camp for years with nobody thinking of resettling them.

I am not blaming the present Government because the present Government has inherited the assets and liabilities of the previous government, and this comes under liabilities. I am appealing to the present Administration to see to it that these people are resettled and that the Chief should not live in a camp for years while we direct our attention to foreign affairs.

If I may say further, Section 40 1 (a) of the constitution talks about compensating people when they are displaced or when their area is acquired.

[CHIEF OGWE]

To the best of my knowledge, Sir, these people have not been compensated, and I think they cannot live in the midst of plenty and die in abject poverty. I am asking the government to implement that section of the Constitution which says that adequate compensation should be paid to people. There is no adequate compensation paid to people who are living in refugee camps in their own country. When there are other people living in affluence, it is a shame that a group of us will be living in abject poverty. This is an assault to the Constitution which we all swore to uphold.

Added to that, the Green Revolution is to see that we are all properly fed. These people have been denied not only their homes but their farm lands, and because they are not given a chance to make the Green Revolution work, the Green Revolution by itself has to suffer because the concern of a part of the whole country should be our concern. For example, in Ibo adage, it is said when any part of the body is feeling an injury, the whole body is affected. This part of the country where the villagers are suffering should mean that Nigeria equally is suffering and unless the social ill which is now parading around these villages is removed, Nigeria cannot be proud to fight and remove the ill in South Africa.

If I may add again, Sir, there is a state of war, and by that I mean condition existing between the people living in Asaga Ohafia and Akampa Local Government Area, the area where you have rubber Estate. The land there has been seized by the Federal Government and there is tension there. That tension has cost many lives in so much that the people living around that area are living like people who are still in war. They have not seen the difference between the war we fought in previous years and their present condition.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to the Government through this honourable House, consisting of intelligentsias to come to the aid of this people and reinstate their dignity so that Nigerians will be proud to be in Nigeria. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. The hon. Mr E. O. Chukwu.

Refugees in Nigeria

Mr E. O. Chukwu (Okigwe North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing towards the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to comment on three National issues. The first, Sir, is the issue of refugees in Nigeria. We could remember that some time in 1975 Nigerians who were working in Equatorial Guinea were forced home, and since then they have been refugees, and up till now many of us do not know the hardships these people have been suffering since 1975. The Government has not taken adequate care of those people. They have not been rehabilitated as they should. I am appealing to the Committee on Labour of this honourable House to investigate and find out the lot and fate of such refugees. They should be looked after by the Government.

Hurricane Disaster in Okigwe—Imo State calls for Relief

Mr Speaker, Sir, the second point is the hurricane disaster which occurred in Okigwe in May this year. I want to seize this opportunity to thank the Governor of Imo State, his Excellency Chief S. O. Mbakwe, for his visit to the areas affected and for the launching of disaster relief fund in Imo State. I am appealing to all Nigerians, all well meaning Nigerians to come to the aid of the people affected by contributing generously to that relief fund. I am also appealing to the Federal Government to come to the aid of the Governor of Imo State.

Some FESTAC House Winners yet to get Houses

Mr Speaker, Sir, the third point is on the issue of Federal Housing Authority. Since 1976, some Nigerians won houses in the Festac Town, and up till now they have not been given the keys to the houses. This is injustice. It is unfair. It is really bad. We have to condemn it. I am urging the Committee on Housing of this honourable House to investigate why, since 1976, people who were said to have won houses have not received the keys to such houses. And also, in 1977 applications were made for fresh allocations of plots over there and up till now nothing has been heard from the Ministry of Housing. So, I am urging the Committee on Housing of this honourable House to investigate and report to us what is really happening.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Mr Okon.

Uncompleted Road Project in Cross River State

Mr Okon A. Eddy (Ikot Ekpene I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Gentlemen, I rise to support the Motion for Adjournment and in supporting this, I wish to dwell on only two topics. One is Uncompleted Road Project in Cross River State, and the second one is the removal of Ikot Ekpene prison.

Mr Speaker : That is not what you have here. What you applied for is the completion of work on Ikot Ekpene-Itu-Calabar Road. There is no prisons there.

Mr Eddy : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me dwell on the completion of Ikot Ekpene-Itu and Calabar Road. One thing which baffles the people of Cross River State is the rate of neglect by the Federal Government in terms of Federal Government Development. In fact, the major thing aimed by the people of Cross River State in terms of Road Development is Calabar-Itu and Ikot Ekpene Road. But it is surprising that after this road has been taken from Calabar through Itu, it is made to stop at Ikot Ekpene without reaching the original planned area. The road was intended to pass through Ikot Ekpene via a village called Abiakpo-Edem through Ikot Inyang and to merge with Aba-Ikot Ekpene road at the spot where there is a Federal Government Teacher Training College at Otoro.

But it is unfortunate that since this road was made to stop at Ikot Ekpene no action has been taken by the Federal Government to complete this road. The people have been waiting anxiously almost in vain.

Now, I am taking this opportunity to call on the Federal Government to take this road to the original planned course so as to make it possible to relieve the congestion along the down town of Ikot Ekpene township. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Mr A. E. Eyo.

Calabar International Airport

Chief Asuquo E. Eyo (Calabar) : Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Motion for Adjournment I have certain appeal to place before this honourable House. About the month of January this year I submitted a Motion through the Clerk of this House to the Business Committee about Calabar International Airport. According to the Chairman my Motion was turned down ; it was felt that it would not have support of this House because it was a concern of one Constituency. I doubt the idea because I think an "International airport belongs to the whole universe not even one country. That being the case, I took up the matter before the Federal Minister of Aviation personally. He was happy and told me he would see about it when he was going on tour. When he went on tour, on his return he saw things by himself and made a promise that the work would be started as soon as possible. I forgot about it since he had made that statement. A few days ago, I had an extract from my State Government, which I would like to read, about this International Airport :

Air Transport System. There is a provision of 3.45 million naira for the extension and strengthening of Calabar Airport. There is no provision for the construction of the abandoned Terminal buildings. It will be recalled that the attention of the Federal Minister of Civil Aviation has been drawn to this matter on several occasions and he promised to put the project in priority.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on page 4 of the Estimate submitted to me by my State Government, the Calabar Airport extension and strengthening to take medium aircraft, the projected Estimate from 1975-80 was ₦30,044,000 but the provision for 1980 is only ₦3,450,000 remaining the balance of ₦9,594,000 and the year is ended, Sir. When are we going to use this money to complete this project ?

I wish further to read about the Motion I filed which was turned down.

In view of the need to maintain air services link between Nigeria and African neighbours and in view of the fact that Calabar Airport has been declared an International Airport this honourable House urges the President of the Federation to expedite action on Calabar Airport to see about the Terminal buildings and other facilities necessary for the efficient operation of Calabar Airport.

That was the Motion I filed but was turned down.

I want this House to note that Calabar has been greatly neglected, forgetting that Calabar was the Canal of those days. Everything came from Calabar, being the seat of Education, an important personality of Nigeria today was trained there, but we are being neglected. I wish this House render every possible assistance to see that an international airport is built there up because it was already scheduled to be done. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

High cost of Domestic Air Flights

Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, my contribution on the Motion for Adjournment today is on two topics. One is the one that concerns the generality of Nigerians, and the other one concerns my Constituency. The first one is on domestic air flights.

It has been rumoured or said that domestic air fares are going to be increased. In my humble opinion I think it would not be in the interest of Nigerians to increase domestic air flights as at the moment. We should regard air travel not as a privilege or a pleasure but a right of all Nigerians who wish to move in business fast and safe. In so doing, the government should do all in its power to see that every Nigerian can travel freely at a low cost. The reason for increasing the cost of air flights the world over is due to the rise in the cost of fuel. Fortunately, enough Nigeria is blessed with petrol and our previous government was kind enough in subsidising the price of petrol so we have no problem with the price of petrol.

At the moment domestic flights are the dearest if you look at them. Travelling from Lagos to Kano which is a one-hour journey you pay about ₦70 ; to Enugu you pay about ₦40 ; to Sokoto you pay about ₦100 and so forth. But if you compare this with what is happening in other parts of the world, you will find that travelling for five hours between New York and California you will pay about \$120 which is about ₦72. So, in actual fact, there is no need for the increase in the air fares. (*Applause*) I am therefore, appealing to the President, through the medium of this House, to see that no increase is made in the domestic air fares. If at all there is need for it (but I very much doubt) the Federal Government should try to subsidise it in the same way that our petrol has been subsidised.

Improve Malando-Gwara Road, Sokoto State

The second point, Sir, is on the Malando-Gwara Road which is in my Constituency. At the moment this road is maintained by Sokoto State Government but owing to three major obstacles of the tributaries to the River Niger it is very difficult to travel on this road. Gwara is an important commercial town, one of the five important towns in the whole of the State. But unfortunately because of these three culverts you will find that people wishing to come down to the South through the shortest way cannot come down.

So, I am appealing to the Federal Government that they should take-over the road, tar it and build up permanent bridges at Malando, Ngaski, Chipamni on the Gwara-Malando road. If this is done it will save people travelling to the South through that road much trouble. It will not only benefit Sokoto State or Yauri Local Government and Zuru in Sokoto State, it will also help Borgu which is our neighbour on the Kwara North, it will also help Niger State with boundaries at Mariga and Makama Local Government.

[MR YELWA]

So, I am appealing to the President to please take over Malando-Gwara road for the benefit of Nigerians and for easy transport. Also with the intention of Government to build their port at Yelwa and at New Gusau, big ships coming up with big loads could easily unload in these places and the road will be very useful.

With these remarks, I support the Motion for adjournment. Thank you very much.

Utter Neglect of Obubra by Past Administrations

Mr C. O. Agbor (Obubra I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members may I seize this opportunity—

Mr Speaker : Please, Mr Agbor, always tell us the topic on which you are going to speak. You simply wrote : Matters affecting my Constituency.

Mr Agbor : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel like making my appeal to the Executive through you and the honourable House on the gross neglect of my Constituency by the past civilian and Military Administrations.

Mr Speaker : Mr Agbor, do you know why we are asking for this ? It is simply to avoid duplication so that two or three people will not speak on the same topic. That is the reason. So, if you are going to speak on a topic that has been spoken on before we do not allow it.

Mr Agbor : The neglect has featured prominently in respect of lack of roads and health clinics as well as other things. We know that the government is bound to supply amenities so that the people can be happy and go about their normal duties. We know that we are talking about the green revolution in which we urge the country as a whole to produce as much food as possible to make sure we feed our masses. My Constituency, being an agricultural one, needs access roads to enable all the foodstuffs to be sent to other parts of the country.

The thought that comes to my mind readily is the Abakaliki East road which was incorporated in the 1975-80 Development Plan but which was not executed. This road was supposed to start off from Abakaliki through Achara down to Obaba and Obubra. I wish the next Development Plan, that is, the fourth National Development Plan, to take cognisance of this road and the execution of the work. The road should be extended to Achakpu on Awiyoung river via Isobo, Okporokpon and Obrude. And besides that, there are other important access roads, in the area such as Isabang, Ikandong Iyamitet and Iyamoyon Roads. Then the next is to Obubra, Ofonkpono, Nkum, Akpambe roads. These roads are very important in the area for the evacuation of foodstuffs. The area is known to veah grown plenty of yams, rice, cocoa, palm produce, cassava as well as fish. We know also that the health of the people is very important. I know it is a well known fact that there is only one hospital in the entire area harbouring about 200,000 people ; and some places in the Constituency are as far away as fifty kilometres from that lone hospital.

So, I am requesting the Federal Government to go to the assistance of the State government to make sure health clinics are established at Ogurude, Iyamoyon Ofat, Nkum and Akpambe.

Extend Housing to Federal Constituencies

In respect of the Federal Housing Scheme which has been embarked upon by the Federal Government, I think the Federal Government has, more or less, made the States the units of their Development. I would suggest strongly that the Federal constituencies be made a unit of Development in the Federal Housing Scheme. Whereas the Federal Government can assist State Governments to establish its Federal Housing units in the major towns of each State, they should establish many more of these Houses in the rural areas, covering the entire Federal constituencies. In that respect I think the one bedroom flats are inadequate. While, as at present, that will come up as a starting point, but in the next Development Plan period, I think the ideal thing or the least house any Nigerian can occupy conveniently is a two-bedroom house.

Then in respect of our agriculture, it is known that my constituency, as I said before, is a very important agricultural area. And the Cross River State has established an agricultural farm there as a demonstration plot. There were also feasibility studies on the establishment of agro-services by the Federal Government in the 1975-80 Development Plan area, and up till now nothing has been done to establish this agricultural service centre at Yamoyong as proposed. I am urging the Federal Government to hasten up in order to get this established so that farmers in the area could borrow tractors and some of them who are able can buy tractors for use in their farm work. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1980 Budget

Mr Olumuyiwa Akinboro (Oke-Ona/Owu/Gbagura) : Thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me. The first thing I want to say is to ask a question which puzzles me and that is in respect of the Budget we have just passed. You will recall that the Budget is for nine months, and the different Heads contain salaries and wages for civil servants for nine months. Now, six months has expired, which means these workers will be paid for the remaining three months. *(Interruptions)*

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mr Akinboro : Please, if you will allow me to land maybe you will get better. Now, what will happen to the surplus ? If the amount in the budget is meant for nine months and wages for three months are paid, what is going to happen to the surplus ? Mr Speaker, Sir, I would have loved—*(Interruptions)* That is that. I hope somebody will want to answer the question.

Statutory Allocation to States

The second point I want to talk about is on the Statutory Allocations to States. I want to say, Sir, that to me the amount being allocated to the States is so small that—*(Interruptions)* I think, I enjoy your protection, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Mr Akinboro, let us hear the report first. The Okigbo Report has just been submitted, before you talk about the Revenue Allocation, I think you know that?

Mr Akinboro : Yes, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Let us hear the report first.

Appeal to Labour Leaders

Mr Akinboro : I will leave that point. The next point I want to go to is to appeal to Labour Leaders in this country. They have always agitated for increase in wages and salaries and I take notice that all the Commissions—Adebo Commission, Udoji Commission, you know, all these Kola Commissions, have always recommended increase in wages, but the reality of it is that the wages, as increased, had not significantly benefited the workers, because they have not also recommended additional measures to counter the consequent inflationary trends. What I am trying to say is that the value of money depends on what it can buy, the opportunity costs, that is what we call real value of money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to suggest to the Union Leaders to make up their minds and to suggest to the Government appropriate measures in the next Budget. I would want them to develop initiative, to make a research, and suggest what things to ban, what things to allow to come in, what things to import, things that will really help the workers. It is not enough for them to continue to ask for wages and more wages and they themselves do not seem to conduct any research and bring up ideas and suggestions about measures Government can take which can improve the lot of workers. So, I would want the Union Leaders not just to sit down in the air-conditioned rooms and continue to ask for more wages, I want them also to reason and suggest ways and means that the Government can adopt to help the workers so that when they earn the increase in wages it will help them and will not worsen their plight. Thank you, very much.

Iron and Steel Contract Complex in Ajaokuta

Mr D. A. Zubairu (Jamaia North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on the Steel contract complex at Ajaokuta. I will like to assure this Nation that for any industrialisation to take off in this country, the Iron and Steel Industry has to take off. The politics of the Steel complex, Mr Speaker, has become such that no Nigerian today can expect the production of this industry by 1983 as propounded by the present Minister, Mr Paul Unongo.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like this house to be assured that the momentum at which Nigeria is now going on industrialisation is rather too slow. We need a quick take off, because the taking off of that industry will be the birth of industrialisation in this country. But the politics that has now cornered this project is something that we the Legislators have to urgently do something about, or else that project is not going to take off presently.

Now, we are not rest assured whether the Russians are ready to do this. I have always believed that the politics of the Russians is not the politics that we like in this country. The people that gave them this contract will have to re-emphasise whether it was a genuine contract that was given to this people or it was a contract that was given at the back-door. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is in the interest of this country that this contract should be reviewed if we want this particular development to take off.

I have not gone through anybody and I am not suggesting any other name to be given this contract, but I believe, Sir, that the contract documents which the Russians had submitted which I have seen, if you go through them, you will find that it is a contract that no reasonable man who knows what he is doing should have signed. I appeal that that contract should be revoked as it is now since the thing has not yet taken off. These people have been playing on our intelligence. I know the economic position of the Russians, at present. For the past four years, the Russian Government has been running into deficits in their own Budget. They have been finding things very hard to cope with and they are all out to get all the resources wherever possible for the development of their own economy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal that we Members of this National Assembly, particularly the Committee should call Paul Unongo to tell us what is actually happening in this particular organisation, because if this thing does not take off, it is going to be very serious. I am not agitating for the West to take up the project I am not agitating for the East, but whichever country takes it, our primary concern is that it shall be executed.

I would like to say here too, that the Committee on Science and Technology, in submitting their last report of the 1980 Budget, spoke very faintly about this particular issue. This is a very serious issue, Mr Speaker, Sir, with the Oil boom, with the uranium boom coming up, every country is watching Nigeria. The huge profits that people from the developed countries have made in Nigeria are actually enough. We, for our part should not just come and sit down here talking about issues without achieving anything. I want the Committee on this particular project to call Mr Paul Unongo. He is a flamboyant Minister. He talks very much but he gets at no point. I would like the Committee to actually brief us on what is happening about this particular project.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to sit down.

Compensation to Displaced Akure Village Farmer

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, when I asked for permission to speak on Motion for Adjournment, I had in mind the problem of those who have been displaced on the land which the Federal Ministry of Education acquired in Akure for the Federal Polytechnic. More than 1,000 people had been displaced from fifteen villages in order to make room for the existence of the Akure Polytechnic. My people are law abiding citizens of this country and they love progress.

[MR FAGBAMIGBE]

They were, therefore, willing to sacrifice land and everything in order that we might have the Federal Polytechnic in Akure.

But the problem which we now face is that those who have been displaced have not been compensated, not for land, but for the crops which they had on that land. The cocoa, the kolanuts, the plantains, the walnuts and all their life investments as farmers had gone into establishing various plantations.

Now, they have been driven away and they have no means of livelihood. These are old people who had spent all their lives on the land, who had spent all the years of their youth to cultivate land to grow cocoa, palm trees and so on and so forth. These have all been uprooted and they have nothing to live upon. I invoke the honour, the prestige and the power of this House to call on the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that these people are compensated. The villages concerned are Iloyin, Pakiti, Ojumu, Obanla, etc., all located in Akure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a need for us to prevent another Bakolori incident, the one that has just happened in Sokoto State where people have had to be mowed down because they protested against the arbitrary occupation of their land. We should try to prevent a similar situation in my Constituency.

A citizen's death due to NEPA negligence

Now, Mr Speaker, there is yet another tragic story. As a result of the negligence of the workers of the National Electric Power Authority, a citizen had to meet his untimely death in my Constituency. This is a very pathetic situation. The wire was badly fixed, it dropped on the floor and people went to report to NEPA men at about 10 a.m. The people came there with their van, they saw the live wire but they said they were looking for the driver who caused the disturbance. They were prevailed upon to do this work and that the driver would be discovered later on, but the men remained obstinate. At 5 p.m., exactly seven hours after that disturbance had taken place, a citizen stepped on this live wire and he was electrocuted. This is a serious case of negligence.

The worst part of it, Mr Speaker, is that the Authorities of NEPA in Akure are trying to shield the people who came to that place and refused to carry out that work. This is a very serious situation and I call on the Authorities of NEPA to produce these people and not only to apologise to the parents of the boy who died as a result of that negligence, but to compensate them.

Contract Award-Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene Road Rehabilitation

Mr Empire N. Kanu (Ikwuano Umuahia) : In contributing to Motion for Adjournment I would like to make mention of the contract award for the rehabilitation of Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene Road, in particular the portion of the road Umuahia to Ariam which is within my Constituency. The contract was awarded in August, 1979 to one Messrs Hamman and Ham Construction Company based in Calabar and up to date not an inch of the road has been rehabilitated by this Contractor and, it has, in fact, been

abandoned. The contract has now expired since April 1980, I am reliably told by people in the area and the State Assembly Members representing the Area. The condition of the road is such now that it is a disgrace to this country. The people in that area are completely cut off. It is a Federal Road, I have made a research.

The position is so disgraceful now and abominable that it is an eye sore. You would need a caterpillar to go through the road now. In fact, it is a calamity ; it is a disaster road now.

Several representations have been made by the people from the area to the Federal Ministry of Works and they have not received any positive response. I am, therefore, taking it up in my position and using this forum to appeal to the honourable Minister for Works, Mr Victor Mazi, to step into the matter and rectify the position. In fact, I recommend that he should reprimand this Contractor and re-award the contract to a contractor of repute so that the sufferings of the people from this area could be alleviated. I would also recommend that from now on the Ministry of Works should monitor all new contracts awarded to ensure that they are executed on schedule and to bring to book the contractors that do not perform because we cannot wait for such contractors to bring us back industrially.

We need good roads to develop in this country and we do not need any emergency contractor to drag us back. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

New Police Uniforms

Mr Johnson Oyedeji Opakanmi (Iwo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to speak on two subjects this morning. Firstly, I learnt that there will be new uniforms for the Nigeria Policemen. This is a welcome idea, but I want to sound a note of warning, to be fore-warned is to be fore-armed. When the uniforms are ready, I would like that strict measures be taken to see that the issuing out of the uniforms is strictly obeyed, unlike the present where robbers are using the Nigeria Police uniforms. When the uniforms are ready there should be strict security in issuing out the uniforms as well as recovering the old ones so that the robbers would not use them to rob our people again.

Secondly, Sir, the old uniforms should be recovered from the Policemen when the new ones are ready so that they will not use them in the rural areas to rob our people. That is my appeal, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Water shortage at Iwo

Last week, I went to my Constituency, Iwo area, and I found that the dams were completely dried up. This water serves over 14,00,000 people in my area. The work involved there is enormous for my people and the Oyo State Government. So, I am appealing through the Speaker of this honourable House to the Executive, the Minister of Water Resources, and to my able Chairman, Dr Eze O. Nwala, to seek for special grant for my people so that we can alleviate the sufferings of my people

who now lack water for their domestic purposes. That is my appeal, Mr Speaker, thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Yes, the hon. Member for Oron II (*Mr Edet Bassey Etienam*).

OAU Summit Conference

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to comment briefly on the current OAU Meeting in Sierra Leone. As you are well aware, Sir, the OAU is 17 years old this year and if I may invite the attention of this honourable House to the Charter of the OAU, which was adopted in 1963, Article I states :

The organisation shall have the following purposes :

(a) *To promote the unity and solidarity of the African States.*

(b) *To co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are very laudable objectives but unfortunately, Sir, there is an inbuilt constraint in the same Charter. You will find in the Principles, that is Article III 1 and 2 of the Charter of the Organisation and I would like to read with your permission, Sir :

The Member States in pursuit of the purposes stated in Article II affirm and declare their adherence to the following principles :

(1) *The sovereign equality of all Member States.*

(2) *The non-interference in the Internal Affairs of the States.*

I want to say, Mr Speaker, that this particular provision in Article III of the Charter of the OAU is the major constraint of that Organisation in the performance of its continental duties. You will observe, Sir, that quite a number of States in the African Continent today are regarded as satellites to the municipal authorities and these are found mostly in the former French Territories. Quite a number of things are happening in these States that really warrant the attention of the Organisation and deserve intervention militarily by the OAU.

Take for instance the events in Tchad. The Tchad Republic is a very close neighbour of Nigeria and every year we have all sorts of trouble in that country propelled by forces outside the African Continent. The French Government does not want to see peace in that country. If the OAU, the Organisation of African Unity, has not been hindered by this provision in its Charter, I think, by now, some African States, and notably Nigerian, would have intervened in Tchad militarily on behalf of the OAU. I think we are capable of doing that. (*Applause*)

I would, therefore, like to use this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to appeal to the current conference, the summit of the OAU in Sierra Leone, to amend this section of the Charter of the OAU to enable the Organisation itself or any powerful member

States of the Organisation to intervene on its behalf to restore sanity in the body politic of any Member State of the OAU. This is the only way to demonstrate that the OAU is not a toothless bull-dog which can only bark but cannot bite.

Several hon. Member : No ! No !

Mr Etienam : You are aware, Sir, of the recent acts of aggression against the sovereign State of Angola by the South African regime. (*Applause*) If the OAU had got the mandate in its own Charter to involve some of its powerful member States to defend the sovereignty of its Members, I am sure that the aggression of Angola by South Africa would have been repelled by other countries around that region. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker : It is time. Yes, the hon. Member for Ukwa (*Mr H. M. J. Wachuku*).

Complete Abandoned Federal Projects

Mr H. M. J. Wachuku (Ukwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion for Adjournment. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : You have been away for a long time, you really do not know what we are doing again.

Mr Wachuku : In doing so, Mr Speaker, I only wish to call on the Federal Government to complete the on-going Federal projects in many States of the Federation which the former Administration was unable to execute, some of which are roads, primary health centres, basic health centres, general post offices and so on. This is important because most of these projects were nearing completion and it would be a waste of revenue if they are so abandoned.

For example, I would like to mention that the Post Office and primary health centre at Ukwa in Imo State have reached an advanced stage but could not be completed. Mr Speaker, I feel that anything worth doing is worth doing well. The Federal Government, before embarking on new projects, should see to it that those ones that they have handled are completed. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Yes, the hon. Member for Uyo II. (*Mike J. Akpabio*)

NTA Network News

Mr Mike J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would take a break from the monotony of speaking about my own particular constituency and dwell on a matter which I consider monstrous and which has been staring us in the face for quite some time now. Mr Speaker, what I am going to talk about is the NTA which in my own view, should be christened Nigerian Traders Advertisers, otherwise known as the Nigerian Television Authority. It has become a regular feature, Mr Speaker, that this particular Authority at 9 o'clock when every citizen of this country is

[MR AKPABIO]

ready to listen to news about this country, news about how this system should be worked or is being worked, performances of this National Assembly and other State Assemblies, this Authority will come up with series of advertisements. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am saying that there is no—

Mr Speaker : It is very annoying, I support you. I think you have to come with a substantive Motion. We really have to pass a very strong Motion on this, it is very annoying. Please, come by a substantive Motion. We will list it on Friday. *(Applause)*

Mr Akpabio : It is all right, Sir, I will come with a substantive Motion, Mr Speaker.

Open more Airways Booking Offices

The second arm of my speech, Mr Speaker, Sir, is closely related to what my hon. Colleague, Alhaji Yelwa, said about fare reduction in the domestic flights. May I say, Sir, that there is need to alleviate the suffering of the teeming masses of this country who would otherwise want to use the Airways. There is an urgent need to establish and open more booking offices in all parts of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will realise that apart from the big cities, where we have booking offices some places with distances of about 200 kilometres, 100 kilometres and so on and so forth have no booking offices. The result is that the people in these areas cannot avail themselves of booking offices in order to have their flights either confirmed or otherwise treated. I am appealing to the Committee on Aviation to look into this and find a solution to it quickly. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Co-operate to lead the Nation

Mr S. A. Adeagbo (Ero North) : Hon. Members, I appeal to you to please listen very attentively to my comments. I would like to talk on the State of political parties in this country. While talking about this, I seize this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the National Party of Nigeria, the acting National Secretary of that party, as well as other Members of the Executive of that party for being able to conceal and avert a crisis within that party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, while doing this, we all realise the need to keep this country united to be able to conform with the norms of the world. If you permit me, Sir, I would like to recount the very good memory of our yester-years, Leaders : Zik, Awolowo, Macaulay, Okpara, Akintola, Balewa and Alhaji Sadauna of Sokoto. Notwithstanding all the atrocities you can think of, notwithstanding all the successes of their time, they were able to lay down the census figure on which we are now formulating the sharing of the national cake. If you do not like it, I like it and I praise it. I appeal to you hon. Members right now, we are young Leaders, and I would not want any of us to continue to be parochial in our ways and deeds. I would love to see Members co-operate and be able to solve the problem of this great country. At the same time, I will insist that any political leader should stop making communi-

cations direct or indirect to our hon. Speaker or the President of the Senate. If you intend to sack or suspend a Member of your party that is entirely your responsibility. I would not succumb to using this forum and this House as a rubber-stamp to achieve any political end. We young politicians, now imagine, have a career to make. We want to see ourselves reigning in the next 20 years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I appeal through you that young politicians of our time should please read the handwriting on the wall and co-operate to lead the nation. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Green Revolution

Mr J. C. Okoli (Ezeagu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk on the much used words, the Green Revolution. It is so much in the air, and it is a great delight to note that the Appropriation Bill has been signed by the President of this country, and it is also a great delight to note that huge sums of money have been allocated for Green Revolution.

But it is slightly disappointing as far as my Constituency is concerned that very little is known by a lot of areas in this country about the agricultural potentials of my Constituency. For instance, in Ezeagu where I come from, about 90 per cent of my constituents are farmers, and our area is a very fertile area for agricultural production.

We notice that in allocating funds for agricultural production it is only those known areas in this country that have any allocation made to them. In my area, there has been a survey of the land by specialists. In fact, the most recent one has been led by Prof. D. M. Ekpete formerly of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and presently, the Commissioner for Agriculture in Anambra State. He carried out a survey and proved that my area is very good and very fertile, for rice, cassava and also, cashew production. But we notice that little or nothing has been allocated for the development of agriculture in this area. To be more specific, you will find that Umumba Ndiagu and Ngwo Anike areas, Mgbagbu Umuaji to Mgbagbu Owa axis, Olo Town up to Ogulogu Olo and Omo areas, Obinofia Ndiagu-Mgbagbu Owa axis, and the cashew areas in Oghe—

An hon. Member : Are these areas in Nigeria ?

Mr Okoli : They are in Nigeria, and this is the point I am trying to make. It is amazing how very little we know about our own country and about the potentials we have in this country. I am appealing to this present Administration to make use of these fertile areas in developing agriculture with a view to producing sufficient food that this country required in order to stop huge importation of finished products and even agricultural materials from foreign land.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Okoli : Mr Speaker, I hope my point is well taken. Thank you.

Political regrouping in the Federation

Chief Olusola Omonira (Ilaje/Ese-Odo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make an appeal through Mr Speaker to this honourable House about a point which is very relevant to our society now and in the future. I would also like to make an appeal to our friends, the members of the Press on this issue. I would also like to make an appeal to the elite in our society.

The topic is about political regrouping in the Federation. The crisis in the five political parties as of now—(Interruptions)

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Omidiji : There is no crises in the UPN.

Chief Omonira : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point is that there is what I can call crisis of confidence. Some are open and some are secret. My appeal, therefore, is to let us give some trial to the views of the various celebrated political leaders who advocated a two-party system of Government. We need to give it a trial. If we have to give it a trial, my hon. Members it is important for us to restrain ourselves the way we speak about this matter. The various crises now going

on are a pointer to the fact that Nigeria wants a two-party system. For example, I do not support the idea of any party swallowing the other, but it is a fact of our time that NPP and NPN coming together, UPN, GNPP and PRP coming together is for the benefit of the country.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, before putting the question, I would just like to make some corrections that there is no leadership struggle in the National Party of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, indeed, the NPN is the most democratic and the biggest political party in this country.

Mr Speaker : Please, put the question.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to say much. I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 3rd July, 1980

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members I have seen the votes and proceedings of yesterday and they are in order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will remind the parties that have not submitted the names of their nominees for the new House Committee to please do so today. We have only got names from NPN, UPN and GNPP.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Petitions Committee

Presentation of report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition of Mr E. E. Okujeni (*Referred to the Committee on 4th June, 1980*)

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I am your Chairman of the Public Petitions Committee. Hon. Members, on the 4th day of June this year, you referred to your Committee on Public Petitions the petition of one Mr E. E. Okujeni. Hon. Members, the petition was presented to this honourable House by hon. Edet Bassey Etienam. We deliberated on this petition and today, I am laying on the table of this House formally, the petition. I hereby move that this House do receive the Report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition of Mr E. E. Okujeni which was referred to this honourable House on the 4th day of June, 1980.

I beg to move.

Mr Agya Agbujoro (Wukari) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : I hope hon. Members have all got copies of the Report ?

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members I respectfully move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

DELEGATION FROM IMO STATE

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I will seize this opportunity to announce once again a delegation from Imo State asking for the creation of the Abia State out of the present Imo State. (*Applause*) Hon. Members, you can see for yourselves and you are witnesses that this is indeed a very formidable delegation. The delegation is led by a very eminent Nigerian, the Hon. Dr M. I. Okpara, former Premier of the former Eastern Region. Other members of the delegation include—

Hon. Dr M. A. O. Agbara—*Secretary*
Barrister J. N. Obonna—*Assistant Secretary*
Senator Jaja Wachuku
Senator S. M. Ojukwu
Hon. Dr M. I. Kalu
Dr Nwakanma Okoro
Dr J. O. J. Okezie
Hon. V. E. Uwanna
Hon. S. N. Okpi
Dr O. J. Onyike
Dr A. Ezikpe
Hon. I. C. Uko
Hon. HMM. C. Nwosu
Eze E. Ukandu
Eze G. C. N. Akomas
Mr B. A. Nwachuku
Mr M. A. Nwankwo
Hon. S. U. Nwanganga
Hon. Empire Kanu
Col. Ogbugo Kalu
Chief T. W. Oruruwa
Councillor E. E. Njoku
Hon. Ogwe K. Ogwe
Mr N. Nkama
Hon. E. Okoh
Hon. Oke U. Oke
Hon. A. Njoku
Hon. H. M. J. Nwachuku
Hon. Erondu
Mr S. G. Ikoku
Dr O. Oreh
Barrister J. O. F. Nwamuo
Mr Raphael Mbagwu
Hon. G. O. Onyemaobi.

The members of the delegation on Abia State, you are welcome to the House of Representatives.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Enlargement of the House Committee:

Amendment to Standing Order 54 (2)

Mr Speaker : The Motion stands in the name of the Leader of the House, Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo. The Leader is not here, so the Deputy Leader Mr Afolabi will move.

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Mr Speaker, I wish to move the Motion standing in the name of Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo which reads as follows :

That in view of the size of the House, and the variety and complexity of the functions expected to be performed by the House Committee (which would necessitate the House Committee working through sub-committee for the purposes of speed

and efficiency), Standing Order 54 (2) should be amended so that the size of the House Committee would be enlarged from Nine Members (*vide composition of House Committee of 19th October, 1979—page 41 of the Votes and Proceedings*) to Twenty-five Members.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I accordingly move.

Mr H. M. J. Nwachukwu (Ukwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the motion.

Mr Speaker : Any comments, hon. Members ? Let us hear from the leader, Mr Afolabi, could you just enlighten us a bit, and if I may say, the purpose is simply to get more men so that we would have more sub-committees because the job of the House Committee has been enlarged in view of the fact that we have two premises now, this one and the one at Victoria Island. So we intend to enlarge the committee so as to be able to create more sub-committees.

Any other comments ?

Several Members : No !

Mr O. Afolabi : Having listened to Mr Speaker, I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That in view of the size of the House, and the variety and complexity of the functions expected to be performed by the House Committee (which would necessitate the House Committee working through subcommittee for the purposes of speed and efficiency), Standing Order 54 (2) should be amended so that the size of the House Committee would be enlarged from Nine Members (*vide composition of House Committee of 19th October, 1979—page 41 of the Votes and Proceedings*) to Twenty-five Members.

Eradication of Cholera

Mr Speaker : There is another Motion, Eradication of cholera. The Motion stands in the names of Mr S. U. Wanganga, Dr T. J. Sekibo, Mr 'Debo Akande, Alhaji Iliyasu Hong and Mr Y. N. Gaya.

Several hon. Members : Abia !

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, it would appear that Abia State is so popular that it will have an easy passage. Thank you very much.

I beg to move the Motion standing in my name and the names of my other hon. Colleagues—

That in view of the fact that cholera is a deadly disease, and in view of the fact that the outbreak of this disease has been reported in various parts of Nigeria, this House calls on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria—

(a) to mobilize all available forces immediately to assist the States where outbreak of cholera has already occurred for the effective eradication of the disease ; and

(b) to take all necessary and further steps to ensure that the disease is completely eradicated throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr Akpabio.

Mr Michael J. Akpabio (Uyo II) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Mr Wanganga.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion, to my mind, is non-controversial—

Several hon. Members : How do you know ?

Mr Wanganga : I will soon explain why I think it is non-controversial. Hon. Members, cholera, for the benefit of some of us who are non-medical men, has been defined as a term that has applied to a wide variety of diarrhoeal diseases of short duration. For example it has been said that cholera vibro is described as a member of a large group of ground negative commaciate bacteria that are morphologically indistinguishable from one another. Having said that. (*Interruptions*) Members of the Medical profession will allow me.

On a very serious note, hon. Members, this disease has killed a lot of fellow Nigerians in many parts of the country. The most recent cases have happened in Gongola State, Imo State, Anambra State and Borno State. As you are well aware, an epidemic starts with one single case and then it starts spreading. This means that wherever an epidemic starts in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, no one in the other parts of the country can feel safe until it has been eradicated. In fact it also transcends territorial boundaries of countries in that travellers can take the disease to other countries well outside the original area where the disease first occurred.

Because of the deadly nature of cholera, a killer disease, I am appealing to this honourable House to urge the President of the Federal Republic to mobilise in full force not only to cure those who have already been attacked by the disease but to implement all the preventive measures which we know can stop the occurrence of this disease. Cholera is a water-borne disease which often occurs in areas with very poor water supply and the areas, which have been identified, where the disease has occurred are virtually areas where there is a shortage of water supply and, as a result, the people drink whatever water they can lay hands on and often the water is infected. Mr Speaker, Sir, it means that the prevention will also include a massive effort to provide good drinking water to these areas so that for once, the disease can be cured and eradicated to stop the frequent annual re-occurrence of this epidemic.

The States where cholera epidemic has occurred have taken a lot of pains. They have tried very hard to contain it. But one of their greatest problems is insufficient money and lack of adequate mobility. This is because the areas where the disease had occurred are quite remote and the roads are very bad. It requires a whole fleet of vehicles like the jeep and vehicles designed for rough roads in order to reach the interior villages where the disease has occurred.

[MR WANGANGA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are therefore asking the Federal Government to come to the help of those States and use the provisions of the present estimate where we have provided for emergency fund and eradicate this disease. Other countries have succeeded in eradicating cholera. Before now, cholera used to invade Europe, the Asiatic countries, Americas and of course Africa. But they have fought it to a standstill and developed vaccine which can immunise people against the attack of cholera.

It will interest hon. Members to note that the disease, cholera, has been known even in Athens as earlier as the 5th century B.C. There was an ancient Doctor called Toides who first discovered the occurrence of cholera but they fought it to a standstill and eradicated it. Nigeria is a mighty country and therefore, we have got to eradicate it. It is well within our means to eradicate this disease.

Mr Speaker : Round up.

Mr Wanganga : Mr Speaker, Sir, the most sorry aspect of this is that quacks have moved in, that is, self-appointed medical men have moved in, to exploit the villagers, giving them the wrong injections, giving them the wrong treatment and extorting a lot of money from them. It will be a pity if the government does not move in to protect the rights of ordinary citizens. As you are well aware, the health of the people is the wealth of the nation. To that extent, the Federal Government is being urged to use its mighty force, and, indeed, it has mighty force, to attack the epidemic itself, destroy it and stop it ever re-occurring.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Hon. Dr Sekibo.

Dr James Taribo Sekibo (Bonny II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in contributing to urge this House to support this Motion, I will not go into the etiology of the disease, neither am I going to give you the history of it. But what is important is that the present attitude of the Medical care delivery in the country should be changed. Emphasis is based on curative medicine instead of preventive which is not proper. What is important is for us to prevent the disease instead of waiting until someone is attacked for us to cure it.

This can be done by the establishment of public Health Services. We know in most cities, you have these services but those services are more needed in the rural areas not in the cities because, except in a very few cases, the personal hygiene system in the cities are much better than those of the countryside. More so when you do not have adequate water supply, the rural population is subject to such outbreaks which the country has of recent, noticed in Borno and other parts of the Eastern States.

I will say that, to fight the disease, the public health sections of the hospitals we have, should organise enlightenment trips to the rural areas to teach the populace the need for them to observe personal hygiene. This will go a long way to prevent the occurrence of such diseases as we are experiencing today

I will, therefore, call on the Federal Government to go to the assistance of the States affected so that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that the outbreak of such diseases like cholera, even other gastro enteritis caused by poor drinking water and the rest of it must be stopped if we want our people to grow well, our population to take part in agrarian population, and so on. So, I will join my Colleagues to call on the Federal Government to go to the assistance of these States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : Can we hear from the other Movers ?

Several hon. Members : They are not here.

Mr Speaker : Well, any comments, hon. Gentlemen ? Yes, the hon. Member for Langtang (*Mr John Laven*).

Mr John Laven (Langtang) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words, on one hand condemning this Motion, and on the other pitying the Movers of this Motion. You see, the disease, cholera, is already under what we call the preventive measures. Cholera and cerebral meningitis are all diseases of concern to this country and, already, the Ministry of Health is taking good care of these. I see no point bringing such a Motion to urge the Ministry of Health by a House resolution.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Laven : Well, whether No or Yes, I feel I still have to say something. One hon. Member said that the disease is not all that prevalent in the cities. I am going to correct him. Cholera is more prevalent in the cities. You could see the drainage system of Lagos. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Yes ?

Mr Laven : What I am saying is that in cities you could see awful areas of refuse being dumped here and there, pools of water everywhere and poor drainage systems whereas in the villages these things are not as much as in the cities. So, cholera is more prevalent in the cities. So, Mr Speaker, I stand by my word that this case of cholera is already being taken care of by the Ministry of Health and there is no question of passing a House resolution to do this.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Akwanga (*Mr Josiah Y. M. Mallo*).

Mr Josiah Y. M. Mallo (Akwanga) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I very much want to thank the Movers of this Motion for a job well done, but I wish to call the attention of this very honourable House to the fact that the Movers of this Motion have not really given us any supporting data as to the inefficiency of the Ministry of Health. We just do not sit here and talk about the control of diseases without the supporting data.

Secondly, the Movers of this Motion have not told us the various parts of this country that cholera is prevalent. I am not saying that cholera is not prevalent, it is. The Movers of this Motion have failed to give the prescription as to the necessary and further steps to be taken. So, I am suggesting,

Mr Speaker, Sir, that this Motion should be referred to the Committee on Health for adequate examination so that this very honourable House knows what it is doing and not just calling on the President to do what we can do.

So, I feel, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this Motion should be referred to the appropriate Committee of this honourable House for adequate examination before we make the necessary recommendations to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Isiala, Ngwa (*Mr Apollos N. Njoku*).

Mr Apollos N. Njoku (Isiala Ngwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion, as put on the Order Paper, is not controversial at all. The incidence of cholera in the country is not a hidden case too. It is obvious to everyone in this honourable House that one of the most deadly diseases in this country is cholera and it has so often repeated its occurrence that it poses a great threat to our population.

Someone has talked of data to show that cholera is deadly or that it has destroyed a lot of souls. I want to say that in the last three weeks in my own Constituency at Mbubo in Isiala Ngwa, over seven men died in a week. (*Ah ! Ah !*) At Ohaozara in Imo State too, the cry went far and wide. In Gongola State, as the Movers of the Motion mentioned, it is obvious that cholera has destroyed a lot of souls. I wonder what other evidence we need to recognise that cholera is a deadly disease.

The point which the Movers of the Motion made is to call upon the Federal Government to intensify their efforts to curb the disease at the moment and to find other preventive measures. In moving the Motion, they talked about the problem of water supply which is one of the sources of this deadly disease.

I think what this honourable House should do is to give its wholehearted support to this Motion and ensure that the Ministry of Health with other Associated Agencies will do all in their power to ensure that preventive measures are taken and curative measures are intensified in order to prevent the rapid killing of our citizens.

I do not think that this is a Motion in which we have to dwell for too long for mere sake of argument. It is a substantial motion and should be supported by everybody. Mr Speaker, I beg to take my seat.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, I will make a suggestion if we can add another leg to this Motion, that the Motion be referred to the Committee on Health to carry out further investigations. Please, the Mover of the Motion, the hon. Member for Aba (*Mr S. U. Wanganga*), if that is acceptable to you, you move the Amendment.

Mr S. U. Wanganga (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, if it is your judgment that this Motion be referred to the Committee on Health, we should give them a time limit because people are dying as we are speaking here. So, you may so refer it. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : All right, amend your Motion by adding that it should be referred to the Committee on Health.

Mr Wanganga : Do I read the whole Motion ?

Mr Speaker : No, just the Amendment that you want. Apply to amend the Motion by adding that.

Mr Wanganga : I wish to add item (c) :

That the Motion be referred to the Committee on Health for further investigations.

I beg to move. Thank you.

Mr Speaker : Thank you. Anybody seconding the Amendment ?

Mr Mallo : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to second the Amendment.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Speaker : All right, move that the main Question be now put.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to crave the indulgence of the House to move that Standing Order No. 19 be suspended.

Mr Speaker : No! No! we have not finished with this Motion. It is only the Amendment that we voted on and it was rejected. We are now going on to the Motion itself. It was the Amendment that was rejected.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to

Resolved : That in view of the fact that cholera is a deadly disease, and in view of the fact that the outbreak of this disease has been reported in various parts of Nigeria, this House calls on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria—

(a) to mobilize all available forces immediately to assist the States where outbreak of cholera has already occurred for the effective eradication of the disease ; and

(b) to take all necessary and further steps to ensure that the disease is completely eradicated throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Suspension of Order 19

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I wish to crave the indulgence of this honourable House to suspend Standing Order 19 to enable me move a Motion of urgent importance.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr OJOGU

Resolved : That this House do suspend Standing Order 19 to enable the Acting Leader of the House, Mr Olusola Afolabi, to move a Motion of urgent importance.

Mr Speaker : Yes, move your Motion.

Income Tax of Hon. Members.

Mr Olusola Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members the Motion is on Income Tax of hon. Members and it reads as follows :—

That this honourable House directs the Accounts Division of the National Assembly to ensure that Income Tax of hon. Members, as from 1st October 1979, be paid to Members' respective States.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Chief Ugwu.

Chief Frank Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, any comment ?

Several hon. Members : No.

Mr Speaker : Let us hear from him, this is a democracy. Yes, Chief Oduntan.

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Members to one important fact which we must observe before we consider this Motion that is the question of Tax Laws. Those of you who have not read Tax Laws should go and read them, because I am sure that—(*Interruptions*)

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Oduntan : Mr Speaker, Sir, because I am sure that the Tax Laws—

Mr Speaker : There is a Point of order.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have two points of order to make in this matter. The first one relates to the question of whether we can bring a Motion to amend an existing law. The second point is a question of residence. With respect to the period before December 1979, discussion could be taken on that, but with respect to—(*Interruptions*)

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Speaker : Please, that is not a point of order.

Yes, there is another point of order, Chief Oduntan.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am pointing the hon. Member for Ifo/Ota (*Chief Oduntan*), who spoke last, to order when he said that Members have not read Tax Laws. I want to inform him that this House is blessed with seasoned Lawyers who have read their Tax Laws, and that the Motion is in order.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order. Yes, Chief Oduntan continue, or have you finished ?

Chief Oduntan : Briefly, what I am trying to inform the House is that the Tax Law of Lagos State—

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Oduntan : The Tax Law of Lagos State and of the country—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! Allow Chief Oduntan to finish please.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Oduntan : I will say briefly Sir, that—

Some hon. Members : No ! No !

Chief Oduntan : It is where you work and receive your salary that you pay your tax.

Mr Speaker : That is all right, it is time.

An hon. Member : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes, let us hear him.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin : Mr Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that there is a uniform Tax Law with effect from this year. What I am trying to say is this—

An hon. Member : Point of order.

Mr Speaker : Yes.

Mr Mohammed L. Narogo (Karaye) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members my point of order is Order 26 (2). Of course, to add to this, we make laws. We put things where we would like them to be. Nobody should dictate to us where we do not want to be. So our taxes should be sent to our respective States and not to an individual state. So, that is my point of order.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Akinbisehin : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is to bring everybody in line with the law. Up till December 31st, 1979 we were sent by our Constituencies to this place and we were normally resident in our Constituencies. But as from January 1st, 1980, being the new fiscal year the question is whether we are resident in Lagos or in our Constituencies.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Mr Akinbisehin : My submission is that if there is going to be an amendment to the Tax Laws, it must properly come by a Bill. I, therefore, recommend that this Motion be sent to the Committee on Finance to prepare a Bill to that effect.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not see anything wrong in this Motion, it is a Motion we all should support whole-heartedly because the Finance Regulations of this country stipulate that you can pay your tax anywhere in this country. As long as you carry a valid tax ticket you are free to move around anywhere. So, I do not see anything wrong in it. It is a good Motion we should all support. Thank you.

Mr I. D. Hassan (Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to point out to the opponents of this Motion that we came to Lagos not as the capital of Lagos State but as the capital of the

Federation. (Applause) We are living in the Federal Capital and not the capital of Lagos State. The Capital of Lagos State is Ikeja. Thank you, Mr Speaker. (Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Gentlemen, we will conclude the matter, please. The issue is that, if I may have the attention of the hon. Member for Ifesowopo (Mr Akinbisehin), if you remember during the election, the Electoral Decree says that a Member or a Candidate who wanted to contest must be resident in a particular area, and we have satisfied this. (Interruptions) You can say your own but let me finish. Please, it is for the benefit of somebody who can understand. The Electoral Decree talks about resident, I think you know that very well, and each an every one of us complied with that provision. So, certainly, we are resident in our constituencies. Do you get that point ? So, please, put the Question. Yes, go on.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think you have said what I wanted to say and accordingly I move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put agreed to.

Resolved : That this honourable House directs the Accounts Division of the National Assembly to ensure that Income Tax of hon. Members as from the 1st of October 1979 be paid to Members' own respective States.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House be adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, this place is too hot I think we should suspend all the applications till tomorrow.

Several Members : Yes.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.23 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 4th July, 1980

The House met at 9.15 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominees for House Committee

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there are few announcements.

The NPP has submitted the names of its nominees for the new House Committee and they are as follows :

Hon. Mr D. M. Onwuzulike
The Hon. Mr E. C. Ebo
The Hon. Mr S. B. A. Magani
The Hon. Mr O. U. Oke.

I think the list for the PRP will be announced later.

Summons

Hon. Members, I have just received a summons against Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the Clerk of the National Assembly. I think that if the House may resolve, the summons will be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

An hon. Member : From where ?

Mr Speaker : Let me read it. The action is between Alhaji Isa Aliyu (Makarfi) versus me, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly. The last two were joined later on. Do you want me to read the summons ?

Several hon. Members Yes.

Mr Speaker : Let me read the subject matter of the action.

1. The Plaintiff claim is for :

(a) *A declaration that the purported announcement or message which the defendant made in the Federal House of Representatives on Wednesday the 28th May, 1980 which stated that he received a letter from Mallam Aminu Kano, the Leader of the PRP, suspending the plaintiff from the party's membership, which said letter or announcement tends to indicate that the defendant is or was empowered to suspend the plaintiff from all Standing Committees of the House of the Representatives was unconstitutional, ultra vires, null and void.*

2. *A declaration that the defendant has no power or authority under the Standing Orders of the House or any other law or laws to suspend the defendant from membership of all or any of the Standing Committees of the House of Representatives based on a notice or a letter or a message from Mallam Aminu Kano or any other person.*

3. *An order setting aside any step or direction or order of the defendant or any other person which seeks to interfere with or violate the plaintiff's exercise of his constitutional rights by reference to his membership of the Federal House of Representatives to which he was duly elected or his membership of all or any of the Standing Committees of the House of Representatives based only on an alleged letter from Mallam Aminu Kano.*

4. *A declaration that the message which the defendant relayed to the House on 28th May, 1980 is misleading, done deliberately or otherwise to deceive the public into thinking that the plaintiff has been suspended from all the Standing Committees of the House upon the instruction of Mallam Aminu Kano.*

5. *An injunction restraining the defendant his agents, servants and or privies from suspending the plaintiff from membership of either the House of Representatives or of all or any of its Standing Committees.*

That is the subject matter.

An hon. Member : For when ?

Mr Speaker : There is no Motion yet. I am only asking for a Motion so that we refer it to the Judiciary Committee. There will be a Motion first to suspend the Standing Order 19.

Suspension of Standing Order 19

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to move for the suspension of Standing Order 19 to enable me move a Motion in connection with the suit against the Speaker of this honourable House as well as the National Assembly.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ? Yes, Mr J. C. Okoli.

Mr J. C. Okoli (Ezeagu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the question is that Standing Order 19 be suspended to enable this House deal with a matter of urgent importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That Standing Order 19 be suspended to enable the House deal with a matter of urgent importance.

Suit Against the Hon. Speaker

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this honourable House refer the suit against the hon. Speaker of this House, the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly, in connection with the suspension of certain PRP members of this honourable House from the party and membership of certain Standing Committees of this House to the House Committee on Judiciary for necessary action. I beg to move.

Alhaji Hamman Diko (Maiha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, Chief Omonuwa, let us hear your amendment to the Motion.

Chief B. O. N. Omonuwa (Warri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Amendment I want to make is that a special Committee be set up which will comprise of all the lawyers and the party leaders because there are very few lawyers in the Judiciary Committee and the issue involved is an issue mainly for lawyers.

Mr Speaker : Yes, that is true but when we refer it to the Committee, the Committee will be in a position, to ask for services of Lawyers even outside the House. Hon. Members, let us put the Question straight away.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That suit No. LD/8112/80 against the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Election of Acting Speaker

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members there will be a meeting of the Presiding Officers from all the States of the Federation this morning and in accordance with the Standing Orders, you will elect somebody to preside to enable me attend the meeting because my Deputy is also not in town.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : I suggest the hon. Member for Oron II (*Mr Bassey Etienam*) to take the Chair.

Several hon. Members : No! No!

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : I beg to second.

Mr T. O. Akinbode (Owo) : Another nomination. I have been recognised. I beg to nominate the hon. Lawyer from the River State sitting in front of me, Mr Asuk. I beg to nominate him.

Mr S. G. Laosebikan (Iwo West) : I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : All right, we will vote for the two of them. Let us hear from the hon. Member for Maiha (*Alhaji Hamman Diko*). Let us take three nominations.

Alhaji Hamman Diko (Maiha) : My nomination is the hon. Member for Biu North (*Alhaji Hamza M. Nganjirwa*).

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding ? I see, that is nullified. So, we have only two of them.

Hon. Members, let us vote for the hon. Member for Oron II (*Mr Edet Bassey Etienam*) and the hon. Member for Bonny I (*Mr Shem E. Asuk*).

The Question is that Mr Edet Bassey Etienam be nominated to preside over the sitting of the House today.

Question put and negatived.

Mr Speaker : Let us vote for the hon. Member for Bonny I (*Mr Shem E. Asuk*). Hon. Members the Question is that the hon. Member, Mr Asuk, a Member for Bonny I in the Rivers State, be nominated to preside over the Sitting of this House this morning in the absence of Mr Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the hon. Member for Bonny I (*Mr Shem E. Asuk*) do preside over the Sitting of the House this morning in the absence of Mr Speaker.

(Mr Asuk in the Chair)

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I am very happy for the honour done to me this morning. I hope we can carry on right away.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Federal Capital Development

Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for an on-the-spot assessment of development in the execution of projects at Abuja (*vide House Resolution No. 61 of 24th January, 1980*).

Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion on behalf of myself and the Committee on the Federal Capital Territory that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for an on the spot assessment of development in the execution of projects at Abuja.

I beg to move,

Mr J. K. Ugo (Gwer East) : I beg to second.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

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

Resolved : That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for an on-the-spot, assessment of development in the execution of projects at Abuja.

Committee on Science and Technology

Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education System (*Referred to the Committee, 7-2-80*).

Mr Kemte Giadom (Bori II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move the Motion Standing in the name of the Chairman of Science and Technology Committee, Mr Sam O. Alu.

On the 7th of February this year, a Resolution was given over to the Committee on Science and Technology to investigate the restoration of OND and HND in our Technical Institutions. I beg to present the Report of your Committee on this subject and move—

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education System.

I beg to lay the Report on the Table.

Mr S. A. Siyanbola (Ede South) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that we have exhausted all the items scheduled on the Order Paper for today, I beg to move that this House do stand adjourned until 10.00 a.m. on Monday.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Acting Speaker : Any seconder, please ?

Mr S. Laosebikan (Iwo West) : I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Etienam : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

The Acting Speaker : No, please. Motion for Adjournment. There is a list of people here who want to speak on the Motion for Adjournment. Can I call the first one ? Prince J. S. Sangha.

Prohibitive Prices of Beer and Minerals in the Rural Areas

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am rising to support the Motion for Adjournment and in doing so, I would like to make a few comments on the prohibitive prices of beer and minerals in the rural areas. Hon. Members. I do not know what is going on in this country. Very often, we come to this House to talk about rural areas. I do know that three-quarters of the Members of this House come from rural areas.

People trapped in this part of the country have been the victims of almost all the circumstances in this country. For instance, you discover that in some of the rural areas, a bottle of beer cost as high as ₦2 and a bottle of mineral is as high as 50k. Even in parts of Lagos, the middlemen, who would like to stop at nothing to exploit the ordinary people of this country, continue to sell beer at very prohibitive prices irrespective of the fact that the manufacturers have given a price that may have been considered fair and just.

I have been able to look closely at this matter and I have discovered that there are some causes for this type of ugly situation. You will find out that the distribution system is very inequitable as far as it affects the rural community. In some of the towns and villages along the rural areas, you will find that they do not even have a single distributor. Wherever you have such, they have paltry supply of about 50 cartons and that is twice a month and yet, beer today has been accepted as part of our living standard. To continue to deny these people trapped in rural areas of their legitimate rights to have access to beer and minerals is a gross injustice.

One other cause, too, is that in the towns and cities, there is an unguided freedom to serve beer in our bars and restaurants before noon. In most civilized countries, this is not the case. You can hardly drink beer from 6.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. They restrict beer to afternoon and not before noon. If there is a measure taken to control the sale of beer in the major cities, we would have some surplus left for those trapped in villages. There is also the callous role of middlemen. People buy beer at factory price and bring it down to the retailers at

very exorbitant prices. The after-effect of that is that the consumer at home is forced to pay a very high price for the liquid content of the bottle only.

There is the question of the establishment of socio-economic order in this country which leaves the man living in the rural area in the doldrum when it comes to his rights. You have also the problem of absence or non-effectiveness of consumer organisation. The cumulative effect of this is that our brothers and sisters who are unfortunate to be trapped in villages and rural areas live without some of these essential things. I think the time has come when the consumers of this nation should come together and demand their rights, ask for information and make sure that the products they consume are in conformity with standards. Unless we do this, the consumers will always be taken for a ride.

So, I am appealing to the Committee on Commerce to investigate the indiscriminate prices of beer in the rural areas. I was at home three weeks ago and to my utter dismay, I bought a bottle of stout for ₦2 and a bottle of Star Beer for ₦1.80k. You will even find that here in the township So, I think the Committee on Commerce should investigate these discrepancies and recommend to this House appropriate measures to curb the scarcity of beer and minerals in villages. They have the right to these things and we should not deprive them.

Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : Alhaji Hamman Diko.

Elephants in Gongola State

Alhaji Hamman Diko (Maiha) : In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment, Mr Speaker, I have two points. One point I would like to talk about is the menace of elephants in Gongola State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, recently elephants destroyed a lot of crops and economic trees in Gongola State. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture sent a team of experts to go and make assessment of the damages and since then, no action has been taken on this matter. The villagers involved are suffering a lot.

Green Revolution

Mr Speaker, Sir, my second point is on Green Revolution. In my Constituency, we have fertile land, so, I am appealing to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to—

The Acting Speaker : May I call the hon. Member to order. You stated that you would speak on large-scale farming and elephants in Gongola State.

Alhaji Hamman Diko : Yes, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker : By saying Green Revolution, do you mean large-scale farming ?

Alhaji Hamman Diko : Yes large-scale farming refers to Green Revolution, Mr Speaker. As I have said earlier, in Gongola State, we have fertile land, so, we are appealing to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to send experts to Gongola State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in my Constituency, a small-scale farm was established in 1976 at Jatari. The farmers benefited from it, but the Ministry has removed all the equipment in that area. So, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to re-open this small-scale farm in that area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Members, I am sorry indeed, there is an urgent Motion brought to this House but my attention was not called to it. We have skipped it and I would say that the Mover should kindly hold on till Monday Morning. It will not be too late to do so.

Mr Fagbamigbe to speak on Floods in our cities.

Floods in Our Cities

Mr Olaiya Fagbamigbe (Akure) : In contributing to the Motion for Adjournment this morning, Mr Speaker, I want to call the attention of the planners of our cities to the regular features of floods in nearly all our cities in this country. As soon as the rains set in, all the cities in most cases are flooded and the floods have taken so many lives. In Ibadan particularly this is a regular feature. Every year many people die as a result of over flooding of some of the rivers inside the city. Recently, this has been the experience in my Constituency, Akure. Last year, there were floods and many people lost their properties as a result of floods entering into their houses.

The same experience has been repeated this year. I understand from people who live in down town Lagos that regular flooding of their streets is also an ugly experience.

I, therefore, want to call on the planners of our cities to bear in mind the need to make adequate provisions for proper drainage. The planners should also guard against approving building plans in swampy areas. If you go down the cities of this country, you will find people building houses in swampy areas, on river beds, and so on. This happens during the dry season but as soon as the rains set in, the areas become flooded and people's lives and properties are put in danger.

It is a well known geographical axiom that water must seek its own level. Some people have erroneous belief that they can drive water away. You cannot drive water away, you can only send it to another part and when the rains come, it must surface. Therefore, I appeal to all our town planners to make sure that when planning a new area on a new lay-out, they should make adequate provision for proper drainage. This appeal should particularly go to the Federal Government. The States have not enough resources to control floods, and now that the Federal Government is trying to develop residential houses in State capitals, it is necessary for the Federal Government to make adequate provision to co-operate with the State Governments and to make funds available for the proper planning of our cities.

Incessant Petrol Shortage

Mr Speaker, Sir, the next thing I want to speak upon is the incessant petrol shortage in parts of Nigeria, especially in Ondo State. In Ondo State, we have a fuel storage at Ore. But the experience we have is that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company is always diverting fuel meant for that storage to other parts of the country. The result is that from time to time, we always have petrol shortage in my Constituency in particular and in the State in general. The effect of petrol shortage, Mr Speaker, needs not be repeated ; suffice it to say that it has effect on our social lives. We cannot move as freely as we would like to move and it tells very badly on the economy of the nation.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I support the Motion for Adjournment. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : Thank you very much. You will be surprised to hear too that in Port Harcourt in the Rivers State, that produces the oil, we lack petrol sometimes.

May I call on Mr Ekok Ojogu.

Deplorable condition of Calabar-Ikom road in Cross River State

Mr Ekok Ojogu (Ikom) : In supporting the Motion for Adjournment Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the deplorable condition of Calabar Ikom road in the Cross River State. The Calabar-Ikom Federal high-way has become impassable. The People of Ikom are suffering in that the food crops they produce and their produce cannot be evacuated to market centres and Calabar. Life has become very miserable. The situation calls for urgent attention. It is not only that the road is bad for the people of Ikom alone, Calabar port complex is being starved in the sense that produce that is supposed to come down from the North through Calabar port does not come. Life in Calabar itself is unbearable. Cost of living has risen very high because the area that produces food which is supposed to be carried down to Calabar does not find the road to carry this food to Calabar and so, the condition has become very unbearable.

Mr Speaker, Sir, May I, therefore, use this opportunity to appeal through this honourable House to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the Ministry of Works, now that the Budget has been passed, for the Ikom-Calabar road be reconstructed immediately. I hope that this appeal will meet the approval of the President. Not only the Ikom-Calabar highway, but there are quite a number of other roads in the Cross River State which have been neglected. I am appealing once again through this honourable House to the Head of State to direct the Federal Ministry of Works to do something immediately.

Thank you very much.

Local Government Election.

Mr Yusuf Ibrahim Muhammed (Moro) : I crave the indulgence of hon. Members to please, give attention to this very important aspect of my contribution on Motion for Adjournment. from all indications, it appears that Local Government

elections would not be carried out this year. Some of the reasons attributed to this is the fact that the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) has not been constituted, and therefore, it renders the State governments impotent to make any necessary arrangements for the Local Government Elections. I refer honourable Members to the Second Schedule, page 101 of the Constitution. With the permission of Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to read and draw the attention of this honourable House to our own part which we have not been taking as far as Local Government Elections are concerned. It reads thus, Mr Speaker.

The National Assembly may make laws for the Federation with respect to the registration of voters and the procedure regulating elections to a local government council.

What I am trying to drive at is that even if the FEDECO had been constituted, this honourable House or the National Assembly as a whole has not made any effort to make any law in respect of the Local Government Elections. At page 106 of the Constitution also, the functions of the FEDECO are clearly stated, but without this honourable House or the National Assembly making laws, I do not think they can carry out these functions. We are to legislate and they are to carry out—to arrange and supervise. We are to promulgate a law regulating how the Local Government elections should be conducted in this country.

After drawing the attention of the House to this section of the Constitution I will go further to advocate that whenever the elections will take place, a uniform local government election is what we need in this country. The uniformity in this respect is that all the Local Government Elections should take place on the same day and at the same time. This will prevent people, maybe, casting their votes in Lagos, and then trying to rush to their various Constituencies to vote, or somebody casting as many votes as possible. Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to sit down. Thank you.

Let Ondo State too Feel Impact of Green Revolution

Mr B. J. Abegunde (Ekiti East): You are, no doubt, aware that Nigeria is one of the luckiest countries in the world having been endowed with wealth of natural resources. But unfortunately these resources have not been adequately exploited. Even those that have been exploited have been unevenly exploited and appear to negate the principle of federalism. In this regard, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I wish to refer to the apparent neglect of Ondo State as far as agricultural development and industrial projects are concerned. A predominantly agricultural area, Ondo State was part of Nigeria's bread baskets as a cocoa growing belt of the former Western Region. Ondo State was, in fact, instrumental to Nigeria being put on the world map as world second largest producer of cocoa.

Apart from Imo and Anambra States, Ondo State is a leading producer of palm oil and palm kernel. The State is blessed with timber and abundant

fertile land for food cultivation. With the creation of States in 1976, there had been a drift in population to the urban centres to the detriment of agriculture. Now that we are returning to agricultural resurgence in the name of Green Revolution, I, through Mr Speaker and the hon. Members of this House, appeal to the Federal Government to give the fair share of Ondo State to it so that the impact of the Green Revolution could be felt in that State.

In this connection too the Owena-River Basin Authority should be assisted like its counterparts in other parts of the country so as to utilise the potentials of rivers such as the little Ose, Ogbese, Oluwa, and Osun for the use of the northern parts of the State which often experience extreme drought for about four months in the year.

Rehabilitate all Federal Roads in Ondo State

In addition to this, I would also like to appeal to the Federal Government to be more alive to its duties in the maintenance of all its roads in Ondo State. For example, Ado-Ekiti-Ikare-Ibillo road which was tarred last in 1960 has been in total disrepair for over three years now especially the Ado-Ekiti-Ikare stretch. Under the Third National Development Plan a sum of 17 million naira was estimated for the re-construction of this road. But this vote was not utilised and no vote was even made available during this current year. This road which has been serving as alternative road to Bendel and the Eastern States has received more than its normal share of traffic during the time Ore Bridge got damaged. Most of the vehicles coming from the Eastern and Bendel States were diverted to this route and the road nearly became impassable before Ore Bridge was completed, and after Ore Bridge was completed the road was left in its former state. Now, that Ore route is all right, and the damages done to this road remain as they were, I appeal to the Federal Ministry of Works to do something very urgently before it becomes a disastrous situation.

Lack of Social Amenities in Ekiti East, Ondo State

Mr Speaker, Sir, my third point is about lack of social amenities in my Constituency, which is Ekiti East in Ondo State. It may surprise you that there is no single Federal Project in my Constituency. Even those that were planned during the Third National Plan such as Comprehensive Health Centre for Aisegba and Ommo, and Basic Health Centres for Iluomoba, Imesi, Agbado, Isinbode, none of these projects took off. I do not know whether they will be implemented before 1980 because we are starting the Fourth Plan in about six months time.

I appeal to the Federal Government to see to these things being done especially electricity supply for Ode. There was also an invitation from the P & T that Post Office would be built at Ijan, Aisegba and Omo. Land was provided, but nothing has come out of it since then, till today nothing has happened

in this area and all the existing postal agencies and sub-Post Offices in this Constituency were built through communal effort. One thing that is clear is bad public relations for the Federal Government which I think is not the best. Unless some thing is done, and urgently too, the image will remain ugly, and politically, I feel it is very unwise. Lastly, Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to be more seriously—

The Acting Speaker : Point of order please.

An hon. Member : My point of order is Order 8 (1).

The Acting Speaker : Read it.

Hon. Member : Order 8 (1) *The quorum of the House shall not be less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House.*

Mr Speaker : We are adjourning, this is Motion on Adjournment, please.

Federal Government's Responsibility to All Nigerians

Mr Abegunde : Lastly, I take this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to take more seriously its responsibility to all Nigerians. People are suffering, there is no water to drink, no food, nothing, and we are being threatened by armed robbers yet the import of governance, I believe, is the ability of government to keep its citizens happy and contented. I believe that the sharing of laurels and privileges of office may form part of unpublicised side shows of government's activity but should not be the main object. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker : Hon. Member, regarding what you said about agriculture in Ondo State, I will only advise that if your people can embrace the Green Revolution, your problems will be solved.

There is a point of order.

Mr Z. Momodu (Etsako) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am referring to Order 8 of the Standing Order. We have no quorum. I suggest that we adjourn till Monday.

Mr Speaker : Order 8 has five subsections. We do not know which subsection you are referring to. We shall carry on. We are on Motion for adjournment.

Okoro Ete and Iko, Cross River State, still suffer Post War Damages

Mr Amos Inoh (Ikot Abasi II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I wish to bring to the notice of this honourable House the existence of a disaster area in Ikot Abasi in the Cross River State, namely, Okoro Ete and Iko where oil is produced. Apart

from the oil pollution which has affected the local occupation of the people, during the war, a lot of damages were done to the area, namely, the bridges which link the riverine area to the mainland part of the State, the Health Centre and the sub-Post Office were completely destroyed. The State Government and the Local Government had informed the Federal Military Government by then and all efforts proved abortive. I wish to bring this to the notice of this House, and urge that a powerful delegation, a team of Members of this House should be sent to Okoro Ete and Iko to see things for themselves and report back to this honourable House.

Pay Oil Royalties Due to Cross River State since 1978

It is very sad to see that an area where oil is produced, at 25,000 tons per day, has been neglected. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to make this House know that the production of oil at Utapete started since 1978. Up till today, the Cross River State has not been paid even a kobo of oil royalty. When the people of Iko and Okoro Ete approached the oil company, to assist them, they were referred to the Federal Government that oil royalty has been paid to the Federal Government, and it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to assist the people.

I wonder whether the Cross River State is a third world in Nigeria. If it is not a third world, I see no reason why they should be cheated. So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am strongly appealing to this honourable House to do all it can to see that the people of these areas are aided as much as possible. For instance about three weeks ago, because of lack of communication, the people had to travel to Ikot Abasi which is over sixty nautical miles and they lost their lives by travelling by canoe because there is no other means apart from travelling by canoe to buy their food stuffs, to transact their postal and health facilities.

So, Mr Speaker, may I strongly appeal to the Federal Government to come to the aid of Iko and Okoro Ete people and finally to see to it that Cross River State Government is paid oil royalty in arrears as from 1978. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr E. B. Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 10.15 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Monday, 7th July, 1980

The House met at 10.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr Speaker : There are some omissions in the Votes and Proceedings of last Friday, so they have not been approved yet. There is a point of Explanation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Country-wide Disregard for Constituted Authority

Mr George Babatunde Sadiku (Epe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, an incident happened yesterday and was reported this morning. It is really very sad and very regrettable. It raises the point of security in Nigeria and the acceptability of every Nigerian in any part of Nigeria.

Yesterday, it was alleged that the public went to welcome our leader, the most law-abiding citizen in this country, Chief Obafemi Awolowo ; but party enthusiasts, in their process of welcoming him, decided to molest other innocent citizens whom they felt did not belong to his party.

Several hon. Members : Shame! Shame!

Mr Sadiku : About four incidents of this nature were reported. Rep. Alhaji Manzo Abubakar of Kaduna State, by about 7.15 p.m., was coming from the airport inside a car registration number KD6AC with another Member of the House. Incidentally there was a Deputy Superintendent of Police on the steering. He was not in uniform. The mob stopped them and began to hit the car. They held the hand of the driver who was Deputy Superintendent of Police, trying to force him out of the car. It was alleged that everybody was told to stop, and if you could not shout Awo and display the party symbol, you were not allowed to pass on the streets. Another instance was the case of—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr M. A. Olukoya (Ijebu-Ode) : I am pointing the hon. Member to Order 16. The hon. Member is misusing this particular Order. The purpose of Order 16 is to explain any misapprehension in any previous debate or speech made by a Member in a previous sitting. The purpose is not to raise a new issue. If he feels strongly about any matter the best thing is to call—

Mr Speaker : That is correct, but Members have spoken here on security matters. He is explaining security.

Mr Sadiku : Another instance was the incident involving Rep. Alhaji Rilwanu Garba, in a car with registration number KD6885C. He was coming from Shagamu. He was forced to come out of his car, manhandled and the car was badly dented. Another instance was a car bearing registration number AN from Anambra belonging to another Member of this honourable, House.

The day before yesterday we were informed that a ban was imposed on public processions in Anambra State because the President of the country was to go on a tour of that State. Some time last week, too, the Head of State was prevented from an equally important assignment in another State in the Federation.

For the past one month, there had been a break-down of law and order in the whole Federation. Such was the break-down of law and order that the Police have confessed their inability to contain situations. Ladies and Gentlemen, these things call for attention, and this attention must be the work of us here.

The first point I want to raise is the state of insecurity in the nation. The policemen must be made to work harder than they have been doing. The Minister of Police and the Committee dealing with Police Affairs, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate, must work out a solution to the break-down of law and order now existing in Nigeria. We have said that the salaries of policemen must be increased, and the strength of the Armed Forces must also be increased.

Secondly, we must also call on our leaders in this country to rally together their supporters. Our leaders—Chief Obafemi Awolowo—

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : The point of order I am raising is Order 16. My hon. Friend, Mr Sadiku, has to know that what he is saying is irrelevant to the issue at present. He is making a complaint about what happened and not about police officers.

Mr Speaker : Mr Sadiku, please, go on.

Mr Sadiku : The second point I am making is that at this stage of break-down of law and order, our leaders in this country must come together. It must be realised that the bitterness and the antagonism existing between the political leaders are being reflected in the populace. We got our independence from the British in 1960 as a united country. At that time, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa were united to ask for independence. Now, it looks as if there is bitterness, antagonism and intolerance among various political leaders, and this intolerance is badly affecting us. This is why the President of the country is not free to go about in the country as the head of this nation.

I am, therefore, appealing to the leaders of various political parties to, please, call their supporters to law and order, and Members, in this Assembly especially Members of the Committee on Internal

Affairs, must sit down now and work out a *modus operandi* by which I, from Lagos State, will be free when I go to Abuja and will live comfortably without molestation.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr M. C. Okoye (Njikoka North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in supporting the point of Explanation, I will state clearly what happened yesterday at Ikorodu Road because I was also involved. I was a victim of such thuggery.

I was coming down from Ikeja to Victoria Island, and when I came to Ikorodu Road, there was a traffic jam. A large crowd was allowing cars to pass, asking people to shout *Up Awo* and to raise their two fingers up.

Several hon. members : Shame! Shame!

Mr Okoye : When it was my turn to pass through the crowd, they saw my car No. and shouted *Anambra Number NNP* and started banging on my car and flying stones. If my car was not in good condition I would not have escaped death. My wind screen is shattered today.

Several hon. Members : Shame! Shame!

Mr Okoye : Hon. Members, if such a thing could happen to an hon. Member, a legislator of the highest legislative body in the country what would happen to the other citizens. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, the fact still remains that I am now tempted to agree to the fact that that crowd was planted by a force. If it was not planted, why should our colleagues here who will definitely visit other States of the Federation shout and encourage thuggery in this part of the country. Section 38 of the Constitution allows people free movement in any part of the Federation. When a Member of the National Assembly cannot move freely in the area where he legislates what happens to the other citizens who have no person to speak for them. The fact still remains that our Police should be asked questions on what happened yesterday because they must have to clear the air. If such a thing should happen under the nose of the Police because a leader of a Political Party was coming back what of the President who moves to the airport and goes everywhere and nothing happens to any other person. I am tempted to agree that the Lagos State Government had a hand in what happened yesterday. If this was not so, tell me why my colleagues should not be sympathetic with a colleagues' car which was smashed and people who were molested. My windscreen was shattered and they were shouting *Awo*. Tomorrow such a Leader will campaign to be the President of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like this House to ask questions and investigate the matter, and find out whether the Lagos State Government is responsible for such thuggery because thuggery should not be allowed in this part of the country. We have finished with campaigns; now it is either you work with the present Federal Government to achieve our aims and implement its programmes or—

Mr Speaker : It is time.

Alhaji Abubakar Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this is a very serious matter. Members should listen to my compassionate appeal here. We should not laugh over this thing because it is a serious matter. Such incident that happened yesterday brought the last civil war. Therefore, we should take this matter very serious, we should not laugh over it.

Yesterday, more than twenty Members of Parliament who are not from the UPN were molested. I was an eye witness because it was in my presence that two cars were burnt down. If you put a cap and a big gown like this they would know that you are a Member of the NPN and you would be tortured. I had to pull my gown and cap when I was dragged out of a vehicle to shout *Awo*. Therefore, if you feel that in Lagos State we cannot move freely we have our own area of jurisdiction. I do not think we can condone any other civil war or palava. If care is not taken we are going in for another problem and I am, therefore, appealing to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to tighten up security.

Mr Speaker : It is time.

ORDER OF THE DAY

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Approval of the Report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the Petition of Mr E. E. Okujeni.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am the Chairman of your Committee on Public Petitions. On the 4th day of June this year the Petition of one Mr Okujeni was referred to the Public Petitions Committee. It was presented on his behalf by the Chairman of the Labour Committee, Mr Edet Bassey Etienam. We laid on the Table of this House our Report on the Petition on the 3rd of July this year.

This is a very short Report. Briefly, Mr Okujemi who appeared and testified before us is a Research Fellow. He claims that he has a system whereby the sap out of the raffia palm tree could be used to produce petroleum. (The raffia palm tree is that type of palm tree that grows, I think, essentially in the Southern part of the country and the sap part of it is taken a palm wine.) In Yoruba they call it *Oguro*, the Ibo call it *Ogolo* also. He says he has been able to process this sap and out of it, it is possible to produce a substance which is superior or probably as good as petroleum.

We gave him a hearing and he was asking for a grant in aid in the sum of ₦750,000 to enable him develop the infrastructural facilities for large scale tapping of these raffia palm trees. When we put a question to him whether he had approached the President's office for this grant in aid, he said no. At this point we were constrained to address our minds to Order 11 Rule 7 which with your permission I will refer to now.

[MR UWECHUE]

The House will not receive any petition which asks for a grant of public funds unless the recommendation of the President has been signified thereto : Provided that petitions praying for legislation to this effect may be received.

Mr Speaker, Sir, at this point we considered it unnecessary to take further evidence from him and we decided to report to you our findings.

We found that since the petitioner had not even approached the President's office to ask for recommendations and the petition was not accompanied by any recommendation from the President and since the petition was not praying for a legislation on the matter, we could not properly receive and consider the petition. Secondly, we felt that if the petition were rejected and he comes back next week to present the petition praying for legislation on the matter, that would defeat the aim of that section.

We, therefore, found and we are recommending that before the petitioner can properly bring this petition, he should first go to the President's office to obtain a recommendation, following which he could then come to us, praying for a legislation on the matter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, we therefore recommend that this petition be dismissed but not on merit. This will allow the petitioner after having been to the President's office to come back and present the petition with its recommendations from the President or come back with a prayer for a legislation on the matter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : What order, Mr Uwechue ?

Mr Uwechue : The order I referred to ?

Mr Speaker : Yes.

Mr Uwechue : I referred to Order 11 Rule 7 of our Standing Orders, page 10 of the booklet.

Mr Speaker : I see. Thank you very much. Yes, any comment hon. Members ?

Mr O. Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I must say that I find the alleged achievement of Mr Okujeni to produce Petroleum materials from Raffia Palm, *Oguro* as not only interesting but highly intriguing. I say this because right now there is a research with considerable achievement going on in Brazil, whereby a local tree growing wildly in the forest is being tapped for Petroleum and the people in that area are becoming very joyous indeed and the Petroleum consuming countries in the world are beginning to rejoice that the days when the Petroleum producing countries of the world can dictate to them are numbered.

It is against this background, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I want to speak on Mr Okujeni's alleged achievement. Well, I take note of the fact that the Chairman of the Committee has referred to the appropriate Standing Order which does not enable this House to entertain petitions for grant of money but I think from here we can begin to think for the future. I think it is only proper that this House either by legis-

lation, by bringing a Bill, should be in a position to make recommendations to enable the Executive or by direct order of this House to support any research that is likely to contribute to the pool of human achievement.

Africa is not yet known to be taking the lead in scientific discoveries. Those who are conversant with some international newspapers like the *Newsweek* and the *Times*, will find that every week there are new discoveries and there are new break-throughs in the realm of scientific research. Until we untie our hands and we are free to give moral and financial support to our budding scientists, it will become virtually impossible for Nigeria to contribute her quotas to the pool of scientific achievements in the world. The other countries can boast of very rich Foundations, like the Rockefeller Foundation of America, the Ford Foundation, *et cetera*, from which money can be provided to assist their indigenous scientists, so as to achieve their ambition but Nigeria has not got such financial resources—

Mr Speaker : Please round up and talk about this report.

Mr Fagbamigbe : It is in view of this Mr Speaker Sir, that I would like this House to consider other ways by which Mr Okujeni can be encouraged. There is no need to turn him to the Executive because the Executive will again turn him to the civil servants and the civil servants will then, from common experience, kill his achievements and frustrate him.

So, I therefore, appeal to this House that we should find the ways whereby we could give direct encouragement to this citizen of this country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Mr Fagbamigbe, you can start a private Bill if you are really interested in that achievement.

Mr Fagbamigbe : Thank you, Mr Speaker, I take that as an assignment and I shall do my best to fulfil it.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to contribute to this report. I think that having dismissed this petition the matter is concluded and done with. There are in this country 22 research institutes, and 13 universities, all are *ipso facto* referred to as research institutes. If the petitioner cannot go to any of these universities for assistance then he has no regard for on-going research. This House is not a place for encouraging people who want to make money out of the Government and do not know where to go to. This man, if he has engaged himself in his research, and he thinks he has an idea, there is also a Federal Ministry of Science and Technology the Bill for which we passed here, and we should not engage ourselves in this futile exercise of debating this kind of petition.

It is about time we tell the nation that we mean business and that we have come here to do serious business not to entertain frivolous petitions. That petitioner should not have been invited to a Committee of this House.

Mr Speaker : Please put the question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main Question Accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do approve the report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the Petition of Mr E. E. Okujeni Laid on the Table of this House on the 3rd July, 1980.

Mr Speaker : The next one, Committee on Federal Capital Development, approval of the report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for the Spot Assessment of the development in the execution of projects at Abuja. Yes, the hon. Mr Amos Bez Idakula.

Committee on the Federal Capital Development

Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move that ;

The House do approve the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for an on-the-spot assessment of development in execution of projects at Abuja. I beg to move.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Idakula : Mr Speaker, Sir, your Committee wishes to apologise to the House and the general public for holding in suspense the desire to be fully briefed and thereby acquainted with the progress of work at Abuja. This, of course, was due to the inability of the National Assembly to provide adequate facilities for the Committee's work and also the budget session that followed immediately after our visit.

Mr Speaker, in pursuance to Resolution number 61 of 24th January, 1980 directing the Committee on Federal Capital to take an on the spot assessment of progress of work in Abuja and to report its findings, your committee accordingly undertook a four-day working tour to Suleija and some parts of Abuja from the 25th to 29th February, 1980 to acquaint itself with the work done there. Our first task was to talk to the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the Directors of Administration, Architecture and Planning, Estate and Engineering respectively on the different jobs and functions in the projects in general. The rest of the days were spent visiting some important areas in the territory talking to some functionaries involved in the Federal Capital Territory in various States.

Having gone round the area and heard different personalities your Committee assembled this report on the actual position of work in Abuja. Mr Speaker, your Committee was unhappy to note that up to the time of our visit no construction work had started except for the access road which was nearing completion in the accelerated district. However, the

following were found. There was a completion of a master list for the whole city. There were also plans for Housing units which will accommodate the first batch that will move in 1982. There were also plans for the State House, for the Vice-Presidential residence, for the Members of the National Assembly and their staff and for some various Ministries. As at now, however, the situation has changed.

Mr Speaker : Excuse me, Mr Idakula. Sgt-at-Arms, go and get the Technician in charge of this air-conditioner. Yes, go on.

Mr Idakula : As at now, Mr Speaker, we are happy to announce that the contract for the first 200 model houses has been given out and in fact, the construction of the 200 houses has started. So, we can say with confidence that building has commenced in Abuja and it is expected that in the next one or two months the contract for the rest 20,000 housing units ; (this should read 20,000 and not 2,000) ; will soon be awarded. We are expecting that by the year 1982, 25,000 housing units would have been completed. Also the ultra modern Hotel which will house the Members of the National Assembly temporarily and the delegates that will come for conferences in Abuja will also be given out soon for the building to commence. We are also happy to announce that the clearing of site and the beaconing of land for allocation to the general public has also been completed. In fact, the general public has been asked to start applying for the plots in Abuja and this will apply also to the Hon. Members. You are now free, if you want to live in Abuja by 1982, to apply for the land and a plot will be allocated to you. As for the National Assembly we feel that the forms will be given to you by the Committee before you go on holidays and these forms will be fully completed just like every other person and be submitted to the Committee and we hope to take steps towards that. In fact we shall be despatching one or two members to Abuja who will submit this personally on your behalf. So, we hope that before you go on leave some of these forms will be submitted to you.

Mr Speaker, we are also happy to announce that other infrastructure like electric distribution, water supply, *et cetera* are already in the pipeline and will start functioning also. On the whole it is worthy of note that the actual position of things in Abuja is that planning has come to an end. As at now the planning of everything is virtually getting to an end and getting now into the real construction. As you know when you are building a completely new city, it is important to give time to the planning aspect of it, otherwise we will end up having what we do not like, and that was why it took a long time to plan and to study but with these things over, the construction work is now starting.

Resettlement

At the time of our visit resettlement was a teething problem for the FCDA. The change of policy by the former Military administration, the uncertainties of the FCDA with regard to what was going to happen and the defensive position which the FCDA adopted coupled of course, with the lack of understanding by the Niger and Plateau State governments

[MR IDAKULA]

as to the principles involved caused tension in various circles to the extent that the spinal cord of peace was at the verge of braking from the core of the country. The Committee tried as much as possible during the visit to calm down as many people as it could, promising to take up the case as soon as we arrived. Since then, a meeting has been held between the three governors, namely, those of Niger, Plateau and Kwara on the issue with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Chairman was in attendance plus some Members of this House who are affected by the Federal Capital territory. At the meeting, the policy was revised to allow all those who would prefer to remain in the Federal Capital Territory to do so with some planning, and to allow those who would opt to go out of the Federal capital territory to do so. It was agreed that all those who would go out would be compensated and would also be resettled. To that end, a committee was set up to identify the two interest groups with the view of determining the actual number willing to be resettled outside the territory.

There are, however, two cases that need immediate attention and these are the people who have already been resettled without the full compensation paid to them like the people of Wuse and Asokoro in Niger State area, and those who have been asked to leave the area but have not yet been paid compensation like the people of Karu and surrounding villages in Plateau State. It is hoped that with the approval of the budget and the ₦15,000,000 allocated for compensation that this should be done between now and September, 1980. This point needs to be a bit clearer to Members so that they would understand. There are two things that are involved in moving out the people. There is what we call *resettlement* and what we call *compensation*.

Resettlement deals with the provision of the infrastructural facilities like the clearing of sites, providing roads, water and light and this money goes to the State Government in order to disburse (*Interruptions*). (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku bows to leave*)

Mr Speaker: Please excuse me. The hon. Member for Isoko, (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*), before you go, the Party Leaders will meet immediately after the sitting.

Mr Idakula: But compensation goes to the people who are being displaced. So, some have been asked to leave without being fully compensated and we are asking that compensation should be paid immediately.

Staffing position—The staffing position was very disheartening to Members of the Committee. We discovered that the FCDA was very much understaffed as far as it pertains to the senior cadre who are the experts of the area, but the areas of the middle manpower cadre was grossly overstuffed. The reason for the shortage of staff in the senior cadre was due to the fact that the FCDA was involved in building a city in the jungle and there is so much hazard. There are plenty of things to take into consideration and the job content was not commensurate with its remuneration and as such many felt that they were not able to come to suffer to

get little or nothing. But, perhaps, the most serious shortage was the absence of the Executive Secretary in the Federal Capital Development Authority.

Mr Speaker, Decree No. 6 of 1976 stipulates that there should exist an Executive Secretary who would be the Chief Executive of the Board of the Federal Capital Development Authority. The Permanent Secretary was, in fact, the Executive Secretary until he was made to be the Permanent Secretary. So, as at now, since the Ministry took a new shape, there has not been an Executive Secretary in that place and we feel that it has much to do with the smooth-running of administration in Abuja. So it is important, Mr Speaker, that the President should hasten to appoint a new Executive Secretary that would call for separation of powers and division of labour between the Permanent Secretary and the Executive Secretary. We feel that with that appointment very much would have been done.

Mr Speaker, generally, therefore, the Committee noticed that much more could have been done in every area in the amount of time already used up in the life of the Authority. The Committee however realised that it has a big responsibility in quickening the FCDA and ensuring that a good job is done. Because of this your Committee therefore recommends as follows :—

That the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should hasten the appointment of an Executive Secretary of the FCDA as provided for in Decree No. 6 of 1976 and an Administrator for the FCT in order to facilitate a smoother administration there.

That the FCDA should be allowed to recruit personnel on special incentives subject, of course, to the approval of the National Assembly and that such remunerations should only be used as long as necessary. That in recognising the intensity of work in building a new city and the need that it should be done properly and on schedule, your Committee should be given a permanent mandate to visit Abuja from time to time so as to monitor and help to quicken activities there and that members of the Committee be allowed to study some of the new cities that have been built in recent times. That those already told to leave their areas and are now waiting for compensation and those already evacuated, but not fully compensated should all be compensated by the 31st of September, 1980. Such villages include areas like Wuse, Asokoro and its surroundings in Niger State and areas like Kuru Nyanya and the surroundings in Plateau State,

Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I beg to move.

Mr E. D. N. Uwandu (Mbaitoli): I wish to support the report read by the Committee Chairman on the Federal Capital Development Authority. I think the Report is very good but I want to speak only on one point and that is the area he mentioned and the recommendation he made with regard to payment of compensation. I have discovered in many places, not only in the Capital Development Authority, that both Federal Government and the

State Governments find it difficult to pay compensation when they might have taken people's property whether empty land or with buildings. People have to spend their money, they have to go to court, they have to do all sorts of things before they are paid. We do not want what happened in Sokoto to repeat itself in a place like Wuse or Abuja. For example, under the Constitution which we are now operating in this country, despite the so-called Land Use Decree Section 40 says that *No moveable property or any interest in an immoveable property, that is land, shall be taken possession of compulsorily or no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except in the manner and for the purpose prescribed by a law that, among other things requires the prompt payment of compensation thereof.*

I am so surprised that after how many years we have acquired that property in Abuja, the people here have not been paid their compensation. So, I am calling the Members of this House and through the Speaker to let the President know that it is mandatory and compulsory that these people must be paid their compensation and we do not want the episode of Sokoto to happen once more in Abuja.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Alhaji M. B. Mustapha (Bida North): In supporting the Committee report on Capital Development Authority, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Committee my experience while at Abuja. At present, there is no proper co-ordination among the three major arms of the Capital Development Authority. These are the Estate Department, the Planning Department, and the Engineering Department.

Another thing, Mr Speaker, is this. When you get to the present temporary base you will find that three-quarters of the Professionals engaged there, are staying within the Ministry Office instead of being in the field. As a result you find that the intermediate personnel who are in the field lack supervision.

Again, Mr Speaker, I would like the Committee to try to see that the services of Consultancies are minimised. As at now, the Federal Capital Development Authority enjoys the services of professionals more than any other State in the Federation. But before you move one plan to another you require consultancy. If care is not taken, by the time we get to the end of the financial year you will see that the amount of money voted is gone for consultancy fees. So, this is very important.

I intend to bring a Standing Motion that we want to know the strength of personnel now engaged and the number of consultancies serving at the Federal Capital Development Authority so that if there is the need this House can set up a Parliamentary Task Force to guide exclusion since we can benefit from the various professionals within this House.

Mr J. O. Iwuagwu (Mbano West): I want to challenge the President in view of his election promise to be sworn in at Abuja, to make sure we move to Abuja by January 1, 1982, I would not mind if my hon. friends say we should move next week in view of the happenings in Lagos over the week-end. *(Applause)*

On a more serious note, I think really that we should take this matter of moving to Abuja more seriously than we are doing at the moment. I think it is the fault of the Executive that more work has not been done in Abuja. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will find from the report of the Chairman of the Committee that much work has not been done, and this work started from about 1976. It only means that the chaps who have been given the responsibility of building the Capital are not serious. I would urge the President for a total reshuffling of the personnel in Abuja. It would appear that some people there are really sitting down on it. We do not want to mention names as we do not want to take things personal on any body, but it would appear that they do not want to do any job. Therefore they must be moved and people who are serious should be put in charge of the job.

I would suggest that the Minister be urged to distribute the 2,000 plots as quickly as possible and people urged to commence building so that there will be so many houses in Abuja before 1982. I would finally ask the President to make sure that he signs his assent to the 1982 Budget in Abuja.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the report tabled by the Committee on the Federal Capital Development. I view it with seriousness that it is not the fund disbursement to Federal Capital Ministries and Statutories that matters much but the way and manner this fund is being spent. Mr Speaker, I, therefore, support the recommendations made in the report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development that from time to time the Committee should go to Abuja so as to ascertain the money spent, and the project being done and report back its recommendations to the House.

Another aspect I would like to speak on Mr Speaker is that as I have earlier talked on the security aspect of Abuja which is of paramount importance, I feel this Committee should start doing something about the security aspect of Abuja. I think what constituted the coups upon coups in Nigeria was lack of proper security planning in this country. If we look at Lagos now, we will find that no security planning has so far been made. That is why we find a lot of insecurity in Lagos. I feel this Committee should make the security aspect of Abuja its concern.

With these few remarks Mr Speaker, I beg to support the recommendations and report. Thank you.

Mr S. A. Shiyabola (Ede South): In supporting the report of the Committee on Capital Development, I rise to call on the President of the nation and the Capital Development Authority to please remember one thing when they are getting us ready to move to Abuja. It is important that people who move to Abuja should be catered for medically. Therefore, before we ever get to Abuja, there should be a hospital at least, and there should be schools for our children. We should also get other infrastructural things ready such as supermarkets and some other things that we should use. *(Interruptions)* Everybody who is selling at this time will remember that a similar town has been created by the former

[MR SHIYANBOLA]

Administration without these provisions and that is the satellite town. The inhabitants of it moved in before they knew that these things are needed. So many other things that a city needs must be provided before we move in. Otherwise when we move there we are going to have some headaches.

With these few comments, I beg to sit down.

Mr Mathew O. Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to commend the work of the Committee on Federal Capital and in commending them, I will like to stress the need for us to plan right from now to ensure that the moving to Abuja is a reality. As we are planning to make it a reality, we must make sure that the plan is well planned. Not only that, we must make sure that all the infrastructure that should be available by the time we move there is actually available at least, to make the work of the National Assembly a comfortable one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the question of allocation of land, I would like to stress the need to make sure that land in the Federal Capital is made available to every Nigerian on equal terms. As we are making land available to the National Assembly men, we should make it available to all other Nigerians.

Mr Speaker : We are not making it available to the National Assembly men. Do not let the public get a wrong information.

Mr Oni : I think I heard—

Mr Speaker : Please, I will correct the impression straight away. We are not making any land available to Members of the National Assembly. The press men will go now to say we are making land available to Assembly men.

Mr Oni : It might be that I got it wrong and if that is the case, what I am trying to emphasise is that if land is going to be made available to any person in Nigeria, it should be general and equal opportunity. (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Time ! Alhaji Kaltungo, please put the Question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, having discussed this matter, I respectfully move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Development in respect of the trip to Abuja for an on the spot Assessment of development in the execution of projects at Abuja (Laid) on the Table of this House on 4th July, 1980).

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, we have only one more Motion and the Motion stands in the name of Mr L. Adegunle Alli. Copies were distributed to Members.

Suspension of Standing Orders 19 and 20 (3)

Mr L. Adegunle Alli (Lagos South I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move a Motion standing in my name that this honourable House do suspend

Standing Orders 19 and 20 (3) to enable a Motion the subject matter of which is of urgent national interest, to be moved.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr S. A. Siyanbola (Ede South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this honourable House do suspend Standing Orders 19 and 20 (3) to enable a Motion, the subject matter of which is of urgent national interest, to be moved.

Messages of Condolence

Mr L. Adegunle Alli (Lagos South I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move a Motion standing in my name that this honourable House do send messages of condolence to :

(i) the Honourable Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly on the death of Mr Isaac Olatilayo Ajayi, a Member of that House ;

(ii) the Honourable Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly on the recent death of Mr Timothy A. Adekanbi, a Member of that House ;

(iii) the Honourable Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly on the death of Chief Ita Ekong Ita, a Member of that House ;

(iv) the Honourable Speaker of Ondo State House of Assembly on the death of Mr Oloketuyi and Mr Laniyan, Members of that House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do want to include another name of one of the Members of the Borno State House of Assembly, that is, the hon. Yahaya Askira who died similarly in a motor car accident.

Mr Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Yes, hon. Members, there is no need for comments. Please, put the Question.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this honourable House do send messages of condolence to :

(i) the Honourable Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly on the death of Mr Isaac Olatilayo Ajayi, a Member of that House ;

(ii) the Honourable Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly on the recent death of Mr Timothy A. Adekanbi, a Member of that House ;

(iii) the Honourable Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly on the death of Chief Ita Ekong Ita, a Member of that House ;

(iv) the Honourable Speaker of Ondo State House of Assembly on the death of Mr Oloketuyi and Mr Laniyan, Members of that House ; and

(v) the Honourable Speaker of Bornu State House of Assembly on the death of hon. Yahaya Askira.

Mr Speaker : The Clerk of the House (Mr Ojo), a letter accompanying our Resolution should be sent to the various Speakers. A letter also accompanying our Resolution will be sent to the petitioner's case that we have just dealt with this morning.

Hon. Members, the new House Committee has now been set up. I have got the names of all the Members and they will meet immediately after this Sitting. The new Chairman of the House Committee is Mr Onwuzulike. *(Applause)*

Hon. members, it is too hot. Would you like to continue or do we—*(Interruptions)*

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : Do you want to continue ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Speaker : Let us take some Motions for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members I move that this Sitting be adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr Speaker : Anybody seconding the motion ?

Mr S. Abodunde (Oyi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Dealership of Companies

Alhaji Y. N. Gaya (Gaya North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. members, I would like to call on the President to cancel dealership and agents of various Companies. The system of dealership and agency in this country has made a lot of people without capital, to open offices as dealers in order to make the common man to suffer. So, with the good offices of the President, I am calling on him to revoke this system of dealership and agency so that there will be direct dealings with these companies. Who ever has money or whoever is a trader can go directly to any manufacturer or any importer and buy things directly.

Poor State of Roads in Gaya

Secondly, I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to speak about a road in my Constituency. This road which is very important was constructed by the West African Frontier Forces in 1945. It was maintained by the then Kano Native Authority and later it was taken over by the Area Council and then when the State Governments were created in 1968, it was taken over. The road started from Wudil via Kafin Hausa and joined Potiskum. Those who went to Hajj as far back as 1945 to 1951 used this road; but now the road has been condemned unnecessarily because there was not even laterite repairs. Secondly, the Federal Ministry of Works

took over the road in 1973, up till now the road has become worse than it was before. The former Head of State, General Obasanjo visited Gaya and saw the road. He, on the very spot, called the Architect and the Federal Commissioner for Works by then to tell him what was the position. They told him that the infrastructure, quantity and quality survey of the road had been completed.

I am taking this opportunity to call on the Minister of Works to help us to see that this road is awarded or reconstructed because of its importance. That is the area where we produce at least half of the rice used in Kano and Kaduna States, so it is of vital importance that this road is reconstructed.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Fate of Consumers

Mr J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fate of consumers in this country with relation to prices and standard. This is the only country in the world where consumers have not been given the right to organise, the right to obtain information in terms of standard of the goods they consume and the only country in the world where the middle men as well as the entrepreneur are callously insensitive to the plight of consumers. By this Sir, I want to say that on the market you find different prices of commodities. Some of these commodities are rotten and still they are carried to the market. In other places, you have people making profit of hundred *per cent* or two hundred in some cases, especially the so-called banned goods. When they find their way into this country, you see people exploiting the ordinary consumers in the country and all I am trying to say here, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that the situation is worse in rural areas. These middlemen sometimes do not even pay attention to extending some of their amenities and essential commodities to some of these areas with the result that people travel many miles to get to the urban areas to buy these things and bring these commodities home at very exorbitant prices.

So also is the question of major distribution houses like Nigerian Breweries, like other essential commodities handled by NNSC. These items are given to few privileged Nigerians. They see to it as an opportunity to make money and the ultimate sufferers are the consumers. So I am thinking that the time for an organised consumerism has arrived and those of us here should lend our support behind them. I am therefore, calling on the Committee on Commerce to investigate some of the arbitrary prices on some controlled items especially if you think of beer. Beer costs as high as ₦2 in some rural areas and even in urban areas here, there are some parts of Lagos where you still buy a bottle of beer for ₦2. I think this is outside the reach of many Nigerians and we should do something to alleviate this situation.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Message to all African Leaders

Mr L. O. Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, originally this message was to go to the African Leaders meeting in Sierra-Leone for the

[MR ADESINA]

summit of the OAU, but today, the message is to all African Leaders not particularly to the summit meeting at Sierra-Leone. I want to begin by saying that my message is not on Master Sergeant Doe as such because people will like to think that since I am sending the message to OAU leaders, it may be to Sergeant Doe ; it is not to Sergeant Doe as such. What I have to say about Sergeant Doe is that I condemn unequivocally any violence in politics but all the same, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that I see no reason why Master Sergeant Doe should be denied recognition by the African Leaders. After all this will not be the first intervention of the Military in African politics and we are not encouraging anything but what I am trying to say is that as far back as 1962 when Sylvanus Olympio of Togo was murdered in cold blood, the African leaders never raised any voice of dissent and in 1966 in this country when the late Prime Minister of this country Alhaji Tafawa Balewa was murdered, no African leader raised any voice of dissent. I think it is not now that we should be crying over spilt milk.

We have to be consistent in African policy that violence in politics is not good and we condemn it as such. Be that as it may, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to send a message to the African leaders to remind them that democracy is a form of Government. It has no brand, it has no type. It is either you practise true democracy or you do not. So, any talk of African democracy or any type of European democracy is either a deceit or a fraud. There are other forms of Government different from democracy. You have totalitarianism on the one hand, you have fascism on the other hand. But to say that we have African democracy or European democracy is totally wrong.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to point out that today in Africa, we can cite only four countries as being the true democratic countries and with your permission I want to mention Nigeria which has just returned to democracy, Ghana, Gambia and recently Zimbabwe. All other countries in Africa are either one Party States or they are Absolutists Geographical Organisations. To this extent, I want to enjoin all African Leaders to start immediately to practise the true form of democracy. Furthermore, Mr Speaker, I will also like to say, that it is wrong and improper to begin to stifle opposition in any African country. Let us allow the opposition to voice out their opinion. After all, there are always two or more sides to a story so that what is happening in Morocco or what is happening in Zaire where the opposition are being clamped into jail nearly everyday should be condemned. Furthermore, Mr Speaker, I will also like to sound a note of warning that the case of saying you are life President in Africa or you are life Leader in Africa should stop forthwith because this is what generates violence in politics.

I always like to associate myself with revolutionary and progressive leaders. At one time, some of my idols in politics were people like Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea, people like Nyerere of Tanzania. But today, I want to say, that I do not like any dictator at all. I

also want to say that with all that Sekou Toure has done for Guinea, I have lost respect for him because he believes that he is the only person who can lead that small African country. This is wrong. It is the same thing with Nyerere, and in this respect, therefore, I want to recommend to African Leaders that henceforth they should copy the Nigerian Constitution which does not let our leaders die ruling. African Leaders should not die ruling. They should copy the Nigerian Constitution so that when they spend their terms of office, they allow other people to come there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Dr Ofondu.

MOVEMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA TEACHING HOSPITAL

Dr I. B. Ufondu (Enugu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to call the attention of this honourable House to the proposed Plan of the Federal Ministry of Health to move the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital from Enugu to Nsukka.

Mr Speaker, Sir, all of us know the struggle which ensued before the University Teaching Hospital was brought to the Eastern Region, in the first place, under the Leadership of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and now the Ministry of Health is planning to move that same Hospital to a dessert in Nsukka.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to seize this opportunity, with your permission, Sir,—

Mr Speaker : Please there is a point of order.

Mr F. E. Ugwu (Nsukka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my point of Order is Order 26 (6). The hon. Member is imputting motives and insulting my Constituency, calling it a desert area. He should withdraw that statement.

Dr I. B. Ufondu : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do take cognisance of what my honourable colleague said. As I was saying earlier on, this subject of the proposed plan to move the University Teaching Hospital in Enugu to Nsukka has been of such concern to the Senatorial Zone and all conscientious people of Eastern Region that we recently sent a petition to the President and with your permission Mr Speaker, I will read it.

Mr President,

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED TRANSFER OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL ENUGU TO NSUKKA

We the undersigned members of the National Assembly wish, with profound humility, to register a very strong protest on behalf of ourselves and the vast majority of the people of Anambra State whom we represent, against an attempt being made to transfer the University Teaching Hospital from Enugu to Nsukka. The law establishing the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, then a regional government project was enacted in the early fifties by the Eastern Region Government led by Dr Azikiwe. The establishment of the University Teaching Hospital at Enugu came later under Dr M. I. Okpara's administration.

Mr Speaker : Sorry, there is a point of Order.

Mr S. O. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Dr Ofondu is reading.

Dr Ufondu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I took the permission of the Speaker to read a petition that we sent to the President.

Mr Speaker : Please read it briefly.

Dr Ufondu : *It is on record that the present Federal Minister of Health then a junior Minister in the Federal Ministry of Education wanted the University Teaching Hospital sited at Nsukka and attacked the Eastern Region Government for deciding to site it at Enugu.*

Geographically, Nsukka lies at the border between Anambra and Benue States. It can therefore in no way be said to be central and most ideal for siting the University of Nigeria. It was Dr Azikiwe's personal influence that was largely responsible for its present location. The University Teaching Hospital, a later day creation, under Premier Dr Okpara, had a different history. As a reference and teaching hospital, the issue of central location and easy accessibility to most parts of the Eastern Region was a paramount consideration. Naturally and rightly, Enugu was considered central and most ideal. These vital considerations remain as valid to-day as they were at the time when the teaching hospital was established.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is just part of the content of the petition and I might mention that this petition was signed by all the hon. Members of the National Assembly from Enugu Senatorial Zone. Subsequent to the submission of this petition, seven Leaders of thought from Enugu including Chief G. O. D. Eno, Mr K. C. Onya, Chief Okpa, Chief Augustine Nnamani Chief Cyril Nnaji, Mr Sunday Nwosi

and Madam Maria Nwachukwu, came to see the President on this issue. I do not know whether or not they were able to see the President but Mr Speaker, Sir, I am bringing this up at this time because I want to take note of the fact that our President will be visiting my Constituency, Enugu, tomorrow and I want to assure the President that the Health Minister's plan to move the University Teaching Hospital from Enugu to Nsukka is a slap on the face of everybody in the Eastern Region and I do request Mr President, Sir, that while he is in Enugu he should visit the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital's site so that he will see for himself the amount of expenditure that has taken place. The Federal Government has to date spent ₦2.5 millions just to clear the site for the Hospital. Now, the present Minister, because he is from Nsukka, wants to move the Hospital to his area to fulfil one of his campaign promises since he contested the election as a Senator and lost to Senator Ani. I want to assure the President, Sir, that the people of Eastern Region will not sit down and watch the Hospital moved without a fight all the way to the Supreme Court. We do not want to see the Hospital moved. Thank you, very much.

Mr Speaker : Yes thank you, very much.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I think it is time that the question be now put.

Question that the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 8th July, 1980

The House met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, we have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of last Friday, 4th July, 1980. We have not approved that of Friday. I have gone through them and they have been approved. Now, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Monday, 7th July, 1980 and as they reflect the true position of things that transpired in the House yesterday, I have therefore approved them.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRP Membership of the House Committee

Hon. Members there is only one Announcement which is the PRP Membership of the House Committee. We have Alhaji Labaran Tanko and Alhaji Hasan Mohammed.

Before we go to the Order Paper for today, I would call on the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*) to move the suspension of Order 19.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I want to crave indulgence of this honourable House to suspend Order 19 to enable me to move a Motion which is of importance to this Nation. I hereby move that Order 19 should be suspended.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, any seconder ?

Mr Frank C. Ugwu (Nssuka) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do suspend Order 19 to enable a matter of National importance to be moved.

Message of Condolence on the Death
of the Oni of Ife

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Motion which I want to move this morning is in respect of a message of condolence to His Excellency the Governor of Oyo State and the family of the late Oni of Ife on the death of Sir Adesoji Aderemi. The Motion reads as follows :

That this House deeply regrets the death of the One of Ife, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, and hereby sends condolence to His Excellency the Governor of Oyo State, Mr Bola Ige, and all members of the Royal family of the late Sir Adesoji Aderemi.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion stands in my name and the names of the following hon. Members: Mr Funso Akinyosoye which is a substitute for Mr A. O. Omisore, Mr D. D. Dafuan, Alhaji Mustapha and Mr M. Akpabio.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I accordingly move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody Seconding the Motion ?

Mr Tobias N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*).

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members yesterday this Nation was again turned into a mournful state on the death of the legendary, the Oni of Ife, Sir Adesoji Aderemi. The Oni of Ife ascended the throne of his fathers fifty years ago, I am sure that was before many of us in this honourable House were born. Indeed, he has been the longest living Oba in Yoruba land. The Oni of Ife, as you know, played a prominent role in the political, cultural and social life of Nigeria. He was born 90 to 91 years ago to a ruling family in Ile Ife and started schooling in 1901. He was a farmer and a Railway official before ascending the throne of Ife. He played a leading role in transforming that ancient town into a place of modernity. The Oni was a co-founder of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa, a cultural Yoruba organisation which later developed into the Action Group. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the important point is that this legendary, as I said, played a very big role in the constitutional evolution of Nigeria and indeed he was one of the first Central Ministers appointed by the Government of Nigeria and only resigned when the British rejected a Motion sponsored by Chief Enahoro urging for Self Government. So, you can see that the late Oni was indeed a frontline Nationalist of immense proportions. As I said, he was one of the first Central Ministers and he later became a Minister without portfolio and in 1959, he had the distinction of being the first African Governor in any State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. To that the Oni acquired the distinction of being the first Head of State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

His pioneering roles and qualities are worth mentioning. He was the brain behind the formation of Oduduwa College, a college which, I am sure, has really played its own role in the educational development of many Nigerians. One thing that was very remarkable and which made the Oni great was not the positions which he held in public life, but the dignity which he brought to the high office of Obaship or of royalty both in Yoruba land and in Nigeria as a whole. When the Action Group crisis broke out in 1962, the Oni resigned from partisan politics and confined himself to the throne which he ably kept till his death last night.

I am sure that this nation would mourn the death of this illustrious son for a long time to come. There is no doubt that the Oni of Ife was one of the

greatest men that ever lived on this earth. The Oni is survived by many children, most of whom are holding important positions in life. Our sympathy goes to Mrs Tejumade Alakija, the Head of the Civil Service in Oyo State and to His Excellency the Governor of Oyo State, Uncle Bola Ige. I wish to express the deepest condolence of the entire Members of this honourable House on the death of this illustrious son of Nigeria.

May his soul, the soul of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Funsho Akinyosoye (Ondo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Floor ably moved by the Acting Leader of the House in expressing the condolence of this august House to the Governor of Oyo State and the entire family of the late Oni of Ife. The career distinguishingly led by the late Oni of Ife is a common fact to this Nation. Born in 1889 and reigning since 1930 up till now, he led one of the most distinguished career any human being can look forward to lead.

He was one of the people that put up a valiant fight for the creation of Nigeria. He took part in various Constitutional Conferences that gave us the Richards Constitution. He was a former Member of this honourable House of Representatives. He was also the first African Governor in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the other side of this late old man I got to know eighteen years ago when I got married to one of his daughters. He was a fantastic character and he led his home, that is, the way he held his wives and children together, like a mini state. I, therefore, personally drew enormous inspiration from his private life. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this is not a period for long oration, but, on behalf of my wife and my six children, I thank Mr Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to extend my condolence to the entire family of the late Oni of Ife. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr D. D. Dafuan (Shendam West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that it was because of the respect this man had in Yoruba land and the personality he had that the Governor-General in those days decided to appoint him as one of the first black Ministers in this country. It is also a fact that it was also because of the respect the Yoruba people had for him that the ruling Action Group decided to make him the first black Governor in Western Region. This great Nigerian has ruled his people very well, he contributed to political/progress in this country. He, during his time, got himself involved in the crisis of the then Western Region and he tried all he could to solve the problem. But when he felt that this thing was getting out of hand he decided to resign honourably.

This great Nigerian deserves respect from all of us and I, therefore, support that this honourable House should send a letter of condolence to the Governor of Oyo State, the people of Ife Chieftdom in particular and his family. I, therefore, beg to support the Motion.

Alhaji Mohammed Mustapha (Ringim Gado) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiment being expressed over the death of certainly one of the most respected of our traditional rulers, the Oni of Ife, Sir Adesoji Aderemi. To me, his death represents the passing away of an epoch, a historic period in our country's development. In his life-time of 90 years in this world, he contributed immensely to the institution of Chieftaincy in this country. He held that office in high respect and achieved very much for that institution. He was the first African Governor not only in Nigeria but I can remember, well, the whole of Africa under colonial time. That is no small achievement and he acquitted himself in that office very well. He also helped to improve traditional administration by his encouragement not only to education by the foundation of the Oduduwa College but also to University of Ife where there is a good school of public administration which is well known all over the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I join in wishing this House extend condolence to his family, the Governor of Oyo State and to all Nigerians for that matter. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to the Motion I wish to say that it is common knowledge that no matter how long a person lives on earth his death is always received with grief and shock. This seems to apply to the passing away of Sir Adesoji Aderemi at the age of 91 whose death has been received by this nation with grief and shock.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is also common knowledge that the late Oba, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, in his life time was a symbol of African tradition and culture whose reign and sterling qualities are worthy of emulation by leaders, chiefs, and Obas in our nation. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is on record that during the life time—the charismatic life time—of the great symbol of tradition in Yoruba land the late Oba served his people with all amount of honesty, wisdom, integrity, devotion and charity that made him the idol of his people. As the first African Governor in 1960 soon after the attainment of political independence, Chief Aderemi was also in the vanguard of those who fought for the political emancipation of this country from the yoke of colonialism. It's with this, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I join other Nigerians in extending condolences to the people of Oyo State, the people of Ife, the family of the late Oba and all members of his Palace. I seize this opportunity to commend the soul of the Oba to the warm embrace of his ancestors.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it is time that the Question should now be put.

Question, that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House deeply regrets the death of the Oni of Ife, Sir Adesoji Aderemi and hereby sends condolences to the Governor of Oyo State and all members of the Royal Family of the late Sir Adesoji Aderemi.

The Deputy Speaker : Order Paper for today 8th July, 1980, Notices of Motions. Request for the creation of a New State.

ORDER OF THE DAY

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Request for the creation of New Anambra State

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I respectfully want to move the Motion Number 1,—

That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979, the representatives of the people of Anambra Aguata, Awka, Idemili, Ihiala, Njikoka, Nnewi and Onitsha Local Government Areas within the present Anambra State, pray that the House of Representatives do receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as NEW ANAMBRA STATE comprising the said eight Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c), and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979. I so move, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this Motion is as a result of presentation brought by the representatives of these areas. In accordance with our normal practice, I respectfully move that the matter be referred to the Special Committee on the Creation of States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That in accordance with Section 8 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979, the representatives of the people of Anambra, Aguata, Awka, Idemili, Ihiala, Njikoka, Nnewi and Onitsha Local Government Areas within the present Anambra State, pray that the House of Representative do receive the request for the creation of a New State to be known as New ANAMBRA STATE comprising the said eight Local Government Areas and request this House to expedite action on Section 8 (1) (b), (c), and (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Dredging of Rivers Niger and Benue

The Deputy Speaker : Motion Number 2 stands in the names of Dr E. Y. Atanu, Mr E. C. Ebe, Chief T. E. Etuk and Alhaji Mohammed Kabiru.

Chief Thomas Ekpo Etuk (Eket III) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, as Dr Atanu is not here, I would like to suspend the Motion till he arrives. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, well, the Movers of this Motion wish to suspend this Motion. Is that the wish of this honourable House ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Motion by leave suspended.

The National Television Authority

The Deputy Speaker : Motion Number 3, the National Television Authority. Mr Mike Akpabio and Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe.

Mr Mike Akpabio (Uyo II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise with respect to move the Motion standing in my name and that of my Learned and hon. the only Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe. The text of the Motion reads as follows :

That this House views with great concern, the persistent interruption of the 9 p.m. National Network News by commercial advertisements and therefore calls on the National Television Authority to put a stop to this practice in the interest of our National image and pride.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion ?

Mr H. M. J. Wachuku (Ukwa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Akpabio : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you and this hon. House for the opportunity given to me to move this Motion. In moving this Motion, Sir, I am prompted, in the first consideration, by a deep sense of concern for the pride and image of this country, qualities of which, in my own view, Mr Speaker, Sir, the President of this country Alhaji Shehu Shagari is symbolic. Thus said, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is therefore one of the cardinal responsibilities of this House to ensure that nothing is done, no act is done or is permitted to be done by anybody or any authority that may taint, tarnish or diminish that pride or image.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Nigerian Television Authority for some time now has been, particularly at the 9 p.m. network news, engaging in what I and, in fact, most hon. Members of this House would regard as a mini trade fair, a mini trade fair in the sense that, as soon as the drum signal alerts every Nigerian, awakens every Nigerian to receive news about this country, the Nigerian Television Authority would display on the screen for upwards, sometimes of twenty minutes, advertisements ranging from *Maggie Cubes* to *Milo*, *Nescafe Coffee*, *Cigarettes* and very recently a most disgraceful type of advertisement where you find men and women smelling their mouths in the name of *Daily Need Toothpaste*. (Laughter)

Mr Speaker, Sir, one begins to wonder what we are doing in this country, whether we are really having our priorities right in a country where we are experimenting a Presidential system of government, where the President is an embodiment of pride, an embodiment of the image of this country, that network news should allow commercial advertisements to sponsor the news of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make one point very clear, Sir, that this Motion does not, in material particular, *does not* say that the Nigerian Television Authority should not engage in advertisements but we are after the timing of these advertisements.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the circumstances, it is submitted that the patience of this nation is now exhausted and we as hon. Members of this House who have been elected to correct errors, who are elected to improve the image and pride of this country can no longer sit back and watch the Nigeria Television Authority engage in this sort of practice. I am, therefore, appealing to our own very good sense of judgment, our own sense of pride, our own sense of honour, honour for this country to give this Motion your full support.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it would be recalled that some time ago the Nigerian radio station, the FRCN was engaged in this type of commercial advertisement but about 1979 or thereabout the authorities of the Nigerian Radio placed a ban on commercial advertisements and we are all witnesses to the fact that at no single news item on the radio network do we hear any advertisement sponsoring the national news. We have also been listening to news outside this country, the BBC news, the Voice of America news, the French news agency, the TASS, and I do not think any Member of this House would come up to say, that such news had been prefaced or had been sponsored by any commercial advertisement in those countries. It is, therefore, on this score that I am urging upon Members of this House to view this with very great concern and to call the Nigerian Television Authority to order.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I have to say finally that for some time now it must have been of interest to the Director of Sports, Mr Akiyoye, to know that *Milo* is very useful to our sportsmen; it has been time now for Hogan Bassey, the National Coach, to have known that cigarette is very good enough for our boxers; it is time now that all those who are associated with all these type of advertisement on our television network at 9 o'clock must have one way or the other known the usefulness of these goods. Therefore, I am calling upon this House to tell the Nigerian Television Authority that this nation can no longer be taken for a ride, this nation must have to get her priorities right and we call a stop to this sort of nonsense.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion standing in the name of hon. Mr Mike Akpabio and my humble self. First, this Motion does not intend to remove commercial advertisements; what it purports to do is to see that the quarter hour given to national news is meant for national news. I would like us to be understood. I know that without money one cannot move, but at the same time without the spiritual side of life one will not move. I want us to be understood on this Motion because some people may start to twist it. We do not say that commercial advertisement should not be done. (*Interruption*)

If I may emphasise on that, I will bring you a story about the washerman's donkey. (*Interruptions*) I should be given a chance to air my views, you are entitled to yours. I am paid to be here and I must defend it.

In the national network news the first thing you are told is : *This is National Network News*, that is at 9 p.m., and you are aroused to listen to national news. The next thing that comes will be advertisement which takes about five to six minutes. In other words, the one quarter hour given to national news has been robbed of these six minutes and this is what I call washerman's donkey. A washerman had a donkey. The donkey started by asking the washerman to permit him to put only one leg inside the net to warm itself and he permitted the donkey. Later the donkey said, *Permit me to put in my head*. He continued to permit him to put all parts of his body until the washerman was removed. If we permit this one quarter hour given to national news for commercial advertisement, eventually this nation will have no national news. That is the point I am making.

Again we talk of discipline as enshrined in Section 22 of the Constitution. When you say *this is National Network News*, the children are also listening and then at the same time you start off with commercial advertisements. In other words, you are telling the younger brains that commercial advertisement is a part and parcel of National News. This is a sign of indiscipline and this country is rife in social decadence and we must try as much as we can to see that we remove social ills. If we are to remove social ills we should start with this part of our case.

Should we start at their tender ages to brainwash the little ones by telling them lies? You are telling lies when you say *this is the National News* and you start with commercial advertisements. This has effects on the education of the younger ones and it breeds indiscipline and that indiscipline cumulatively removes national pride.

Again, during that period when about six minutes are taken for commercial advertisements in place of National News, many reasonable people like you, are always annoyed. Of course, you know that annoyance is synonymous with illness, and illness means that the whole country could be disturbed. If the whole country could be disturbed through ill-health, the economy of the nation would be jeopardised.

So many people think about money and wealth. Well, we should remember the biblical adage, which says : *What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul*. The attempt here is to acquire wealth at the expense of your own soul.

Maybe many people are interested in material acquisition. You cannot have material baptism without spiritual rebirth. Spiritual re-birth is more essential than material aspect of life. If we devote all our time to acquire wealth at the expense of any other thing, the national pride, the national image would be destroyed and that will not augur well for this nation. This is the essence of this Motion and I want all hon. Members of this House, a constituent body of

[CHIEF OGWE]

intelligent people, to understand the motive of this Motion. We are not asking that commercial advertisements should not be encouraged, but what we are asking is that the fifteen minutes meant for National News should be devoted to National News. Hon. Gentlemen, I know being reasonable, you will support this Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker : Thank you, the hon. Member for Bende (*Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe*). I do not know, but apart from your being a lawyer you should also be a spiritual leader.

Hon. Members, there is an Amendment to this Motion, and having gone through the Amendment, it does not seem to be an Amendment to me, because it is virtually opposing the Motion. Therefore, the main opposer of the Motion is the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom U. B. Egbuwoku*).

Mr Tom U. B. Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in obedience to you, I will, therefore, now wish to withdraw the Amendment standing in my name. After having withdrawn my Amendment, I now rise to oppose the Motion.

In opposing the Motion, Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I want to tell you most solemnly and very sincerely that my concern in proposing to oppose this Motion is to take into consideration the prestige of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, we are a major Legislative body. You must have listened to one of the Movers of this Motion talking about the *Washer-man's donkey* and so on and so forth. The issue of the allocation of time to various items on the Network News is not determined by this House. It is determined by the Management of NTA. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, this is purely an Executive responsibility. (*Interruptions*) If, therefore, we want the Executive to function, then we must give it a chance to plan a programme of action, even on NTA. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that this Motion, if passed, will ridicule this House. To pass this Motion, first of all. (*Interruptions*)

Several hon. Members : No ! No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Tom, point of order, first.

Mr Effiong Ononokpono (Oron I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of order is a constitutional one and that is Section 82 (2) (a) ; with your permission, Sir, I wish to read :

to make laws with respect to any matter within its legislative competence and to correct any defects in existing laws ;

This Legislative Assembly has the power to make law over the NTA or to correct any misfits in the running of the NTA.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Tom Egbuwoku, the Member who spoke last has made a valid observation. In actual fact the main Motion is not calling for the abolition of advertisements on Television at all. What the Motion is talking about is the interruption of the 9 o'clock news with advertisements. This is my understanding of the Motion.

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, I beg to appeal to you that in your position you should not pre-judge this discussion. You should give me a chance. I perfectly understand this Motion and Mr Speaker, you must protect me in making my views.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Tom Egbuwoku I will protect you but at the same time I have to protect myself from you too.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko) : Mr Speaker, Sir, you are already protected. Hon. Members, what I am trying to say in a nut shell is this. This House has a proper channel of communication. We do not need to pass a Motion appealing to NTA to dis-countenance advertisements. When we pass a Motion here, it has to go to the Senate and from the Senate to the President. So, what are we trying to do here ? (*Interruptions*)

I seek your protection, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, will you please allow him to say whatever he wants to say. You have a chance to reply him later.

Mr Egbuwoku : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am most grateful for that protection. May God bless you.

As I was saying, hon. Members, whatever your views on this Motion I would like you to note one or two points before you take your decision. The process of passing Motions is that if you pass a Motion here this same Motion will have to be sent to the Senate. The Senate will have to pass a similar Motion and the President has to countersign it.

A lot of you are crying that the parastatals and institutions should be self reliant. The NTA is one of the commercial organisations. Commercial advertisements on the Network News give them the bulk of their revenue. If we here are saying that they should not spend a minute or two to get that money simply because we are having oil money, I believe we are setting double standards. In which case, these institutions will continue to rely on you for money. Once they have no challenge for efficiency, you can be sure that efficiency in these institutions would be reduced to nothing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in America from where we pattern our Presidential System of Government, commercial advertisement is a major feature of television activity. I tell you, hon. Members, that if you want these Institutions to survive, if the House does not want to give the impression that we are interfering with the day to day affairs of other organisations who have also professional people, I appeal to you most sincerely to re-consider this sentiment which is being expressed by some people and oppose this Motion in its entirety.

I beg to oppose this Motion.

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion and I want to say that I wish to speak from a professional point of view. Firstly, the law establishing NTA established it as a commercial broadcasting organisation, and no amount of Motion will change that. Secondly, Sir, the Motion is ill-conceived. There are no interrup-

tions. There are commercial advertisements before and after the news and we call these News adjacencies. I want those who are moving this Motion to go back and watch the Network Television news before they write their Motion.

Thirdly, Sir, I want you to know that advertisement is not merely just to make money. It is a form of education. It tells people where and what is available in the market for their own good. Also, advertisement does offer jobs to many people. It does offer creative opportunities for our top Executives.

We do not just make Motions because we think they are popular or because there are people who will applaud or people who will read the News-paper. This Motion must not be entertained. It must be rejected. Thank you, Sir.

Mr Nuhu Poloma (Tangale-Waja North) : I rise to oppose this Motion. In opposing this Motion, Sir, I would say that an hon. Member here, in his contribution, said that some disgraceful advertisements have been taking place during the Network News. I do not know what is disgraceful in training children that when their mouths smell they should use Maclean or whatever it is to clean their mouths. Right from primary school my teachers taught me that if my mouth smells I should use something to clean it and that has not been disgraceful at all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think, Members who have brought up this Motion are tired of remaining in this chamber and have nothing to contribute to the Nation. This is why they want to bring the highest legislative body to ridicule by bringing up such a Motion. I want to make it categorically clear that I will not be a party to such a petty Motion. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I stand to oppose this Motion. Thank you.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : I rise to support this Motion. I view this Motion in a different dimension, and will explain. Immediately the drum signal is on and is finished, this drum signal indicates another item coming up and that is the National News. Within the drum signals and the National News, there should be no advertisements. These advertisements give the impression they are commercial companies sponsoring our National News and the idea is disgraceful. When the National News is on, there should be no interruption.

Mr F. A. Akinbisehin (Ifesowapo) : My point of order is Order 26. Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Bob-Manuel has been insinuating what should not happen. He is insinuating unsavory remark about business men and those who sponsor the advertisements.

The Deputy Speaker : The objection is overruled.

Mr Bob-Manuel : What I was explaining is that if you want to bring any commercial advertisement such as Milo advertisement, this is sponsored by Milo. Now, to talk about footballers it is advertising strength so that people can buy Milo. Now, there is no private company sponsoring our National

News. But immediately the drum signal comes up, and advertisement comes between the drum signal and the news, it means a commercial firm is sponsoring our news. This is why I said it is disgraceful. We should not do it.

The Motion is only calling for that time factor that within the National News period, there should be no advertisement. They can advertise later that is all. It is not stopping the commercial activities of the Television. So, nobody should think that the Motion intends to stop the commercial advertisements and the activities of the Television. It is only trying to defer the time. That is all. With this, I beg to support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Anybody opposing the Motion?

Mr Ambrose Gapsuk (Shendam East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. Colleagues, this very Motion seeking to interfere with the normal function of the NTA is not worth discussing on this very Floor. I beg to oppose this very Motion in its entirety.

In the first place, Mr Speaker, we have been the vanguards opposing and criticising corporate bodies like the NEPA for its insufficiency in supporting itself, the Airways for its poor performance, the Nigerian Ports Authority and all other Corporations for general ineffectiveness. As my hon. Colleague, Dr Oreh said, the law which established the NTA gave it a measure of independence in order to organise its programmes to earn revenue for its self-sufficiency and self-accountability. I do not see how this very honourable House can criticise the Railways as a Corporation, criticise NEPA for falling back unto us for funds and we go and stretch our hands to interfere with the organisation of the NTA. The NTA is a very independent body which has its authorities and they know how much they earn by placing those few programmes before the NTA news.

An advertisement, Mr Speaker, as we all know, is not televised just anywhere, anyhow and anytime. You put it out in keeping with the psychology of the listeners or the observers of the NTA programme. The very adverts that are put before the news earn a lot of money for the Authority, and I feel this is very good of the Management of the NTA to have given a thorough study to the psychology of listeners and have chosen that very moment to put out those things.

In any case, it has nothing to do with our national pride. No nation can be proud without being economically self-sufficient. No nation can brag of its pride when it is bankrupt. So, I beg to shower praises on the NTA for being able to study and know when to put out their advertisements just before the news. I feel that we should give Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe, one of the co-sponsors of this Motion, a chance to defend his Motion because he is paid to come here. This was a clear saying from the co-Mover of this Motion. If people have been paid to come and interrupt and to obstruct the operation of the NTA, I cannot see how we can support them. So, Mr Speaker, this honourable House should not give a hearing to this very Motion.

[MR GAPSUK]

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Gapsuk, that last statement you made is very unfair. Would you please withdraw it ?

Mr Gapsuk : Mr Speaker, it is a clear thing that the hon. Member said he is paid to come here. I copied it verbatim. It is no insinuation ; I was only quoting him. Except he first withdraws it, I cannot withdraw.

The Deputy Speaker : You said the NTA had paid people ?

Mr Gapsuk : No, I said if. Anyway I did not say Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe was paid by the NTA. I was not saying that Mr Speaker. But I would like people to be conscious of what they say on the Floor of the House. So, my withdrawal is on your order, Mr Speaker.

Mr J. C. Ojukwu (Idemili) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Motion. (*Applause*) In supporting this Motion, Sir, I want to congratulate the Movers of the Motion for carefully choosing the words of the Motion. I like good argument. (*Interruptions*)

Mr O. Oni (Obafemi/Owode) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Oni : My Order is a constitutional order. I would like to refer to page 8 and page 10. Page 8 (*Interruptions*).

Some hon. Members : What order ?

Mr Oni : Chapter 2, Section 16, Subsection 1(a) :

The control of the national economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.

Mr Speaker, the second Order is Section 21 :

The press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this Chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people.

Mr Speaker, this Motion is against the Constitution of Nigeria. Therefore, it should be withdrawn. I would like to expatiate. The NTA is like a business house and it should be given every freedom that a mass media is entitled to.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Member, you made two observations, Section 16 (1) (a) of the Constitution and Section 21 of the Constitution. I do not see how your observation on Sections 21 and 16 (1) (a) has relevance to this Motion.

Mr Oni : Mr Speaker, I would like to expatiate on the relevance of Section 16. Mr Speaker, do you grant me the opportunity to expatiate ?

Mr Speaker : There is no need for you to.

Mr Oni : Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Ojukwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, the wordings of the Motion are very well chosen and all that the Motion is asking this

House, is to view with concern and to request the NTA to reschedule the advertisements. It is not talking about encumbering them in the pursuit of their business enterprise. It is not intended to handicap them in their quest for money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, our problems in this country are fundamental and the question of our choices of values and what have you are dependent on the values we place on certain issues which we think are trivial. If because we want the NTA to generate enough funds to run the television, therefore they can subject the rest of this country to mental agony for six minutes, I think it is a terrible mistake, because, Mr Speaker, that is what it is tantamount to when the drum signal is given and then you watch and see all kinds of people on advertisement. The Television can resort to what is called institutional advertising if they must advertise during the News period. It is a question of choice ; it is a question of choosing what is good for the country but Commercial Advertising is certainly not good enough for youngsters who are waiting to hear the News before they go to bed. It is certainly not good for Legislators who want to know what is in the News before they retire after a hard day's work.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion seeks to reschedule the timing of the advertisement. This Motion is not asking for a scrapping of the advertisement. I am therefore asking everybody to support this Motion. Mr Speaker, Sir, the mood of the House indicates a total support for this Motion. I therefore beg to take my seat.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, there seem to be a lot of people wanting to speak on this Motion. I only want to draw your attention to the wordings of the Motion before your contributions. We seem to be drifting away from the wordings of the Motion. The Motion is that *this House views with great concern the persistent interruptions of the 9 p.m. Network News by Commercial Advertisement and therefore calls on the Nigerian Television Authority to put a stop to this practice in the interest of our National image and pride.* So, you should centre your discussion within the context of this Motion. That is all.

Mr Amos Bez Idakula (Keffi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for calling on me to speak on this Motion. Having thought very carefully about this Motion, to start with, I was quite divided in mind which way to go, either to support this Motion or to oppose it, but having decided on it, Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. I want to oppose the Motion on two or three grounds. First, Mr Speaker, I am made to understand that one spot announcement at this time, yields to the NTA about one thousand naira and if they have three spot announcements, which they normally do at this time, these will give them nothing less than ₦3,000 a day. In a week, they get about ₦36,000.

Mr Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr T. O. Bob-Manuel (Degema II) : My point of order is Order 26 (2). The Motion is not calling for the stoppage of commercial activities. It is calling for rescheduling of time. We do not stop the NTA

from getting their ₦1,000 or ₦5,000 but the only thing is the time factor that is all. The hon. Member should restrict himself to the time factor.

Mr Amos Idakula : What I want to say about this, Mr Speaker, is that NTA with this spot announcements gets about ₦42,000 a year. The financial aspect of it is very important.

You must have heard from the Budget discussion that NTA was not allocated much money, and, in fact, their men came here and complained ; the answer was that they have to raise their own money in one way or the other. So, from the financial aspect of it, I do not see why this Motion should be supported.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, arguments have been raised about the fact that these advertisements come during the Network News. It may appear to be like that, but it is not exactly correct. If you notice carefully, and you cannot accuse the NTA for this, what happens is that at nine o'clock the drum signal is given and the sign of NTA network news comes on. As soon as that happens, what comes on the screen is *stay Tuned for the Network News*, and when they have asked you to stay tuned for the Network News, then they give these advertisements. As soon as the advertisements are over, they write on the screen *NTA Network News*, and that is exactly when they start the Network News, so that you are being asked to stay tuned, they are not telling you exactly that what comes after is NTA Net-Work News. Because of these things, I think the Motion should be killed and it should not be allowed to go through. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : We can take more. Can I take somebody from the GNPP ?

Mr A. Mohammed Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, with all sincerity I am of the opinion that this Motion is unnecessary, unwarranted and uncalled for. The House has more important things to discuss than just commercial advertisements.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, please Mr Yelwa, hold on, would you please remain in your seats.

Mr Mohammed Yelwa : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Assembly has very important things to discuss like the welfare of Nigerians rather than commercial advertisements. These commercial advertisements are introduced to boost the income of NTA and most of these commercial advertisements attract higher rates for bringing them very near the news ; because most people would want to listen to the news and thereby would also listen to whatever they advertise.

So, Mr Speaker, in my humble opinion, we should not interfere with the running or activities of the NTA. We should look into other fields where we can be of service. With these remarks, Sir, I oppose the Motion in its entirety.

Mr Speaker : Yes, PRP.

Mr Umaru Sadiq (Kumbotso) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, it seems that hon. Members misunderstood this Motion. The Motion is not

seeking for absolute abolition of the advertisement in NTA. We are not saying that NTA should not advertise, but what we are saying is we want them to look into the timing aspect. We are not saying that they should not advertise nor that they should not get revenue through advertisement. I would expect the Motion to go to the extent of saying that some of the advertisements that are been carried by the NTA should not have been allowed, because morally, culturally they are not acceptable. So, I feel that apart from changing the timing they should also abolish absolutely some advertisements. I feel Members should not rise in this House and mislead us by saying that we are trying to abolish the advertisements absolutely. No. Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support this Motion and would say that no Member should feel so westernised by teaching his children how to kiss in the television. This is absolutely wrong and I think it is wrong for any Member to support that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope that this Motion would be supported wholeheartedly. Thank you very much.

Mrs Abiola Babatope (Mushin Central II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to oppose this Motion. I think the emphasis on this Motion is on the words *persistent interruption by commercial advertisements and to put a stop to this practice in the interest of our national image and pride*. To my mind, there is nothing in those advertisements that is detrimental to the interest of our national image and pride.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if in any event, there is anything which you consider distasteful, that should be referred to the Advertisement Control Board. They should censor which advertisement comes on the television screen and which should not. To most Nigerians, there is the usual need to refer to the period when you stayed abroad, for those of you who have been conversant with television programmes in Britain, you will know that ITV has a preference over BBC programmes simply because there are many advertisements which stimulate people. In the case of NTA news, there is that short interval which gets people conditioned to wanting to listen to the news. Most women, and I suppose most of the men, you usually tell your children to call you up when the advertisements are on so that you are already seated to listen to the news. That period needed to condition you to listen is a requisite period and you do not lose any item of the news.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the NTA is to survive, we should not curtail its commercial activities. I believe that there is a premium time and advertisers pay according to which period of the day the advertisements come up. I believe that the period just before the news is such period in time, when most Nigerians are glued to the television screens. Therefore, the advertisements should continue to be put on. The news casters for NTA should get themselves well prepared so that when they come up we are all ready to listen and we enjoy what they put up. So, this Motion should not sail through at all. You should all vote against this Motion. Thank you. (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Anybody supporting the Motion ? Is the UPN supporting the Motion ?

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, this Motion, as I see it, is a test of the quality of the Members of this House. Having said that, I would like to say that this nine o'clock period is an expensive period to NTA and the reason for this is that at that time every hon. Member of the National Assembly including this august House and the Senate are listening and watching attentively, leaving their families, leaving what they are doing to listen to the news. That makes it an expensive period and I think to do otherwise to this would deprive the NTA of substantial amount. Having noted that, I would say that this Motion should be thrown out. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Mr Olusola Afolabi*).

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think that the Motion has been exhaustively discussed ; it is time that the Question be now put.

Question put.

Several hon. Members : Ayes !

Several hon. Members : No !

The Deputy Speaker : I will put the Question again.

Question again put.

The Deputy Speaker : I will put the Question for the last time and give a verdict. I hope there will be no cause for a division.

Question finally put and negatived.

An hon. Member : Division ! Division, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! Order ! Hon. Members, I do not see why the Motion should generate this amount of heat that it has generated. I know at all times that in taking decisions on Motions we should take Motions that will have effect so that this House does not become a toothless bulldog. When we talk we should leave emotions aside. It is very essential that whatever Motions are passed in this House should be those that should have effect on those people we pass them upon.

You have to take certain decisions that should be of interest to the generality of the House irrespective of party leanings. I do not think this Motion

has any party inclination whatsoever. It is my honest view as the presiding officer in the House that I have declared that the *Noes* have this Motion. You have challenged it but as I am saying it is mandatory on me when a Motion is challenged that I call for a division. But as I have said, I do not think this Motion is so vital that it requires a division. It is not. In forcing a division one side controlled its Members and the other side could not control its Members, and some Members walked out of the Chamber.

When you are going to have a division the gallery has to be cleared and people will have to go up to the lobby and register there. Lobbying is not just by show of hands or counting of numbers. You actually have to register the names of the people who voted for and against the Motion. The question I would like to put to this House is, is it the wish of this House that we have a division on this Motion ?

Some hon. Members : Yes ! Yes !

Some hon. Members : No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, it is in the interest of peace and harmony. I would like to rule that this Motion be suspended please.

Some hon. Members : No.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Afolabi, will you move Motion for adjournment please.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the House adjourn till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The Deputy Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion ?

Dr O. O. Oreh (Arochukwu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Afolabi : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I respectfully move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.47 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 9th July, 1980

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday and I have approved them as having reflected what happened in the House yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker : Please, Members of the Judiciary Committee are meeting now at Committee room number 3.

Also the sub-Committee on the Abuse of Drugs will be meeting after the Adjournment of this Sitting today and I think, they should get in touch with the Chairman of the Health Committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ugly Incident Along Ikorodu Road

Chief S. A. Oduntan (Ifo/Ota) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, my point of explanation this morning is in respect of the ugly incident that happened along Ikorodu Road some time ago and I wish to say that I condemn in the strongest terms any act of hooliganism and mob action.

I would like to say that Chief Obafemi Awolowo is a great advocate of non-violence. If you take the late Gandhi of India, you cannot mention any other person before you mention Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

As a matter of fact, there was an incident in the Airport on that day. There was a Reporter who was insulting those who were present in the Press Conference and he was calling them irresponsible because there were noises people were making, and some people there wanted to take action against the Reporter but Chief Obafemi Awolowo told them that whoever ventured to touch the man, he would personally discipline him. That is to show that the man hates violence.

It is also erroneous to say that the Lagos State Government had a hand in what happened that day. As a matter of fact, Alhaji Jakande is a peace-loving Governor of Lagos State.

Again the fact is that there is a multi-millionaire who has hired thugs and prepared placards with inscriptions portraying Chief Obafemi Awolowo as not wanted in Nigeria anymore. As a matter of fact, that same man prepared placards that would show that people in Lagos had no faith in Chief Obafemi Awolowo again and that he has lost his fame.

That particular man is the cause of the ugly situation that happened that day and the man is—(Interruptions) As a matter of fact, the man who provoked the situation on that day is Chief Alhaji M. K. Abiola. Alhaji Abiola should be warned because we want—(Interruptions). Alhaji Abiola is creating confusion everywhere in Nigeria today. If you go to Oyo State, you will find Alhaji Abiola trying to create chaos within the people.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Member, I gave you a chance to speak on point of explanation on what happened on Ikorodu Road on Saturday and should confine yourself to that topic.

Chief Oduntan : Mr Speaker, Sir, this matter touches on security of Nigeria, and I want to appeal that Alhaji Abiola should be warned properly not to create the situation where people hate themselves. He is creating a lot of trouble in Nigeria. Thank you, I have finished.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I believe an hon. Member of this House, the Member for Epe (Mr G. O. Sadiku), on Monday spoke on this point of explanation and he spoke very honestly. When the hon. Member who spoke last insisted that he wanted to speak on point of explanation, I allowed him to speak because there are certain things that we must put in the record. We have the responsibility to protect and provide safety to Members in this Legislature—

An hon. Member : We have Members representing Lagos State.

The Deputy Speaker : You have Members representing Lagos State, I quite accept ; we are your guests and it is the memory of the way you treat us here that we can carry away to our different Constituencies. I will definitely assure hon. Members here that we cannot, under any circumstances, fall back to the politics of pre-1966.

Yes, Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe.

Punch Publication of Today

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe (Bende) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am making a point of explanation with reference to a Publication by the *Punch* of today, Sir, with regard to our action of yesterday. The Motion which is reported at the back page is a Motion that they have credited to be a Motion seeking to gag the Press. This is not true Sir.

The Deputy Speaker : Can you hold on, there is a point of order.

Mr Lam Adesina (Ibadan South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I am quoting Order 6, this is page 5 of the Standing Order. Order 6 states :

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.

To the best of my knowledge, the Clerk of the House has not announced the absence of the Speaker this morning.

Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, the publication, Sir, which I had already mentioned talks about gagging the press. The intention of this House yesterday was not to gag any press, and this is quite erroneous. Secondly, the Motion which was on NTA had nothing to do with party leanings in so much that the UPN, GNPP, in fact all the five parties, cast their votes in the way they liked. It had nothing to do with either shifting any particular political party or parties as opposition. Some people are trying to create imaginary opposition in this House, and this is why this *Punch* has credited the UPN and PRP as people who actually opposed. This was not true. There were so many reasonable people in UPN who were on our side, and I want this to be corrected because if it is not corrected it would create disunity in this country. The newspapers should watch—

The Deputy Speaker : There is a point of order.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker, I only want to correct the impression that—

The Deputy Speaker : Your order number please?

Mr Akinbisehin : Order 6, Rule 2. We are here for procedure and I want to correct the allegation of this hon. Member. (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, the point is that whenever the Speaker informs the Deputy Speaker to act we need not have any communication.

Chief Ogwe : Well, I have to thank my Learned Friend. His order was not against me, it was to clear a legal hurdle for you to move smoothly.

As I was saying, when we were debating the Motion on NTA, it had nothing to do with parties as such, and parties cast their votes in the way they liked. I hate the idea of somebody trying to create disunity by pushing some people to the wrong quarters they do not actually belong. When the *Punch* writer shifted the whole of UPN and PRP as opposers of the Motion, that was not fair to them. It was not fair to the UPN or PRP. It meant that whoever wrote that article was creating something in his mind which did not happen in this House. We respect this House. People from various groups or political parties always act in the way they think is quite reasonable in their own minds. We are not antagonistic to any particular persons or parties and the intention of that Motion had nothing to do with the gagging of the press. This I must emphasise because some of the Reporters at all times, we see them, do not even stay till the end of our sittings. When they get one point or so they go home to elaborate by imagination.

Again, there was no time either the Movers of the Motion or the Opposers of the Motion went to the Speaker to lobby him to do one thing or the other. This was quite erroneous, and I would like the Speaker and hon. Members to agree with me that the Reporter of this issue should be warned severely in order not to drag our good name in to the mud.

The Deputy Speaker : Thank you, Chief Ogwe Kalu Ogwe. I believe that from my ruling on that Motion, the attitude of all the Members here was non-partisan. People acted freely irrespective of which party they belonged to, and I made that point quite clear. So, if the press has reported something to the contrary, that is the freedom of the press.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : Is there any need to debate this matter ? No, there is no need.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Petitions Committee

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I hereby lay on the Table of this House the Report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition of one Mr Alamu Adeyemi which was referred to your Committee on Public Petitions on the 8th day of June this year. I hereby move, Mr Speaker, Sir :—

That this House do receive the Report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition of Mr Alamu Adeyemi.

I beg to move.

Mr L. O. Okoi (Obubra II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do receive the Report of the Public Petitions Committee in respect of the petition of Mr Alamu Adeyemi.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Change of Recess Period

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, the Motion standing in my name is—

That this House rescinds its earlier decision to go on Recess during the period 14th July, 1980 to 18th August, 1980 and hereby resolves to proceed on Recess for a period of 25 working days with effect from 21st July, 1980 and ending 25th August, 1980.

Mr Edet Bassey Etienam (Oron II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Several hon. Members : No ! No !

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members will you take your seats, please. The hon. Member for Ifesowopo (*Mr Akinbisehin*), can you take your seat please. The hon. Member for Okpebho (*Mr F. O. Iyayi*), can you take your seat please.

I quite understand there are procedures that we adopt irrespective of what you feel about any Motion. You have a right to speak for or against that Motion. There is no need for any pandemonium or a mammy market type of affair. It is not necessary.

An hon. Member : We are in Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker : We are in Assembly but in a respected Assembly. When anybody moves a Motion, he says why he is moving the Motion, and it is then you decide which way you vote for, or against. The leader will explain why he wants this extension of recess from 14th to 21st, you listen and hear him, if you do not accept you vote against; that is all, but you have to give him the right to explain.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon Members, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the fact that there are certainly some issues which are affecting the State and which also need the attention of this House. These issues will not actually allow us to just proceed on holidays at this week end. We have to prolong (*Interruptions*). Hon. Gentlemen, the point is actually made by me that there are certain important State issues which need the attention of this particular House, and therefore our proposed recess which would have started on the 14th of July may not be possible at this juncture and we have to extend it to 21st of July as you have seen in this Motion.

I only need your co-operation in this respect so that this matter would be brought before this House for deliberation and I respectfully wish to move that this thing is now done.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, will you take your seats, please.

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, what the leader has spoken to us is completely in camera and not understood by the entire Members. Mr Speaker, if he says there is something that justifies the amendment of the recess period I do not think we are stealing here, let him bring it to the Floor of the House. We are not breaking any bounds. Mr Speaker, I am saying that if there is anything, as far as we represent the entire nation democratically, there is nothing we should do in privacy. So, I am now saying that Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo who is the Leader of the House, should tell us what justifies the amendment in the period so stipulated for our movement to our respective Constituencies.

Mr Jonas O. Iwuagwu (Mbano West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, in opposing this Motion I wish to say that if, going by the statement of the Senate Leader, Mr Sola Saraki, that warrants have not been signed and that is the reason why we would be blackmailed into extending our holiday period by one week, I think that is wrong. We are now being taken for a ride. I think we are mature people.

The Deputy Speaker : That is not the reason.

Mr Iwuagwu : Now, if that is not the reason Sir, the honourable Yunusa Kaltungo has not told us anything. He has not given us any reason why we should delay our holiday by another one week, in which case I think we must rise here as we had already scheduled. We can be recalled from our holidays, this is the normal thing.

Alhaji Kaltungo : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members I am not deferring the Motion. I want to move that the Question be put, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, Order, please.

I am putting the Question, please.

Question put and negatived.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Relations Committee

Approval of the Special Memorandum in respect of the proposed guidelines for launching the National Assembly Public Relations Department.

Mr A. D. O. Abutu (Ankpa South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I hereby move—

That the House do approve the Memorandum in respect of the proposed guidelines for launching the National Assembly Public Relations Department (*Laid on the Table on 1st July, 1980*).

I hereby move.

The Deputy Speaker : Is anybody seconding the Motion, please ?

Alhaji Inuwa Ali (Jos North) : I rise to second the Motion.

Mr Abutu : Mr Speaker, Sir, your Committee met several times to map out an operational strategy for the Public Relations Committee in order to make it functional with good results.

Introduction : It is the considered view of your Committee that the National Assembly and the general public have been at a considerable distance from each other and there is need to bridge this communication gap. Your Committee is of the view that no organisation in the Nigerian Society today can take public opinion for granted. It is therefore presumptuous to hold that good performance and strength alone will bring good public recognition and understanding, let alone support.

It becomes, therefore, imperative in the view of your Committee that in modern complex society like ours it is necessary for every organisation seeking public support to establish and maintain information programme in order to create a common ground for understanding with the public. Since the National Assembly belongs to the Nigerian people and all the hon. Members were elected by them, we are accountable to them, and depend upon them for our existence.

Functions.—Below we set out what we consider to be the functions of your Committee :

1. To evaluate public opinion towards National Assembly.

[MR ABUTU]

2. To evaluate the effectiveness of Bills passed by the National Assembly on issues which are considered to be of public interest.

3. To make recommendations to National Assembly concerning Bills and related matters that may or are likely to have effect on public opinion.

4. To serve as a communication channel between the National Assembly and the public providing, therefore, a prompt, honest, and factual information.

5. To plan and conduct positive and continuing public relations programme, to gain and maintain public understanding, good-will, and much needed support.

6. To conduct programme designed to keep hon. Members of the National Assembly informed, and motivated as effective Members of the National Assembly.

7. To protect and defend the National Assembly and its administration against all uninformed attacks and correct the general public disenchantment against the National Assembly.

Establishment of National Assembly Public Relations Unit :

(a) Under this head your Committee requests for a provision to be made for recruitment of qualified personnel for the Public Relation Unit.

(b) Details of the required personnel will be submitted in due course as soon as approval is given to set up the Unit.

Facilities :

- (i) Well-equipped Office
- (ii) Transportation
- (iii) Camera
- (iv) Typeometer
- (v) Tape Recorder
- (vi) Radio Set
- (vii) Television Sets
- (viii) Sound Projector
- (ix) Film Projection Screen
- (x) Slide Projectors
- (xi) Photograph Equipment
- (xii) Video Equipment
- (xiii) Cassette Recorder
- (xiv) Dry Photo Copier
- (xv) Office Reproduction Machine

Public Relations Funding :

1. Public Relations activities are mainly backed up with appropriate funds in order to enhance productivity.

2. Of special importance to Public Relations Officers are grants of non-appropriated funds for official entertainment of guests participating in Public Relations and public information activities in support of the National Assembly.

Conclusion :

Mr Speaker, Sir, your Committee considers this paper as containing the guidelines for launching the National Assembly Public Relations Department and falls rather short of a detailed analysis of the day to day operation of the Committee vis-à-vis the Public Relations Department.

To succeed, your Committee needs the much needed support of Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, President of the Senate and his Deputy, Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Party Leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives, the Chairmen of Special and Standing Committees and indeed the entire Members of the National Assembly.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody contributing ? Yes, Mr David Atta.

Mr David Atta (Okpokwu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a very brief contribution to the Report submitted to the honourable House by the Public Relations Committee. The distinguished Chairman, the celebrated Alhaji Abubakar Abutu has given you the run down of the Report. The essence of the Report is to explain to hon. Members the concept and functions of the Public Relations Committee so that by so doing Members can see the scope of its responsibility. As you all know, good faith with the public is the foundation of a good Legislature. A useful corollary to this is that respect is not conferred.—(Interruptions,

An hon. Member : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : There is a point of order ? Can you sit down please.

Mr Atta : Mr Speaker, Sir, the House is divided. I will wait until the Speaker is ready to listen to my contribution. I do not know how important the discussion Mr Gapsuk is having with the hon. Speaker is.

An hon. Member : That is none of your business.

Mr Atta : A Member has said it is not my business, but we want the Speaker to guide the House.

As I was saying, we represent the people. We are elected by the people and we are here to represent their interest. Since we represent the people, there should be no feeling of alienation and estrangement between us and the people. Most of the issues which bring us into dispute and conflict with the people need not arise if there existed a good network of communication between us and the public. We do not expect the public to give their support to something they do not know anything about. Therefore, there is need to bridge the communication gap that now exists between the legislature and the public, hence the desirability of this Committee, the Public Relations Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee has rightly emphasised the co-operation of all of us—the Speaker, his Deputy, the President of the Senate, his Deputy and individual legislators. This presupposes that we will have to be careful about the way we conduct ourselves either here in the House or outside because members of the public are watching us. There is need, therefore, to channel social behaviour into very constructive pursuits.

Having said this much, I want to talk on the critical role the Press can play in bringing about a good relation between the Legislature and the public because the power of the Press is enormous. Its power for evil or for good has no limit. The French Soldier, Napoleon Bonaparte even acknowledged this fact. He said, *the pen is mightier than the sword*. So there is need to improve the present relationship that subsists between the Legislature and the Press. The Press can mobilize public support or bring members of the public in direct conflict with the Legislature. But we are calling on them to choose the brighter side of things because we are all partners in progress. Their role will be in the form of thoughtful explanation to issues and policies that emanate from the National Assembly. On this note, I will call on everybody here to support the paper and to give your maximum co-operation and encouragement to Members of the Committee.

Before I take my seat, Mr Speaker, I want to draw the attention of hon. Members to page 2 of the Report which deals with the facilities that will be required by the Public Relations Unit of the House.

The facilities are not for the use of Members of the Committee. They are to facilitate and maximise the work of the Unit so that we achieve nothing but maximum benefit. This point has to be borne in mind. On this note, as I said, it is to acquaint hon. Members with the concept and the broad objectives of the Committee. As we always say, it is non-controversial, it is mutually beneficial. Thank you very much.

Mr David O. Agi (Oju) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members of the House of Representatives, with due respect to the Chairman and Members of this important Committee, I beg to raise a few objections to the special Memorandum of request submitted by this Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. Mr Speaker, Sir, because I have taken time to put these points down one by one, I would crave the indulgence of the House that I read these points for the guide of the Committee.

One quite agrees with the fact that the Public Relations Committee of this House is a unique and special Committee, but that does not exonerate it from undergoing normal procedures and processes of bringing into effect all the things that it needs in order to make it function. That being so, I beg to state as follows :

1. That, while each House of the National Assembly has autonomy to set up a Committee of its need, a unit that has to take care of the National Assembly has to undergo the concurrent agreement and consultation with the Senate as well as procedures which were undergone in cases like the National Assembly Service Commission. That is point number one.

This Committee is asking for a unit, a department that will take care of the Public Relations activity of this House, and particularly the National Assembly. That means it needs a separate unit which will be detached from the main activities of the Committee, and to which unit, Members of the Committee would go when they have a need for anything that they

would conduct on behalf of the National Assembly. So there is a need for this separate Committee to undergo the constitutional requirement of bringing about that separate unit detached from the Committee itself.

2. The requirements for the proposed unit of the Public Relations as contained in the special Memorandum put forward by this Committee are not peculiar to that Committee's job. All other Committees need those requirements. Since the pool of the National Assembly is the only provision for the peculiar needs of the other Committees, the Public Relations Committee has three options in this regard if it wants to set up a unit or a department specially for its activities. One option is that it may desire to stay where it is like other Committees. The second option is that it may have to subject itself to the procedures necessary for bringing into operation a unit or a department or a Commission aimed at carrying out special functions for and on behalf of the National Assembly. A third option is that it may have to take advantage of all the facilities held in common use by all the Committees of the National Assembly available in the Administration and under the control of the Clerk of the National Assembly. These are the three options which the Committee on Public Relations of the National Assembly may have to take. If it does not go this way, then of course, it is bringing about an action that can only be legalised by a Bill or bringing it to the Floor of the House by a Motion.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, any proposal which involves the expenditure of funds other than those prescribed for in the Approved Estimates of the National Assembly has to be subjected to the appropriate procedures for authority and not by a memorandum to the Whole House.

Of special ridicule is the requirements under items 1 and 2 of page 3 of this Paper which seeks for provisions for entertainment other than what is treated on other Committees when they sit in the House of Representatives. What does the Committee mean by non-appropriated funds and where do these funds come from ? These are some of the questions that the Chairman of the special House Committee on Public Relations has to answer. In any case, to be able to do its work, it needs this Department, but to get the Department on, it needs to subject itself to the due authority of a Bill before it can become a unit.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr B. J. Abegunde (Ekiti East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, going through the Report of the Public Relations Committee, I have seen that they have done their best, but unfortunately that is not the best expected of a Public Relations Committee for this honourable House. Public Relations work for this House is as important as the work of any other Committee like the Committee on Appropriations and the rest, but it seems this Committee has not got the grasp of the level of their responsibilities. Apart from

[MR ABEGUNDE]
ignoring the four pillars of Public Relations which are research, action, communication and evaluation, this Committee has not taken any positive step or devised any short or long term strategy for effective operation of Public Relations Department. It has also not devised any mechanism for evaluation of Public Relations efforts, neither does it take any appropriate action to do anything that could make any Public Relations efforts effective in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, recommend that this Committee be enlarged to comprise Public Relations experts in this House so as to give us a more intelligent, articulate and effective programme. Another aspect that has shown that this Committee has not really got exactly what it is expected to do is the recommendation to set up a Public Relations Department. What would the Committee be doing when there is another Public Relations Department? In the Senate there is a Public Enlightenment Committee comprising about ten people. I do not see how five people could devise just a Public Relations memorandum for setting up a Public Relations Department. Setting up a Public Relations Department for this House will be cost consuming. We could economise by making use of available resources of members in this House to devise a programme of Public Relations for this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, recommend that this report should be rejected and an enlarged Public Relations Committee that will give us a comprehensive blue print for effective Public Relations activities for this House be set up. Because without an articulate and effective Public Relations for this House, there would be a lot of misunderstanding, misconception of ideas and actions of this House which in the past had been the case and that is not the best for this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to sit down.

Mr Apollos Njoku (Isiala Ngwa): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I would like to contribute to this report by making two important observations. My first observation comes from the functions of the Public Relations Committee of this House. Going through these recommendations, one would frankly appreciate that the Committee has set out very good functions which, if achieved, would be able to correct a few impressions that appear to have been going wrong in this House. These functions, I think, could be achieved through various other means rather than the ones recommended.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in recommending a Public Relations Unit, it does appear to me that this is something which could have formed part of the National Assembly Service Commission, and could have been a unit of the organisation of the National Assembly. To organise a separate Public Relations Unit within the Public Relations Committee seems to go beyond the requirements of the purpose of the Public Relations Committee. But I do think that the main function of the Public Relations Committee was to use their personal touch and correct certain things that go wrong or correct misrepresentations

by the press in general. By instituting this Public Relations Unit, it would appear to me to be working in opposite direction with the normal Press, and this might bring us into conflict with the press as it were. But using the public relationship, I do think that the Members of this Committee are very competent to liaise very well with the Press and could have been able to put our impressions right in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we go ahead to establish a Public Relations Unit, which seems to me to be purely an administrative function which would require all the normal processes of establishing an administration, in this case, I am afraid if the Public Relations Committee will be able to control this unit and, perhaps, do the same work which they have set out to do in their functions. Again Sir, there is the temptation that if this Public Relations Unit is established, members of this Committee in particular would appear to use it, perhaps, to some unexpected ends and this again would turn round to discredit the good job they appear to have done. I am thinking that the Public Relations Committee should restrict itself to the function of a sort of watch-dog in making sure that misrepresentations by the Press are corrected by their own ingenuity and public relations attitude. If they do this, I am sure they shall have achieved their purpose. But to go ahead to establish a Public Relations Unit, this involves more than they were requested to do and, I think, this should be recommended as an amendment to the National Assembly Public Service Commission. If they work through that way, then, of course, this should be a very responsible organisation, otherwise, I am convinced that the members are very competent to liaise with the Press in this country and give us as much service as we would get by establishing this Public Relations Unit. Once it is established, I am sure that the Committee would be able to control its operations. So, Mr Speaker, with these points, I recommend that the report of this Committee be adopted with amendments, otherwise, I have a contrary view about it.

The Deputy Speaker: Point of order. Yes, the hon. Member has already finished talking. Do you still want to raise the point of order? Anybody contributing to the Motion again? Yes, Chief Wodi.

Mr Godwin Wodi (Port Harcourt II): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I want to oppose certain aspects of this memorandum in a very few words. Firstly, I think the Committee has just fallen short of recommending the establishment of a Press for this House. This is just the only thing they failed to do, recommending that we should have our own newspaper, where we will publish everything in this place. I am opposed to this, Mr Speaker. I do not see the need for all these. This establishment which is the National Assembly is entitled to own all these items enumerated here. I do not see what stops the Public Relations Committee to make use of them.

Secondly, it does look as if this Committee is out to appropriate funds for its use and, probably, to encourage the sort of things some of us opposed

about the press and that is, if you have something to be published, you have got to do this, or do that and, if you do not, the publication cannot be done. I do not see how we can encourage that in this august House, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I actually encourage all the other seven items enumerated on the report. They are worthwhile. They will actually improve our image if they are carried out to the letter. But, I think, all these could be done without all the facilities enumerated here. Please let us be cautioned how we ask for these things because some of them may lie down there unused and yet the funds would be appropriated and spent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose most of the items enumerated here to facilitate the work of the Committee. Thank you.

Mr Tom Egbuwoku (Isoko): I would like to make a contribution to this debate if the Chairman would like to accept this. The main idea why we thought we should set up a Public Relations Committee was to enhance our image. I believe that the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and its Members are very zealous people but I think they must have misunderstood a basic function that is when they go beyond this role to provide for the purchase of materials, equipment of offices, and so on, I think this is not what the Chairman of the Committee should really do.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if it will please the Chairman of the Public Enlightenment Committee, and that was why we selected a few experts otherwise we would have set up the Committee in the usual way where Parties are properly represented, I would plead through you, Mr Speaker, that he should withdraw those aspects that have to deal with the purchase of materials. As you are aware, in the Estimates, we have provided for the posts of Chief Information Officer, Chief Protocol Officer and so on and so forth. It is the duty of these people to make their requisitions through the appropriate distribution Committee. So, if I can request the Chairman of the Committee to, please, withdraw this aspect that has to do with the material purchases, then, we can accept their general report to enhance the image of the House, otherwise Members might vote against the whole Motion because of the materials the Committee added to it. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, the Chairman of the Committee.

Alhaji Abubarkar Abutu (Ankpa South): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I thank those hon. Members who have made their contributions. I think there is a misunderstanding of the report. In fact, what we have said about the facilities is not what the hon. Member for Oju (Mr David Agi) has said. We are not using it for the execution of our duties. We are only trying to emphasise more on what has been written in the Appropriation Bill which has been approved under the National Assembly Public Service Commission. If you get hold of your documents, you will see that the various posts, Principal Public Relations Officer, etc. are all there.

So, if hon. Members did not understand that aspect of it clearly, then I can withdraw that one. They are on equipment. We can then retain the general principle of it. We are only trying to re-emphasize it, not that we are trying to make any new case for any new unit or any new department, no. Hon. Members have already approved these things, we are trying to reiterate and remind hon. Members what is going to happen and what is going on. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to make this explanation.

An hon. Member: Are you withdrawing the recommendation?

Alhaji Abutu: I am not withdrawing the recommendations, I am withdrawing the equipment aspect and retaining the general principle of the report.

The Deputy Speaker: How do you make the Amendments?

Alhaji Abutu: All right, Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I withdraw my report temporarily. I will re-submit it in the near future.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

The Deputy Speaker: All right. The Committee on Science and Technology, the hon. Member for Afikpo (Mr Sam O. Alu) to present his Committee's report.

Mr Sam O. Alu (Afikpo): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move:

That the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education System.

This report was submitted to the honourable House on 4th July, 1980. Before I move my Motion, Mr Speaker, I would like to refer hon. Members to page 2 of our report and to point out that in error, the Committee has struck out item 1 (3) of this report not to stand part of this report. We authorised our Secretary to issue a corrigendum correspondingly but he had failed to do the same but I hope that by now this correction is in the hon. Members' pigeon holes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members—

The Deputy Speaker: You have to allow somebody to second the Motion. Yes, anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, the hon. Member for Jama'a North (Alhaji Danjuma A. Zubairu).

Alhaji Danjuma A. Zubairu (Jama'a North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, the hon. Member for Afikpo (Mr Sam O. Alu).

Mr Sam O. Alu (Afikpo): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members—

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake): Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, the point of order?

Mr Omidiji : I would like to refer to Order 8 (1) with regards to the Quorum of this honourable House. Particularly, I would like to note that this Committee's Report is very important to this country and this House is getting thinner and thinner and for that reason I would say that we take the quorum of the House.

The Deputy Speaker : You do not take the quorum now.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : There is a constitutional order, Section 50. It is the question of quorum. This is constitutional and it does not state a time limit.

The Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member for Ifesowopo (*Mr Bayo Akinbisehin*), read your order.

Mr Akinbisehin : *If objection is taken by any member of the Senate or the House of Representatives present that there are present in the House of which he is a member (besides the person presiding) fewer than one-third of all the members of that House and that it is not competent for the House to transact business.* He has said that we have not formed a quorum, we are not competent to transact business. Therefore, we should adjourn.

An hon. Member : We are competent to transact business.

The Deputy Speaker : They have to check the quorum first of all before you know whether you are competent or not to transact business. The hon. Member for Ifesowopo (*Mr Bayo Akinbisehin*) I do not know whether you are a Member of the Judiciary Committee. You are not a Member of the Judiciary Committee ?

Mr Fola Omidiji (Egba Alake) : But he is a legal practitioner.

The Deputy Speaker : I know he is.

Mr Akinbisehin : What is the relevance ?

The Deputy Speaker : The relevance is that you are supposed to guide us in the proceedings in this House, more so as a Lawyer. If you look at your Order Paper you will see Meetings of Committee—Commerce, Judiciary, Aviation, Works and Survey, Internal Affairs.

Mr Akinbisehin : Well, that is where if the Speaker feels we are competent to carry on business, or the Speaker is of the opinion that people are attending the Meetings of Committees, then, your ruling will be as follows : that there are Committees Sitting and you regard them as Members present.

The Deputy Speaker : Of course.

Mr Akinbisehin : But we need your ruling first.

The Deputy Speaker : We have five Committees of the House sitting and to the best of my knowledge this should not stop us from proceeding with this debate in the House.

Mr Fola Omidiji : I want a ruling on the point I have raised on quorum. I am prepared to give it constitutional backing and ensure that the proper thing is done.

The Deputy Speaker : We have gone through Section 50 of the Constitution.

Mr Omidiji : To my understanding this House is not in Committee stage, it is in full session. So, quorum must be maintained at any point in time. It is only when we are in Committee that this rule can apply.

The Deputy Speaker : No.

Mr Omidiji : But now we are in full session and we understand from the little arithmetic we have done that one-third of the Members of the House is not present. Therefore, I see that we are not competent to transact further business. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : What business do you want to go and transact ; have you any other thing to do somewhere else ?

An hon. Member : What constitutes one-third ?

The Deputy Speaker : There is no question of what constitutes one-third here. Committee sittings are part of the sittings of this House.

An hon. Member : What we are saying is that those in Committees cannot be counted here.

Mr Omidiji : Mr Speaker, Sir, proxy is not allowed here. We cannot vote by proxy because this debate may eventually lead to our taking a decision.

The Deputy Speaker : We are not taking any vote at all.

Mr O. Fagbamigbe (Akure) : Mr Speaker Sir, as long as Members are available to be invited for voting if necessary then we can continue. We need 150 Members and I am sure if we want to vote now we can get more than 150 members from here and from the lobby of the House.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Alu, do you want to take your Motion now ?

Mr Alu : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the House has been very much agitated today. The issue raised earlier by our Leader has made lot of Members a little bit ruffled and for that reason and in view of the importance of this Motion I would like to defer it until tomorrow if you allow.

Motion by leave deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangala-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this House stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr S. O. Alu (Afikpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12 noon.

Motion, that I jointly move, especially the section calling on the President of this country to use his good offices in a judicial manner to

in his crusade to eliminate some of these social vices. I want to call on this House to be the new Messiah to preach democracy and

National Assembly Debates (Representatives)

3097

[Announcements]

10 JULY 1980

[Political Victimisation]

3098

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 10th July, 1980

The House met at 10.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker : Hon. Members, I have gone through the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 9th of July, 1980, and I have approved them as reflecting the true position of things that transpired in the House yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of the Committees

The Deputy Speaker : There are only one or two Announcements. The Committee on Public Relations will be meeting at 11.30 this morning in the office of the Leader of the House.

The New House Committee Chairman, Mr Onwuzulike should please see me in the office after this sitting, including all the other Members of the New House Committee.

French Ambassador's Visit

The last Announcement is that I received the French Ambassador yesterday. He has just come back from leave and we have an outstanding invitation from the French Parliament for our Members to visit them when they open their session some time this year. He came to confirm yesterday that the session will be opened on the 21st of October, 1980, because they are now on recess till October. They require a team of eight Members of delegation, seven from the House of Representatives here and one official. Because they have not got an Upper House, the invitation is purely for Members of the House of Representatives. They have no Senate Chambers.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Message of Condolence

Mr Tobias N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name :

That this House regrets the death of Engineer Francis O. Amadi, Member of Imo State House of Assembly, and hereby sends a Message of Condolence to the Honourable Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly and to the bereaved family. I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Yes, anybody seconding the Motion? Yes, Mr Uwechue.

Mr G. N. Uwechue (Aniocha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr Ochiama : Mr Speaker, Sir, the death of Engineer Francis Amadi of Imo State House of Assembly is a great shock to the people of Imo

State and to the Nation in general. It is unfortunate that such a figure who has contributed immensely to the development of this Nation has to depart at such a time as this when his contributions to nation building are most needed. Engineer Amadi was an Electrical Engineer. He was also in the British Army for very many years. When he left their service he went to a school there and started Electrical Engineering. He also worked there for some years before returning back to Nigeria.

He worked in the former East-Central State Ministry of Works. Later on, when Imo State was carved out, he also worked with the Imo State Ministry of Works and was retired before he jumped into politics. He was elected into the Imo State House of Assembly.

This Motion does not require any sentimentality of any type, in the sense that, that gentleman was a very calm, reasonable and productive element when he lived, and as such I am soliciting that the Members of this House, through the Speaker of this most honourable Parliament, do send this letter of condolence to the Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly and also to the bereaved family, letting them to understand that we ourselves in the National Assembly also feel the sorrow of what has really befallen them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the remains of Engineer Francis Amadi will be buried as I was reliably informed on the 14th of this month; precisely that should be on Monday. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I do not think I have much right now to offer on the Floor of this House as regards that gentleman who has just passed away but I should say that hon. Members should give this Motion some sort of consensus opinion to get it approved. Thank you.

Mr Olusola Afolabi (Oyo East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I think the House will join me in expressing the condolence to the family of the late deceased. I respectfully now move that the Question be now put.

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

Main Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House regrets the death of Engineer Francis O. Amadi, Member of Imo State House of Assembly, and hereby sends a Message of Condolence to the honourable Speaker of the Imo State House of Assembly and to the bereaved family.

Political Victimisation

Mr Mohammed A. Yelwa (Yauri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I rise to move a Motion standing in my name and the name of my other Colleagues, Mr A. B. Yahaya, Prince J. S. Sangha and Dr Chikwe, H. Obihara :

That this House condemns all incidents of victimization of political opponents in different parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as black-mail and character assassination of individuals by national newspapers and therefore

[DR. OBIHARA]

cannot build up business. Business takes hundreds of years to build up, many dozens of years, and not a matter of four years.

You will also find that what is happening today is creating inflation because you do not allow the right man to do a job, the job costs more to do. Because you will not allow the man who has been dealing in certain goods to carry on dealing with them, he has set up a very big business, he has built warehouses, he has built branches all over the country, he has set up offices and infrastructure and workshops, you take these away from him and give them to somebody else, he now has to go and buy from that person and because that person is working for profit, this puts up the cost of goods, the cost of services and creates inflation.

Inflation is one of the worst things happening in the world today and in Nigeria it seems our governments are doing their best to promote inflation. What is happening also leads to lower standards because the man who has not been building houses, if you ask him to go and build 100 houses, he is going to build shoddy houses. He is not going to build well. People who could build them are not employed, they are not allowed to build them, and this leads to lower standards all over the country.

Now, we are talking of Green Revolution. We want to increase food production. We want to make food more accessible. It costs more now to import rice. It costs more now to deal in food, because of this system whereby dealers and people everywhere are not efficient people, understand what they are doing but are just party people. This is a grave situation, and we as the highest Legislative Body in this country, should look at this matter very squarely let us call on the Executives concerned all over the country to stop what they are doing, in fact, to stop the present practices and make a change so that this country can start moving in the right direction.

We find that what is happening has caused a great loss of confidence in business circles and in Nigerian industry generally. It has established corruption because what we are building up is corruption, and unless this is stopped, this country will not get on. There is no need going over it, people should be allowed to operate; contracts, dealerships. Licences should be given on merit. People who have been doing these things for many years should be allowed to continue doing them.

It has been said here that all State Governments are involved in this matter; perhaps they all are. I know very many of them are. Everywhere in the country you hear of how these things happen all over the place: people losing their jobs, people being deprived of their means of livelihood, contracts being taken from them all over the place. I hear of one State where school leavers who left with School Certificates last year, in order to get jobs they have to get a paper from the party chairman in the State saying that your family is all right, you are members of the party.

It would have been good if we could say here that only the State Governments were involved in this matter, that the Federal Government was free, in which case, it could give guidance to the States, but the Federal Government is equally guilty. (Applause) Because States in Nigeria only spend 7 billion between them and the Federal Government spends over 9 billion, this matter is more serious with the Federal Government. The Federal Government's issue of licences for the importation of rice, of cement and of cars are based purely on party patronage. The Federal Government is giving people houses to build who are not competent to build them at the present time.

I would like to call upon the Federal Government to give a guidance to the States. Let us call upon the President to give a guidance to the States so that the States can emulate the Federal Government. I think if this happens, then things will improve, but they must be seen to improve from the top. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Dauda Adejumo Ibrahim (Irewole West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in contributing to this important Motion I give it full support. This Motion is really non controversial. It is something we have been expecting for a very long time. I think some time we read from the newspapers about the incident in Sokoto State whereby a number of Nigerian citizens were killed by policemen as a result of the incitement of a certain political party leader simply because they had to demand for compensation which is their constitutional right when their properties were taken from them. Up till today we have never heard about any action from the Federal Government.

Secondly, I refer to Kwara State where many government officials and teachers were deprived of their positions simply because of their affiliations to different political parties. The same thing in Cross-River State where policemen were not allowed to take proper action whenever political opponents were taken to them. Now, concerning what happened in Lagos recently, I see no reason why a party leader should be obstructed by any other political party leader while returning from overseas tour.

Several hon. Members: Shame!

Mr Dauda Ibrahim: Somebody like Abiola carried placards knowing quite well that his political opponent is coming from overseas and still he had to go and obstruct him thereby trying to create problem for him. It is now high time this honourable House should think very well and know that this is a place where we need to co-ordinate the work of peace makers, the work of unity and the work of economic advancement.

Now, let us call on the Federal Government to stop discrimination over the issue of licences to businessmen. The resources of this nation belong to every one of us and everybody is expected to have his own constitutional right. Now, we must warn ourselves and refer to historical past whereby political opponents were completely—

The Deputy Speaker: Point of order.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : I want to draw your attention to Order 28. The gentlemen in the front bench of the NPN are creating unseemingly interruptions. They should listen attentively to what my partyman is saying.

The Deputy Speaker : You walked across to go and cause trouble from the frontline of the UPN bench.

Mr Dauda Ibrahim : Let us really understand that this House is the House of the people and then we are the watchdog of the executive governments all over the Federation ; we need to watch them and warn them against victimisation of political opponents. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker : PRP and political victimisation, let us hear Mr Sidi Ali.

Mr Sidi H. Ali (Dambatta) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of political victimisation is a very serious one. As those who spoke earlier said, almost every party is guilty of this.

Mr Speaker, I have with me a letter signed by 10 State Chairmen of the Nigerian Pilgrims Board. These States are made up of Lagos, Oyo, Gongola, Plateau, Niger, Ogun, Bendel, Kano and Benue. Mr Speaker, the present Secretary of the Nigeria Pilgrims Board purposely refused to allow States which are not NPN controlled to serve on the Board.

Several Hon. Members : Shame.

Mr Sidi Ali : I know this is not the policy of the NPN as a party but the Secretary, a civil servant, in order to get favours, thinks that by doing that Kano State with 15,000 pilgrims this year out of 55,000 is not allowed to serve on this Board. Luckily, Mr Speaker, Sir, two NPN States Chairmen, Benue and Niger signed this protest letter which is coming before us very soon.

Mr Speaker, Sir, political victimisation takes many forms. I remember last year in November I raised this question on the platform of this House, and I was asked to bring facts to support my arguments. Only 28 days after that day, the President of the country invited all the leaders of the political parties and put the same matter before them. Mr Speaker, Sir, as hon. Sangha said what will happen if we allow this to go on is that the whole country would be destroyed. As he said we here should become the apostles of freedom of expression. We should be free, we should set examples whereby other people will learn from us that the fact that somebody is our political enemy does not necessarily mean he should not eat. As somebody said, I was in Bauchi State recently, I was in Yanna, and I met a local Chairman of the NPN complaining bitterly about farms that have been seized by the local government. The Governor of the State may not know this. The problem of victimisation may not come from the top. You get some individuals, in their over-zealousness to show that they are serving that party, doing more harm to the government and to the party than they think they are doing.

I, therefore, feel, Mr Speaker, that we should not only condemn, we should set up a Committee to visit all parts of this country where such cases have been reported. The Bakolori incident is most unfortunate. The government of Sokoto State should not be held responsible because this Bakolori thing started as far back as 1974, and these people were not paid their money. Therefore, the impression should not be created that if you mention Bakolori case you are attacking the government of Sokoto State ; it is far from that. Again, in a situation where the Police publicly admitted they killed 24 people, Mr Speaker, I believe that the number is more than 500.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, we need to set up a Committee of this honourable House, and the Committee should be made up of all parties. We should visit these individual places and ascertain. What happened in 1966 started in this type of manner when some people started political victimisation, burning their opponents, and their houses and the whole country ended in chaos. I believe nobody likes such a thing to be repeated.

With this, I plead with all sides of the House to ignore political sentiments and take this matter for what it is.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Dr Godwin Idang (Etienam II) : I rise to support this particular Motion. It is rather unfortunate that we in this august Assembly should come here to lament what we should have learnt after thirteen years of most disastrous civil war which, in fact, was the direct result of this type of political squander.

I would like to say that it is of no use for all of us to come here and cry when we cannot do anything, and we cannot appeal to the respective governments that our parties control more or less, do something to solve the problem. This is a common phenomenon in almost all the States of the Federation.

I would like to refer this particular Assembly to the events in the Cross River State where the NPN is forming the government. In the Cross River State, for instance, it is rumoured that a circular letter was sent to all Ministers that no contracts and no concessions should be given to non-NPN Members in the State. It is also very ridiculous to learn that a State House of Assembly that is controlled by the NPN recently passed a Motion saying that 80 per cent revenue for rural development should only be given to the NPN controlled constituencies, and only 20 per cent should be given to constituencies that voted other parties into power.

I am also aware that the location of various industrial projects have even, in the same local government areas, been removed from village to village because a particular village did not vote for the NPN. Also, in terms of the so-called rural electrifications, you will find that, in fact, so many other communities started their own private projects have been, more or less, removed from the scheme of things. This is just a few of the things that have happened in the Cross River State. It intrigued me when, a few days

[DR IDANG]

ago, I listened to the Radio and learned that one of the top Members who went to Kaduna Conference was crying about this particular problem when, in fact, in his own State this is more or less a question of routine.

I would like to appeal to this House that time has come for us to call upon the President of this Republic to summon an all-party conference for us to find an immediate solution to this particular problem. We cannot really force people to join our own parties. People have talked so much about the need for two-party system in this country. I cannot say whether we are going to have two party-system in 1983, but at the moment we should recognise the fact that there are five recognised parties in this country. Probably, these five recognised parties have come to stay. So, there is really not much you can do. Each of these parties also controls some State governments, and therefore, it would be quite unfair for any party to think that it can use its long whip to whip other people into its own party.

I would like also to appeal to hon. Members of this House, particularly when we go home on this long recess, to try and find time to meet their respective governments and to make them know the grievous consequences that could arise if care is not taken in this particular direction.

I should like also to appeal to the party leaders of this House to do something. Particularly, I would like to appeal to the honourable House leader sitting there to make use of his good office to talk to the President of this Republic.

Some time ago a particular tactic was adopted in terms of who is the citizen of this country. I am happy that we have now found that particular tactic to be very inappropriate and we have decided to suspend it. I would think that it is a matter that should be viewed very seriously because the future of this great country lies on that, and unless we do something very immediate and very radical we might have to find ourselves in the same situation that we found ourselves in 1967. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Any NPP victimised? I want NPP contribution.

Chief Godwin B. Wodi (Port Harcourt II) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to appeal to Members of this House to please listen to me. I am not actually happy the way the hon. Members of this august House are treating this matter. This is a very serious issue that should be given the consideration it deserves. I want to use moral suasion in approaching this issue. I want to make it clear that this is a matter that touches everybody in this House, be he NPN, NPP, GNPP, UPN—everybody here. I would think this matter is most relevant, because every party is represented here. What is more, we are the Leaders of this country, people who are supposed to mould this country and give it the new life it deserves. Here is an important issue, see how people are taking it so lightly. What improvement have we made in this country if we should rape democracy in this form we are doing now?

I want to join my colleague, Mr Gordon Idang, who spoke last to appeal to members that this is a matter that touches all of us. We all contribute very much to each of the Political Parties we belong to. Why do we not take it as a crusade, going back to our Constituencies and to our Parties to appeal to them to desist from this action. There is no Political Party that is exempted from this mess, from this rape on democracy, not one, I must say it, not one is exempted. Mr Speaker, it is a rape on democracy, and if we are moving forward and not degenerating in our approach to democracy, we should consider this matter seriously and uplift the situation. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Agwana Apagu Waba (Askira Uba) : Like the hon. member who has just sat down, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that we should view this issue with seriousness. For instance, what is happening in my State, Borno State, is not just victimisation. In fact, the Government in power has declared a total war against political opponents. So far, you must have read in the papers, hon. Members, that forty-five lives have been lost in Borno State. Now, a situation which involves killing cannot be termed victimisation. This is more than victimisation. Forty-five innocent Nigerians have been killed in Borno State. Yet we sit here and laugh and we just talk about it lightly. This is a very serious matter. There were killings at several towns not even in one town. There were killings at Potiskum, there were killings at Ajiri, there were killings at Geidam and there were killings in several other villages. The worst of it was that some of the killings were spear-headed by government officials. The one in Potiskum for instance, was spear-headed by a Commissioner, and a bullet from a rifle shot was extracted from the head of one of the victims. This shot was suspected to be that of the Commissioner.

The problem has reached such a magnitude that other political parties in the State that are not in power are being driven to the wall. People are seizing political opponents' farmlands in the villages. This has driven the supporters of the NPN to the wall. Let us appeal to the Borno State Governor, I know he is a very good man and he may not even be aware of those people who are perpetrating the victimisation. I urge this honourable House to appeal to the Governor of Borno State in particular, and to the President, so that they can use their good offices and save Borno State from a general conflagration, otherwise that area will be one of the most troubled spots.

What is happening in Borno State now, hon. Members, is not just an ordinary victimisation. It is a situation where somebody comes up simply because you do not belong to his party and he goes out to seize the farmland where your fore-fathers had been farming all these years. I think, something is wrong and we must view it with all the seriousness it deserves. Because once you seize my farmland, I do not see how I can ever co-operate with you.

Gentlemen, there was a lot of this victimisation here and there. It is not only the killings, but several other things are being done, even the civil servants are being victimised, especially in my State. Some-

body on level 13 was demoted to level 09 simply because he was suspected to hold a different political view from that in government. A village head who was elected by the indigenes of the place is being transferred to another place. I do not think that this kind of thing will land us anywhere in this country and at the same time (*Interruptions*)—

The Deputy Speaker : Hold on, please. There is a point of order.

Alhaji Hamman Dikko (Maiha) : My point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir, is 26 (2). We are talking about all the 19 States of Nigeria and not only of one particular State. The hon. Member is talking only of Borno State.

Mr Waba : Mr Speaker Sir, the problem of my State is a very serious one. That is why I have chosen to emphasise this particular aspect. It is the only State where I have said forty-five lives have been lost so far, and, I think that unless this honourable House takes a concrete step and appeals to the Governor of the State and to all the other Governors to prevail upon those in authority to save us from worst occurrences that might still land us in pre-1966 situation.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I crave your indulgence and appeal to you, through this honourable House to forward this Motion to the President and to all the Governors to save us so that we can live in this country very peacefully and build a united, virile and a strong nation. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker : I think we have to put the question. Yes, Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to,

Resolved : That this House condemns all incidents of victimisation of political opponents in different parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as black-mail and character assassination of individuals by national newspapers and therefore calls on the President of the Republic and all State Governors to exercise their executive and constitutional powers judiciously in the interest of peace, happiness and progress of the entire nation.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Science and Technology

Restoration of Two-Tier (OND/HND)

System of Technical Education

Adjourned Debate on Question

(9th July, 1980)

Motion made and Question again proposed, That the House do approve the Report of the Committee

on Science and Technology in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education system.

Mr Sam O. Alu (Afikpo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I appeal to Members to please wait for this Report because I think it is of vital importance to Members' Constituencies.

Mr Speaker, Sir, your Committee was mandated by House Resolution No. 74 to investigate the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our technical education system with a view to bridging the gap.

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiyan Central) : Point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order is that the Member was speaking without introducing himself. We have got to know him, know who is speaking, before he can continue his speech, Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Alu : Mr Speaker, Sir, the House Resolution No. 74 mandated your Committee to investigate the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our technical education system with a view to bridging the gap created by the arbitrary introduction of the one single-tier system (NND) in our Polytechnics and Colleges of technology. In the course of the Committee's investigation—

Mr Omisore : Mr Speaker, Sir, point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : What point of order? You want to know his name?

Mr Omisore : We want to know his name. We want to know who is speaking.

Mr Alu : Mr Speaker, Sir, my name is Engineer Sam Alu from Afikpo Constituency.

In the course of the Committee's investigation your Committee received an overwhelming support for the restoration of the two-tier system. We believe that the pre-emptive Executive decision to restore the (OND/HND) programme before submitting this report was as a result of the evidence deposited in our Committee and elicited by the Minister of Science and Technology and the Federal Minister of Education both of whom testified before us and transmitted the trend of evidence to the President.

The Committee's terms of reference was to consider the desirability of restoring the two-tier system and the bridging of the gap created by the arbitrary introduction of the one-tier system. The issue here in these terms of reference is certainly not a mechanical change of one certificate to the other. It is that of a serious policy matter involving the balancing of the nation's technical manpower requirements in this scientific and technological era. A situation where the Nation is at the point of producing about the same number of engineers and technologists as there are technicians or craftsmen-artisans.

[MR ALU]

In this light, hon. Members, not only has your Committee recommended the restoration of the two-tier system, it has gone further to examine in detail the whole problem of the nation's technical manpower imbalance which, in the first place, necessitated the change in certificate. Hence, we have proposed the far-reaching recommendations in our report submitted to this House for your consideration and approval. While agreeing with the restoration of the OND/HND programme we have recommended the upgrading—

Mr S. A. Oduntan (Ifon/Ota) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : What point of order? What is your Order number?

Mr S. A. Oduntan : Order 8, that is Quorum. I observe that there is no quorum in this House.

The Deputy Speaker : There is quorum. If you want to go home, just go quietly.

Mr Sam Alu : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members while agreeing with the restoration of the (OND HND) programme, we have recommended the upgrading of selected Polytechnics and Colleges of Science and Technology which are well equipped and established to offer degree courses in technical education as well as retaining the (OND/HND) programme. This recommendation is based on your Committee's desire to remove the inferiority complex which exists in the minds of the technologists. We discovered by testimonies before us, that a good proportion of the graduates of Polytechnics and Colleges of Science and Technology use their institutions as a springboard to the Universities which offer academic programmes and thereby negating the nation's objectives which is to produce more technologists and technicians than more academic oriented engineers.

Noting the very vital part the technologists and technicians play in the technological development of the nation, it is very necessary to remove this complex. This complex was expressed clearly by the students and graduates of Polytechnics and Colleges of Science and Technology when they testified before us.

We believe that the roles Engineers and Technologists play are equally vital to the nation. In view of the need to promote productivity and rapid technological growth in the country, the Committee has, therefore, recommended the removal of the Grade Level 13 salary bar for the (HND) holders. The sky should be the bar for resourceful and productive (HND) holders and indeed for the (OND) graduates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is high time we de-emphasise paper qualifications and emphasise more on productivity and technical expertise with regard to financial remuneration and status. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, unless we do this, we cannot achieve the technological take-off we are pushing for.

Since a new Ministry of Science and Technology has been created to enable Nigeria accelerate technologically, the Committee believes and recommends the transfer of the Technical Education

Division in Federal Ministry of Education to the new Ministry. The new Ministry of Science and Technology, by its nature, is in a better position to formulate and execute policies and programmes hitherto under the charge of the Federal Ministry of Education.

The kernel of our findings is not only the support for the restoration of the two-tier system but the need to build a pyramidal technological system as against the present near inverted pyramidal arrangement where there is a build-up of engineers and technologists and relatively lesser number of technicians, artisans and craftsmen.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to emphasise this point—

Mr Olugbolahan Ijaola (Lagos North-East) : Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker : What point of order?

Mr Ijaola : My point of order is constitutional, Section 50 (1) and (2) of the Constitution : Quorum is not formed. Mr Speaker, I move that the House be checked and we accordingly adjourn if quorum is not formed but we should continue if it is noticed that the quorum is formed. We cannot suspend this Section of the Constitution.

The Deputy Speaker : We cannot suspend this Section. Can you become one of my tellers to go to the Committee Rooms and tell us how many people are there? Can you tell me how many people are sitting in Committees? Then I will rule on that. We have nine Committee meetings on the Order Paper, and that is nine times twenty-five.

Mr Alu : Hon. Colleagues, to emphasize the point already made—

The Deputy Speaker : Hold on, the hon. Member for Afikpo (*Mr Sam O. Alu*). Hon. Members, this debate that we are having now was adjourned yesterday for today. We should have concluded this debate. If you talk of quorum, you go along, if you want to follow the constitutional effect of this quorum, you have to ring the bell and call all the people in Committees and they would come and take their seats and then you take the count and if there is no quorum then, you go away but you do not say because you look round forgetting that we have nine Committee meetings and you just say there is no quorum.

I believe, the hon. Member for Isoko (*Mr Tom Egbuwoku*), has been to the United States, and saw what happened with only nine Members on the Floor, yet debates were still going on because other people were in Committees. The Committees are part of the sittings of this honourable House whether we like it or not.

The hon. Member for Afikpo (*Mr Sam O. Alu*), do you want to continue with your Motion or do you want us to suspend it?

Mr Alu : We cannot suspend this Motion because we started it yesterday, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : We had better conclude it.

Mr Alu : I would like to emphasise a point that I made earlier by quoting an evidence submitted before the Committee by the members of the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association. I quote :

NECA : For good manning in employment situation, in spite of the type of technology we may talk about we find we need more craftsmen than technicians as we need more technicians than the engineers and technologists put together. Some will suggest an average ration of one engineer/technologist to four technicians to sixteen craftsmen/artisans.

Mr Speaker, I ask for your protection, please.

The Deputy Speaker : You are protected.

Mr Alu : The quotation continues :

We must avoid the confused thinking which starts with the lurid assertion that the professional engineer is better than the technician. The engineer or professional is not better, he is only different and we need them both in certain estimatable proportions.

Mr Speaker, to establish these right proportions in the various levels of our technical manpower requirements of this country, from the engineers down to the craftsmen, your Committee has recommended that the Federal Government establish vocational and trade centres in every local government in this land so that the low-level manpower can be raised in that level. We have also recommended that the Federal Ministries and Departments which already have training facilities, such Ministries like Works, Agriculture, Trade, P & T, *et cetera*, be properly equipped and upgraded so as to train and award HND holders or technicians/technologists ; that State Government Ministries and Departments also intensify their efforts in the training of low-level technician manpower to suit their needs ; that the Federal Government directs the private sector to establish and introduce training facilities to upgrade their technical manpower requirements.

Mr Speaker, the above statement paints and makes a picture that indicates the alarming deficiency in our technical manpower. Our output of graduate engineers as compared with those of some advanced countries is shown as follows: In Great Britain, with a population of 55 million, they produced 13 thousand graduate engineers in 1978 which averaged about 236 per million. In Denmark with a population of four million, that country produced 1,100 graduate engineers in 1978 averaging 275 graduate engineers per million. In Canada, with a population of 14 million, they produced four thousand engineers in 1978 averaging 285 per million.

Alhaji Abubakar Tuggar (Gamawa) : Point of order. The constitutional order, Section 50, Mr Speaker, must be observed, I think. We have all sworn to uphold the provisions of the Constitution and I cannot see us destroying it right here. We are now going out of order and this is unconstitutional.

The Deputy Speaker : Mr Tuggar, take your Constitution and let us read. Section 50 of the Constitution states :

If objection is taken by any Member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives present that there are present in the House of which he is a member

(besides the person presiding) fewer than one-third of all the Members of that House and that it is not competent for the House to transact business, and after such interval as may be prescribed in the rules of procedure of the House, the person presiding ascertains that the number of the Members present is still less than one-third of all the Members of the House, he shall adjourn the House.

And the procedure in the Standing Order No. 8 is as follows—

The quorum of the House shall be not less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House.

If any Member draws the attention of Mr Speaker to the fact that a quorum of the House is not present, or if, from the number of Members taking part in a division including those Members who decline to vote, it appears that a quorum is not present, Mr Speaker, shall direct strangers to withdraw and cause Members to be summoned as if for a division. At the expiration of two minutes from the order to the strangers to withdraw, Mr Speaker shall count the House and, if a quorum is not then present, shall adjourn the House forthwith.

That is what I am saying that if you want a quorum to be taken, we have to ring the bell for all those in Committees to come back here before we take a count. I do not see anything we are doing that goes against the provisions of the Constitution. Do you want us to do so ?

Some hon. Members : Yes.

The Deputy Speaker : Before I took the position I took, I read the provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Order, and what you fail to understand is that it is and after such interval as may be prescribed by the rules of procedure in the House. Mr Alu, can you sit down please and let us take the quorum. There is nothing, as I said, that goes against the provision of the Constitution. If a procedure has not been followed before, it does not mean that it should not be followed now. Sergeant-at-Arms, please ring the bell. (*The bell was rung*).

Hon. Members, will you kindly take your seats so that we can dispose of this quorum matter and you can go back to your Committees as quickly as possible. There are Members of the Committee on Works who have invited the Minister, let us dispose of this question of quorum quickly so that they go back to their Committees.

(*Quorum checked*).

Hon. Members, the Clerks have informed me that so far, even with the exception of the people coming in now, we have 157 Members. We are more than a quorum, and to those Members attending Committee meetings we are very sorry to have interrupted your Committee meetings. We are following the procedural observation of the Constitution and the Standing Order because Committees constitute part of the sittings of the House.

An hon. Member : No, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker : They do.

Mr T. O. Badejo (Mushin Central I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, with all respect, I am very sceptical about this exercise for this reason. Under Order and Procedure of the day, Sir, it is stated that there are many Committees, and there is a presumption of regularity in law that any Committee is part and parcel of this House. Until there is evidence raised on the Floor of this House that the Committees are not sitting, it is then that the quorum has not been formed. Only when a division is about to be called that we can be called from our different Committees to come here. But since the Committees are going on (that is why we have Chief Whips, Deputy Clerks and all that) and there is evidence that they are going on, they are part and parcel of this House, and they are entitled to the privilege of this House. But for them all to come here is a futile exercise.

So, next time, Mr Speaker, Sir (I am not teaching you your job) if there is evidence that the Committees are holding, according to the principle of law of presumption of regularity, the quorum has been formed.

Mr Bayo Akinbisehin (Ifesowopo) : Mr Speaker Sir, in addition to what the hon. Member for Mushin Central I (*Mr T. O. Badejo*) has just said, I will just pass this remark that having followed the procedure and having seen Members of this Assembly settle down before the quorum was taken, I think it was a good thing. It will create an impression to the world that we are always here to do our own duties. Nobody a few minutes ago would realise, that there are so many Members of the House either in the Committee meeting or in the lobby. I think this action of today will once and for all let us know that in future we may not need to raise the question of quorum when it is not really necessary. (*Applause*)

The Deputy Speaker : That is very good.

The Deputy Speaker : The Chairman of the House Committee wants the new Members of the House Committee to meet him in Committee Room C2. Will Members of the Committee on Works that have called the Minister please go and proceed with their Committee meeting? Also Education Committee should go and proceed with their meeting.

Can you proceed please, the Chairman of Committee on Science and Technology?

Mr Alu : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I was making a statistical point to establish the deficiency that we are having in our Technical Manpower position in this country. Earlier on, I informed this House that in the United Kingdom where there is a population of 55,000,000 they produced 13,000 engineers in 1978 which averaged 236 Engineers per million. In the United States, that has a big population of 200,000,000 people, they produced 81,000 Engineers in 1978 which averaged 368 Engineers per million. Now, in Nigeria with an estimated population of 80,000,000, we produced only 400 Engineers in 1979 which averaged only 5 Engineers per million.

When you go through this statistical figure, one thing is certain, that the level of development of these advanced countries is based on the ratio of production of technical manpower to the million. We have already earlier established that we are almost having equal number of technicians and technologists as we have Engineers, whereas we should be producing one Engineer to four technicians and one technician to sixteen craftsmen. We do not have this and that is the reason we have submitted for your approval these far reaching proposals.

Now, to come further home to really emphasise this deficiency, Members will recall when we were moving into our new quarters, the telephone repair men, the carpenters carrying our chairs and all levels of craftsmen in our residence, the 1,004 complex, seventy per cent of these craftsmen are Ghanaians or Benin Republic citizens. This alien invasion of lower level technical manpower emphasise—

The Deputy Speaker : Chairman of Science and Technology Committee, please you should base your report on what you have submitted to us. We have read the report and you should confine yourself to the recommendations you made to us. We asked you to find out about the 2-tier system (OND/HND) whether it is all right or not.

Mr Alu : As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have already concluded my presentation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker : Is there anybody who wants to contribute to this Report?

An hon. Member : It has not been seconded.

The Deputy Speaker : It has already been seconded. Hon. Members, the Committee has made eight recommendations and we have to put them one by one for your approval. Number one : That there be full restoration of the two-tier (OND/HND) system of Technical Education in our Technological Institutions, since it caters for different categories of students (depending on academic aptitude, and inclination) and provides for the much needed OND grade middle manpower.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That there be the full restoration of the two-tier (OND/HND) system of Technical Education in our Technological Institutions, since it caters for different categories of students (depending on academic aptitude, and inclination and provides for the much needed OND grade middle manpower.

The Deputy Speaker : (2) That the charter of selected, well-equipped and established Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology be extended to enable such Institutions offer, in addition to their traditional courses, post-HND (e.g. Bachelor of Technology, M. Technology) courses up to doctoral level, within the framework of technical education objectives; namely, emphasis on training with practical work suitably blended with theory for our needs.

Question put and negatived.

The Deputy Speaker : (3) That the salary G.L. 13 set as the bar for HND holder be scrapped with immediate effect. Members of the Committee agreed that such incentive would make for the development of a viable and prize-worthy technological cadre with distinct capability to effect industrial take-off.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the salary G.L. 13 set as the bar for HND holder be scrapped with immediate effect. Members of the Committee agreed that such incentive would make for the development of a viable and prize-worthy technological cadre with distinct capability to effect industrial take-off.

The Deputy Speaker : (4) That a machinery be set in motion for the transfer of the Technical Education Division of the Federal Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Science and Technology where proper emphasis will be laid.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That a machinery be set in motion for the transfer of the Technical Education Division of the Federal Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Science and Technology where proper emphasis will be laid.

The Deputy Speaker : (5) That the Federal Government establish Vocational/Trade Centres in each Local Government Area in the country with the objective of training low-level technical personnel (artisans and craftsmen), which would cater for the various categories of primary and secondary school leavers. In addition, there should be more of part-time on-the-job training for the improvement of skill and performance of workers.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Federal Government establish Vocational/Trade Centres in each Local Government Area in the country with the objective of training low-level technical personnel (artisans and craftsmen), which would cater for the various categories of primary and secondary school leavers. In addition, there should be more of part-time on-the-job training for the improvement of skill and performance of workers.

The Deputy Speaker : (6) That the Federal Ministries/Departments having technical manpower training facilities, e.g. Ministry of Works, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, and the P & T should be properly equipped and upgraded to provide instructions up to technician level.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Federal Ministries/Departments having technical manpower training facilities, e.g. Ministry of Works, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, and the P & T should be properly equipped and upgraded to provide instructions up to technician level.

The Deputy Speaker : (7) That State Governments Ministries and Departments also intensify their efforts in the training of low-level technical manpower to suit their needs.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That State Governments Ministries and Departments also intensify their efforts in the training of low-level technical manpower to suit their needs.

The Deputy Speaker : (8) That the Federal Government directs the private sector establishments to introduce, or intensify training of (operatives, artisans and craftsmen) technical personnel by way of apprenticeship and part-time courses.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Federal Government directs the private sector establishments to introduce, or intensify training of (operatives, artisans and craftsmen) technical personnel by way of apprenticeship and part-time courses.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members, the Question is that the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology as amended in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education system.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the House do approve the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology as amended in respect of the investigation into the desirability of restoring the two-tier system (OND/HND) in our Technical Education system.

ADJOURNMENT

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I move that this sitting be now adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Prince J. S. Sangha (Bori I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : Motion on Adjournment, Mr Dagogo Princewill.

Company Profit in Nigeria

Mr Dagogo Princewill (Degema I) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for adjournment and in doing so I wish to bring to the notice of hon. Members and indeed the entire nation about the profit trends of companies operating in this country.

For some time, Sir, the profits earned by companies operating in this country has been going on the upward trend. This is a result of the fact that the

[MR PRINCEWILL]

Military regime had no good Prices and Incomes policy. Our economy has not been controlled in any way but they are controlled by the multi-nationals.

I would like to refer hon. Members to the results of three companies' accounts which were published in the *Daily Times* issue of last week. Mobil Oil Nigeria Limited made a total profit of 32.6 million for which they declared a dividend of 24.29k per pound. Hon. Members, this is alarming. There is no country where multi-nationals would be allowed to make such profits and declare such dividends. If you can invest a pound and make as much as 24.29k, well then there will be no other business but to take up shares and these shares too have capital growth in them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that all of the shares have capital growth because it is not all the profits that were divided, they were not all distributed. They distributed part of it and the part which they distributed amounted to ₦24.29. So, if a person can invest a pound for a year and get ₦24.29 without capital growth then that is the best business ever in this world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my intention that the government should bring up the prices board. If they cannot bring the prices board, then there are other means whereby they can withhold or reduce the profits of these multi-nationals. They can tax them, that is one way, but there is also a monetary system which can be applied. The fiscal measures that were applied in the Budget are inadequate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the second company that made fantastic profits was Food Specialities. In fact this is quite a new name in Nigerian companies, Food Specialities. They made a total profit, a pre-tax profit, of 11.04 million naira. Also the West African Portland Cement made a total profit of 10.28 million naira.

What is wrong in our society is lack of control. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to Members' attention the need for proper control and price stabilisation in this country. It is well noted that Lagos is the most expensive capital in the world. What can we do about this Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the situation in which we have found ourselves. Income has not been going up but prices have been soaring and now we have found ourselves in a position whereby we are unable to control the inflation. As economists would say, we are now in a *stagflation*, a persistent rise in the general price level. If we do not do something now, inflation will destroy our body politic and our system. It is a dangerous thing and it must be controlled.

Finally, Sir,

An hon. Member : Solution?

Mr Princewill : If I were to give solutions, Sir, there are so many ways of tackling this problem. Some people feel that you have to cut down unemployment, that is, there should be more employment so that you can solve the inflation. There are some people who also think that you can solve it through monetary means. Some

people also think that you can solve it through prices and incomes. There are so many ways and also you can solve it through fiscal means but I am sure, Sir, that the fiscal measure that were read to us by the President are not quite sufficient to solve this problem as they are.

Establishment of Fertiliser Industry in Rivers State

Finally, I wish to remind hon. Members that there are two things in this world an individual would not always have in his lifetime, political power and economic power. Mr Speaker, Sir, for some time now in this honourable House there was a debate on the establishment of industry throughout this Federation and the statistics, if I may remember, Sir, the hon. Mr Mike Ugwu gave was to the extent that there is no federal industry with the exception of the Port Harcourt refinery in the Rivers State.

Now, Sir, the Army decided that it was necessary to have an industry and that industry is so important for the well-being of every one of us that the army decided that a fertiliser industry should be established in the Rivers State. Fertiliser is produced from the by-products of petroleum and therefore it is a petroleum based industry. There are only four other States in which this industry could be established, may be in Cross-River State, Bendel State, Imo State or Ondo State which is now producing oil, but it has been agreed that this industry should go to Port Harcourt. But for sometime, Sir, people in big places are trying to prevent this industry ever taking off. It is also stated in last week's issue of the *Punch* that there is an attempt that this fertiliser industry will either destroy the Senate or the Senate will destroy the fertiliser industry. I cannot see how a single industry should destroy our political system. I am happy, Sir, that we Members of this House, are here to do our work for the country and the majority of us are mainly here for this work alone. It is surprising that if the report of the *Punch* issue is correct, then it is a matter for regret that the majority of our Senators are only out to grab contracts and to see that a particular industry is either established only if it is brought by them into this country and that should be discouraged.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like hon. Members to join me in appealing to the Senate to drop its desire to go on with probing the affairs, or the so-called affairs of the Fertilizer Industry. The Fertilizer Industry is a welcome industry, it is desirable and the place where it is intended to be established, Rivers State, has all the necessary infrastructures and all the basic amenities and raw materials for this industry to go on for the greater benefit of all the people of this country.

Hon. Members, Mr Speaker, individuals who would like to kill a particular industry or insist that that industry should kill our political system, should not be allowed to stay in our political system. Mr Speaker, this is my humble opinion.

Allow Gowon and Ojukwu back to Nigeria

Mr A. O. Omisore (Oranmiyan Central) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, on Motion for Adjournment, I have to make this little contribution. It is now a matter of history that the founder of this nation was Sir Lugard, later called Lord Lugard. He amalgamated the north and the south of this country in 1914. There is no doubt that we owe him a debt of gratitude. Again, we were faced with some troubles in this country and the only saviour at that material time was General Gowon, now Mr Gowon.

I say with respect that we should pass a resolution in this House to have him back in this country. He is a man that has saved this country from chaos. He was a humane fighter, and during his time there was no adverse administration in this country. There was no looting in this country, and for this I will be asking this House to pass a resolution to have this man back in this country.

First and foremost, he was the one who first created States in the then three or four regions of this country. He created twelve States and these twelve States was the only thing that made us to survive in this country. It is from these twelve States that we have created some other States making them nineteen. We are now proposing that other States should be created. If one can think back, there is no doubt we shall be able to see the great amount of work and labour that this man has done during the time that he was ruling this Federation.

Another person I would like to pass a remark about is Odumegwu Ojukwu. He, too, had made error of judgment by trying to create another nation out of this country known as Nigeria. There is no man in life who cannot err ; *To err is human, but to forgive is divine*. We must now make a resolution in this House to forgive this man and let him come back to his own country. By doing this, we can make use of the wealth of experience of these two gentlemen. We can try from this to improve and to bring ourselves together once and for all in this country. There is no doubt these two gentlemen have learnt their own lessons and by the time they come back to this country, they would become the most responsible men in the body politic of Nigeria.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Members' Arrears of Salaries and Allowances

Mr T. N. Ochiama (Ikeduru) : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, before I go directly on the Motion for Adjournment, and what I filed, which is the custom harassment on the traders of this nation, I will, first of all, emphasise a very burning issue to my mind, and that is members' allowances and arrears of salaries. Mr Speaker, Sir, these are our entitlements. The arrears of salaries for members have been calculated and the Consolidated Allowances have been approved. Since all these are entitlements, they have nothing to do with our Constituencies. Because of the Motion that was brought yesterday, which was turned down, it consequently means we are leaving here tomorrow. Since we are leaving tomorrow, no

member has a brass farthing—at least let me say 75 *per cent* of the members now have not got money to hold with them. And if they have money, they have not got enough to spend in their constituencies. So, I am saying Mr Speaker, administratively, if there is anything to do today with the Clerk of the National Assembly and the Principal Accountant to make sure that the money, all these entitlements to the members as regards arrears of our salaries and the Consolidated Allowances which have been approved, which have practically nothing to do with our constituencies, should please be paid to them tomorrow so that they can proceed on their recess as already scheduled.

Harassment of Traders by Customs men

I now proceed to the Motion I filed on customs harassment to the traders in this nation. Some time ago, precisely about a week now, in different parts of this country, there have been reports of customs harassments here and there, seizing people's goods. Mr Speaker, it happened at Ibadan, it happened at Lagos, it happened at Sokoto, it happened at Aba, it happened in many parts of this country. Mr Speaker, I also read that there were some places where the Customs Officials went and stood by the doors of the shops, I should say, and the owners of these shops were not there. Mr Speaker, you can understand that when the goods of these traders are carried away by these customs officials, we do not even know whether these goods are getting into the right hands. Secondly, we are creating a situation where in Nigeria we are increasing the volumes of robbery because some of these people that were directly involved you will find out that eventually, when they have nothing again to stand on their feet as capital with which to function, they will resort to stealing and robbery. That increases violence.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, Sir it also increases the immorality in the whole nation because right now we are talking about unemployment and the way it can decrease. Some of these are petty traders who buy things here and there to dispose and earn their living. The Customs men would go and collect all these things from these petty traders. I think the justified job for the Customs men is to go to the borders and wait for these things. How did these goods find their way into the country? How did these goods find their ways into the shops. And the Customs men leave these borders where they have been planted to take care of the whole situation and the security of this nation. They can only find their ways right into the shops and the sheds of the poor traders here and there in the market and seize all these goods. Mr Speaker, I am condemning in its totality the action of these Customs men.

Mr Speaker, if we continue in this way, we will find that we are taking ourselves back to square one. We are to protect the entire masses of this nation, economically, socially, and otherwise, and we can not encourage this act of brutality and cheat on the masses of this nation, more especially the economic aspect of it.

Mr Speaker, I am saying that enough is enough, and the Customs men should return back whatever

[MR OCHIAMA]

they have seized to these traders to encourage them. We cannot ban what we do not produce in this country. With this, I say thank you for the protection.

The Deputy Speaker : The last speaker, I do not hope this august House will be used to make illegality legal. I do not think imported products are within the reach of the ordinary man in the street you are trying to protect. It is not.

Let us revert to 8-Year Primary School Span

Mr David A. Ukpong (Itu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very delighted this morning to join my Colleagues who have moved away from Constituency or State particularism in discussing issues national in scope, and it is on this score I want to talk on the need to change the existing primary school span of six years to eight years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members, you will quite agree that the existing system of six years in primary school is a total negation of goal attainment and even methodology of teaching. Let me first start from methodology of teaching which is a necessary axiom to goal attainment.

Mr Speaker, you will agree that in pre-independence Nigeria, the average Nigerian spent at least eight years in the primary school, made up of two years in the infant department and six years in the primary department. The two years in the infant department were used in teaching the children oral work because in methods of teaching particularly the three Rs, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, emphasis is laid mostly on oral work. So, in the past, before a child left the infant department for the primary school, he has had firm foundation, solid foundation, on oral work to start the written or reading or even arithmetic in the primary classes.

Because one individual in the Ministry of Education went to Britain, he came back with a total change of this system, and then imported the British system, and imposed the six years primary school in our Educational system.

With the present six-year programme, Mr Speaker, Sir, the child leaves the home. You know that in Nigeria society, 90 per cent of our parents are village dwellers. These children are not given any opportunity to learn at home, and therefore they just come to the school, ill-equipped to start in primary one and when

they come they are started at once with reading, writing and even English. The child gets completely confused, muddled up, and therefore, eventually learns nothing.

I am sure most of us here never went to Secondary School, let alone Universities, but you can see the amount of eloquence displayed by most hon. Members here. Ask our own primary school leaver today a simple question, converse with him in English, you will find it very difficult to understand him. This is why we find that in the secondary school system today, there is a fall in our educational standard, and because of this fall what we have today is cheating during examination, and this cheating is not their fault because within themselves they are having that confidence that they can do the examination successfully.

You can see, Mr Speaker, that in our neighbour here, Ghana, primary school year is ten, and then five years in the secondary school. Ever before you enter the university, you have to do two years again before you can go in. But in our own only a maximum of six years in the primary school and then five years in the secondary school, you jump into the university.

So, the system, in fact, is not adequate at all. Because of this, as I have once said, these children are exposed to cheating in the secondary. I say this with great emphasis because I have been very familiar with the secondary school teaching. A child in class five cannot communicate effectively in English because they have not been adequately prepared in the primary school. So, Mr Speaker, I am now using this forum to call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to change the existing six years in the primary school to eight years in order to give children adequate foundation in reading.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo (Tangale-Waja South) : Mr Speaker, hon. Members, I move that the question be now put.

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

Resolved : That this House do stand adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.50 p.m.

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